

## **Fifth Slovenian History Competition**

### **“Transportation/Traffic” 2002/2003**

#### *Report*

In the summer of 2002 the Slovene organising committee decided on the new topic for the upcoming competition round 2002/2003. After a rather intensive discussion we agreed that “Transportation and Traffic” might be interesting. This topic would give enough variety for different approaches and ways of research. The organising committee then prepared a paper in which the topic was described and explained in detail. Different possible approaches and themes that could be taken by the students were outlined: the history of traffic, influence of transport and traffic on society, traffic/transportation and understanding of distance –and many others.

In September 2002 we sent all the materials, including the description of the topic and registration forms to the secondary schools in Slovenia. For the first time this year, we also included a poster, which announces the competition. Deadline for handing in the projects was in the beginning of April 2003. We received altogether 30 papers, prepared by 60 students from 21 different schools.

The organising committee is satisfied with the number of participants as well as with the number of the school. Among the participating students there is always one small group that participates each year. This indicates that there is a group of very enthusiastic teachers that know how to encourage students to undertake this kind of research projects and how to help them. The names of these teachers have constantly appeared on the top of the lists of results over the past years. Another interesting point is that the participants’ school can be found all over the country – except one coastal region, all parts of Slovenia are represented.

A few words about the students’ papers: the papers tackle very different aspects of the topic. There are papers that deal with the development of street traffic and roads over the course of the last decades, many focus on the problem of new highways that have been built in last years. Few papers are dealing with railway transportation. One group has examined the topic of the young generation and transport/traffic – for example offences against traffic laws, the question of getting driving license in the age of 16 instead in age of 18 etc.

The first prize was won by two students from Bishop’s Gymnasium in Vipava. They had help from very good tutors whose students used to be high ranked every year. Irena Ipavec and Polona Kete undertook their research about hauliers. They examined the work and life of hauliers before the Second World War and in modern times. In previous times these people used horses, today they drive trucks. The students also analyzed the influence of their life style on their families. The second best paper was about pilgrimage as a sort of traffic, based on the example of pilgrimage to the church in the researcher’s neighborhood. The third best paper was about the border town Lendava and the impact of the traffic on this city. Finally, the fourth prize was awarded to a students, whose paper deals with the behaviour of drivers in different areas. The author, Jure

Golobič, has measured the speed of the cars in Klagenfurt in Austria and in Ljubljana. His interest was the question of driving over speed limits in the urban area.

The final conclusion is that pupils are trying to do their best. To a large extent, the quality of their research depends on their tutors. This is quite evident when looking at the repeatedly well done researches coming from one school. Another conclusion is that the research papers of students with quite different background can be still on the same level – in terms of the written work as well as when presenting the research. This year one of the best works came from the very small town Lendava and we have seen that their presentation was as good as those from the students coming from Ljubljana or Maribor – from big cities with a lot of opportunities to have access to sources or for being on stage.

*Dr. Bojan Balkovec*  
Head of the Slovene organising committee