The 13th HunGeoContest is over - Budapest takes the gold medal

The 13th HunGeoContest English-language secondary school geography competition, held this year, ended with the victory of Olivér Lontay, who competed for the Milestone Institute in Budapest, on 9 April 2022. The silver medal went to Panna Szekeres (Petőfi Sándor Evangelical Secondary School, Bonyhád) and the bronze to Simon Péter Rózsa(ELTE Affiliated Radnóti Miklós Secondary School).

The weekend marked the end of a competition that has been running since October and is traditionally hosted by the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Pécs and organized by the Modern Geographer Foundation and the staff of the Institute of Geography and Earth Sciences of the UP.

The final itself presented complex challenges for the competitors. Unlike most national academic competitions, all the tasks had to be completed in English. The multimedia test, the field exercise, and the oral finals do not focus specifically on the mastery of secondary school curricula but require a certain level of geographical intelligence and literacy. To do well in a competency-based competition, in addition to a confident command of a language at a near-native level, a broad outlook and a complex understanding of the world are necessary for success. This year, students from Pécs, Bonyhád, Miskolc, Debrecen, and Gödöllő were joined by students from five institutions in Budapest.

The HunGeoContest is not just an academic competition, it is also a prestigious selection round, as it is the qualifying event for the International Geographical Olympiad for Students, IGeO. The Hungarian finalists, who will have an intensive period of study and a preparatory camp in Pécs, will travel to Pécs instead of Paris in July 2022 to compete in controlled conditions, but from a distance, with around 180 competitors from 45 countries.

The competition was made possible by the National Talent Program, which was supported by the Minister for Families of the Prime Minister's Office in cooperation with the Human Resources Support Agency and the Modern Geographer Foundation. The organizers would like to thank the Hungarian Geographical Society and the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Pécs for their support.