



XII Edition of the Iberian Eustory Competition

«Political Transitions» was the topic of the 12th edition of the Iberian Eustory competition, celebrated in 2018/19. The number of students who took part was 163, submitting 67 contributions. Two things to highlight from this year's participations are firstly, the increase in the number of Portuguese contributions and secondly, the high proportion of students and tutors at the 12th edition who had already taken part in previous years (almost 20%).

Most of the works focused on political and social aspects of Transitions, with special focus on their consequences for women and in rural areas. Research techniques employed were diverse: original material in archives, newspaper archives and museums, information from secondary sources, and interviews of contemporary witnesses, experts and local authorities. As for the presentation formats, written papers prevailed but videos and interactive pieces were also very common. Creative, interactive or social media formats are gradually increasing since we encourage this kind of participation.

Most of the contributions came from Spain (69%) and from Portugal (18%). Students from Colombia, Peru and Venezuela account for the rest of the participants. The majority was submitted by groups (57%), mostly formed by 2 or 3 members.

The tutors have proven again to play a key role in encouraging students to participate. Almost 87% of the students knew about the competition from their teachers. 96% of the works were tutorised, which has resulted in works of the highest quality. The publication of the previous editions' winning contributions on our web page and sharing materials and resources through our blog and social networks also contributed to this superior quality, as well as to attract more visitors to our website.

Many works were prepared as an extracurricular activity, demanding students' extra effort and motivation, which was highly appreciated by the Jury. This out-of-school work also means many teachers are using the competition to motivate their students and to introduce them into research's methodology, in line with Eustory's motto *learning through research*.

First prize was awarded to Ana Matide Reis, a student from Amadora (Lisboa), for "Portugal. Revolução e Transição para a Democracia" (*Portugal. Revolution and Transition to Democracy*). The young author prepared a website to make known the process of transition from the authoritarian regime of the *Estado Novo* to democracy.

She also interviewed people from her community who lived and witnessed the Transition, reflecting her conclusions in a documentary.

The jury awarded four second awards, five third awards, and eleven consolation awards as well. The wide number of prizes awarded reflects the increase of the scientific quality of the projects submitted as well as Real Maestranza's commitment to recognise and promote excellence.

The topic of Political Transitions will be repeated for the 13th edition.