

“1989 – Images of change”

The EUSTORY competition for Europeans born 1980 -1991

At the beginning of the 1980s the winds of change began to sweep across Europe. Starting with the “Solidarność” movement in Poland, followed by the Russian “Perestroika”, the singing revolution in the Baltic States, the opening of the Hungarian borders, the peaceful revolution in Eastern Germany and the dramatic revolution against the dictatorship in Romania, Europeans stood up for their rights and initiated the downfall of Communist totalitarianism in Europe. The fall of the Berlin wall in 1989 and the breakdown of the Soviet Union in 1991 were the two major turning points of European history that symbolized the times of change.

Now, in the first decade of the 21st Century, Europe has to a large extent overcome the ideological and geographical separation that arose after World War II and its aftermath. The first generation of Europeans that has not experienced ideological confrontation and closed borders is now entering university and business life. Instead of taking individual freedom and democratic rights for granted, these young Europeans should understand how much the years of change between 1980 and 1991 affected and still affect themselves and the lives in their families and communities.

This is why in **2009 EUSTORY - an international non-profit association consisting of member organisations in 20 European countries aiming at building Europe’s future by enhancing mutual understanding of differences and the overcoming of past and present division** - launches its Europe-wide project “**1989 – Images of change**”. This initiative links local and private recollections on the end of totalitarianism with a critical analysis done by today’s young Europeans. It creates a unique multinational kaleidoscope of the crucial years between 1980 and 1991 which resulted in the fall of the *iron curtain* that separated Europe for four decades.

The Competition - task description

The participants

The initiative aims at young Europeans born in the times of change between 1980 and 1991. The competition should be open for interested young people from all European countries.

The topic

The initiative aims at a broad perspective on the changes around the year 1989 from all over Europe. Therefore, under the overall topic of “**1989 – Images of change**”, contributions should cover one of the following perspectives:

A. From inside the former Eastern European countries:

- The time before → what is difficult to imagine today (closed borders, repression, censorship, etc.)
- The fall of the old regime in a nutshell (looking at effects of changes in their surroundings)
- The time after → testing the new
- Going West → exploring the unknown
- Coming East → newcomers from Western Europe

B. From inside the former Western European countries:

- The time before → what is difficult to imagine today
- Being a spectator: remembrances and expectations linked to observation of the changes in the media
- The time after → testing the new
- Going East → exploring the unknown
- Coming West → newcomers from Eastern Europe

In addition to these perspectives, each participant, as a conclusion of his/her analysis, has to make **one short personal statement** on the question: “**The legacy of changes 20 years after: remaining challenges**”.

The contributions

- **Documentation:** A short **documentation** (written or as a video) should focus on the events of the years 1980-1991 and/or their implications for the home region and/or the family surroundings of the participants. **Each participant should look for visual materials** (photos, videos and documents - letters, diaries - from private or other sources).
- **Contextualization:** Participants have to bring the documents/photos in the line with the **historical context** (e.g. by interviewing time witnesses, by consulting newspapers of that period, etc.). The submitted contribution must contain an analysis of the events based on a critical comment of the researched material.

Conditions of participation

Only individual entries will be accepted.

Competition entries will be accepted **in native languages with an English or German translation** or **only in English or German**. **Original sources must be translated to English or German as well.**

Competition entries can be either in a format based on a written text or in video format.

The entry should not exceed more than **ten pages (including the visual material)** or **three minutes** for the video.

Written text format: the extent of **written analysis is maximum 15.000 characters (with spaces, including footnotes/endnotes).**

Video format: files saved with extension **.avi** (as generated by Windows Movie Maker or most digital cameras) or files saved with extension **.mpeg4 video** with **.mp3 audio** – if converted from a special format **Video file resolution: 320x240** or **640x480**.

Submitting the entries

Only **online submissions will be accepted**. All participants have to **fill in a copyright questionnaire** and attach it to their entry. The entries should be sent in an electronic format to the following **interactive competition website**: www.1989history.eu

Each participant has to affirm that he/she has produced the entry by him/herself.

Judging:

The entries on the internet platform will be visible all the time for everybody in order to organize a **“public voting”** for the best entries in each month. To keep the voting process fair and transparent only one vote from the same e-mail address around Europe will be counted.

Prizes:

- For every month **from March to June, 3 winners of the month** will be nominated on the basis of ranking achieved by a public voting during the first half of the next month. Each winner will receive 200 € and a certificate. The winning entries will be published on the website in the second half of the following month and communicated to the media.
- **10 European prizes** will be selected from all entries received by a prominent and competent European jury. Each winner will receive a grant of 1.000 €, a certificate plus the invitation to the **award ceremony in Brussels, November 2009**.
- **In all states with at least 10 entries from** different participants a **national award will be given** for the best contribution from that country. Each winner will receive 500 € and a certificate.

Both the prize of the month and a national award can be given to the same entry. In the countries in which a European award will be selected, the second best entry gets the national award.

The decision of the Jury is independent and no subject of legal cases.

Timetable

Start of accepting entries	1 st of March, 2009
Closing dates for entries	30 th of June, 2009
Award Ceremony in Brussels	November 2009

Contact and information

For all further details look into our website: www.1989history.eu

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Concerning “1989 – Images of change”

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The project “1989 – Images of Change” is supported by:



Robert Bosch **Stiftung**

