

**2<sup>nd</sup> Swiss History Competition HISTORIA**  
**„Leisure time“**  
**2005-2007**

*The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of the Swiss History Competition HISTORIA was successfully completed in February 2007. A total of 27 entries with 51 participants dealing with various aspects of „Leisure time“ were handed in.*

**Advertisement**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> round was announced in April 2005. At the same time we prepared a brief description of the topic and information leaflets. These materials were sent to teachers as well as educational institutions and were published on our website.

**Competition**

The entries were judged in two categories: Category I (14 to 17 years), Category II (18 to 21 years). The assessment of the competition entries took place in two stages: 1) Three regional juries drew up a shortlist of their best participants; 2) The national jury selected the prize winners from the short listed participants. The works of the prize winners have been exhibited during the Award ceremony which took place in April 2007.

**Pioneering works submitted**

Again, we were very delighted by some excellent contributions. The works submitted to the competition focused on various aspects of the topic “Leisure time”. Most of the participants carried out historical research related to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Several works dealt with “scouts” in their area. The work titles included “women and football”, “Leisure time of handicapped persons”, “Leisure time in prison” or “Swimming in history”. In category I (14 to 17 years) the winners of the first prize, a group of three students, carried out research in a Company’s Archive and producing a kind of company magazine. In category II (18 to 21 years) the winner used sources and interviews to do her research on a youth protest movement in her hometown in the 1980ies. Since there were entries with close interrelation of history and social issues, we decided to create a Special prize: One person handed in a “Pedagogical concept for a children's treat in a museum”, another group compared how children and older people spend their leisure time in contemporary Switzerland.

Whereas most of the works were written texts, one group presented their entry on a compact disc. The prize winners worked with sources or proceeded to oral history; the weakest contributions were mostly of a descriptive character and were not based on original historical sources.

**Participants**

The papers were submitted in 3 languages (German, French, Italian). Some of the entries were the result of language immersion teaching, which means that the students carried out their research during a bilingual teaching-learning situation and using their second language. Actually, we received four contributions coming from the Italian speaking part of Switzerland that were written in French.

The majority of the participants were between 18 and 21 years old; very few participants were between 14 and 17 years old – which is a good result, since in the previous round we only awarded participants between 18 and 21 years! One certain reason for this unequal distribution is that most of the works submitted consist to be final year projects for higher education entrance qualification.

Two thirds of the 2<sup>nd</sup> round’s entries have been submitted by females (2005-2007: f: 35, m: 16) – a tendency we already observed during the first round (2003-2005: f: 37, m: 13) which dealt with “Migration”.

**Public interest and media coverage**

Compared to the previous rounds we had a better media coverage in 2007. We registered 13 articles mentioning the award ceremony in spring 2007, our history competition or the success story of our participants.

We also observed that there were new educational institutions that recommend our history competition to their students (increased number of links to our website).

### **Cooperations and partners**

Until now we have established collaborations with two archives (Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv, Zurich; Staatsarchiv, Lucerne) that display information about sources relevant for our history competition. One task in the near future will be to find new archives helping us in the same way. Since the Swiss Archivists' Association stated an open interest in cooperation during their annual general meeting, we hope to succeed very quickly.

Another aim is to tighten cooperation with educational institutions (secondary school, high school, vocational schools, and colleges). We already visited a couple of schools and presented the history competition to teachers – a PR work that is to be continued.

On a national level we have a close cooperation with the 'Swiss Youth in Science Foundation': Our prize winners participate in the national competition for youth research and compete with pioneering works of other disciplines of study (such as social sciences, geography). And of course, on an international level, there is the cooperation with EUSTORY and its network members which supports and facilitates our history competition with its tremendous knowledge and youth programs most decisively!

### **Support**

This is probably the most important innovation: In spring 2007 we could sign a contract with a Foundation (Stiftung Mercator Schweiz) which supports the Swiss history competition in a long run. The financial support enables us to improve the competition on an organizational and technical level: HISTORIA now employs a project manager who coordinates and leads projects and activities on a national and international level. We built up a database containing all the relevant addresses (teachers, educational institutions, partners, alumni, and media contacts), improved our advertisement (leaflets, new website), involved additional educational institutions, improved our public visibility (through website, newsletters, mass media coverage, articles in teachers' journals) and improved our services (methodological materials for participants and tutors on our new website: [ww.ch-historia.ch](http://ww.ch-historia.ch)) – a work that is to be continued in the future!

### **Conclusions**

As mentioned before, we try to reach more young participants, more archives and more educational institutions. The improvement of the website is to play an important part in that aim since we consider it as a very useful interface to attract our participants and other stakeholders (teachers, tutors, partners, media, etc.).

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