



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION EUROPE AND YOUTH 2009

FROM UNIVERSITY TO PRIMARY SCHOOL

32ND EDITION

IRSE
ISTITUTO REGIONALE
STUDI EUROPEI
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

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 **REGIONE AUTONOMA**
FRIULI VENEZIA GIULIA

With the support of

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The Regional Institute for European Studies of Friuli Venezia Giulia announces the competition “Europe and Youth 2009”. The competition is sponsored by the Milan Representative of the European Commission and the Region of Friuli Venezia Giulia and supported by: the Pordenone City Council, the Province of Pordenone, the Pordenone University Syndicate, Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Udine e Pordenone and the following banks: Banca Popolare FriulAdria-Crédit Agricole, and Banca di Credito Cooperativo Pordenonese. The competition is open to students at universities and schools of all levels in Italy and the European Union. **Work submitted may be written in Italian or another European language. If written in another European language a summary in English must accompany the work.**

CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING ESSAYS

UNIVERSITY

N.B. The papers must not exceed a total of 20.000 spaces. Age Limit: Participants must not be more than 26 years old on the 4th of April 2009. They must be university students or recent graduates.

TWO SPECIAL PRIZES of 600 euros each from the Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Udine e Pordenone for papers on:

1. European “Noir”(crime fiction). In many European countries including Italy, crime fiction authors are increasingly successful. These writers use crime fiction in a realistic way showing us how the crime reveals the nature of contemporary society and reflects the dissolution of moral and civic values at the same time as underlining their necessity. Comment, analysing the works of at least three authors.

2. Scientific research. Cell and genetic therapy to cure serious and rare diseases, biotechnology which preserves the quality of life and respects the environment, informatics and social science network research to study proteomics are some of numerous applications which scientific research offers. The European Union supports cooperative group projects both public and private which are involved in basic and applied research. Gather information and describe a project in which you are either directly involved or in which a team at your university is involved and which you would like to be part of.

TWO SPECIAL PRIZES of 600 euros each from the Banca Popolare Friuladria-Crédit Agricole for papers on:

1. Conflicting Cultures. Certain unquestionable beliefs held in European and Western society such as the separation of Church and State, equal opportunity for men and women, abolition of capital punishment, no to female genital mutilation, are often very different from beliefs and convictions held in some other parts of the world. How can these beliefs and their relative

laws be reconciled with another important point: respecting differences. Report on European legislative interventions with regard to the above points.

2. Social Security. Italy has become more European as far as the job market is concerned but certain anomalies remain in the field of social security. Compare the tools of “flexicurity” in some European countries.

TWO SPECIAL PRIZES of 600 euros each from the Banca di Credito Cooperativo Pordenonese for papers on:

1. The climate Package. Renewable energy is considered an important solution to the world recession but The European Union is finding it difficult to work towards the objectives set out in the climate package for 2020. Examine the problems that the industrial sector faces, keeping in mind costs and benefits.

2. 1929-2009. Historians and economists are comparing the present economic crisis with others of the past, particularly with the crisis of 1929. Examine similarities and differences from the point of view of both causes and social impact in Europe and the United States.

SPECIAL PRIZE “DEDICA TO PAUL AUSTER” of 600 euros from The Pordenone City Council for papers on:

“Dedica” to Paul Auster. In his latest novels and particularly in “Man in the Dark”, the American writer Paul Auster describes the political and existential crisis in his country and gives us a disturbing picture of an America which seems lost, and has abandoned without even realising it, the values on which it was founded. Consider the effect this crisis could have in Europe and describe the prospects in the light of the election of Barack Obama.

OTHER PRIZES of 500, 400 and 300 euros and enrolment in formative seminar weeks studying European themes in the summer of 2009 for papers on:

Religion and Living Together. In his latest book “God’s Fanaticism: on the struggle of the three monotheisms,” the German philosopher Peter Sloterdijk, shows how the three major monotheistic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam must now move on from the first phase of dialogue to the next phase: living together in one civil society. Analyse his thoughts and express your own opinion.

HIGH SCHOOL

N.B. The work can be developed individually or in small groups of 2/3 students. The papers must not exceed 10,000 spaces.

FIRST PRIZES: 400,300 euros, enrolment in formative seminars studying European themes in the summer of 2009, books, CDs, audio-visual material for language learning.

1. Biking Europe. Using the Internet, organise a short holiday for your family or a group of friends in a European country. Give priority to means of transport which are eco-friendly such as

Train+Bike. As well as choosing places and describing activities, give information about relative accommodation and costs.

2. Looking at yourself in a mirror. Three recent novels by European authors (*The Solitude of Prime Numbers*, by Paolo Giordano, *No and Me (No e Moi)* by Delphine de Vigan, *Slam* by Nick Hornby, or any others of your own choice) in which you have looked for or discovered your own personal conflicts and what you think is the best of yourself. Discuss.

JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

N.B. The work can be developed individually, in small groups, or as a class.

PRIZES of 300, 200 euros, books, CDs, audio-visual material for language learning.

1. Piedibus (The Walking Bus) is a project to facilitate going to school safely on your own. It started in Denmark and is widely practised in Northern Europe. It is spreading to other countries and many schools in Italy have started their own “buses”. Collect information about this project and suggest it to your own class.

2. Fast Driving. First find out what the speed limits are in Europe and second what ways are used to make people respect them. Then make a list of sensible rules which your parents, older brothers and sisters and friends who have cars can work at observing.

3. Duets. With a classmate who comes from another country choose three songs: two in each child’s mother tongue and one in the language that you are both learning. Comment on them and explain them together.

RULES

Each participant or group of participants can submit only one piece of work. The work submitted (Two copies by slow mail) must reach the IRSE offices (Via Concordia 7 - 33170 Pordenone) on or before 4 April 2009. The work must be accompanied by a typewritten form giving the following information about the contestant: name, surname, address, (street-city, postal code, email address) date and place of birth, specification of school, class or university course of study, name and complete address of school or university, name of teacher or teachers who assisted. Compulsory Bibliography: each work must be accompanied by a bibliography and/or a list of web sites consulted. All participating works become the property of IRSE and may be divulged through its publications and/or various projects.

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