

Sixth Slovenian History Competition

**“Violence”
2003/2004**

Report

In June 2003 the Slovene organising board decided on the new topic for the upcoming competition round 2003/2004. The title was “Violence”, which is a common problem of modern society. We focussed on the role of young people as victims and as perpetrators and put a certain emphasis on violence in school. The board prepared a paper which offered a detailed description of this topic and of the competition itself. This information material was sent to schools in Autumn 2003.

By the end of March 2004, which was the deadline for participants to hand in their projects, the board received 40 contributions written by 74 students which is almost the same as in previous years. Most schools participate in the competition each year. But as in the last years this year again the coastal region was not represented. In this context it has to be mentioned that in Slovenia does not only exist one national but several regional history competitions for students.

The papers were reviewed and awarded on the basis of preset criteria, most important of which are the use of original sources and the accordance to scientific standards. In too many cases the pupils generalized the results of their research in a way that cannot be accepted. The jury is of the opinion that the best guarantee for writing a good paper is to involve of a tutor in the students’ work.

The Gimnazija Litija was very successful this year: pupils from this school won the first and the second prize. A work on death penalty, written by Bojan Bregar, was awarded with the first prize. The second prize was awarded to a group of students (Tomaž Cebela, Peter Laznik Eberl, Andrej Cebela) for their work on “Use of cell phones in public areas – violence or transformation of transformation of norms”. In both cases Stanka Klopčič and Jernej Podgornik assisted as tutors. A work on “Autoagressive behaviour – violence focused on yourself” won the third prize. The author Anita Zelič focussed with this work on a topic of growing importance among youngsters.

The award ceremony has taken place on 21st of April 2004 at the Faculty of Social science. After a short music introduction followed the awarding part. Ulla Geske from the Körber Foundation and Bojan Balkovec, head of the Slovene organizing committee, held short speeches. All participants were awarded with a book prize and a certificate for their participation. Apart from this the awardees, who won the 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize, won a certain amount of money (ca. € 130,-). These pupils did also give an insight into their work and presented the main issues of their papers.

For the organising board the main aim is still to involve more schools and to keep the level of quality. Therefore we consider it most important to qualify the teachers, to choose a good topic and get the pupils interested in the competition with the help of both: a challenging topic and good tutors. We are going to organize small workshops for tutors next autumn. These workshop will give the opportunity to analyse different research papers according to all relevant aspects such as the coherence with the topic of the competition, the scientific approach, the analysis of sources and the appropriate use of footnotes and quotations.

Until middle of September the organizing committee is going to choose a topic and prepare material for the next competition round. The topic of this seventh competition round will probably be “Youth media in school”.

Dr. Bojan Balkovec

Head of the Slovene organising committee