

EUSTORY history competition in the Czech Republic

- Competition Report of the fourth round 2006 – 2007 -

“We and the others. Common life and confrontations of Germans and Czechs in the 20th Century”

The topic of the fourth Czech history competition round was “We and the others. Common life and confrontations of Germans and Czechs in the 20th Century”. 61 secondary school students handed in 32 contributions. The Czech history competition, which was launched in 2000 is organized by Ústav Pro Soudobé Dějiny Akademie Věd of the Czech Republic in cooperation with Association of History teachers and with support of Körber-Foundation in Hamburg. The competition is led by a pentamerous committee consisting of two research workers and three experienced teachers. It is held under the patronage of professor Rudolf Zahradník - honourable head of the Academy of sciences. The competition is sponsored by nine prestigious Czech publishing companies.

On 12 May the fourth round of the Czech history competition round ended with the award ceremony at the municipal house in Ústí nad Labem. The ceremony was held with the cooperation of the museum of the city together with the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem. Mr. Jan Kubata, provost of Ústí nad Labem and PhDr. Michaela Hrubá, the chairman of Collegis Bohemica board of trustees, dean of Philosophical Faculty of Ústí nad Labem University, director of Ústav pro Soudobé dějiny Akademie Věd PhDr. Oldřich Tůma as well as Gabriele Woidelko, Executive Director of EUSTORY, were among the guests of the award ceremony.

The fourth competition round was held under the patronage of a government documentation project of members of the resistance of the Nazi Regime. They were affected after WW II in connection with treatment practised against the so called enemy population.

The essays, that were handed in, focused on the investigation of Czech - German relationships in its concrete everyday nature. The span of the topics was the 20th century. Importance was paid to the fact that this competition emphasized methods of oral history, mainly with direct witnesses.

The students' investigations could have tackled a wide range of topics such as the concrete lives of Czech and German people, who have lived in neighbourhood for years, the change in their relationships as a result of the concrete political events, history of displacement, history of deserted settlements in connection to the destiny of its occupants, history of associations, regional organisations, various societies or children groups. Cultural history e.g. theatre and its production, concrete halls, amateur and glee clubs, literature, newspapers, publishers, educational clubs; school such as school life, interruption of school friendships, exchange stays, so called horse trade, childhood and friendship between Czechs and Germans, nationalism demonstrations and their impact on people's lives, relationships to the same country and its perception, relations, possibility of contact in the era iron curtain, history of German democratic exile in Czechoslovakia in the 4th decade of the 20th century as well as economic history (history of companies and their owners, their development, etc.).

Every participant of the competition received a certificate about the participation in the EUSTORY competition. Ten contributions were awarded. Extracts from the awarded works will be published in a collection along with the announcement of the 5th history competition round in May 2008.

1st place

ANETA KRAUSOVÁ.

‘Totaleneinsatz’

J.Š. Baar grammar school Domažlice

2nd place

VERONIKA JANOVSÁ

KRISTÝNA KLIMEŠOVÁ

Displacement or expulsion? Post-war transport of Sudeten German people from area of Krnov in the years 1945-1946 by the viewpoint of involved.

Voděradská grammar school Prague

3rd place

ANNA MARKOVÁ

The Eve of Munich events - August 1938 by the view of Prager Tagblatt daily

Academic grammar school Prague

4th place

TOMÁŠ BECK

Development of relationships in our family from hatred to love

Chomutov grammar school

5th place

JONÁŠ MACEK

Displacement of Germans from Czechoslovakia in the years 1945-1947

J.K.Tyl grammar school, Hradec Králové

6th place

JIŘINA JUZLOVÁ

Coexistence of Czechs and Germans in the Highlands in the watershed moments of 1919, 1938 and 1945

Dr. Aleš Hrdlička grammar school, Humpolec

7th place

VLADIMÍR VELEŠÍK

District keeping of youth in Svitavy 1918-1948

Grammar and language school, Svitavy

8th place

MICHAELA RUŇOVÁ

School life in the protectoral period

Dvořák´s grammar school and Secondary economy school, Kralupy nad Vltavou

9th place

ANETA VALOUCHOVÁ

Displacement of Germans from Oslavy

Grammar school, Uničov

10th place

DANIELA KOPEČKOVÁ

PETR LAPUNÍK

VERONIKA DLOUHÁ

Prague, September 2007

JAN BEZDĚK
We and they
Grammar school, Krnov