The main activity of the Education Committee of ESHG in 2013-2014 has been the "Seventh Annual European DNA Day Essay Contest for High School Students".

In October 2013, at the annual meeting of the American Society of Human Genetics, representatives from the education committees of ESHG, ASHG and HGSA (Human Genetics Society of Australasia) met to formulate the following DNA DAY 2014 – ESSAY CONTEST question:
Complex traits, such as blood pressure, height, cardiovascular disease, or autism, are the combined result of multiple genes and the environment. For one complex human trait of your choosing, identify and explain the contributions of at least one genetic factor and one environmental factor. How does this interplay lead to a phenotype? Keep in mind that the environment may include nutrition, psychological elements, and other non-genetic factors.
This year 17 European countries submitted 163 essays. The evaluation was made involving 35 experts in the field. And to the delight of the European Society of Human Genetics, 4 winners and 13 honorable mentions were selected:

1st place
Glielmo Finotti,
Teacher: Manuela Granella
IIS Ferrari, Este, Italy.

2nd place
Rebecca Nunn,
Teacher: Jonathan Avon
The North Halifax Grammar School,
Halifax, United Kingdom

3rd place-ex aequo
Margot C.M. Legal, Teacher: Paule Bernaud
Lycée Sainte Marie, Cholet, France

Diana Vojevodina,
Teacher: Julija Baniukevic
Lithuanian Centre of
Non-formal Youth Education,
Vilnius, Lithuania.

Honourable Mentions (in alphabetical order)
Pedro Constantino, Portugal
Daniela Costa-Teacher: M. Azevedo, Portugal
Daniel Davidov-Teacher: N. Džamić-Šepa, Serbia
Ester Gherzi, Italy
Kayleigh Herber-Teacher: F. Dirkx, Netherlands
Seemal Maqsood-Teacher: J. Marie Williams, Bahrain
Silvia Ottaviani-Teacher: E. Lucifredi, Italy
Marta Paslawska, Poland
Margaret Senturk-Teacher: E. Yemisen, Turkey
Demetra Stavrou-Teacher: A. Kleanthous, Cyprus
Živilė Vėbraišė-Teacher: A. Daulenskiene, Lithuania
Alice Vicente- Teacher: P. Castelhano, Portugal
Please visit the web page of ESHG to view the essays:

http://www.dnaday.eu/

and also watch the online premier in celebration of National DNA Day "The Animated Genome"

(http://unlockinglifescode.org/learn/the-animated-genome).

ESHG Education Committee

Tayfun Özçelik (Chair, Ankara, Turkey), 2014 2nd
Agnes Bloch-Zupan (Strasbourg, France) 2014 2nd
Martina Cornel (Amsterdam, The Netherlands) 2012 2nd
Peter Farndon (Birmingham, UK) 2013 2nd
Vaidutis Kucinkas (Lithuania) 2014 2nd
Marina Soller (Lund, Sweden) 2014 2nd

Liaison Members:
Alastair Kent (Patient Organizations, GI G and EAGS)
Celia DeLozier (ASHG – Education Committee)