

Tenth Anniversary of the National History Competition 2017

For the tenth time the “Values Foundation” presented the awards to the winners of the National History Competition, which has been organized since 1998 by Ms. Antonina Stoyanova’s organization. Since then, more than 1,600 pupils from 8 to 12 grade have participated in the competition. The competition is the most sustainable project on history in Bulgaria, organized by an NGO in the post-communist era.

The competition is a part of the EUSTORY network, comprising more than 20 national history competitions from different European states and represented at the ceremony by Mr. Miguel Barros, member of the Steering Committee of EUSTORY. The ceremony took place on 16 December 2017 in the Ballroom of the former Royal Palace – today known as the National Gallery.

Traditionally, the former Bulgarian President, Mr. Peter Stoyanov, handed out the awards to the first three winners, who received a certain remuneration in addition to the diplomas. Additionally, the winners got the opportunity to apply for the youth encounters which are regularly organized by EUSTORY and which are conducted in various European states.

On this year’s topic “Family stories from the time of the communist regime” 30 research papers have been handed in by 36 participants. They researched how the destinies of their families have been impacted by the totalitarian regime.

The chairman of the jury, Dr. Liubomir Ognianov, awarded the first place to Daniel Vlahov from the school “Dobri Chintulov” in Sliven for his research paper with the topic “The fate of the descendants of the Sliven textile industrialists after the nationalization”, with Dr. Momchil Metodiev as his supervisor.

Two research papers received a second place: “One life”, author Melis Mehmed with supervisor Julia Chortleneva from the school “Hristo Smirneski” in Chernoochene, district Kardzhali and “They leave silently” written by Elisaveta Petrova from the professional school of tourism “Dr. Vasil Beron” - Veliko Tarnovo, with Slavka Prodanova as a supervisor.

For the third place the jury acknowledged the merits of three research papers. Decho Pavlov from 91 “Prof. Konstantin Galabov” with supervisor Krasimir Uzunov follows his own family story with her research “From the officers' elite and battles for the Fatherland to the unknown tomb – the lost honor of a Bulgarian family”.

The next third place won the work “On the pavement of communism in the town of Kardzhali” by the authors Milica Gecheva and Momchil Trayanov from the school “Otec Paisii” with supervisor Kiril Gogov.

“Let’s hear the voice of history. Research in Merdania village” brought the third winner for the third place to Vladislav Borisov from the professional high school on tourism “Dr Vasil Beron” - Veliko Tarnovo with supervisor Bistra Stefanova.

In her speech the project manager from the “Values Foundation” Ms. Petya Georgieva noted: *“The date of the presentation of the awards of this year’s competition is not chosen by accident. Symbolically, it is related to the topic »Family stories from the time of the communist regime« as it is close to 14th December, when in 1989 the first anticommunist demonstrations were held and when the parliament was sieged by the democratic forces.”*

In his speech President Peter Stoyanov welcomed the participants, their teachers and supervisors and stated: *“This year the topic is extremely relevant and close to my heart - »Family stories from the time of the communist regime«. Whilst researching this topic, for sure you have felt the post-communist nostalgia in some of the works. During the time of communism, the people of my generation were young and people tend to look at their youth with romanticism. That is one of the reasons why people of my generation still look back at the communism with nostalgia. However, it is up to you - the young generation who should be well informed about the terrible destiny of the Bulgarian people during the communism. Unfortunately, even today the information about the totalitarian regime in Bulgaria is scarce and people tend to forget the 45 years of repression – moral and physical. The Bulgarian historians and politicians have not done enough research on communism in Bulgaria and the young people are not fully aware of that shameful historical period. I am sure that after having worked on this topic you are more enriched and prepared to act for a better future of the Bulgarian nation.”*

EUSTORY’s representative Mr. Miguel Barros supported the President Stoyanov by stressing that in his home country Portugal, there is a nostalgia for the fascist regime from the 60s and that the researches done by the young people help the nation to combat the “sneaking ghosts” from the past. He also shared that more than 90,000 students from more than 20 European countries have already taken part in national EUSTORY competitions.

The jury’s chairman professor Liubomir Ognyanov welcomed the participants and noted the fact that most of the present participants have not even been born yet when the first competition was held in 1998.

Dr. Momchil Metodiev, Julia Chortleneva, Krasimir Uzunov and Slavka Prodanova were awarded for their scientific supervision.

After the photo opportunities and expression of appreciation, the participants visited the exhibitions in the National Gallery.

Tenth Anniversary National Historical Competition 2017 - Awards

1. FIRST AWARD

- Paper on topic: “The fate of the descendants of the Sliven textile industrialists after the nationalization.”

Author: Daniel Vlahov

School: “Dobri Chintulov” Sliven, 12th grade;

Mentor: Momchil Metodiev

2. SECOND AWARD

- Paper on topic: “One life”

Author: Melis Mehmed

School: “Hristo Smirnenski,” Chernoochene village, Kardzali, 12th grade;

Mentor: Yuliya Chortleneva

- Paper on topic: “ They leave without any noise”

Author: Elisaveta Petrova

School: Touristic school “Dr Vasil Beron” Veliko Tarnovo, 8th grade

Mentor: Slavka Prodanova

3. THIRD AWARD

- Paper on topic: “From the officers' elite and battles for the Fatherland to the unknown tomb - the trampled honor of a Bulgarian family”

Author: Decho Pavlov

School: 91 “Prof. Konstantin Galabov”, Sofia

Mentor: Krasimir Uzunov

- Paper on topic: “Through the pavement of communism in the town of Kardzhali”

Author: Militsa Gecheva, Momchil Trayanov

School: “Otets Paisii” Kardzali, 12th and 10th grade;

Mentor: Kiril Gogov

- Paper on topic: “Let's hear the voice of history. Survey in the village of Merdanya”

Author: Vladislav Borisov

School: Touristic school “Doctor Vasil Beron” Veliko Tarnovo, 12th grade;

Mentor: Bistra Stefanova



AWARDS FOR THE MENTORS

1. Mr. Momchil Metodiev

School: "Dobri Chintulov," Sliven;

2. Mrs. Yuliya Chortleneva

School: "Hristo Smirmenski," Chernoochene village, Kardzali;

3. Mrs. Slavka Prodanova

School: Touristic school "Dr. Vasil Beron" Veliko Tarnovo;

4. Mr. Krasimir Uzunov

91 "Prof. Konstantin Galabov", Sofia;

SPECIAL AWARD FOR THE BULGARIAN UNION OF TEACHERS

Mr. Dimo Georgiev and Mr. Vladislav Dimitrov, "Nikolay Vaptsarov" school, Shumen;

SPECIAL AWARD FOR THE BULGARIAN HISTORY TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION

1. Mr. Kiril Gogov, "Otets Paisii" school, Kardzali;

2. Mrs. Bistra Stefanova, "Dr. Vasil Beron" school, Veliko Tarnovo.