

Report 2013/14 History Competition in Latvia

In 2013/2014 the topic of the competition in Latvia was "An Individual and War. Changes in People's Lives in Latvia caused by Wars". The task of the participants was to choose one manifestation of how war changes people's lives and to explore it. 100 entries were sent in for evaluation by 123 students from 52 schools.

Most students studied issues related to the First and Second World War in the territory of Latvia; all-in-all, competition entries covered the period from the Swedish-Polish War up to the service in the Soviet army in Afghanistan in 1980's.

Part of the authors presented the results of their research in written form, but others used different ways. For example, Liga Ubele from Jelgava Spidola High School recorded a memory-based dance performance "The Injured Muse" exploring the impact of war on artists. Anna Meiere from Riga Design and Art School presented her study of Riga Ghetto as a series of charcoal drawings. Other students created games, models, posters, photo books, movies.

The Award Ceremony took place in Riga, in the White Hall of Riga Latvian Society on 24 May, 2014. The patron of the competition, state president of Latvia Andris Berzinš, announced the winners. The winners also received money prizes from the Latvian Education Foundation. All participants received certificates and books from various supporters of the competition.

Danute Dura,
coordinator of the competition