

Communications

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Swiss National Bank presents its iconomix awards

Students are interested in economic issues

For the second time, the Swiss National Bank (SNB) has awarded its annual prizes for school projects dealing with economics-related topics. The awards ceremony took place last weekend in Berne. The idea behind the nationwide contest is to encourage students of Swiss upper secondary schools to explore the world of economics.

By the closing date at the beginning of March 2010, 105 projects (2009: 94) had been submitted. Of these, 42 (2009: 32) were nominated for the awards ceremony on 8 May in the Westside Leisure and Shopping Centre in Berne and assessed by a jury of experts.

At the event itself, the young authors had the opportunity to discuss their projects with the jury. This gave them another chance to convince the jury of the quality of their project and even improve their mark for it.

The eight jury members – from the University of Lausanne, the University of Lugano, the University of St. Gallen, ETH Zurich, the Study Center Gerzensee and the SNB – were very impressed with the quality of the projects and the discussions, and with the enthusiasm shown by the students:

17 students (2009: 15) received a bronze iconomix award and CHF 100 for good work.

17 students (2009: 11) were presented with a silver iconomix award and CHF 300 for very good work.

For outstanding work, 8 students (2009: 6) received a gold iconomix award and CHF 600.

In addition, 4 schools (2009: 6) were awarded the 'Best iconomix school' award. For each upper secondary school category, one school may receive this special prize – that with the highest number of valid submissions to the contest.

For further information on the awards ceremony and for pictures of the event, visit www.iconomix-award.ch.

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The iconomix award is part of the iconomix educational programme, which the SNB launched to mark its centenary in 2007. The objective of the programme is to help improve the basic economic literacy of the population. The main element of iconomix is an internet platform (www.iconomix.ch), which is aimed at teachers of upper secondary schools. It contains a range of ideas and teaching material suitable for use in different types of Swiss upper secondary schools and in various economics-related subjects.

Press release