

The Estonian Head of State thanked all the participants for their initiative and interesting papers. "With your research you have expanded your own historical knowledge, and that of us all," he added. On Saturday in Tartu, awards were presented to the winners of the "My Estonia" competition for historical research papers. The competition, which was intended for students, was won by Ründo Mült, Oskar Lesment and Janne Vellak in the upper secondary school category. In the basic school category, Elsbet Vaigur and Sigrid Meemaa, Anna-Liisa Toropov, and Karin Poolma were the winners.

In the greetings sent to the competitors, President Ilves noted that writing research papers is a long and time-consuming process, which includes both the joys of discovery and setbacks. "It is easy to propose simple solutions and these are almost always popular. However, historical research must never be a search for simple solutions and popularity, since the goal is finding the truth, and the truth may not always be easy," President Ilves wrote.

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The students' historical research paper competition was organized by the Society of Estonian History Teachers and the Körber Foundation of Hamburg. The competition took place for the tenth year. This year, 85 research papers were submitted from upper secondary schools and 54 from basic schools throughout Estonia.

The papers were evaluated by a jury that was comprised of representatives from various scientific institutions and organizations.

The organizers wish to single out the schools and instructors that have participated in the competition for all ten years. The Vastseliina Upper Secondary School, Are Basic School and Parksepa Secondary School, as well as instructors Tiiu Ojala, Ilme Vahtra and Elve Tamvere, have participated every year.

Additional information available on the Society of Estonian History Teachers' website:
<http://www.eas.edu.ee/>

Winners and their papers:

Upper secondary schools

I Ründo Mült, Paide Ühisgümnaasium, "Epochal Events in My Home Village of Päinurme, 1939-1950"

II Oskar Lesment, Tallinna Ühisgümnaasium, "The Protection of Tallinn's Old Town throughout History"

III Janne Vellak, Võru Kesklinna Gümnaasium, "The Role of the Education Department in the Management of Võru County's Educational Life at Various Periods of Estonian History"

Basic schools

I Elsbet Vaigur and Sigrid Meemaa, Pärnu Ülejõe Gümnaasium, "The Ones That Bequeath and Maintain Legacies: the Town's Cemetery"

President Iives sends greetings to the best student history researchers

Saturday, 09 May 2009 12:28

II Anna- Liisa Toropov, Kohila Gümnaasium, “Education in Estonia during World War II”
III Karina Poolma, Are Põhikoo, “The Story of the Lepplaane Virgin Lands Settlement: From Modern Project to Outlying Area”

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