

## THE NINTH HISTORY COMPETITION 2015-2016

### Topic: "Boundaries in History – History without Boundaries"

The project named National History Competition organised by the Values Foundation Bulgaria was launched in 1998 and has been successfully carried out nine times with a total of more than 1,600 participants. We are convinced that the modern approaches used in the teaching of history are important for the prevention of stereotypes and prejudices, which are at the core of transnational conflicts within Europe. Discovery of unknown or little-known, often contradictory facts, and the use of independent sources of information allow the participants to form their own civic position by exploring and appreciating history from different perspectives.

As a member of EUSTORY, the European network uniting the national history competitions of 25 European countries, we aim to stimulate young people to apply a critical approach to the past in order to build together a tolerant perspective to national history.

The topic of the 9<sup>th</sup> edition was: "Boundaries in History – History without Boundaries". The main task for participants was to find boundaries and to interpret them. Whether as a border - vigilantly guarded and protected, separating two countries and that was changed over the centuries as a result of bloody conflicts or agreements between great powers, or as borders that separated two nations and ethnic groups, and sometimes one nation, one family, one love.

The boundaries – both visible and invisible – are those that separated us by gender, nationality, race, religion, beliefs, and financial status. They were the cause of wars, conflicts, migrations, prosecutions, penalties, written and unwritten judgments, isolation, and discrimination; they put a mark on nations' fortunes, families, and separate individuals. Perhaps they are those invisible lines that distinguish the permissible from the unacceptable, the moral from the immoral, the permitted from the forbidden, and the decent from the obscene. Those boundaries that determined the direction – desirable or not, in which we should not go, act, create, serve, believe or fight.

Who determines political values serving an ideology or a political system and why?

What factors influence the establishment of boundaries in traditional manners and customs, or the moral standards that were specific to the era?

During the process of promoting the 9<sup>th</sup> round of the History competition we relied on our own information network built over the years consisting of public and private schools, regional museums, archives and libraries. Simultaneously the newspaper "Teacher`s Work", the magazine "Dialogue in the History" and posts on websites of our partners contributed to the various stages of implementation of the project to reach the largest possible number of students and their tutors.

The deadline for submitting the research papers was March 1st 2016. The number of the entries was 102 and the number of participants was 122.

The Jury under the chairmanship of Prof. Lyubomir Ognyanov (Sofia University) and members Prof. Vesselin Yanchev (Sofia University), Ass. Prof. Dr. Rositza Stoyanova (Institute for Historical Researches – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Ass. Prof. Dr. Michail Gruev (Chairman of The Archives State Agency), Ass. Prof. Dr. Petko Hristov (Chairman of the Institute of Ethnology and Folklore with Ethnographic Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Vanya Elenkova (Sofia University), Lyubov Filipova (National Polytechnic Museum) selected and decided the 6 official prizes.

<b>Prize</b>	<b>Work</b>	<b>Winners</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>	A Hundred Years History of One Boundary in Dobrudzha	*Radostin Dimitrov *Ralitsa Petrova *Jivko Penchev *Semra Ramis *Miroslava Apostolova	School “Yordan Yovkov”, Tervel	Research work and movie documenting it. The center of the work is the boundary between Bulgaria and Romania in Dobrudzha. The research work was made in both countries and consists of personal and family memories, interviews with contemporary people from the border area, point of view of novelists, visiting of memorial places etc. It looks like real investigation. Excellent team work
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Boundaries and bridges in the city area. Examples from the history of Sliven	*Adelina Fendrina	High School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics “Dobri Chintulov”, Sliven	The research work explores the borders in their natural, geographical, ethnical and social dimensions. It is based on archive resources, interviews, literature etc. Very interesting point of view on the topic.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Coloured brides “Gelina” of the village Ribnovo. The invisible borders are most stable	*Airet Terbesheva	Private school “Druzhiba”, Sofia	Research work for the unique wedding tradition “Gelina” in the village Ribnovo, located in Rodopa Mountain and inhabited by Bulgarian Muslims. The author has presented the tradition as a border line of preserving the local identity. The resources are interviews with locals, pictures, ethnological studies etc. The work shows personal interest of the author. It could be the beginning of a scientific career.

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Behind the borders of one rivalry – Sliven and Yambol /19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> c./	*Daniel Vlahov *Yordan Danchev	High School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics “Dobri Chintulov”, Sliven	Visual research work which presents with sense of humor the rivalry and the bridges between two neighboring cities. Based on the information from the newspapers, scientific researches, interviews with people from the both places etc.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Stone to knock I will feed you. The nationalization in 1947 and the leader factory “Botjo and Ivan Patevi”	*Yavor Genchev	Aprilov National High School, Gabrovo	The work presents the nationalization of the factory as a border in the life of the people. Excellent analysis of the topic, based on archive documents and interviews with the members of the Patevi family.
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Borders before borders: prohibited zones in border areas under socialism	*Yana Voynova	National School of Culture, Gorna Banya	Interesting point of view about the border areas under socialism based on archive documents and interviews with locals. Describing not only the reason and the meaning of these areas but the impact on the everyday life of the people.

The award ceremony was held on 25th June 2016 in the Institute for Ethnology and Folkloristics with Ethnographical Museum in Sofia - the so called Royal Palace. Mr. Petar Stoyanov, President of the Republic of Bulgaria (1997-2002) and Mr. Mitko Todorov, Chairman of the National Endowment Fund 13 century Bulgaria handed over the prizes. Among the guests of the ceremony were Mrs Yanka Takeva, Chairwoman of the Syndicate of Bulgarian Teachers, Mrs Katja Fausser, Managing Director of EUSTORY, members of Regional Inspectorates of Education and different institutions supported the Competition.

In order to raise the official award fund many institutions and organisations were contacted in order to set up an award on their behalf for papers dealing with the activity of the respective institution or administration.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Science, the chief expert of History and Civilization, Mrs. Radostina Nikolova, awarded an honorably diploma for the most successful performing school to the High School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics “Dobri Chintulov”, Sliven.

The participants received special awards and honorary diploma from the following organisations: Institute of Ethnology and Folklore and Ethnographic Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Syndicate of Bulgarian Teachers, Bulgarian History Teachers Association, Department for In-service training of Teachers- Sofia University, the Archives State Agency, The

Organisation of the Thracian Associations in Bulgaria, Cultural Association “Karakachani”, The Institute for Studies of the Recent Past, the Government of District Silistra and the Bulgarian International Television. The publishing houses “Anubis and Bulvest 2000” and “Prosveta” donated books accompanied with honorary diploma for the students and their tutors. All students and their tutors received personally or by post certificates of attendance.

After the award ceremony the participants and their tutors were invited to an educational program organised by the host of the ceremony Ass. Prof. Dr. Petko Hristov, Chairman of Institute of Ethnology and Folklore with Ethnographic Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. He personally presented the rich exhibition of the Museum and the achievement of Bulgarian Ethnologists.

Bulgarian International Television presented the Competition in a 20 minute interview on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 <http://www.bitelevision.com/granitsite-v-istoriyata-istoriya-bez-granitsi/>