

Competition in Latvia

The competition in Latvia took place for the 9th time. The theme of this competition was „The industrial heritage in Latvia”. There were 102 research works this year, the authors were 123 students of all districts of Latvia. The advisers were 50 teachers who helped the students in their research.

The Award Ceremony took place in Riga, in The Golden hall of Riga Latvian Society, on 22 May, 2010. Riga Latvian Society is one of the most ancient officially founded Latvian organizations (in 1868). It is the educational, cultural and scientific center. During soviet times Society was forbidden, but after reestablishment of state independence in 1991 Riga Latvian Society continues successful activities. Riga Latvian Society and National Cultural Development Foundation is one of Latvian history teachers’ partners in organizing the competition in Latvia, thanks to this foundation the Award ceremony could take place in a house with such deep historical background.

The Award ceremony was solemn and emotional. The State president of Latvia Valdis Zatlers greeted all participants and gave presents for winners. All participants were presented by diplomas and books of sponsors – different museums and publishing houses.

The participants of the competition have found the objects of research in their near surrounding (mills, factories, shops, bridges, farms). They studied the development of different industries in general. Basically the studies in chronological order are linked to 20 century, when the process of industrialization was the fastest. The students managed to connect the economical and political processes, pointing out the positive and negative tendencies of economy in 1920s – 1930s, the soviet times and revival of independence.

A great number of authors have found the historical sources in their family archives, telling about their parents’ or grandparents’ entrepreneur-ship and its different forms. The heroes of their research are millers, engineers, owners of factories, farmers.

Photos from President’s Chancery:

1. The State president of Latvia V.Zatlers greets participants of competition.
2. The State president of Latvia V.Zatlers with winners and their teachers.
3. The State president of Latvia V.Zatlers with finalists and their teachers.

4. During the Award ceremony.