

## Third Norwegian History Competition

### “The organised Everyday” 2003/2004

#### *Report*

The topic of this year’s competition in Norway was “*The organised Everyday*”. This topic did not attract as many participants as the competition last year, and the papers which were handed in were of poorer quality probably because most of the papers were written by quite young students (mostly 13 years old). We were a little surprised about this, but the reason might be that the topic fits in the curriculum for 13-year-old students.

Altogether we received 57 papers. Only 6 of them were made by students older than 15 years. All the papers were handed in by teachers and most of them had made the whole class participate. This also happened last year and seems to be a Norwegian trend.

The students wrote about different types of organisations. Almost all the young students wrote about organisations which they were part of themselves such as their school, their sports club or their local church. The older students wrote about such as the Norwegian resistance movement during the second world war or the discussion about homosexual priests in the Norwegian church. Due to the young age of this year’s contributors, most of the papers were very short only using one or two different sources and even the winning paper lacked a critical view on the sources, even though the students had been encouraged to do so.

Among the younger students Sindre Wolpers Haugland from Bergen won the contest with the paper “*The history of Bergen’s chess club*”. In this paper he compares the activities of his club 50 years ago and today. He uses both interviews and own experiences and describes continuity and changes in the club’s history. As mentioned we only got 6 papers from older students of which non had the qualities required. We therefore did not hand out any price to the older students this year and were not able to send anyone to the EUSTORY Young Adults’ Academy.

Nevertheless all participants got certificates and the winners of the first and second prize got book-prizes from Aschehoug publishing house at the celebration at the end of the school year in June. We thought this to be a good occasion as all the pupils at school use to be gathered on this day. A local member of *The Norwegian Historical Association* handed out the prizes but unfortunately we did not get any press this year. Sindre Wolpers Haugland and his teacher Kaare Bakkevig went to the EUSTORY Summer Academy in Berlin and reported afterwards that they had a pleasant and interesting stay in Berlin.

*Elisabeth Thue*  
Competition coordinator