

**Competition about democratic values and human rights
for gymnasium and VET students
Slovak Republic**

DESCRIPTION

Since 1998 a **competition dedicated to the democratic values and human rights** has been held every year for **students from both gymnasium and VET schools**.

The competition takes place in 3 levels. At the **school level**, students solve knowledge-based tests and answer questions requiring critical thinking and argumentation.

The winners then advance to the **regional level**, and from there winners go on to the **national level**, where they solve **tests**, answer various **questions** and write an **essay** on a chosen topic related to democratic values or human rights.

Students can win **different types of prizes**, and the most successful students are typically also invited to have lunch with the President of the Slovak Republic as a way of honouring their active participation and success.

This activity lasts 3 days once a year. During the competition the referees focus on the **students' knowledge and their ability to express themselves** as well as their **argumentation skills and critical thinking**.

REFLECTION

The increasing number of students taking part in this activity is contributing to **raising awareness of democratic values and human rights**. The competition also helps students improve their **argumentation skills** and the **ability of expressing themselves** in their daily life.