

EUSTORY History Competition in Serbia
Narrative report - ASH-EUROCLIO_Meeting the Past 2008-2009.doc9

“EUROPEAN INFLUENCES IN MY HOMETOWN”

Competition Report

The fifth round of EUSTORY History Competition in Serbia was organized by Association for Social History-EUROCLIO and Young Researchers of Serbia. It was officially announced at the beginning of September under the official title *MEETING THE PAST 2008/2009*. The topic for this year’s competition was **“European Influences in My Hometown”**. High school students, aged from 15 to 19, were invited to research the process of Europeanisation in Serbia during the late 19 century and the first half of 20 century. By this topic we wanted to show that the process of accepting various European influences was long lasting and multidimensional and that today’s political issue of European integrations is just one part of that process. Students had to choose one specific European influence, to identify those who brought it in their hometown and those who were supporting them as well as those who were opposing to them and then to analyze the changes in local environment that occurred as a consequence of accepting that certain influence. Although student’s task was explained clearly and understandably in the announcement, it turned out that this year’s topic was too abstract and, therefore, too difficult for students.

This year we had 274 registered papers, but we received only 78 of them, which was far below our expectations. It also proves that many students wanted to participate but that they didn’t succeed in their research endeavors. As no group work was allowed, we had

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78 participants as well: among them, 58 were girls and 20 were boys. They all came from 42 different high schools placed all over Serbia and they were supervised by 46 tutors. In their papers students were mostly analyzing the process of acceptance European influences in different segments of everyday life in the past, such as changes in fashion styles and clothing, eating habits, amusements and fun... Some of them were also researching the architectural changes in their hometowns, while some were dealing with coexistence and cultural exchange between local community and different groups of foreigners. All of them tackled very sensitive issue of identity and tried to identify changes in collective identity that were shaped by different European influences.

This year's papers were evaluated by 8 jury members. The jury procedure was the same as the last years: we had three eliminatory stages of evaluation, through which our jury came up with six excellent research papers, which we decided to award.

Award	Topic	Author
I award	Russians and Serbs: brothers – brothers in arms - neighbors	Kristina Jorgic (1990)
II award	Ero's new cloth. Dressing culture in Uzice town during second half of 19th century and beginning of 20th century	Aleksandar Savic (1991)
II award	European influences on different ways of entertainment and fun in Smederevo town	Carna Jovanovic (1990)
III award	They came as foreigners and became our citizens	Dusan Radovanovic (1991)
III award	Dressing style of Belgrade women during sixth decade of the last century	Dorotea Borkovic (1991)
III award	The last bohemian	Dragisa Colic (1990)

Apart from these six, we commended 10 students more and invited all 16 of them, together with their tutors, to the award ceremony.

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The award ceremony took place in Belgrade, on May 16th 2009. The idea was to celebrate the fifth anniversary of EUSTORY History Competition in Serbia and to share that success with also very successful youngsters – our awardees, their tutors, parents and some officials. The award ceremony was held at The Jevrem Grujić's Home, the house of a famous politician and diplomat of 19 century Serbia. The variety of European influences can still be seen in the house, through its architecture and furniture, but also through the memory on people who used to live in it and, moreover, through their deeds. Thanks to the now-a-day owner of the house who offered a guided tour, winners of our competition had a chance to get familiar with all of this.

Students were also very actively involved in the official part of the ceremony program, presenting the competition to the audience. Therefore, they spent the whole morning together, participating in a workshop and preparing their presentation for the afternoon. Organizers prepared a brochure of awarded papers in order to enable students to present themselves through their work, as well as to help us all preserve the memory of this year's award ceremony and our small anniversary.



Covers of the brochure

The awards were handed over by Tina Gotthardt, representative of EUSTORY AISBL. This year award ceremony was presented to the wider public by a short TV contribution made by media house B92 and broadcasted on their Info channel on May 16th 2009.

All awarded and commended students were invited to apply for the EUSTORY academies. We received 15 applications and passed them to EUSTORY team. After Tina Gotthardt has interviewed all candidates during the award ceremony, EUSTORY team

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invited seven students from Serbia to participate in academies in Berlin, Ronda and Gdansk.

Although this year we did not receive as many contributions as we wished, we are quite satisfied with the results of the fifth round of EUSTORY History Competition in Serbia. The quality of awarded papers is very high; all of them are very successful, research papers, which only prove that although the topic was quite difficult, it was possible to research it with great success. We are now hoping to be more successful in organizing next EUSTORY History Competition in Serbia.

For Organizers:

Jelena Popovic and Milena Tatalovic
(ASH-EUROCLIO)