

## First Swiss History Competition HISTORIA

### “Migration“

2003-2005

### Report

We successfully finished our first competition round in April 2005 with the topic "Migration". 50 participants sent in 31 papers in 3 languages (German, French, Italian), which we think for the first time is not bad.

The subtopics showed a big variety, ranging from emigration of family members to France, California or Brazil, mass poverty migration of mountain areas in the 19th Century, refugees from Hungary 1956 to Tamil immigrants in the last 20 years.

All in all the quality of the papers proved that the information we gave for the participants regarding the competition were sufficient. The only thing we forgot is to mention, that they should send in two copies of their paper, so that we can send them to the two jury members who are reading the paper.

We were surprised by some very good papers, others were not as "scientific" as we expected, often not really working with the sources they had found. Some papers were more sociological, treating only the present situation, the historic depth was missing. On the whole we were quite satisfied with the papers that were sent in, regarding the age of the students.

We made good experiences were the financial support we got from different State and private organizations for this specific topic. It has not been so difficult to find financial support for our competition, because there are quite some State Departments and private organizations who are dealing with migrants or are trying to inform about the problems these people are facing, coming to our country. The most difficult was to convince the sponsors, that they should also support the preparations for the competition, not just the award ceremony.

Very inspiring were the good working atmosphere in our competition team despite the 3 languages we are communicating with each other, the very motivated jury (all history teachers) we were able to recruit and last but not least the nice award ceremony we had in Basel with all participants invited.

What we could do better during the second competition round are two things: establishing contacts to and informing the mass media earlier and send the information about our competition to more schools, so that for our new topic "Free time" we will get more teachers and students involved.

Christiane Derrer  
*Coordinator of the Swiss History Competition*