

"FREEDOM. EQUALITY. FRATERNITY"

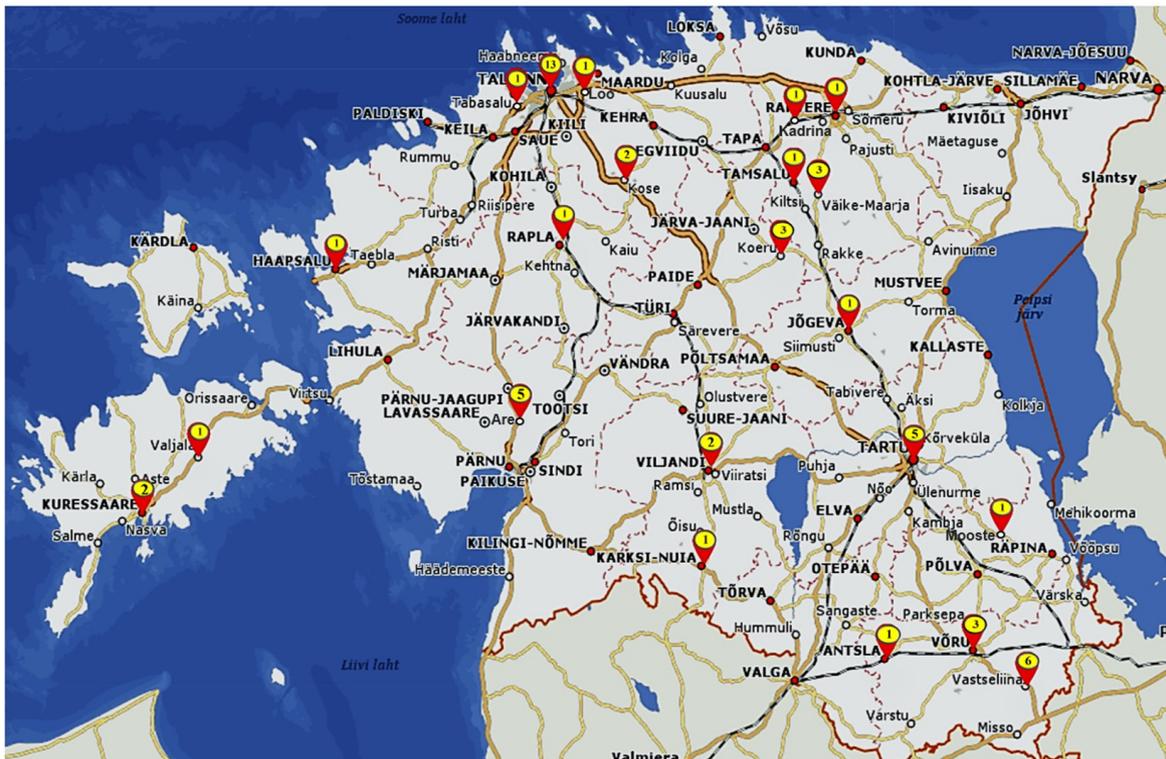
An overview of the 24th pupil's history research competition for the awards of the President of the Republic of Estonia

On May 12, 2023, the Estonian History and Civics Teachers' Association in Tartu, in the hall of the Ministry of Education and Science, announced the 24th pupils' historical research competition "Freedom. Equality. Fraternity" results.



Estonian prize winners at the Ministry of Education and Research in Tartu | Photo: Aldo Luud

A total of 55 works were received this year (13 from elementary school and 26 high school students, 16 works in the category of creative works). There were no works in Russian. Compared to last year, slightly more jobs were received. The following map shows that works were evenly across Estonia. The Estonian History Competition is open to students in grades 7-9 and 10-12.



The jury selected three best works in elementary school and six in high school. The top of three in both categories will receive a financial reward from the President's Culture Fund. For the best creative works there is also a financial reward for, which presented by the Estonian History and Civic Teachers' Association.

Research papers were evaluated by a four-member jury and creative papers by a two-member jury.

Anu Raudsepp, a member of the research jury, stated the following in the jury summary:

This year's topic "Freedom.Equality.Fraternity" inspired young people to explore issues largely related to the concept of freedom: life in free Estonia before the Second World War and in an independent country again, the meaning of the loss of freedom during the occupation of the Soviet Union.

The competition of pupils' research papers play a very important role in the awareness, recording and preservation of national values. Similar thoughts were also found in scientific works: "In order to understand your identity, you must know your roots"; "It is important to know the history of your home because it makes it easier to understand each other and cooperate. "

Writing pupil papers is the first step in studying history. It was used traditionally more interviewing of contemporaries, qualitative content analysis of text sources, observation, comparison, etc. Family history materials dominated as sources, in some cases sources from the National Archives or the

museum were also used. The lack of source criticism has been a problem throughout the 24-year history of the competition.

There is happy to say that the research showed the interest of young people in history, the history teachers are to be thanked for arousing their interest. One student's words of gratitude to his instructor, "the teacher's professionalism and willpower inspired and motivated me a lot" are also suitable for others.

Liberty, equality, and fraternity are sensitive subjects, and writing research papers undoubtedly required empathy and fortitude. To quote one pupil paper: "It was sad and thought-provoking to write about how the communists tried to create a new social order through violence and terror, and that it made people want to flee their homeland."

RESULTS

Among the basic school students, the best was:

I place - Carolin Raukas (Tartu Mart Reinik's School, tutor Karolina Antons) with the work "Jewish community in Tartu before World War II"

II place - Otto Arro (Loo Secondary School, tutor Piret Parve and Andry Arro) with the work "Moments from the history of coastal Swedes in 1822, 1922 and 2022 the family in the background of Rohberg's story"

III place - Elina Kurgpõld (Valjala Primary School, tutor Ester Vaiksoo) with the work "My Tõnija" (about the story of author's home and people.)

In the high school

I place - Triinu Aru (Hugo Treffner High School, tutor Kristiina Punga) won first place with her work „Intelligence test data sheets from 1933 as material illustrating the student body of the Hugo Treffner Gymnasium".

II place - Liisi Parm (Võru High School, tutor Kaja Kenk) with the work "Misso parish peasant lawsuits in the last quarter of the 19th century".

III place - Tim Juksar (Tallinn Real School, tutor Madis Somelar) with the work "Formation of the prison system in the United States, specific features and its possible reformation".

In the category of basic school creative works

I place - Helyana Kakko (Are School, tutor Marju Sepp) "Board game "The road to freedom" about the restoration of Estonian statehood."

II place - Kairit Kõomägi (Vastseliina Gymnasium, tutors Kertu Torn and Sigrid Pärtin) with the work "Pattern belt as a transmitter of seto culture".

III place - Ellen Ingrid Adamsoo (Tallinn French Lyceum, supervisor Kristiina Siig) with her creative work „Ruhnu-Swedish folk music: forgotten songs of one woman".

In the high school creative works category, two second places were awarded:

Triinu Kree and Jan Randar Raidma (Viljandi High School, instructor Reet Pius) with the work "Documentary film "Education in a foreign country. Making Ukrainian students around us"

Karl Niit (Tallinn 32. Middle School, instructor Ulla Herkel) with the work "Reviving the Roman army through model soldiers".

In addition to monetary awards and letters of thanks issued by the President of the Republic of Estonia, special prizes were also awarded by the Estonian Art Museum, the Estonian National Museum, the Estonian Sports and Olympic Museum, the National Archives, the Institute of Estonian Memory, SA Virumaa Museums, the Estonian History Museum, the Museum of Occupations and Freedom, and The 20 August Club.

On September 1, we would like to give a start to a new competition, already the 25th and the topic is "WINNERS AND LOSERS".

Evelin Tiiter

Karolina Antons

Coordinators of the competition

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