

Report of the Israeli EUSTORY History Competition 2013-2014

This academic year (2013–2014) inaugurates the first Israeli EUSTORY History Competition. Initiated and organized by “The Zalman Shazar Center for Jewish History”, this competition aims to enable Israeli youth to integrate in-depth historical research with the latest developments in the European scene. The topic for this year was **“Attitudes toward the other as Reflected in History”**.

Eighty students from seventeen different high schools all over the country sent in thirty-five entries. Eleven entries made it to a short list and were examined by a jury led by Prof. Eli Lederhendler, the head of the School of History at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. The jury includes other historians, as well as teachers and representatives from the Ministry of Education. The topics were varied and ranged from the “Free Masons” in Israel to the representation of physically disabled in Judaism and Christianity during the middle ages up to children in the Ghetto Theresienstadt.

Dorin Rottenshtreich-Robin from Tel Aviv won the first prize in the age group of 16-18. She wrote about the “Austerity Regime” in Israel between 1948 and 1951 and the immigration and integration of refugees from Muslim countries and survivors of the Holocaust. In talks with her grandfather and from researching newspaper articles of the time she gained insight into the living conditions of the people in Israel in the early 1950s and their daily life’s. Second prize went to Shir Cohen from a school in Jerusalem. She wrote her paper on the role of moral considerations in the process of decision making of “Righteous among the Nations” as well as Nazi Commanders.

More than sixty prize winners, representatives of the Ministry of Education, scientists and guest were present at the first award ceremony of the Israeli History Competition at the Zalman Shazar Centre for Jewish History in Jerusalem on 26 June, 2014.