

## 5<sup>th</sup> EUSTORY competition in Finland "Two Stories"

The Association for Teachers of History and Social Studies in Finland arranged the 5th round of the Finnish EUSTORY competition during academic year 2012-2013. The competition was open to pupils of upper secondary schools (16-19 years old) and pupils of the upper level of comprehensive schools (13-15 years old).

All in all, around 496 pupils contributed 403 competition entries, which is a little bit less than last year. The competition is hard to fit to the intensive study schedule in upper secondary schools, due to the fact that there are no obligatory research courses in history at the upper secondary level in Finland.

The long competition round gave the pupils much time to finish their entries: The competition website was updated already at the end of the previous academic year. At the beginning of the academic year 2012-2013 teachers also got a new tutors' manual and competition poster. The organisers also used the association's periodical and newsletter to remind teachers' of the competition.

The topic of the fifth competition round was "Two stories", and it was possible to send in contributions in Finnish, Swedish and English, either alone or in groups of max. three persons. The majority of the entries were written in Finnish, but there were also some entries in Swedish and English.

With this rather general competition topic the organisers wanted to make sure that history teachers had many possibilities to integrate the competition in the national curriculum. It was up to the participants to define their research topic further, but the idea was to compare the chosen phenomenon from two points of view, for example the experiences of two persons. Second World War was popular theme together with history of the hometown, occupations and hobbies. Interviews were used as primary sources in many entries, but students also used other primary sources such as archives, magazines and autobiographies. Entries were sent in from all around the country and there were both male and female pupils among the prize winners.

A Youth Academy was organised in Finland for the first time in September 2013. Twenty-four students from different European countries spent the week in Helsinki and Tampere studying the topic "BRIDGING THE GAP OF CIVIL WAR: NATION BUILDING IN EUROPE IN THE AFTERMATH OF WWI". Finland also sent one student to Youth Academy in Slovenia in October 2013.

The Association for Teachers of History and Social Studies in Finland arranges Finland's 6<sup>th</sup> EUSTORY-competition in 2013-2014 with the same competition topic: "Two stories".