

EUSTORY Youth Academies 2010



Workshops
for
award
winners
from
national
EUSTORY
history
competitions

Imprint

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EUSTORY competition organisers at the General Assembly in Ronda, Spain

Dear Award Winners,

Congratulations on the prize you have won in your country's 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 2010.

Your national history organisation belongs to EUSTORY – the History Network for Young Europeans – which consists of 22 non-governmental organisations from countries all over Europe. Each of these organisations carries out national history competitions like the one in which you took part, and identifies winners who then have the chance to become an active part of the EUSTORY network. During our academies you investigate various historical topics together with winners of other history competitions. This year, EUSTORY academies will take place in Germany, Switzerland and Bulgaria. Here are the topics and places: “Damaged Souls – Youth and repression in socialistic systems”, in Berlin (Germany); “Food – more than a way to fight hunger? The culture of alimentation” in Scuol (Switzerland); “Between Occident and Orient – Religious diversity in Bulgaria” in Sofia/Plovdiv (Bulgaria). By meeting other young European researchers you will become familiar with various perspectives on historical events. Exchanging your interpretations of history with those of students from all over Europe, you will gain a broader overview about how nationalisms emerge and how stereotypes and historical myths are created, as well as about how national traumas come into existence and endure. 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 year we are offering about 70 places in our academies to award winners from 17 countries: Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine and Wales. After the intense experience of the academies, many students are motivated to continue

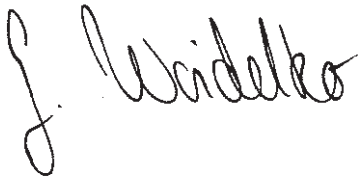
with this kind of active history work. For those “alumni” we offer different kinds of projects. The next projects will deal with the 25th anniversary of the catastrophe at the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl in April 1986 and consist of a study trip to Belarus and a six-month Internet seminar. For more information about our past alumni activities, please visit our website (www.eustory.eu) under the sub-navigation point: “Young Europeans”.

This year we have included four alumni in the application process for the academies. This means you will have “peers” as contacts: alumni who already have been through the same process in recent years and have the experience of a EUSTORY academy behind them. Together with Tina Gotthardt from the EUSTORY team, they will answer all your questions concerning the application process and eventual participation in an academy. Read on for more details.

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, Switzerland or Bulgaria.

Best regards on behalf of the EUSTORY network!

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

Gabriele Woidelko
EUSTORY Managing Director

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Your contact persons

Whenever you have any questions concerning your applications or the academies, please feel free to contact your regional alumni advisor. All the advisors have participated in EUSTORY academies before and know what they're like.

ALUMNI CONTACT PERSONS:

Region North (Denmark, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Wales):

Name: Meriam Braanaas (*1990)

Hometown: Oslo, Norway

Studies: Journalism at Oslo University College, but I don't know if I want to become a journalist at all. What I do know is that I want to write; about art, about people and my generation.

Interests: I have a strong interest in culture, and together with my mother who's a painter, I keep the blog www.edvardablog.blogspot.com; I like travelling and reading.

Favourite book: *49 infatuations* by a young, Danish poet called Christel Wiinblad.

EUSTORY experience: Youth academy in Ronda in 2009.

Contact: meriam.braanaas@gmail.com

Region East (Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Russia, Ukraine):

Name: Dita Bētere (*1991)

Hometown: Balvi, Latvia

Studies: Now I'm in my final year in Balvi State gymnasium. After finishing school I hope to continue my studies at the University of Latvia, in the Modern Language faculty.

Interests: I prefer active leisure time – I love dancing Latvian Folk Dances, cycling and swimming. But I also love reading.

Favourite writers: Peter Høeg and Alberts Bels.

EUSTORY experience: Youth academy in Gdańsk in 2009.

Contact: dittuks@inbox.lv

Region Central (Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany, Slovakia, Switzerland):

Name: Ondřej Kolínský (*1990)

Hometown: Prague, Czech Republic

Studies: Economics at Charles University. I hope to become a scientist or an author. I am interested in current affairs, politics, modern history.

Interests: Reading and sports like cycling, swimming and snooker.

Favourite book: *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley.

EUSTORY experience: Youth academy in Gdańsk in 2009.

Contact: ondrej.kolinsky@email.cz



EUSTORY CONTACT

Tina Gotthardt is the official EUSTORY advisor. She coordinates the whole application process and will be also present at all EUSTORY academies.

Name: Tina Gotthardt (*1979)

Hometown: Hamburg, Germany

Studies: I finished my studies in history, politics and geography in Hamburg and Barcelona earning a master's degree. Afterward I started to work for EUSTORY, where I'm responsible for all youth and alumni activities.

Interests: I like travelling, photography, reading, cooking and horseback riding in the outdoors.

Favourite book: My all time favourite is *Anna Karenina* but I also like *The 13 ½ lives of the Captain Bluebear*.

Contact: gotthardt@eustory.eu

Region South (Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain):

Name: Milena Tatalovic (*1987)

Hometown: Belgrade, Serbia

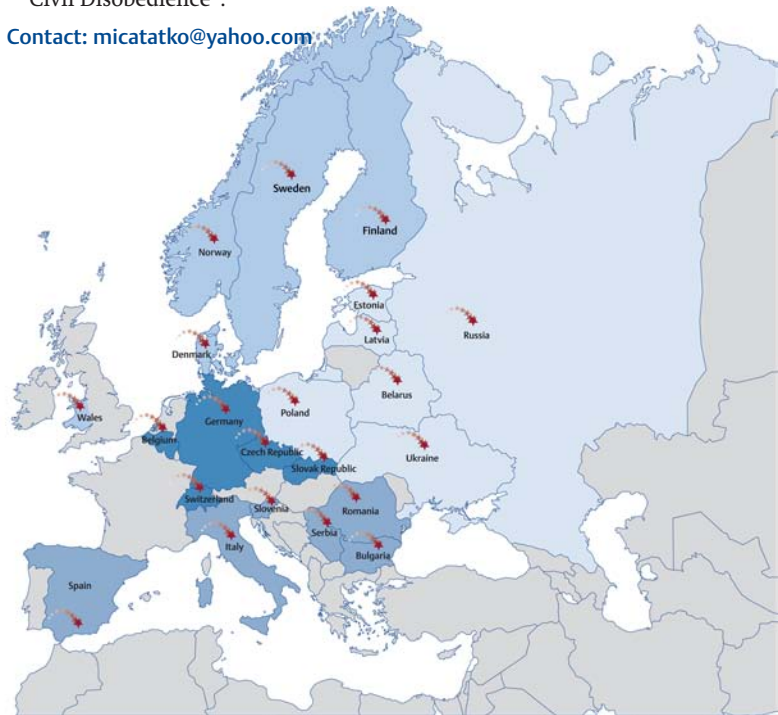
Studies: Sociology at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade. I hope to become a research journalist, as well as to be involved in researching social history.

Interests: I'm interested in 20th century history, rock music, Spanish language and old movies.

Favourite book: *The Hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy* by Douglas Adams

EUSTORY experience: Youth academy in Berlin in 2004, Alumni project "Protest, Resistance and Civil Disobedience".

Contact: micatkatko@yahoo.com





From left to right: Milena, Meriam, Ondřej, Dita

Dear Award Winners,

Congratulations on your success in the Eustory competition 2010. You have coped with the same task that faces any historian – examining a certain subject closely and writing a paper about the results. But the prize you won may not mean the end of the competition for you. Quite the opposite: This might just be the very beginning of your cooperation with EUSTORY. A whole new world is about to open for you.

Your first option is to apply for an academy. This involves writing an application, filling in some forms and then being among the best, of course. But it is worth the effort. EUSTORY academies will give you an opportunity to learn about history actively, not only by sitting at a table and reading a book. Participants spend a week in a foreign country with 20 to 30 other young people and with a specific topic to investigate. You will talk to people who were affected by history; you will read blog posts and forums run by young people who are experiencing history in the making; and you will get to meet people from all over Europe who have their own stories to tell.

During an academy you will learn about the historical topic of the seminar and meet people your own age who may surprise you by telling you that policies and regimes you thought were long defunct are in fact still functioning. Or you may find that conflicts you thought were continuing have in fact been resolved.

You will be the ones to ask the questions, lead the interviews, come up with ideas and discuss the issues. Group work will include role-playing: “becoming” an historical character and playing this role in debates with others. During most of the activities you will work in smaller groups, examining a particular topic more closely and then presenting your conclusions to the others. There is enough space for everyone to express their opinion. You’ll also have an opportunity to work with different types of media and make presentations such as a radio show, film or video-theatre collage.

Last but not least, you’ll have enough space and time to get to know the other participants (which is definitely worth it!). In the Internet age, it is not difficult to stay in touch and most people leave the academies with new friends or contacts. The academies are simply unforgettable.

Further opportunities also abound for those who enjoy their academy experience and seek some further interaction with EUSTORY. For instance, there are international panel discussions, Internet seminars or alumni academies for university students.

All in all, this is a chance not to be missed. Good luck with your application and please contact us if you want to know more.

Best regards,

Dita, Meriam, Milena & Ondřej

PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Damaged souls – Youth and repression in socialistic systems

Every society raises its youth according to its own philosophy and basic principles. Therefore, systems and methods of education can reveal a lot about the self-conception of a society. The educational objective of autocratic and totalitarian systems can be described as the conditioning of youth according to the spirit of a certain philosophy of life.

Could you imagine what it would be like if your free time were totally controlled? How would it be to grow up without the freedom to speak your mind or listen to the music you like? How would it be if authorities could tell you what schools you must attend and what profession you must practice?

In the summer academy 2010 in Berlin, 30 young people from all over Europe will try to examine the repressive mechanisms of totalitarian systems. Participants will work particularly with biographies of people who grew up in such systems; you will meet eyewitnesses and interview them about their experiences as youth living under socialism; you will seek the traces that these repressive mechanisms have left on the lives of your interviewees.

Finally, you will be encouraged to look at your own life and ask yourself whether and where similar repressive mechanisms might be found in your everyday (non-political) experience. Everyone has some personal knowledge of hierarchically arranged situations, such as at school or on the job. It is easy to find groups with different levels of power. You will examine the conditions under which repressive mechanisms work and will look for ways to avoid these conditions.

You will have a chance to elaborate on your experiences and present all the information you have gleaned using various media. You will learn how to work with film and radio, to transform your interviews in a creative way. You will also have an opportunity to discuss your conclusions and experiences with a current European politician who has a personal connection to the topic.

In cooperation with:

wannseeFORUM, Berlin, www.wannseeforum.de

When: 27.08 – 03.09.2010

Where: Berlin (Wannsee), Germany

Age: 16 – 18 years

Group size: 25 – 30 participants

Financed by: Koerber Foundation, Germany



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Food – more than a way to fight hunger? The culture of alimentation

FOOD is about more than just satisfying hunger. It is – and always has been – the centre of our lives. Volumes have been written about various aspects of food and its implications in cultural history. What kind of work did it take to earn our daily bread? What tools were invented to make life easier? What kind of food was served? Who went hungry and why? In the mountains of Switzerland's Lower Engadine, finding food was usually an arduous task; the soil was quite infertile, the fields steep and the winters long and hard. So inhabitants had to be inventive and tenacious in order to make ends meet.

This particular aspect of cultural history will be at the centre of our attention during this youth academy. During the study week, you will do your own historical research. Your studies will revolve around various approaches to the topic: alimentation in an unproductive region such as the Engadine mountains; different forms of agriculture; water and its significance; hunger; aspects of human adjustments to the situation and so on. In groups, you will analyse and discuss aspects of alimentation in the past and compare them to your own habits and customs. To complete the task at hand you will conduct interviews with inhabitants of the Lower Engadine, visit the local archive and work with text sources. At the end of the academy, the results of your research efforts will be illustrated in presentations of various kinds.

In cooperation with:

**HISTORIA (www.ch-historia.ch) and
Swiss Youth in Science (www.sjf.ch)**

When: 27.09. – 03.10.2010

Where: Scuol (Engadine), Switzerland

Age: 18 – 20 years

Group size: 15 – 18 participants

Financed by: Mercator Foundation Switzerland



Stiftung Mercator Schweiz
I D E E N B E F L Ü G E L N .

Foto: Christiane Derrer



PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS

Between Occident and Orient – Religious diversity in Bulgaria

Bulgaria has an interesting mix of religions. The dominant faith is Eastern Orthodoxy, but other religions also have a long history in Bulgaria and one can easily find their traces throughout the country. Islam in the Balkans has been influenced by the local Christian culture and represents a unique mix of Islamic, Christian and Bulgarian traditions and beliefs. Many Bulgarians converted to Islam during the Ottoman times. Bulgaria also still has a small but active Jewish community consisting of Sephardic and Ashkenazi Jews who fled the Spanish Inquisition. The impressive, domed Sofia Synagogue is the largest Sephardic synagogue in Europe.

The program will concentrate on two major geographical regions: it will give you insight into the life of the Bulgarian capital, Sofia, highlighting various aspects of local religious life, including the role of religion under different governments. How important was religion under the communist regime and what role does it play nowadays, with Bulgaria under the umbrella of the European Union? The other regional emphasis will lie on Plovdiv, the second largest city in Bulgaria. For centuries, the roads passing through this particular territory have connected Europe to Asia and Africa.

This year, students from across Europe will search for traces of this religious diversity by visiting churches, mosques and synagogues in Sofia and Plovdiv. At the meeting point of Occident and Orient, you will discover the past and present role of religion in that region and will draw comparisons with other parts of Europe. The background for your joint work will be historical sources about religion's impact on the self-conception of European nations, and on life under the domination of various religions over the ages.

Meetings with members and official representatives of the three major faiths, as well as with experts, will be at the core of this EUSTORY academy. Working in small groups, you will prepare and conduct interviews and thus have an opportunity to look at the topic from various points of view. Your interviewees will share their perceptions of religion's influence on Europe's cultural heritage and on the current situation in Bulgaria itself; you will examine your own views on the coexistence of different religious groups in Bulgaria and will explore the difficulties and challenges through a simulation game.

In cooperation with:
Values Foundation, Sofia

When: 10.10. – 17.10.2010
Where: Sofia / Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Age: 18 – 20 years
Group size: 18 – 20 participants

Financed by: Gerda Henkel Foundation, Germany
GERDA HENKEL STIFTUNG



Dshumaja Mosque in Plovdiv

How to apply

Please rank the workshops on pages 8 – 10 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 for taking part in the academy of your first choice (motivation letter).

You are also asked to briefly describe the most important aspects of your competition entry (about two pages, with pictures/illustrations).

If you are under 18 years old your parents also have to fill out and sign the “Declaration of consent for the participation of minors” (p. 16–18).

When you have completed **all** requirements listed above, log in on www.eustory.eu and carefully fill in the application form. Please upload all documents and the video film (see below) to the platform **in one session**. You will receive a confirmation about the successful submission. In case of technical problems please contact Tina Gotthardt.

During the award ceremony of your national competition you will be invited to a meeting that is usually conducted by a representative from your national competition or a EUSTORY representative from abroad. We hope to gain through this meeting a personal impression of you and your motivation for taking part in the academy. In exceptional cases interviews may be conducted via telephone.

Optional: We would like to encourage you to prepare a short video sequence about yourself, to give us an introduction to you and a sense of your English skills. Please note that this is completely optional and applications without this feature will not be disadvantaged.

In cooperation with the organiser of the national history competition, the EUSTORY team and the alumni advisors will select the best candidates. A comprehensive set of criteria will be taken into consideration in evaluating the applicants: not only are the prize category and language proficiency important, but the personality and motivation of an applicant count just as much.

It is not possible to use legal proceedings to secure participation. If you have been selected for an academy you will receive a formal letter of invitation by the end of June 2010 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. If there are more applications than vacancies we might not be able to offer you a workshop at all. Within one week after you have received the formal invitation, you must either confirm or withdraw your participation.

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 visually attractive and interesting statement on your competition entry (two pages).
- If you are under 18, please, ask your parents to complete the “Declaration of consent for the participation of minors”.
- Optional: Make a short video about yourself in English.

Step three

- Log in on www.eustory.eu and carefully fill in the application form. Please upload all documents and the video film (if you have made one) to the platform in one session. You will receive a confirmation about the successful submission. In case of technical problems please contact Tina Gotthardt (gotthardt@eustory.eu).

Step four

- You will have a meeting at your award ceremony with a representative of the national history competition; in exceptional cases a telephone interview will be conducted in English.

Step five

- If you have been selected, you will receive an official invitation letter. You have to confirm or withdraw your participation within one week after you have received the letter.

Assignments

COMPULSORY:

A. Motivation letter

Please explain your main reasons for wanting to take part in an international EUSTOY seminar and tell us why you are especially interested in your preferred topic (for example: What do you want to learn about the topic? What relevance does the topic have today?).

Format:
pdf or word document
(1 – 2 pages)

B. Story behind the competition entry

Part 1: Please state the title of your competition entry and tell the story (about 1–2 pages).

This story will also be read by people from outside your country and outside the EUSTOY network, so please keep in mind that you are writing the story for people that are not familiar with the topic and the history of your country. Don't focus on details but include the most important and interesting aspects of your work. If you have used pictures or illustrations, please choose one or two of them and include them (make sure that you have the right to publish the pictures).

Format:
pdf or word document
(max. 1 MB)

For text examples, please look at the website www.eustory.eu (Navigation: Young Europeans / Traces of history)

Part 2: Tell us about how you worked on your competition entry and include the following aspects:

How did you choose the topic? What impressed you?

What surprised you? Did you change your mind about something?

Were there any obstacles during the research?

What sources did you use?

OPTIONAL:

C. Video about yourself in English

With the help of the video we want to see how you express yourself in English. This may also give us a first impression of your personality. We don't need a professional video so please feel free to record your video with any technique (mobile phone, webcam, etc.).

Possible topics to discuss (feel free to talk about whatever you want):

Family, personal interests (hobbies), plans for the future, favorite book/movie/country, motivation to go to the academies, opinion about the relevance of the topic.

Format:
flash video format (flv)
Max. 2 Minutes / max. 20 MB

Please note that this is completely OPTIONAL and applications without this feature will not be disadvantaged.

Conditions of participation

Costs

EUSTORY 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 EUSTORY. 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 the participant cannot afford to pay these costs, he or she must contact the organiser of their national 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 the participant require a visa for the country where the academy takes place, this will be arranged in cooperation with the organiser of the national history competition. The participant is responsible for planning the journey within 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/her. 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 a parent/legal guardian. The attached “Declaration of consent for the participation of minors” (pages 16–18) has to be uploaded 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.

Insurance

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

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 due to a *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 fol-

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 – EUSTORY 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/October might interfere with school or university. Should you require assistance to gain leave from school/university you may ask EUSTORY AISBL to issue a respective request to the director of your school, etc. When you apply, please 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 team members/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 be incurred in connection with his/her earlier departure.

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 participates in all parts at his/her own risk unless I do declare objections below.

For the duration of the EUSTORY Youth Academy my child will be put under the responsibility of the EUSTORY teamers unless I have relieved them from their duties or 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; s/he 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 have to agree to all dangerous activities even within a group (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 spare time without any team member until 23 hrs? (The condition will be that only groups of three participants will be given leave.) Yes No

6. What should the team members take into special 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...

- promotes self-regulated work among pupils/for students all over Europe with national history competitions
- enables cross-border exchange of experience for members
- creates space for encounters and facilitates dialogue on our shared European past and a shared future in regular international youth seminars
- raises awareness for a sensitive handling of history in Europe through international conferences and workshops
- offers food for thought about European history through its projects and 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 grass roots and to recognize the vast diversity of experience. “Disarming history” is our main aim. Therefore, we counter the abuse of history as an ideological weapon and emphasize the view of history as a workshop for intercultural understanding.

The EUSTORY AISBL

EUSTORY is an international network of non-governmental organisations carrying out historical research competitions for young people in your countries. It was established in 2001, initiated by the Koerber Foundation. In 2008 the member organisations founded 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.

Contact:

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