

## **Fourth Slovenian History Competition**

### **“The Kitchen” 2001 / 2002**

#### *Report*

The Slovenian competition is run by an organizing committee that has members from four institutions: the Sociologists' Association, the History Teachers' Organization, the Historians' Organization and, finally, the Board of Education.

Our competition lasts for one school year. In the beginning of the school year we choose a topic and prepare invitation materials for pupils. In this brochure we present a topic, give pupils a short explanation how to start, what to use for successful work, a few hints about possible topics, a short bibliography and a list of sources. And of course, we include a timetable of the competition.

This year's topic was “The Kitchen.” We had in our minds different approaches to this topic. I'm going to mention just few of them. For example changes in food in 20<sup>th</sup> century. With these changes we mean a variety of changes caused by different reasons (economic crises and economic progress, international relationships, globalisation, wars etc.). The next idea was to research changes in relations in the family in the aspect of the food and the kitchen (this means relations between man and woman, parents and kids, traditional roles in the kitchen). Finally the research can be about the kitchen as a place in the house or in the apartment – the changing position of the kitchen, changes in the function of the kitchen (in previous decades the kitchen was a central place in the house).

We received 31 projects from students from 21 schools. We are glad that there are some new participating schools among them. The total number of students was 59 and 23 tutors.

Some students have been researching food and teenagers. Few projects were about changes in food in last century and particularly about the influence of modern international communications on food in our places. The award ceremony was on 15<sup>th</sup> of May in Ljubljana.

The best project was one of three girls from Novo mesto. They researched what kind of food people have eaten in different times. Their results show that food has been changed a lot. In previous times they ate less meat than today. The girls also showed the influence of social status and food. The second best was a project of a girl from Idrija researching food and teenagers. She developed a good questionnaire. The third best project was a work of three girls from bishop's gymnasium in Vipava. They have been working on questions of food and parish's fest days. They included a comparison between situations in previous decades and today.

*Bojan Balkovec, Competition co-ordinator*