

EUSTORY 2012-2013

THE STORY OF A SUITCASE

In 2012-2013 BELvue, the centre for democracy and history organised its 6th EUSTORY history competition in a row.
The theme this year was: The story of a suitcase.

People have migrated ever since the beginnings of humanity. People migrate within their own countries: from the countryside to the capital, or from one region to another. People also migrate to other countries, to other continents. People migrate out of political, economic or social necessity, out of love or just curiosity. All the pupils you come across probably already know someone in their family, circle of friends or direct entourage who has migrated in the broad or narrow sense of the word.

In order to take part in the EUSTORY history competition, pupils interview their grandparents or their peers about their experience of migrating; they place this personal story in a broad historical context, formulate a personal opinion about it and turn it all into an original presentation.

This year, 61 teenagers submitted 59 projects (21 French-language and 37 Dutch-language).

On 29 May, after a pre-selection, the jury saw the candidates who had submitted works that achieved the top 20 scores.

On 26 June, all the winners were invited to the awards presentation. Eight prizes were given out: five second prizes to French-language winners and one first and two second prizes to Dutch-language winners.

In the autumn of 2013, three Flemish winners will be taking part in a Youth Academy in Finland or Slovenia (www.Eustory.eu).

The theme of migration was very inspiring and here are a few illustrations from the nominated pieces:

- The students from St. Augustine's Institute in Bree looked for an answer to the question of whether Wallonia, and Liège in particular, is the promised land. This was produced completely in French, by Dutch-speaking pupils.
- Different projects by pupils from the Royal Atheneum of Lessines were awarded prizes: a project, for instance, about a distant ancestor, who had emigrated from Russia at the beginning of the last century and ended up in Belgium; or a story about the genocide in Rwanda as seen through the eyes of a Rwandan refugee.
- St. Lievens College in Ghent won two prizes: two pupils analysed the Belgian asylum policy through the eyes of a refugee, a highly qualified young Iraqi who had fled Saddam Hussein's reign of terror. Two others told the story of a young Albanian who fled the dictatorship in his country, and the story of an Albanian family who came to Belgium seeking a better life.
- Four students from the St. Peter's Educational Centre in Lieze-en-Hainaut made a video about a journalist who had emigrated from Cameroon and about freedom of expression.
- Eleven sixth-year students from the Groenkouter Atheneum in St. Amandsberg worked together as a class on their research into the socio-cultural background of their own families and those of their classmates. In one creative video they present an analysis of the different examples of migration in their class.