

THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION CONTEST
(LUBLIN, 13TH APRIL 2012)

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The European Integration Contest was organized by the Institute of European Studies at the Faculty of Law, Canon Law and Administration at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin in years 2010-2013. The aim of this undertaking was to develop students' knowledge of history and contemporary issues connected with the European Union and to shape a positive attitude towards historical and cultural heritage of Europe. The Contest was planned as a thematic event connected with cross-sectional issues resulting from European integration. The contestants were expected to know contemporary processes and socio-political phenomena, be versed in all issues covered in the school curriculum of the subjects related to the Contest (such as civic education, latest history, cultural studies, introduction to business and geography) and have the knowledge of areas specified in the programme of the Contest.

All high school students were entitled to take part in the Contest: from secondary schools, specialized secondary schools, vocational high schools, post secondary schools and post vocational high schools, as well as from all secondary schools and vocational high schools that award maturity certificates. The Contest organized by the Institute of European Studies was cyclical. The agreement with the Ministry of National Education, concluded in connection with the realization of public task "Organization and conduct of contests in school years 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013"

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(Organizacja i przeprowadzenie olimpiad w latach szkolnych 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013), covered three editions of the Contest.

The programme of each edition was divided into a fixed set of thesis and a selection of questions thematically connected with a particular edition. The 2010/2011 edition was entitled “The European Union after the Treaty of Lisbon”, the 2011/2012 edition – “Polish presidency in the European Union” and the 2012/2013 edition – “Freedoms of EU’s internal market. The Contest was divided into three stages: first there were school eliminations, second, district eliminations and third, central eliminations. At the school eliminations the contestants did a multiple choice test (with one correct answer) in their own schools and were supervised by school committees. The district eliminations were conducted in 16 schools and were coordinated by District Committees (each voivodship had one District Committee). At the district eliminations the contestants did a multiple choice test (with one correct answer) and answered two open questions. The Central Eliminations were held in Lublin in April in the Collegium Iuridicum building at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin. The eliminations consisted of three stages: first, the contestants did a multiple choice test (with one correct answer), second, they answered open questions connected with the thematic area of a given Contest, and third, they solved case studies.

The status of the finalist was awarded to the contestants who obtained minimum 50% of the total points in the first stage of the Contest. The status of the laureate was awarded to the contestants who were qualified to the third stage of the Central Eliminations. Both finalists and laureates were given exemption from recruitment procedures (either completely or partially) in selected higher education schools, for example in the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Jagiellonian University, Cracow University of Economics, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Opole University and the University of Wrocław.

Thanks to generosity of our sponsors, that is the publishing houses: C.H. Beck, Wolters Kluwer, Wydawnictwo KUL, Instytut Wydawniczy EuroPrawo, all contestants of the Central Eliminations received prizes and the winner of the Contest also a laptop. The Contest had also such partners as the European Commission Representation in Poland, the Regional Department for the International Debate (Regionalny Ośrodek Debaty Międzynarodowej) in Lublin, Information Centre Europe Direct-Lublin.

The organization of the Contest was possible not only thanks to the grant obtained by KUL from the Ministry of National Education, connected with the realization of the public task “Organization and conduct of contests in school years 2010/2011, 2011/2012, 2012/2013”, but also thanks to engagement of the employees of the Institute of European Studies and the Department for Coordinating European Programmes KUL.

The substance support was provided by the Programme Council which consisted of distinguished specialists in the field of law and political science, led by the Chair of the Institute of European Studies, Professor Artur Kuś. The Contest was held under the auspices of the Polish Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Radosław Sikorski, the Marshal of the Lublin Voivodship, Mr Krzysztof Hetman and Lublin members of the European Parliament: Mrs Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, prof., Mr Mirosław Piotrowski, dr hab. prof. KUL and Mr Arkadiusz Bratkowski.

The organizers of the European Integration Contest are proud to announce that the event evoked a growing interest both among high school students and their teachers. The first edition of the Contest (2010/2011) attracted 795 contestants, the 2011-2012 edition – 1128 and the third edition (2012/2013) almost twice as much, that is 2040 students. The organizers would like to stress contestants’ high level of knowledge, especially of those students who took part in the central eliminations. It proves that both the students and their teachers put a lot of hard work and great effort into the preparation for the Contest.

Undoubtedly, the Contest met its main goal and realized its ideas. The contestants showed independence when searching for information connected with the European Union and its member states and they were motivated to use the data in an independent, conscious and selective way and with the help of information technology. What is more, participation in the Contest allowed the students to test their knowledge against their peers’ knowledge of the European integration.

