

EUSTORY History Competition in the Czech Republic

Competition Report of the 7th Round 2013-2014

„Also a Place has its Memory – In the Footsteps of My Region’s History“

The topic of the seventh competition round of EUSTORY in the Czech Republic was “Also a Place has its Memory – In the Footsteps of My Region’s History”.

The Czech competition was launched in 2000. Until 2012 it was organised and coordinated by the Institute for Contemporary History of the Science Academy of the Czech Republic in cooperation with the Association of History Teachers. However, the last competition round 2013-2014 was organised and conducted by the PANT Citizen’s Association. PANT is an association of mostly high school history teachers. It focuses on reforming the education of history in the Czech Republic. For accomplishing this goal, it provides teachers with seminars concerning the methodology of teaching as well as with substantive interactive materials to use in the lectures, such as presentations, working sheets or videos. During its years of existence, PANT acquired a well-founded infrastructure of teachers, academic workers as well as witnesses of various historical events and became quite renowned.

This year’s round ended on 20th January 2014 with an award ceremony in “Café Krásný ztráty” in Prague. The ceremony was moderated by the Czech actor Zdeněk Svěrák. 71 students took part in the competition and they submitted 53 works altogether. The best ten submissions, which were evaluated by several committees composed of history teachers, were awarded. The awards for all ten works consisted of many books, provided by various sponsors-publishers (see <http://www.eustory.cz/partneri>). In addition, the participants with the three best works were rewarded with electronics (mobile phones, mp3 players), subscription of *History and the Present* magazine, in which excerpts of their work is going to be published as well.

The topic of the competition was chosen with regard to the goal of the PANT association. We believe that the best way how to keep young people interested in history is to connect them with the history of the place they are at. When they find out that the history did not take place only in the capital, but in their home town as well, and that there are potential witnesses of the event still living, they not only form a closer bond with the region’s and country’s history, but they contribute to the state of historical research as well, because they often discover and make accessible previously unknown historical materials. Accordingly, there was the winning work about a Sports house that housed meetings of Germans before war and trials of Nazi collaborators after the war or a history of a Meadow Mill.

The prize winners and the titles of their works are as follows:

1. Jan Havránek- A History of Sports House in Chomutov
2. Ester Boháčková, Kateřina Fričová - Meadow Mill in Chodovlice
3. Tereza Poláčková - A History of the Černčice Village in the Long 19th Century
4. Veronika Faistová - Solnice no. 47
5. Dominik Feri - Sister Cities Teplice and Šanov
6. Tereza Potužilová, Nikola Sedloňová - How Does the City Change in Front of the Lens (A History of Slaný Captured in Photography)
7. David Trojan - Detention Camp RADIOTRH PVV
8. Jiří Klůc - Sokolovo - Sokolov: Connection Between Ukrainian Village and a City in Western Bohemia
9. David Krop - Vítkovice, House no. 135. The Rise and Fall of a Good Address
10. Jana Jiříková - Budeč or Life in the Past and Present Below a Hillfort