



European bartenders mixed cocktails in connection with world-famous paintings.

April 2 to April 4, the 14th European Student Bartender's Competition G&T Cup Bled was organized by students of the 2nd year of the Higher Vocational School for Catering, Wellness and Tourism, Bled. This year's theme was cocktail and art. Each barman had to prepare a cocktail and a story in connection with a world-famous painting.

The school hosted 25 competitors from eight European countries, from schools, members of the AEHT.

All the students prepared interesting and innovative drinks and stories, which they also had to present at the competition. The jury consisted of Slovenia's Bartender's Association; they were judging technical work of the students and the tastes of the mixed drinks. Experts, each for their field, were judging the story, language, presentation, and connection of the drink and the painting. This year we introduced also a special jury, alcoholic beverage sponsor jury that assessed the use of the sponsor spirits and the over-all impression, regarding the usability of the mixed drink.

On the competition day, 3rd of April, in the morning, students took a theoretical knowledge test, to show their knowledge about drinks, IBA cocktails and bar equipment.

We saw many great masterpieces. Creating masterpieces was the slogan of this year's edition of the competition and also the goal, and the competitors complied.

Winners of the competition were all from BIC Ljubljana/Slovenia. Some other awards, such as Best story, Best Usability, Best Test and Best Technical Work were also given.

Such events encourage the development of professionally educated staff in catering, which has recently been lacking. The competition resulted in innovative and creative ideas by young bartenders, who in the future will take care of the excellent catering offer in Slovenia and the world.

The event also gives students the opportunity to present themselves to potential future employers.

1st place: Luka Strajn - BIC Ljubljana, AEHT code: SI009

2nd place: Marko Bizjak, BIC Ljubljana, AEHT code: SI009

3rd place: Gal Mavretič, BIC Ljubljana, AEHT code: SI009

Best theoretical test: Gal Mavretič, BIC Ljubljana, AEHT code:

Best technical work: Tilen Jurič, VGŠ Bled, AEHT code: SI001

Best story: Marko Bizjak, BIC Ljubljana, AEHT code: SI009

Best usability: Dominik Dobránsky, HA Prešov, AEHT code: SK001



Picture 1: Winner of the competition – Luka Strajn from BIC Ljubljana/Slovenia



Picture 4: Competitors preparing their decorations



Picture 7: Competitor from Netherlands - Wessel van Groenestijn



Picture 11: Kitchen staff preparing masterpieces



Picture 12: Director of Higher Vocational School Bled Peter Mihelčič and 1st place winner Luka Strajn/BIC Ljubljana.



Picture 13: Organization team with mentor Peter Mihelčič (Tim Guadagnino, Matic Šuštar, Hana Stevič, Žiga Merslavič, Tilen Albreht, Peter Mihelčič)