

EUSTORY Youth Academies 2009

Workshops
for
award
winners
from
national
EUSTORY history
competitions



Imprint

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Dear Award Winners,

Congratulations on the prize you have won in your national history competition! Months of intense work lie behind you and now it is time for your efforts to be rewarded: You have qualified to apply for participation in one of the three international EUSTORY youth academies that we offer in 2009.

Your national history organization belongs to EUSTORY – the History Network for Young Europeans – which consists of 22 non-governmental organizations from countries all over Europe. Each of these organizations carries out national history competitions like yours and identifies winners, who then have the chance to become an active part of the EUSTORY network. During our academies you can investigate various historical topics together with winners of other history competitions. This year, EUSTORY academies will take place in Germany, Spain and Poland. Here are the topics and places: “The fall of the Berlin Wall – from Europe back to Berlin”, in Berlin (Germany); “From Al-Andalus to Andalusia – the power of religion(s)”, in Ronda (Spain); “From Polish ‘Solidarność’ to European Solidarity – Social movements and the peaceful fall of communism in Europe”, in Gdańsk (Poland).

By meeting other young European researchers you will become familiar with different perspectives on historical events. Exchanging your historical interpretations with students from all over Europe, you will gain a broader overview about how nationalisms, stereotypes and historical myths are created and about how national traumata come into existence and endure. This insight into (hi)stories with (inter) national impact can help you to understand the causes of conflicts, which often have roots in history. We want to bring together young Europeans like you and trigger discussions that will help strengthen your respect for diversity, your openness to new ideas as well as your understanding of “the other side”. This might turn you into a “mediator” for a more peaceful and tolerant European community.

The EUSTORY Youth Academies are in essence a great opportunity: to meet people of your age from different European countries; to appreciate and talk about history from multiple angles; to have fun and make new friends. It all seems very unfamiliar and new at first, but after only one week you will feel like you've known the participants for a lifetime. For those of you who will participate in the EUSTORY Youth Academies this year, I must warn you: This is an experience you will not forget!

VLAD BADEA (19) ROMANIA

Plenary discussions and working in small groups during our academies often generate new ideas. Realizing that every person has the right to tell their own story is a core part of our youth academies. By listening sincerely to others and by trying to follow their reasoning, you can start to see yourself or your country through the eyes of others, which may bridge the gap between different interpretations. We express this in the slogan of our international network: “Understanding Differences, Overcoming Divisions.” Methods of creative learning and research help ensure that all participants are actively involved. You may work with text sources, interview eyewitnesses on a certain subject, or visit historical spots. This way, you will encounter new approaches to history and learn how to “travel back in time” without being limited to textbooks. In the Berlin academy, e.g., we will work with different media. So you might learn how to produce a radio or video feature and how to present your research results in an innovative way.

This year we are offering about 70 places in our academies to award winners from 18 countries: Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and Wales.

After the intense experience of the academies, many students are motivated to continue with this kind of active history work. Sometimes they “catch the bug” of interest in this kind of European experience and wish to deepen their cooperation with participants from abroad. In the framework of our alumni activities, you can either apply to take part in events that we offer, or you can start your own, independent project with other alumni.

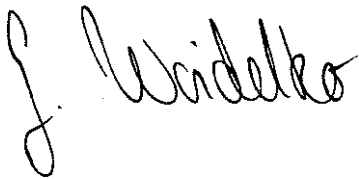
For more information about our past alumni activities, please visit our website (<http://www.eustory.eu>) under the sub-navigation point: “Young Europeans”.

We hope that we have piqued your curiosity! Now, all you need to do is read the following pages carefully. Then take the first step and hand in your application!

Good luck to all of you! Maybe we’ll meet soon in Germany, Spain or Poland.

Best regards on behalf of the EUSTORY network!

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Woidelko'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Gabriele Woidelko

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The fall of the Berlin Wall – from Europe back to Berlin

Twenty years ago, in November 1989, the Berlin Wall came down and along with it arguably the most famous symbol of the Cold War and the division of Europe.

This event not only resulted in the unification of the two German states but also was followed by major changes in social, political and economic life all over Europe. After the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, Eastern European countries in particular had to face a new beginning and build up new nation states. Some of these processes are ongoing.

One other result of the events of 1989 was that all Europeans had to rethink their 40-year-old concept of Europe. A new awareness of Europe began to rise. Because of the new opportunities to travel, citizens of European states began to move closer together; they were forced to get to know each other better. At Italian camp-sites, one could hear conversations in Polish and Czech; at Prague's Wenzel Square, English was suddenly the dominant language. Many German citizens sought work in Scandinavia or Poland, and migrant labourers from other European countries began to move as well. In this way, the political and economical developments changed the lives of almost all Europeans.

During this EUSTORY academy, young Europeans will study such changes in their countries and will compare their histories with those of other participants from across Europe. The past will be the basis for further research within the microcosm of Berlin. Berlin has changed a lot since 1989, especially in the makeup of its population: People from all over the world have moved to this European metropolis. For these new inhabitants, the former division of the city may not seem important. Nevertheless, the "Wall" is still present in the cityscape of Berlin and in the minds of its inhabitants: Some people who used to live in the divided city still avoid visiting "the other side".

During this academy, participants will research the history of a particular street that was divided by the Wall. They will interview inhabitants of both sides of the street, hopefully revealing the consequences of a political event that influenced their daily routines.

A highlight of the EUSTORY academy in Berlin will be our work with various types of media. At the end of the academy, the results of your research efforts will be incorporated into a video – theatre collage. So, beyond the content-related work, the academy will offer the opportunity to learn new and innovative methods of presenting the results of historical research.

In cooperation with:
wannseeFORUM, Berlin
www.wannseeforum.de

When: 22.08 – 29.08.2009
Where: Berlin (Wannsee), Germany
Age: 16 – 18 years
Group size: 25 – 30 participants



From Al-Andalus to Andalusia – the power of religion(s)

In September 2009, more than a thousand years will have passed since the establishment of the Umayyad dynasty on the Iberian Peninsula. This was the same dynasty that established the Caliphate of Córdoba in 756 AC. Al-Andalus was an Arab “kingdom” until 1492. Under Arabic governance, Islam was the main religion. But what about Christianity or Judaism? What status did they have under Islamic dominance?

In 1492, after centuries of wars, the Catholic rulers Isabella and Ferdinand terminated the regime of the Muslims. But still, traces of 700 years of Arab presence in Europe can be easily found all over southern Spain. Even the name of this region stayed the same: “Andalusia”. But what did the change of religious power mean for the daily life of people living there? How do the descendants of the former “rulers” live today, with Christianity as the state religion?

This year, 18 students from across Europe will search for traces of Arab history by visiting historical places like Córdoba, Medina Azahara and the Alhambra in Granada. At the meeting point of Occident and Orient, they will discover the past and present role of religion in that region and will compare it with other parts of Europe. Was or is peaceful coexistence between all three religions possible? And how was and is life for people of different faith under one official religion?

Historical sources on religious conflicts and life under different religious dominance in European history provide the background for the students’ joint work. Evaluating these texts, the students will find out about different perspectives on the shared past of Judaism, Christianity and Islam in Andalusia.

Meetings with members and official representatives of the three religions, as well as with experts, will be at the core of this EUSTORY academy. Working in small groups, the students will prepare and conduct interviews and thus have the possibility to look at the topic from different points of view. The young Europeans will learn how their interviewees perceive the influence of these faiths on Europe’s cultural heritage and on the current situation in Andalusia itself; how they look at the coexistence of different religious groups there; and what they think could or should be done to foster mutual understanding between members of these different religions.

In cooperation with:

La Real Maestranza de Caballería de Ronda

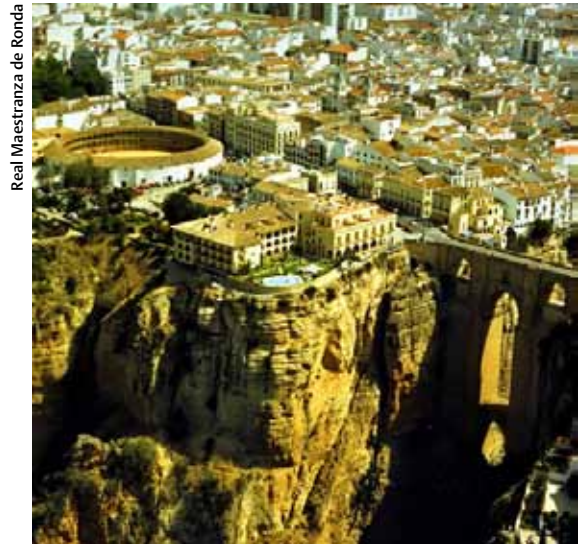
www.rmcr.org

When: 12.09. – 19.09.2009

Where: Ronda, Spain

Age: 18 – 20 years

Group size: 15 – 18 participants



Real Maestranza de Ronda

From Polish “Solidarność” to European Solidarity

Social movements and the peaceful fall of communism in Europe

The events which took place in Poland starting in August 1980 were a turning point in the history of post-war Europe. This breach in the previously united Soviet bloc marked the beginning of the end for a totalitarian system that had triumphed after the Second World War.

Something happened in Poland that no one could have predicted or planned. Even those who initiated the strike in the Gdańsk shipyard – members of an organized democratic opposition – could only hope for just another tiny step in the direction of freedom. What was planned as a simple strike turned into a powerful struggle for basic human rights, including freedom of expression and freedom of assembly.

This is how the process of the peaceful fall of communism in Europe began.

Almost 30 years after the first Gdańsk shipyard strike and the subsequent registration of “Solidarność” as the first legal trade union under a communist regime, and 20 years after regaining its independence, Poland is one of several Central European countries cooperating within the structures of NATO and the European Union. Together, they pursue the common goals

of peaceful, democratic development, respect for human rights and the rule of law.

What was the Polish path to freedom? What role did the “Solidarność” movement play in the peaceful fall of communism in Poland? What social groups fought for independence in other countries of the communist bloc? What did social solidarity mean in the 1980s? What does it mean today? Young people from 18 European countries will have a chance to investigate these questions during our EUSTORY academy in Poland. They will have the chance to discuss these questions with our experts from the European Solidarity Center, as well as with eye-witnesses who will recall those turbulent and pivotal days at the Gdańsk shipyard. Finally, they will have the chance to reflect on their own experiences, and to talk to each other.

In December, young Europeans will meet in the beautiful, historic city of Gdańsk, often referred to as “the cradle of freedom”, to discuss the process of the fall of the communist regime and the subsequent process of European integration. They will have the chance to share their personal views of freedom and human rights and talk about various forms of solidarity. On the 20th anniversary of 1989 they will go back in time and assess the lasting impact of those events on Europe today.

In cooperation with:

The KARTA Center Foundation, Warsaw, Poland

www.karta.org.pl

and The European Solidarity Center, Gdańsk, Poland, www.ecs.gda.pl

When: 07.12. – 12.12.2009

Where: Gdańsk, Poland

Age: 18 – 20 years

Group size: 15 – 18 participants



How to apply

Please rank the workshops on pages 6–8 according to your personal order of preference. You should prepare a statement in which you describe your general interest in participating in a EUSTORY academy plus your special motivation to take part in the academy of your first choice.

You also are asked to describe briefly the most important aspects of your competition entry (max. 1 page). Then you should carefully fill in the application form (pages 13–14) and send it together with all the documents to the organiser of your national history competition. You will find the deadline for submission of your documents in the accompanying invitation letter from your organiser.

During the award ceremony you will be invited for an interview that is usually conducted by a EUSTORY representative together with a representative from the host organisation. This interview will be held in English and is going to focus on your personal interests as well as on your competition entry and on your motivation to take part in one of the academies. In exceptional cases these interviews may be conducted via telephone.

In cooperation with the organiser of the national history competition, the EUSTORY team will decide on the selection of candidates. A whole set of criteria plays a role: not only are the prize category and language proficiency important; rather, the personality and motivation of the applicant are taken into consideration. Furthermore, there should be a good mix of nationalities and genders in the group and people should not come from the same class or have worked on the same project etc.. In any case, legal proceedings may not be taken to secure participation.

If you have been selected for an academy you will receive a formal invitation letter by the end of June 2009 at the latest. We will, of course, try to offer you a place in the academy of your first choice but this may not always be possible. In case there are more applications than vacancies it can even happen that we will not be able to offer you a workshop at all.

Within one week after you have received the formal invitation you have to confirm or withdraw your participation.

How to prepare yourself for the academy

You will be sent two questionnaires, usually three to four weeks before the academy starts:

1. the first one will deal with some questions on the background of your competition entry and
2. the second one will prepare you for the topical work of your special academy.

These documents have to be returned to EUSTORY in Hamburg at the latest one week before the academy starts.

In addition, you will be asked to prepare a poster of your competition work, which you should bring along. You will receive some guidelines that should be followed.

How to apply ... step by step

Step one

- Read the entire information brochure carefully
- Rank the academy programs according to your personal order of preference

Step two

- Write a motivational letter that states why you wish to take part in a EUSTORY academy and why you are particularly interested in the academy of your first choice
 - Prepare a short statement on your competition entry (max. 1 page)
 - Fill in the application form
 - Send your completed application to the organiser of your national history competition by e-mail or fax
- You find the deadline in the accompanying invitation letter from your organiser

Step three

- You will have an interview in English
 - If you have been selected, you will receive an official invitation letter
 - You have to confirm or withdraw your participation
- At the Award Ceremony or by telephone
By the end of June at the latest
- One week after you received the invitation

Step four

- You will receive two questionnaires:
 - a. The first one deals with questions on the background of your competition work and
 - b. The second one will prepare you for the topical work of your academy
 - The questionnaires must be returned to Hamburg ...
- Three to four weeks before the academy starts
- ... at the latest one week before the academy starts

Step five

- Preparation of a poster of your competition entry
- You must bring this with you to the academy

Conditions of participation

Costs

The EUSTORY AISBL covers the costs for the whole seminar program (e.g. accommodation, meals, local transport costs), and the travel costs from the home country to the foreign country, including visa fees. In some cases it will be necessary to spend one night before departure in a hostel – these costs will also be covered by the EUSTORY AISBL.

The following costs must be covered by the participants:

- items for private use (incl. telephone costs)
- travel costs within the home country,
- a general organisational fee amounting to 100 €. In certain cases, this amount may be reduced (hardship provisions/special regulations).

If you cannot afford to pay these costs, please, contact the organiser of your competition.

Travel / Visa

International travel between the home country and the country where the workshop takes place is arranged in cooperation with the organiser of the national history competition. Tickets will be provided. Should you require a visa for the country where the academy takes place, this will be arranged in cooperation with the organiser of your national history competition. The participant is responsible for planning the journey in the home country to the place of departure (bus or train station/airport). This means that tickets for local travel have to be purchased by him/herself.

In the country of the seminar the participants are met at the airport, bus or train station by a member of the EUSTORY team and are taken to the seminar location. For the return trip, similar arrangements will be made

Accommodation

Participants are usually sharing rooms with two or three people of other nationalities.

Minors

Applicants who have not reached the age of 18 at the time of the seminar may only apply for the workshop with the legal consent of their parent / legal guardian. The attached “Declaration of consent for the participation of minors” (pages 16 – 18) has to be submitted together with the application. All the academies are arranged in such a way that there is no danger involved. The participants are supervised by the seminar team but, for example, there are no security checks during the night.

Concerning the academy in Berlin, in some cases an adult (tutor/organiser etc.) from the home country will accompany participants to and from Germany.

Insurance

The participants have to take out a travel health insurance which is valid abroad. Additionally, participants may take out their own insurance against accidents or theft of luggage etc. if they wish to.

No legal right to participation

It will not be possible to invite all applicants. In some cases it may become necessary to cancel a workshop because there are not enough participants. Even after an invitation has been issued it may occur that a workshop has to be cancelled due to illnesses or cannot take place due to some force majeure.

Withdrawal from participation

Taking part in a youth academy is one of the most precious prizes that a national history competition can offer. These academies are quite expensive (honoraria, travel costs, preparation of program, lodging, meals etc.) and these costs do arise as well when somebody suddenly withdraws. Therefore, the following rule is applied: after having received an invitation for a workshop, the applicant can decline within one week. In case the withdrawal is announced later, the organisers will try to recruit another participant. In case nobody can be found – due to short notice, for example – the EUSTORY AISBL reserves the right to charge a withdrawal fee (€ 25 per seminar day). This does not, of course, refer to cases of illness confirmed by a doctor's certificate.

A general remark

It is very important that you carefully check in advance that you really will be able to take part in the seminars you selected. So ask your parents about pre-existing family holiday plans, especially for August. The academies in September/December might interfere with school or university. Please take this into consideration as well. Should you require assistance to gain leave from school/university it is possible for the EUSTORY AISBL to issue a relevant letter to the director of the school, etc. When you apply, please, keep in mind that you have to keep this period free until you get the final confirmation.

Rules & regulations during the academies

Alcohol & smoking

Due to reasons of liability and with respect to minors (under 18) smoking and the consumption of alcohol are forbidden.

Spare time

The major focus of the academy is on shared topical work. The experienced teamers/experts make this “work” very enjoyable and understand how to create a stimulating atmosphere for everybody. There will, of course, be leisure time, too, and it is ensured that the group will see the most important touristic highlights. Whilst working on the topic, students will take part in excursions

during which they will gain many impressions. For reasons of liability and responsibility on the part of the team members it will only be possible to separate from the “main” group in smaller units of at least three persons.

Disciplinary measures

Participants who disturb, boycott the seminar or disregard the regulations of the seminar team may be excluded from the workshop. The participant may be charged with any extra costs that might occur in connection with his/her earlier departure.

Application form

Passport photo
if available

Please fill in the form in printed letters:

Personal data

First Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Family Name _____ Place of Birth _____

Male / Female _____ Nationality _____

Street _____

Postal Code _____

City _____

Country _____

Telephone incl. international dialing code _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Mobile phone _____

School Name _____ Class _____

Travel document

I hold a travel document that is valid for travel to the country where the academy takes place

Passport No./Identity Card _____ Date of Issue _____

Date of Expiry _____

I still have to apply for an international travel document

I have the following health restrictions or special diet requirements, which have to be taken into consideration (i.e. allergies, asthma, migraine, handicaps, vegetarian diet)

Did you take part in previous EUSTORY activities (i.e. Youth Academy or Internet Forum)?

Which activity?

Which year and place?

I apply for the following workshops

Topic	Time / Place	*
The fall of the Berlin Wall – from Europe back to Berlin	22.08. – 29.08.2009 Berlin, Germany	
From Al-Andalus to Andalusia – the power of religion(s)	12.09. – 19.09.2009 Ronda, Spain	
From Polish “Solidarność” to European solidarity – Social movements and the peaceful fall of communism in Europe	07.12. – 12.12.2009 Gdańsk, Poland	

* Please write 1, 2 or 3 to show your order of preference

I attach the following documents:

- Since I will be under 18 by the time of the workshop I attach the “Declaration of consent for the participation of minors” from my parents/legal guardian (page 16)
- A general statement in which I describe my interest in participating in a EUSTORY academy plus my special motivation to take part in the academy of **my first choice**.
- Statement on my competition entry

I have read and understand the conditions of participation as stated in this document and agree to them.

Place, Date

Signature

Motivation letter and statement on competition entry

A. Motivation letter

Please give us your main reasons for wanting to take part in an international EUSTORY academy and tell us why you are especially interested in your preferred topic (For example: Do you see any relevance of the topic to your country?).

Please write 1–2 pages using a separate sheet of paper.

B. Statement on competition entry

Please state the title of your competition entry and describe why you chose this topic. What were the results? What did you expect? What surprised you?

Please prepare a statement of max. 1 page on a separate sheet of paper.

Declaration of consent for the participation of minors

Participant:

Name, First Name:

Address

Date of Birth

Telephone

Mobile phone

I herewith allow my daughter/son to take part in the EUSTORY Youth Academy for which s/he is accepted.

I have taken notice of the program and acknowledge that my child may participate in all aspects at his/her own risk unless I declare objections below.

For the duration of the EUSTORY Youth Academy my child will be under the responsibility of the EUSTORY team unless I relieve them from their duties or unless the duty of custody is extinguished.

I particularly agree that:

- travel to and from the agreed meeting point lies within the responsibility of my child; he/she will be met by a member of the EUSTORY team at the airport/station and will be taken back there, too.
- the group leaders can be approached with all problems that might arise, but that it will not be possible to secure a 24 h supervision and that there will be no control rounds during the night.
- it is strictly forbidden to smoke or consume alcohol during the academy.
- the group leaders must be consulted on all potentially dangerous activities (e.g. swimming and other sports activities).
- the program of the academy is compulsory and that the instructions of the group leaders have to be followed.

1. Does your child have any illness/disease that has to be monitored? Yes No
If yes, which one:

2. Does your child have to take any medicine? Yes No
If yes, which:

3. Does your child suffer from any allergy? Yes No
If yes, which one:

4. May your child eat everything? Yes No
If not, what has to be avoided? Vegetarian

5. May your child leave the premises during free periods without any supervision until 23:00? (The condition will be that only groups of three participants will be given leave.) Yes No

6. What should the team leaders especially take into consideration:

I guarantee that my daughter/son will only take part in the academy if s/he is free of any severe and/or contagious diseases. In case of accident or illness during the EUSTORY Youth Academy I leave it to the discretion of the doctor to initiate any necessary medical treatment. If possible, though, the team and the doctor will always first seek to consult the parent/legal guardian on any steps to be taken.

Contact address of parent/legal guardian during the academy:

Name _____ Tel. _____

Street _____ Mobile _____

Town _____

Country _____

I acknowledge the fact that the responsibility of the group leaders/team expires if my child leaves the premises without notification or if s/he acts against the instructions/rules. In case of severe obstructiveness my child can be sent home at my expense.

Place, Date

Signature of parent/legal guardian

EUSTORY...

- is a European network of independent civic organisations that carry out historical research competitions for youth in their countries.
- creates space for encounters and facilitates dialogue on shared European history and future in regular international youth seminars.
- promotes the significance of history for a common European future through international conferences and workshops.
- offers food for thought about European history through its publications.

The idea of EUSTORY

EUSTORY supports a European perspective on local, regional and national history, shunning exclusion and promoting understanding. The mandate of EUSTORY is to view European history from the grassroots and to recognize the vast diversity of experience. Opposing the abuse of history as an ideological weapon, EUSTORY emphasizes the view of history as a workshop for intercultural understanding. This view is laid down in the core document of the EUSTORY network, the EUSTORY charter.

Therefore EUSTORY is not only a meaningful initiative of historical grassroots work in Europe, but also makes an important and pioneering contribution to European efforts toward peace and tolerance.

The EUSTORY AISBL

EUSTORY is an international network of non-governmental organisations carrying out historical research competitions for young people in their countries. It was established in 2001, initiated by the Körber Foundation. In 2008 the member organisations decided to found an independent international non-profit association (AISBL) registered in Brussels, Belgium. With its international office in Hamburg, Germany, EUSTORY currently connects civic organisations from Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine and Wales.

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