

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

Auberge D'Aragon
Valletta

PRESS RELEASE

1. The Ministry of Education and Culture has, for the first time organized a European Schools Day Competition under the aegis of the European Schools Day International Committee which is sponsored by the Council of Europe.

This competition was organized in order to promote European unity by fostering among the young an interest in European studies.

After a concert held at the Manoel Theatre this morning to commemorate Europe Day, the Hon. Minister of Education and Culture presented prizes to winners in the various categories of the Competition.

In category A the candidates were asked to design a cover or front page for a magazine for young Europeans or a poster for the celebration of Europe Day. The first prize in this category was won by Mario Camilleri of the Hamrun Boys' Secondary School.

In Category B the candidates were asked to produce a tape-recording of a debate or discussion on one of the following themes:

1. What does the man in the street expect from European unification?
2. Most people regard tourism merely as a relaxation or leisure-time activity. How could the school use tourism to overcome prejudice, to promote understanding and tolerance and to make young people more aware of European unity?

The first prize in this category went to a group from the Girls' Secondary School Blata l-Bajda.

In the third category the students between the ages of 16 and 21 were asked to answer in the form of an essay, one of these questions:

1. What are the economic links between industries in your region and those in other European countries? How have these links evolved? How can they be strengthened? What are the obstacles in the way?

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2. Is Europe just an economic community?
One has the growing impression that the objectives of European unification are mainly economic. Is this enough? If not, what other objectives should it have?

The first prize in this category was awarded to Raymond Vassallo of the Sixth Form, Valletta.

In his address, the Chairman Rev. Fr. D. Mintoff, explained how, after repeated efforts on the part of the Council of Europe to launch this competition in Malta he asked the Ministry of Education to organize this annual event. A national committee was then set up to hold a competition for all schools in Malta and Gozo, both public and private. The response was beyond all expectations.

The Chairman thanked the Committee for the effort they put into the venture and congratulated them on the success achieved within a very short period of time.

The Chairman also thanked the embassies, foreign national committees of the following countries who donated prizes for the occasion: France, Italy, Austria, Germany, Holland, Cyprus, Luxembourg and Ireland and De La Salle School.

The Hon Minister of Education and Culture, Miss Agatha Barbara, presented prizes to the winners and thanked the RMA Band under the baton of Maestro Anthony Chircop for their excellent contribution towards the success of the prize-giving ceremony. The Minister also thanked all the Schools which took part in the competition and especially those which presented items during the concert.

The Hon Minister of Education and Culture also paid a special tribute to the National Committee for the European Schools Day Competition, Fr. D. Mintoff and the members of the Committee for the excellent work they put in to make the prize-giving ceremony a success.

The Hon. Miss Agatha Barbara finally congratulated all the school children on their exemplary behaviour during the performance.