10th European Physics Olympiad
Gothenburg, Sweden
12 - 16 June 2026

Tuesday, 16 June 2026

Fun at Liseberg!

After five intense hours wrestling with a pretty tough theory exam, the students got the perfect reward: an evening at the biggest amusement park in the Nordic countries. A light drizzle followed us as we left the exam hall, but by the time we reached the gates, the sky had cleared just enough to give us a few precious dry hours to explore.
Most people had one mission: ride as many roller coasters as humanly possible before closing time. We teamed up with Team Brazil for Mechanica and Valkyria, and it took about three seconds before the g-forces kicked in and everyone's stomachs filled with that unmistakable mix of terror and joy. It was the kind of evening where you step off each ride laughing, slightly dizzy, and already queuing for the next one.


FLUME·RIDE

Exploring Vitlycke

The leaders traveled to the Vitlycke by bus and took a guided tour of the rock carvings. This was followed by a visit to a Bronze Age farm featuring houses reconstructed to resemble how they likely looked during that period. They then made a brief stop in Kungälv, where they visited a house in which physicist Lise Meitner once stayed. The day concluded with ice cream at Bohus Fortress.






Photo credits: Daniel Arvidsson

In the evening, the leaders and part of the organizing team had dinner at the Liseberg Hamnkrogen restaurant. The food served was typical Swedish cuisine.




The People of EuPhO

Tyr Lundin Burmeister

Guide for team Iceland

Q: Is this your first olympiad?
Tyr: I participated previously at IYPT.

Q: How do you feel about the competition?
Tyr: I'm grateful and excited to have been selected as a guide. It's an amazing opportunity, and I'm really looking forward to being part of it.

Q: What are your expectations about EuPhO?
Tyr: I'm looking forward to meeting people from all over the world, learning more about physics, and experiencing different cultures.

Nina Nilsson

Guide for team Estonia

Q: Is this your first olympiad?
Nina: Yes, I am participating as a guide in an olympiad for the first time.

Q: How do you feel about the competition?
Nina: I feel excited to be part of the competition and grateful for the opportunity to take on this role.

Q: What are your expectations about EuPhO?
Nina: I'm looking forward to connecting with new people and making new friends during the event.

Johanna Araujo

Observer for team USA

Q: How are your students feeling?
Johanna: The students are feeling really good. They're really excited about it. There's a lot of conversation about both the experimental and theoretical exams and the challenge that was brought this year. But they feel positive about it.

Q: How has EuPhO 2026 been for you?
Johanna: This is my second EuPhO, and it's been very different from my first one. It's been a lot of fun getting to know some of the leaders and students as well. I really enjoyed the excursion to Vitlycke. It's a piece of history I did not think about when I thought about coming to Sweden. I'm going back home with more information about Sweden!

Tomáš Lučivjanský

Leader for team Slovakia

Q: Have you gone to moderation yet?
Tomáš: Yes, it was pretty good. The guys were really nice and helpful in identifying where the students can get points. They were very fair in the evaluation. I'm happy with the grades my students got.

Q: How are your students feeling?
Tomáš: Overall, it seems like it's harder. The best participants seem to have gotten fewer points compared to previous years.

Q: Did you enjoy EuPhO 2026?
Tomáš: Yes, of course! This is my first time in Sweden, and it was pretty amazing. Everything is well organized and is running smoothly!

Andrija Mladenovikj

We chatted with Andrija after the theory exam

Q: How was the theory exam?
Andrija: It was fun; the problems were great.

Q: Have you enjoyed EuPhO 2026 so far?
Andrija: Honestly, this is probably the best Olympiad. The people are so nice, and the ceremonies are great!

Q: Are you excited to get the results?
Andrija: Yeah, I think I did okay, but I think I messed up something at the beginning of the exercise, and then I saw that I messed it up at the end, so I couldn't fix it. And yeah, I'm a bit sad about that. But it's okay.

Milo Montesi

We spoke to Milo after the theory exam

Q: How was the theory exam?
Milo: I think it was quite challenging; there were some very nice problems. The second two for me were kind of new concepts, with interesting and fun things involved.

Q: What are your impressions of EuPhO 2026 so far?
Milo: It's been very nice! Great organization with a lot of fun activities.

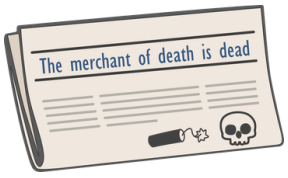
The Nobel Prize

Sweden's most influential contribution to science

Written and illustrated by Moa Kristiansson

The Nobel Prize has been part of the global scientific community for more than a century. It began in 1901 and has since recognised discoveries that changed how we understand the world, from the structure of atoms, to the discovery of DNA, to the behaviour of our galaxy and the universe. The story behind the prize starts with a Swedish inventor whose interests ranged from chemistry and engineering to literature and languages.

Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm in 1833, grew up in a family of engineers, and became fluent in several languages during his education in St. Petersburg, where his family had moved for work. His most famous of his 355 different inventions, patented in 1867, was dynamite, which provided a safer way to handle nitroglycerin and transformed construction and mining. It also made him wealthy and, at times, controversial. In 1888 a French newspaper accidentally published an obituary for Alfred instead of his brother Ludvig. It carried the headline "Le marchand de la mort est mort", which translates to "The merchant of death is dead". The article criticised him for profiting from explosives, and the incident is widely believed to have influenced Nobel's thinking about how he would be remembered.



Seven years later, he signed a will that left most of his fortune to a new set of international prizes for work that brought the greatest benefit to humanity. The first Nobel Prizes were awarded in 1901.

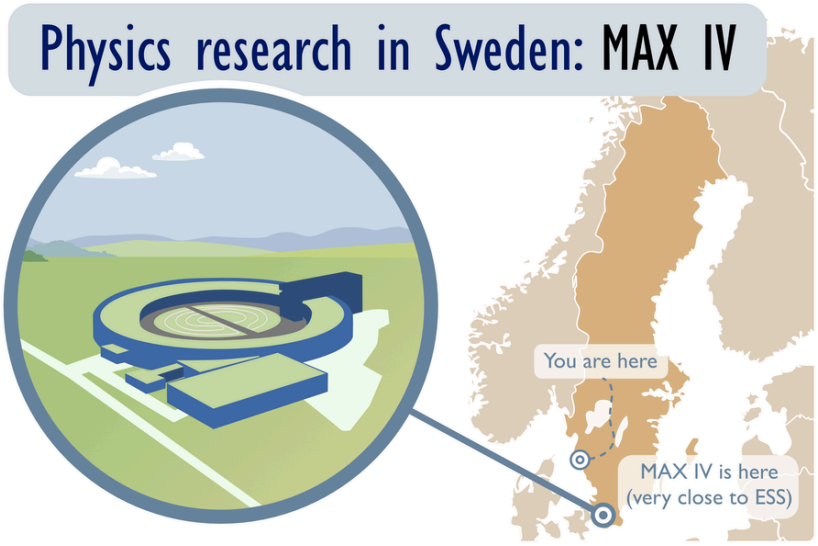
Sweden has produced a notable number of Nobel Prize winners relative to its population. Early Swedish laureates include Svante Arrhenius, who received the 1903 Chemistry Prize, and Manne Siegbahn, who received the 1924 Physics Prize for his work in X-ray spectroscopy. Anne L'Huillier, professor at Lund University, received the 2023 Nobel Prize in Physics, sharing it with Pierre Agostini and Ferenc Krausz, whose combined work made it possible to generate and measure pulses of light so short that they can track the motion of electrons inside atoms. L'Huillier's research began in the 1980s with the discovery of high-order harmonic generation, a process that produces these ultrashort flashes. Over the decades, she helped turn this idea into a practical tool for studying matter on its fastest timescales. Don't miss the opportunity to see Anne in person during the lecture before the closing ceremony!

Anne L'Huillier, French/Swedish researcher awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics 2023. Photo credit: Kenneth Ruona for Lund University

The Nobel Prize in Physics has highlighted discoveries that reshaped modern science, from X-rays and radioactivity to superconductivity, the Higgs mechanism and gravitational waves. Alongside physics, prizes are also awarded in chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and peace, as well as the later-added prize in economic sciences.

Although the prizes follow rules written in the 1890s, the Nobel system continues to evolve, with lectures, exhibitions and science events held across the world during Nobel Week. What began as Alfred Nobel's plan to support work that benefits humanity now highlights discoveries across the sciences and beyond. It is considered the most prestigious scientific prize in the world and remains a reminder that careful thinking and curiosity can reshape how nature is understood.

MAX IV: The ultra bright X-ray lab

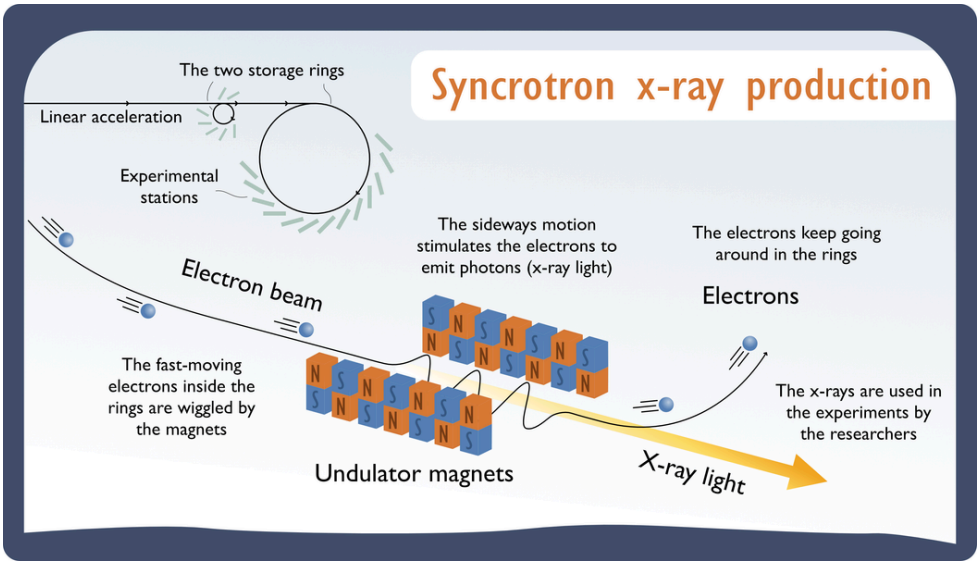


Written & Illustrated by Moa Kristiansson

Very close to the ESS in Lund is another world-class physics experiment: MAX IV is one of the brightest X-ray laboratories in the world. Inside its synchrotron rings, electrons travel at almost the speed of light and release beams of X-rays powerful enough to reveal the structure of atoms and materials.

From above, the facility looks like a single ring-shaped building with a green roof that blends into the surrounding landscape. A few adjoining structures sit beside it, but the overall impression is calm and simple. Beneath this quiet surface lies a 300 metre linear accelerator where electrons begin their journey. They start as a small cloud in an electron gun, then radio frequency cavities push them to higher and higher energies until they reach several billion electronvolts. At 3.0 GeV (Giga electron volts = 10^9 eV) an electron moves so close to the speed of light that the difference is almost impossible to measure, and even the slightest change in direction requires strong magnetic fields to control.

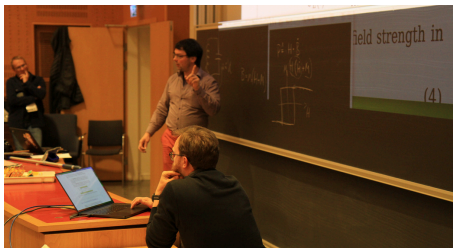
When the electrons leave the linear accelerator they enter one of the two storage rings. The smaller ring has a circumference of 96 metres and operates at 1.5 GeV, while the larger ring runs at 3.0 GeV and has a circumference of about 528 metres. The two rings generate light at different wavelengths and are used for different kinds of experiments.

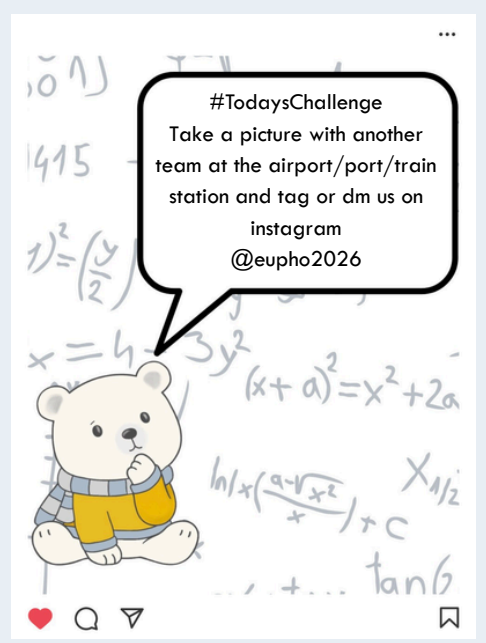


From the electron guns to the accelerator to the synchrotron rings, MAX IV is built to steer electrons with exceptional precision, and that precision is what lets its X-rays expose the structure and behaviour of matter at scales where ordinary tools fail.

If you are curious about MAX IV, you can learn more at www.maxiv.lu.se.

Solutions & Moderation





Today's Schedule

Time	Students & Leaders	Venue
6:30 - 8:30	Breakfast & Check-out	LGC Hotel
9:00	Transport to Ceremony Hall	Bus/Tram
10:00 - 11:00	Physics Lecture, Anne L'Huillier	GU Auditorium
11:00 - 12:30	Closing Ceremony	GU Auditorium
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch & Team Photos	GU Auditorium
13:30 -	International Departures	Airport/Central Station/Harbour

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