

Competition in Latvia 2011/2012

The competition in Latvia took place for the 11th time. The theme of this competition was „Latvians abroad”. There were 110 research works this year, the authors were 134 students of all districts of Latvia. The advisers were 58 teachers who helped the students in their research.

The Award Ceremony took place in Riga, in The White hall of Riga Latvian Society, on 26 May, 2012.

The topics chosen by participants were different: the processes of migration from Latvia during 20th century and the beginning of 21st century, the faiths of families in foreign countries. A great number of authors have found the historical sources in their family archives, telling about their parents' or grandparents' life. The most popular topic was deportations, done by soviet power in 1941 and 1949. These deportations changed the lives of thousands Latvia's inhabitants.

The Award ceremony was solemn and emotional. The State president of Latvia Andris Bērziņš greeted all participants and gave presents for winners. All participants were presented by diplomas and books of sponsors – different museums (Latvian National History museum, The Museum of Occupation, The Latvian Popular front museum) and publishing houses (Zvaigzne ABC ,Jumava, Madris). Tina Gotthardt as a representative from EUSTORY wished to continue the research studies and informed about the Summer Academies for the winners.

Unfortunately, there were some changes in the organisation of the competition. The coordinators didn't have enough financial resources, therefore the winners didn't get money prizes as in previous years, and the Award ceremony was simple.

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