

Report 2014/2015
16th Estonian EUSTORY History Competition
“World War II”

In total, a number of 57 contributions were entered into the competition, with 25 coming from Middle School participants and 32 entries by High School students. It is being assumed that the complexity of the topic “World War II” might have caused the slight reduction of participants compared to the previous round which dealt with a more open and accessible topic. However, “World War II” was chosen to be the topic for the academic year 2014/2015 mainly due to the interest in the students’ roots which made family-related researches dominant.

Competition entries and main topics

Thematically, the contributions covered a variety of aspects. Some students contemplated Estonian men’s choices between German and Soviet army while others dealt with the everyday life of women and children during the war, the crimes against humanity or emigration to the west by the end of the war. Some entries related to current issues such as the narration of events during World War II in modern newspapers or in different history text books. The impact of World War II on buildings and architecture was also subject of the student’s research as well as the role of the cinema during the war. Evaluators said that the research has been very variegated and even experienced history researchers within the jury were enthralled to read about new findings within some of the works.

The jury

The Estonian jury 2014/2015 consisted of the following experts: Eero Medijainen (University of Tartu), Anu Järs (Estonian National Museum), Anu Raudsepp (University of Tartu) and Meelis Maripuu (Estonian Institute of Historical Memory).

The jury based their decisions on:

- ingenuity and novelty in the choice and presentation of the chosen topic;
- novelty of sources (such as unpublished materials);
- diversity and reliability of source materials;
- skills of integrating sources, comparing and contrasting, and drawing conclusions;
- the reasoning and explanations for using images;
- accurate lists of references;
- composition and formatting of the paper;
- whether or not the paper can be considered a historical research.

Results and award ceremony

The award ceremony was held on 8 May 2015 in the Hall of Ministry of Education and Research in Tartu.

The following Middle School students were awarded:

- Mirjam Leesalu (Võru Kreutzwald’s Gymnasium, tutor: Raili Leesalu): “My grandparents in the midst of the Second World War”
- Aliise Tipner and Khirsten Terese Murumägi (Kadrina Secondary School, tutor: Evelin Tiiter): “Life during the Second World War based on the memories of previous students from Kadrina Primary School”
- Tambet Järve (Tallinn English College, tutor: Kai Aus): “My relatives in the migration waves of 1939-1944”

The best among the High School students were:

- Sigrid Kivilo (Vastseliina Gymnasium, tutors: Terje Mägi and Küllike Nagel): “Educational life in Vastseliina rural schools during the Second World War”
- Kätlin Unt (Otepää Gymnasium, tutor: Kaja Raud): “Living conditions in Estonia during the Second World War based on Valgjärve village”
- Karl-Richard Säanna (Võru Kreutzwald’s Gymnasium, tutor: Kaja Kenk) “German occupation in Võru town in 1941: from army government to civil government”