

Report 2016/2017
18th Estonian EUSTORY History Competition
»The Prerequisites of Estonian Independence«
Organised by the Estonian History and Civics Teachers' Associations
for the Prizes of the President of the Republic of Estonia

On 5th May 2017, the 18th Estonian EUSTORY History Competition was concluded in Tartu. The President of the Republic of Estonia and national patron of the competition, Mrs Kersti Kaljulaid, said in her welcoming speech at the final conference that Estonia did not regain its independence automatically nor did it come from somewhere else, up high or down below. She said: *»The principal thing is the understanding of our own people how important an independent existence is«.*



Participants with their tutors in front of the hall of Ministry of Education and Research in Tartu at the final conference on 5th May 2017 | Photo: Aldo Luud

In total, 61 students handed in 51 contributions – 17 from middle school (19 students), 28 from high school (30 students), one of them was written in Russian. In the creative category we received 6 studies (12 students).

This year's topic was more difficult than last year. The main prerequisite for independence is considered to be people, their activities and the maintaining of an Estonian culture and language. The best and most important result of the competition must be the realization that there are numerous bright students and teachers – which is the best prerequisite for our independence.

The best among Middle School students were:

I. **Iris Kreinin** and **Lisete Nukk** (Tartu Mart Reiniku kool, tutor Karolina Antons) „One kilometer of preconditions to independence“;

II. **Karel Kuus** (Võru Kreutzwaldi kool, tutor Helle Ruusmaa) „My great-grandfather Jaan Roots' childhood years and activity as a forest brother“;

III. **Hans Madis Ainson** (Tallinna Prantsuse Lütseum, tutor Helina Raal) „Estonian League of Freedom Fighters and my great-grandfather Hans Ainsons role in Estonian inner policies in 1930's“.

The best among Gymnasium students were:

I. **Gert Rüütli** (Võru Gümnaasium, tutor Kaja Kenk) „The prison of Võru during the first part of 1919’s“;

II. **Jetta-Lucretia Kärner** (Kohila Gümnaasium, tutor Ene Holsting) „The revolutionary events in the light of the protocols of the council and plenary of the parish of Kohila during the years of 1917 and 1918.“

III. **Hanna Marrandi** (Hugo Treffneri Gümnaasium, tutor Kristiina Punga) „Jaan Timse as an Estonian consul in Crimea“.

In the category of creative studies the best were declared to be Mattias Aksli, Karel Külm and Ädu Arvisto (Hugo Treffneri Gümnaasium, tutors Kristiina Punga, Jüri Kulasalu, Maigi Külm) „Schoolhouse model at Hobuse 2“.

In addition to monetary prizes and diplomas of the President of the Republic of Estonia, there were special prizes from the Estonian National Museum and the Estonian History Archive.

The prize for the best tutor was awarded to **Kristiina Punga** from Hugo Treffner Gümnaasium. She tutored 6 pupils and all were awarded by the jury.

Tartu, in May 2017

Evelin Tiiter (competition organiser)

Karolina Antons (competition organiser)