

VOICES

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MAGAZINE FOR ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD



UNITING
POWER OF
SPORTS



EDITORIAL



ВАФИРЕ МУХАРЕМИ - УРЕДНИК НА „ВОИСЕС“

VAFIRE MUHAREMI - EDITOR OF "VOICES" MAGAZINE



FRUIT SALAD

Summer is coming and plenty of fruits are available in the fresh markets in our country. Mmm, it seems is time for taking care of our-selves and enjoying this fruit.

This edition of Voices is kind of a FRUIT SALAD as well. We have many articles from different fields, from the same field but from different countries. So yes we have sport as the topic of the month. Sport from 2 different perspectives, Ice Hockey and Football. Then we mix it with ecology in the European green belt project and The power of the streets.

It's up to me, how I perceive countries but I see my origin country as a FRUIT SALAD and here we have the Bob Marley day in Skopje, the Popes visit in Skopje and the food mix in the Balkan Convergence! Let's mix up a bit with Europe, Japan, and Shanghai, and we unite into MMUN.

Get updated about all the ingredients in this VOICES, and read it!

ОВОШНА САЛАТА

Сезоната на летно овошје започна! Време е за овошна салата и да се погрижиме за самите себе.

Воисес има своја специјална овошна салата исто така. Мешаме различни култури, се обединуваме преку ММУН, разговараме за еколошките предизвици преку Европскиот проект за зелен појас.

Но мешаме и малку спорт од целосно различни делови и култури, Хокеј на мраз и Фудбал. Нашата држава оживеа нови елементи на овошната салата преку Денот на Боб Марли, Посетата на Папата Францис и угостувањто на француската, грчката и македонската трпеза преку проектот Балкан Конвергенс.

На тебе е дали ќе ги прочиташ сите состојки на овошната салата на Воисес!



Erasmus+

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WHEN THE FINNISH TEAM MADE THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE

Bratislava, Slovakia 2019, “Lions” from Finland arrived to take a part in Ice Hockey World Championships. A team with 18 new young players, who played only in Finland’s leagues, confronted countries full of NHL players having only 2 on their team. And the impossible happened; they won World Championships in a gold game against Canada 3 – 1.

As I have been living in Macedonia for 8 months, I was expecting to watch the games alone, since it is not big sport here. What surprised me, Macedonia does have an ice hockey team, but the sport itself is not so popular here and no one really follows it. I got a few of my Macedonian friends to watch the first games with me, and one of them was with me until the end of this two weeks journey of the World Championship. There is something captivating about Hockey, even when you don't understand all the rules. I think the secret is the fast tempo of the game, how the players stand up in seconds once they fall, how the teams are strong together and everyone in the team is treated equally. How they get aggressive with the other team and the fights look so brutal sometimes, and how fast everything is happening.

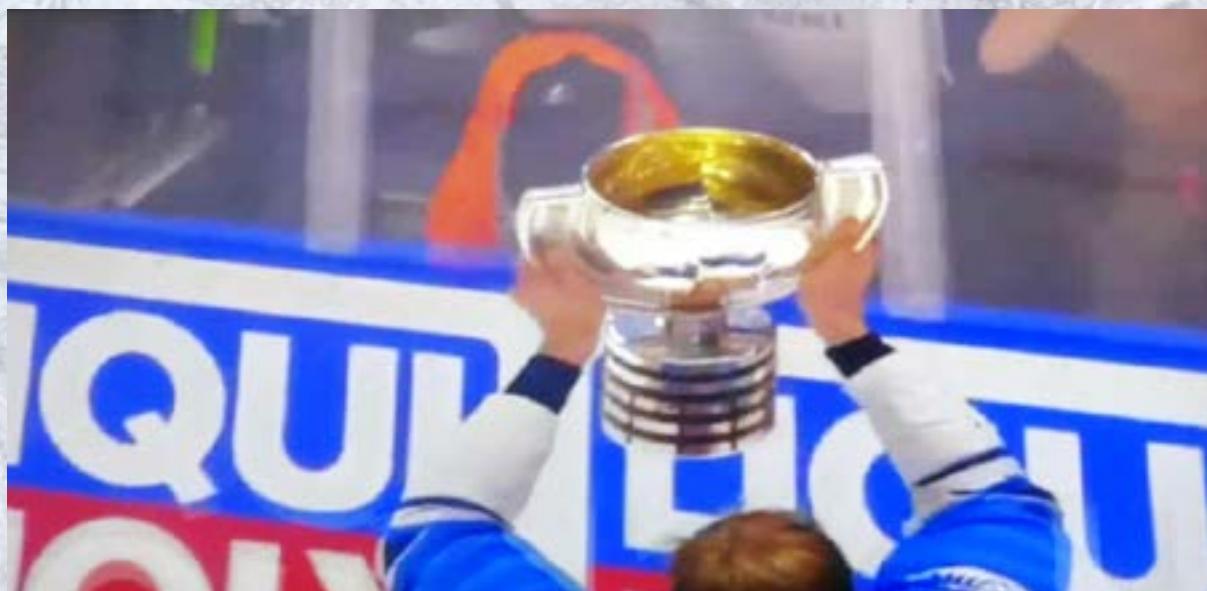
I noticed the excitement of my Macedonian friend, and later on my Polish friend joined to watch the rest of the tournament with us. It was all about the games, we gathered together for all the games and we shared the excitement together. The most exiting games before finals, when we confronted Sweden and Russia, made all of our hearts pump and our voices loud. There is this stereotypical joke how Finns don't like Sweden since it's our neighbor country, but we had to admit that it is a great Ice Hockey country. They are holding 1st place from two previous years. They have seriously experienced players and NHL stars, but our team of young new players beat them 5 – 4 in overtime. The game was full of power and goals, and I was about to lose my pants, and so were my friends. After that it was a totally different game against

Russia. There were two rounds without goals, and our hearts were about to jump from our chests when Finland scored 1 – 0 against the strong Russian team. As we defended our goal better than ever, the game ended in that situation. And I yelled, I yelled because we were going to the finals against Canada on the next day!

This is something huge for Finnish people, something that unites us stronger than anything else. Looking through our history of Ice Hockey, our first game was played in January 1928 against Sweden. After the 50's, Finland played almost every year till this day, and now we are holding 3 gold places, from 1995, 2011 and now, 2019.

On Sunday 26.5.2019, when the last seconds of the game against Canada ended, and we were holding the game with 3 – 1, I stood up to yell. And so did most of the people in Finland. After that all of the ice hockey fans gathered together on one specific square in Helsinki to celebrate this historical win in Ice Hockey. They cried, hugged each other, danced and partied like never before. As I was watching all the pictures and videos from the celebrations from my home in Macedonia, all these emotions took place in my heart too. It was a team that no one believed in, we were sure there is no chance, and the impossible became possible. We beat huge Ice Hockey countries with a strong team of new players, who believed in each other, and brought gold to the whole nation.

Selina Niemi



Polish eagles about to fly into Macedonian sun...



Since I'm in Macedonia and I love it, but still I'm truly Polish, I wanted to write about something that unites different nations and in the same time it gives them „food” for rivalry. Sports. Any kind. But because Polish-Macedonian battle in Euro qualifying is coming, it's all about football now.

I have always been into sports. Since my early childhood I have been following ski jumping, later on I have gone completely insane about volleyball. With every next year I was adding another sports to my personal list of must-watch sports. Handball, tennis, figure skating, speed skating, snowboarding... Sometimes I was even putting TV and two laptops on, watching different sports and games at the same time because I didn't want to miss anything. Surprisingly, being here and now in Macedonia I started to follow ice hockey! I wasn't following football that much though, until a big event was held in my country.

The summer was close to come when European Football Championship 2012 started in Poland and Ukraine as hosting countries. I remember myself watching first Polish match against Greece. I was sitting in front of the TV, quite indifferent about it, since that time our team wasn't considered as a strong one – so I didn't have high expectations. I didn't expect also that from this day on I will become such a football lover. Since the moment when Robert Lewandowski scored a goal, the real madness started. It was just such a

beautiful beginning of the tournament for us. Of course, we failed big time later on, not even advancing from the group stage. But once planted love in my heart started to grow.

Throughout the next years I was watching ups and downs of my team, supporting them in good and bad always though. I started to have favourites among the other teams and players. I discovered Premier League, catching up with all the fantastic stories about Manchester United or F.C. Liverpool. I fell in love with Spain's national team. I was watching Brazil's national team games with Brazilian people to finally become real „canarinha”. And I was messing with Spanish people, who were always fans either of Real Madrid or F.C. Barcelona, as I chose to root for Atletico Madrid.

It's a totally different level of experiencing sports if you experience it live. You're in the stadium, arena (or wherever), and suddenly everything that was behind the glass of TV screen is now in front of your eyes. For some reason I was always a big fan of Bulgarian volleyball team and I just love watching all of the encounters between

Poles and Bulgarians. One of my dreams was to see it live once. Finally it happened last summer in Varna where the World Championship was taking place with Italy as co-hosting country. I was spending my summer in Bulgaria and before that, luckily for me, Poland was drawn into the same group as Bulgaria. I went there with my Bulgarian friend, so we had interesting confrontation between friends also. My team won and all we could do after is to go to eat banica and drink ayran, as I was celebrating and him not really, but still accepting superiority of my team and simply being happy for me and for experience that we have shared.

One year later I'm here, in Macedonia, waiting for the match between Polish and Macedonian national teams in football. The draw was lucky for me this time also. I was watching drawing ceremony before coming to Macedonia and suddenly both teams ended up in the same group. Then I thought that it will be a nice opportunity to watch the match there since I would be there soon. Still, after following football for so many years, I haven't seen a match on international level live. Two months ago for the first time I saw such a game. We went to the national stadium in Skopje to watch Macedonia against Latvia in Euro 2020 qualifying tournament. Even without full stadium, the atmosphere was still amazing. I found my inner Macedonian, singing randomly played „Slušham kaj shumat shumite” during the break, cheering for Macedonians like crazy and finally celebrating „our” victory. This match wasn't a high-level one, at some moments I even dare to say that it was just boring. But for experience, for this atmosphere and for friends it was still worth to go!

Only a few days to go. My Polish team, stronger than during Euro 2012, is coming here to Skopje. I have never seen my own team playing live. Also I can hardly remember any matches we played against Macedonia. The last encounter between Poland and Macedonia was back in winter 2012 after the European Championship that was heartbraking for us, when we played friendly match. The score was 4:1 for Polish team and the only scorer from this game that is gonna play against Macedonia now is Arkadiusz Milik.

Our team has changed a lot during the past years. Polish players even before were considered as

stars in their clubs, but somehow we couldn't manage to create a team from the constellation of stars. We were changing coaches after every next failure and then came Mr Nawałka put all of the stars together and finally it worked. As much as we failed again during last year World Championships the qualifying tournament was just spectacular for us. Earlier we had fantastic run during Euro 2016 being defeated only after penalties in quarterfinal by Portugal that eventually became European champion! The match that I will never forget though was the one we played against Germany in qualifying tournament for Euro 2016. It was 11th October 2014, Warsaw, when we faced always strong German team and current World champion back then. After so many football battles we fought and so many battles we lost – we won for the first time in history that day! It doesn't matter to the world, but for Polish football fans that one became legendary.

Now, before another qualifying match, this time against Macedonia, we can already find a lot of articles, previews and statistics in the media. Polish team is still bleeding after devastating loss in last year World Championship. Even though, our players are rising from their knees being more or less successful in clubs that they play. The focus is mainly on our fantastic trio of forwards. For all of them club season just finished. Robert Lewandowski won Bundesliga with FC Bayern München and was crowned as top scorer again, scoring 40 goals overall this season, both in German Bundesliga and Champions League. Arkadiusz Milik scored 20 goals for S.S.C. Napoli which secured 2nd rank in Serie A. And last but not least – Krzysztof Piątek – who came to new club this year and mesmerized AC Milan fans. Newbie in one of the old giants of Italian league soon gained a nickname „Il Pistolero” by scoring 30 goals in 42 games, what gave him 3rd rank on the top scorers list just in front of Cristiano Ronaldo! Numbers look impressive but it's not numbers playing on the pitch. Poland needs to stand up strong as a team to face both Macedonian team and its fans. I will be just a Polish drop in the ocean of amazing Macedonian audience, yet still I will support my team strongly, expecting good game to feed my heart of a die-hard fan.

Ewelina Chańska



Single in Shanghai

Single and ready to mingle? In Shanghai, China, they take this concept to a whole other level. Most of us seem to shutter at the thought of having our parents' influence over our love life. In Western cultures, we try to find the right partner through websites, apps and dating. Many Shanghainese, however, do things a little differently.



Every Sunday, Chinese parents gather at People's Square, in the middle of Shanghai. They all take a spreadsheet with them, listing pictures and qualities of their children. Imagine a curriculum vitae, but for dating. These spreadsheets are laid out beside a path, where parents walk along and decide which one they like best for their child. It is especially important to pay attention to future wealth for the family. Let the negotiating begin!

Arranged marriages are still very common in Asia today. Especially in traditional societies, a person's husband or wife is chosen by the parents or another individual. Here, love is often seen as something that develops over time, through shared experiences. It would therefore last very long. Furthermore, marriage also functions as a way to honour your ancestors, who made your current life possible. This is in sharp contrast to Western individualist societies, where you marry someone to complete your own life.

In China, traditional marriages were built on a Confucian ideology, which idealized the idea of having multiple generations of one family under the same roof. In this way, the collective was more important than the individual, and marriage was a way to honour the community and one's ancestors. The choice of partner was therefore under the complete control of the elders of a family and followed a strategy towards success for this family. During this traditional period, marriage was made up of an arrangement in which the man provided the financial means for the family, while the woman took care of the domestic duties.

Even though Confucianism mostly belongs to the Chinese past, traditional ideas about marriage created a lasting legacy that seems difficult to shake off. Still, individualism is becoming more important in modern society



and the pursuit of personal happiness is gaining more respect. For a large part, this is due to feminist movements sparking up during the 20th century.

These movements focused for a large part on family relations, pursuing the right for women to join the workforce and attend school. All of these movements tried to oppose the traditional role of women in the household. In 1950, the Marriage Law passed, legalizing the right to choose one's own spouse and banning coerced marriages. In practice, however, many people still expect women to put their husbands and families first.

In the current Chinese society, same-sex marriages are not recognized. Ironically, throughout China's long history, same-sex relationships were not uncommon at all. It is the modern era in which cultural tolerance for gay people has begun to disappear. During the 20th century homosexuality has been illegal, but also classified as a mental illness. Luckily, this is no longer the case. Still, the concept is extremely stigmatized and many women and men are pressured into heterosexual marriage.

In short, China has seen a huge transformation in marriage policies during the previous decades. Where traditional Chinese society was mostly built on arranged marriage, the country has been rapidly developing into a modern society. In this new world, policies are softened and for the law, individuals are freer to choose their own spouse. In practical reality, however, there is still a lot of cultural and parental pressure to marry as well and as soon as possible. Partners should be chosen based on their social and financial status, aiming as high as possible.



“I'd like to see mankind live together – black, white, Chinese, everyone – that's all”

- Bob Marley



Bob Marley is one of the main reggae music icons in the late 20th century and the first one who spread it beyond the borders of Africa. The Rhythmic music is not the only reason why so many people love him. He was a believer and attracted crowds.

Promoting such slogans as love, unity, lack of classes, fight with the system, he didn't fight by force but by words. The guy with the long dreadlocks used to say about himself: “I grew up in a world of racial prejudices. My father was white, my mother was black...and I was half-bred. (...) I never knew my father. Mother took care of me and my education and she sent me to school.” His difficult childhood compelled him to fight the evil in the world.

For many people this is an inseparable element of the reggae-subculture even sometimes posed next to the Lion of the tribe of Juda, and the red-yellow-green flag. His music is full of peaceful lyrics and his fans are usually pacifists, who are opposing the system, appreciating nature and supporting tolerance.

The day of Bob Marley in most countries is celebrated on February 6 as a reminder of his birthday. In Skopje since 2003 on the 11th of May (the anniversary of the singer's death) the Bob Marley Festival is being organized in Gradski Park. It is one of the most important cultural events in the capital city. For years it has attracted young and old, families and friends and promotes

love, understanding and tolerance and connects people through reggae music. This year the park was full of life and the smell of street food (valuable advice for next year, get cash, because there was no option to pay by card) and from the stage you could hear the whole day reggae and dancehall rhythms motivating to dance. During the day people were mostly relaxing in nature together, eating, some playing volleyball, others Badminton, and again others were practicing walking on the slack line. People tried to find some nice way to spend this day in my opinion the organizers lacked additional attractions. For those who, like me, in the afternoon were a little bored in the park, the night was a nice change. As it was getting darker, the people were getting more under the stage. The energy was amazing dancing, singing; the fun lasted until 1 a.m. All the time what you could feel in the air was ONE LOVE.

Speaking to some people on the event I found a lot of good vibes and enjoyment;

"I came here with my friends, to celebrate this Bob Marley Day. We're here every year. I think this year there are more young people. Everything is perfect; I wish everyday would be like this. I'm waiting for the night, and then the party will start. Now we're chilling."

Christian, 27

"I'm here all day, with a lot of friends, it's about 20 people. We came here because Bob Marley was promoting love, peace, freedom and these words are similar to us. Typical Macedonian chilling. I think everybody should come here to see this event. They can do everything here, drinking, eating, playing football, volleyball, tennis, just super picnic. You are all welcome in Skopje! And what is my favorite song by Bob Marley? "Three little birds"

Filip, 26

"I came here with my colleague from university and their children. I was supposed to come back at 7, but the kids have so much fun, they were playing some games all day,

and I think we're going to stay as long until they fall asleep. I was at this event for the first time in 2011 and it's my 4th time here, and next time I'm going to go again for sure."

Christian, 27

"I think Bob Marley was one of first persons who spoke openly about that marihuana isn't only a drug, he promoted Rastafarianism and made really good music. Can you feel the energy here? Everybody is happy, not judging, chilling. Jah Bless us!"

Mende, 26

"This event is great! I hope people celebrate it in every country in the world. But unfortunately in my opinion every year the energy is getting lower and lower. For example if you were here 5 years ago you would have had even much more fun. But if you like to party and you love people, you should come here anyways. And remember to be happy, love each other and spread the love all around the world!"

Anna and Marie, 25

Dorota Łyczak

Sources:

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JAPAN VISITING ANOTHER PLANET?

“Visiting Japan is like visiting another planet. Japanese are so different, so strange, I mean just take a look at Anime, right; So what are the Japanese like?”

Such are the remarks one hears often about the land of the rising sun. Japan has a strong cultural influence, be it via Samurai, Sailor Moon or Sushi. So most people have at least some idea and imagination of what Japan is like or what the Japanese are like. The undertone of most of these ideas and stereotypes is that Japan is strange, different, another planet. Mostly not in a negative way as the associations circle around Japan as fun and entertaining or on the other hand refined and cultured, a beacon of eastern wisdom. But ultimately all these stereotypes forget that the Japanese are not living on another planet but are just as human as all the rest of us. Humans, faced with the same basic emotions, problems and challenges of life.

In this article I want to shed some light on different aspects of the Japanese society. What follows are personal impressions and thoughts and as such rather subjective and not at all conclusive. Nevertheless I hope to transmit some ideas and impressions from this very distant and yet not so different society.

Tokyo can certainly appear to be from another world. Walk around Shibuya at night, take in the glowing shop signs, the massive advertisements playing on screens the size of a house and follow the endless stream of people across the famous Shibuya crossing. This is in sharp contrast to the traditional image of Japan. Not all that far from Shibuya is the Meiji Shrine, an oasis of calm and peace within the bustling city.

Almost everything usually appears impeccably clean and neat. Everybody appears polite and waits in line. Behind this is a rigid set of norms regulating every social situation in this rather traditional and homogenous society. (As well as, most likely, a well equipped public cleaning service).

In my personal experience this rigid rule orientation makes it tricky to get deeper into society. But once you manage to get to a more personal level with people, they can be really kind and warm-hearted. As their guest they'll go to great lengths to ensure that you have everything you need and that you are having a good time. And also people on the streets are really helpful, when they see that you are a bit lost.

Quite some times I was approached by people asking me if I need help to find the way. In many ways these positive experiences with people reflected what I now from other places ranging from Germany to the Netherlands to Kosovo, Spain and Macedonia. But in Japan I was still struck by the politeness and friendliness that accompanied everything. Of course I saw also annoyed clerks in shops or unfriendly staff at the airport but in general my experience with superficial everyday interactions was more smooth and pleasant than in many other places.

Another aspect of Japanese culture that is often watched with a mix of adoration and estrangement is the expressive youth culture of Japan. In the few years between high-school and work life many Japanese youngsters seem to embrace their wilder side in one of many subcultures. These are often very expressive and wild in their clothing or their music. Initially this seems to be contrary to the aforementioned rigidity of society. But maybe it is a necessary outlet between school and adulthood. And on the other hand these subcultures are often extremely commercialised and an integral part of the cultural economy of the country. That the Japanese youth is not only resisting cultural norms as part of a short bloom of subcultural expression could be seen a few years ago. A political campaign by the ruling party to change the Japanese constitution galvanised a student-led political youth movement



and surprised many observers that had seen the youth of Japan as lethargic and apolitical.

Another aspect of Japanese culture is that everything seems to become an artform. There are Sushi masters and tea schools and of course sword masters and Zen monks. This relates mostly to traditional cultural expressions and of course it is unrealistic to expect to be served by a true Sushi master at every single one of thousands of Sushi places all across Japan. But from my impressions I got the idea that a certain perfectionism is indeed pervasive throughout the Japanese society. Train services pride themselves to be almost always on time. Or rather they are praised by others as they would be to humble to praise themselves publicly. Gifts are usually packed in very delicate and refined packagery. Those are just simple examples but indicate that this idea of striving for a certain perfectionism is not only confined to the halls of a Samurai school.

It is always difficult to give an appropriate picture of a certain culture or country. Especially as every culture is extremely complex and multilayered and in constant change with new ideas coming in and old traditions fading away or transforming. Nonetheless I hope that this article gave insight into some aspects of Japanese society that are a bit less known and less talked about in other countries.



Тренинг курс во Бугарија



Од 13 до 21 мај се одржа тренинг курс во Благоевград – Бугарија со работен наслов “*Youth work – a path to peaceful societies*” организиран од *Alternativi International*. Главните цели на проектот беа развивање на знаења, вештини и компетенции на младинските работници во разрешувањето на конфликтите и градење на миролубиви решенија.

Покрај мене како преставник од Волонтерски Центар Скопје (Република Северна Македонија) учествуваа и 24 преставници од Турција, Кипар, Романија, Велика Британија, Грција, Италија и од Шпанија.

Првиот ден беше слободен и беше искористен за меѓусебно запознавање со другите учесници. Вториот ден почна работниот дел каде што на почетокот беа преставени целите и очекувањата

на проектот, како и распоредот на активности за наредните денови. Една од тие активности беше играта Потрага по богатство, каде што поделени во мали групи требаше да исполниме неколку задачи (анкета со млади лица за програмата Еразмус, снимање кратки видеа, учење на една бугарска песна, итн.) каде што имавме прилика да го запознаеме градот Благоевград и локалното население. Вечерта беше резервирана за преставување на своите земји со кратка презентација, традиционална музика, производи и храна.

Во наредните денови се одржуваа работилници каде што преку различни методи учејме препознавање на говор на омраза, дискриминација, стереотипи, предрасуди, радикализам, екстремизам, расизам и начини за нивно превенирање и спречување. Една од тие методи беше Форум театарот каде што на инвентивен начин се преставуваа конфликтни ситуации со можност за интервенции и од публиката. Интересно за мене беше тоа што



сите задачи ги извршувавме во мали групи, но секогаш во различен состав, со што беше овозможена размена на идеи, мислења и искуства на учесниците.

Четвртиот ден беше резервиран за групно патување, при што го посетивме Рилскиот Манастир кој е основан во 10 век и пештерата на Свети Иван Рилски кои се сместени во преубава природа на планината Рила.

Слободното време го користев разгледувајќи го градот Благоевград, кој има интересна архитектура, која е спој од различни стилови и влијанија, од модерни големи градби, споменици и фонтани, до мали традиционални куќи со дрвени чардаци. Главното шеталиште е преполно со разни дуќани, ресторани и кафулиња. Граѓаните на Благоевград беа љубезни и гостопримливи, секогаш подготвени да одговараат на нашите прашања за нивниот град (кои ги имавме многу).

Последниот ден ни беа презентирани програмата Еразмус + и други програми и сајтови на невладини организации кои одржуваат обуки и тренинзи за младински работници. Потоа се одржа церемонија за доделување на Youths pass сертификатите, со што заврши работниот дел од проектот. Вечерта беше организирана Бугарска вечер во која уживавме во бугарски специјалитети, домашно вино и традиционална народна музика.

Ова беше убаво искуство во кое имаше многу учење, но и многу забава и дружење, а организаторите се погрижија се да биде во ред, секогаш беа тутка за нас и придонесоа за успешноста на проектот.

Josip Гегај

Фотографија: Josip Гегај & Алисија Мокхунова



THE MAGIC POWER OF THE STREETS

On the 15th of the 5th month, 50 thousand. 50 thousand strangers. Who knew nothing of each other, but connected, sharing a project, a cry, a purpose, born of a common indignation. We supported each other, held each other's hands, assured each other that no one was alone. 50 thousand weak and vulnerable persons who formed a human wave, and were thus impressive and strong together, enough so to literally block the whole city's traffic and catch the city's attention for a couple of hours.

Recently, I took part in a protest. The most powerful protest I have ever been in. We were approximately 50 thousand people on the streets in my town, singing, carrying banners, distributing pamphlets, making full use of our body and all our senses to connect to the other next to us, and to all the others we haven't met, but for whom we raised our voices too. Since then I have been reflecting of the power of the streets, or of the human collective, to bring change and, above all, to heal and bond. One aspect that stood out to me, this time more than ever, was the real brotherhood that united us there. When we bumped into each other or stepped on someone's foot - inevitable in such a large group - we excused ourselves kindly and sincerely, in a manner so different to the indifferent and automatic one in which we usually interact with people in a packed bus at the rush hour, in a shopping centre, or even daily in our way to and from work, the school, the church... We looked into each other's eyes and had our voices full of genuine care. It felt as if we were responsible for the other next to us, as if we were a big family. Even though we were a mass of people - strangers -, in a place, there was not a tiny trace of this discomfort about the excess of proximity to people we don't know we feel in the metro, for instance, when we are so alienated. On the contrary, we all commented on how wonderful it felt to be there, how we took courage and strength from people's presence there

and recovered our smiles from the atmosphere of connection.

Also, and I would say that's what most scares any government that means to divide people and keep inequalities, we were all so different, and yet we were one. In other words, I had no idea who all those people were, their names, their address, their credentials - and it honestly didn't matter. The street is the ultimate social leveller. Our origin, our position and salary were irrelevant, as each one there was one more body, one more voice, one more person. What mattered was what united us, what we were crying for, and against, and everybody was equal and equally important. The usual hierarchies, the power relations that we are subject to in normal everyday life, in the private and public sphere, simply evaporated on the streets. And when we find out about this, and find each other in this powerful togetherness, we are unstoppable.

Of course, this protest was political, had a specific motto and irradiated positivity in desperate times. Against their hatred, we marched with solidarity and empathy. Against their strategy of spreading fear, we built and felt together a thrilling atmosphere of hope. Against the cruel loneliness of the daily fight for a chance, for our place in the world, against their purpose of maintaining the social abysses, we had the concrete feeling that we were very much together, linked through that family bond and loyalty and mutual help impulse that was so heartening,



so inspiring and so joyful, and that everybody took home with them. However, I dare say this kind of bonding experience is possible in other situations and contexts where the crowd shares an identity: a football match, a concert, any sort of fan gathering, where we are capable of coordinated actions - singing, silencing, applauding, of such remarkable potency. Perhaps that's also part of the great appeal of it - we derive strength from sharing things, we feel empowered and happy from the realisation that we are not alone and that the human puzzle, connected and organised, can produce beautiful manifestations. On the other hand, I would say the sort of coming together our generation seems to prefer - the virtual one - doesn't share such potential. Yes, it can mobilise people around a cause, sensitive issues and problems, make unrelated people in different corners of the globe come together, feel they are understood, since so many love the same characters or series, or so many have gone through similar struggles and dare to speak up too... Let's just think of the online uproar Game of Thrones or Kpop concerts bring about, or the #metoo movement, against sexual assault and harrassment. They are very powerful tools of kinship fostering and awareness raising.

But there is something else they don't reach, they don't foment, for their non presential nature - and that by no means makes them less important, it is just a specific trait that differentiates them from the presential ones. It has to do with the touch, the eye contact, the mutual protection I mentioned before, only breathing the same air, harmonising in the same song can bring. Because we are not in the comforts of our homes, while sharing a space, while being part of a human sea, our actions resonate much more, our individuality stands on hold, we are willing to take risks, we would never otherwise consider. The "I" gives room to the "we", in a scale and an intensity that give us a personality, strength, and power. I would much rather I didn't have to march for the reasons I have to march and could instead stay home, calmly reading a novel or rereading the last editions of Voices. But, since I have to march, I am glad for the opportunity this situation brings to make us come together, and for the power of the streets to make us dare to smile and hope again, in this magic chain of togetherness.

Vitória dos Santos Acerbi

НОВИНАРСТВО, ХРАНА И МУЗИКА

Размислувам гласно, кој елемент може да ги обедини западно европските држави и нашиот Балкан? Кој е заедничкиот елемент кој го одржува во живот човековото битие создадено од природата? Сите луѓе имаат потреби и цело време пренесуваат некоја информација за заедницата во која што живеаат, државата и општеството во глобала. Во ред, значи една нишка која е заедничка за секое човеково битие е новинарството, заклучувам.

Продолжувам да патувам низ мислите и во суштина налетав на една уште поесенцијална заедничка нишка на човекот, храната. Човекот за да може да опстојува, твори и придонесува за општеството мора да се храни и да ги задоволи основните биолошки потреби. Аха, значи храната е тоа што не поврзува. Во ред, ова е втора нишка.

Што прават луѓето додека јадат? Во различни култури имаат различни навики но на пример на Балканот во речиси секој ресторан покрај хранта има и добра музика. Европејците имаат речиси иста таква навика. Ете го и третиот „аха“ момент. Музиката е нашата трета заедничка нишка.

Проектот „Convergence Balkan“ во суштина беше проект кој преку храната музиката и новинарството ги отвори портите на Европската унија кон Балканот. Истиот ги обедини нашата држава, Грција и Франција. Вкупно 43 луѓе заедно живеаа, готвеаа и свиреа 7 дена во Скопје, од 7 до 14 мај.

Учесниците на проектот сподели ја знаења и вештини во различните кујни, музика и направи ја интервјуја со различни институции во земјата. Учесниците на проектот продоложи ја да се дружат во Дижон, Франција.

Како директен учесник во целата организација на проектот сега можам да кажам, ох конечно заврши. Воопшто не е лесно да соработувате со партнери кои прв пат ги сретнувате, но целиот замор исчезна во моментот кога ја видов задоволната насмевка на лицата на моите учесници на проектот.

Вафире Мухареми



BALKAN CONVERGENCE

Edition 2019

Skopje (Macedonia), May 6 - 14

Dijon (France), May 14 - 19

Patras (Greece), August 25 - September 2

IT'S UP TO ME!

So far I have come up with one life conclusion, It is up to us, to our self how we will organize, enjoy and fulfil our life. It is up to me, how much I will learn, in which field I will develop my skills and knowledge, it is up to me who will be my friend and how I will enjoy the life.

My last decision was to upgrade my skills as a trainer in non-formal education on the ToT “It’s up to me 6” in Bremen Germany. What I learned there?! Absolutely nothing theoretical! But I gained experience; I was given the opportunity to observe from professionals how they prepare the sessions, what are the challenges for the professionals and most importantly trust in the process!

We are living in dynamic societies where it is quite difficult to have time for self-development and self-reflection. On this training, we had a great setting and time to self reflect to confront our fears and expectations to understand that everything is up to us as individuals. Discovering and experimenting with the new learning methodologies and self-reflection methods bring us to the next level of our trainer life.

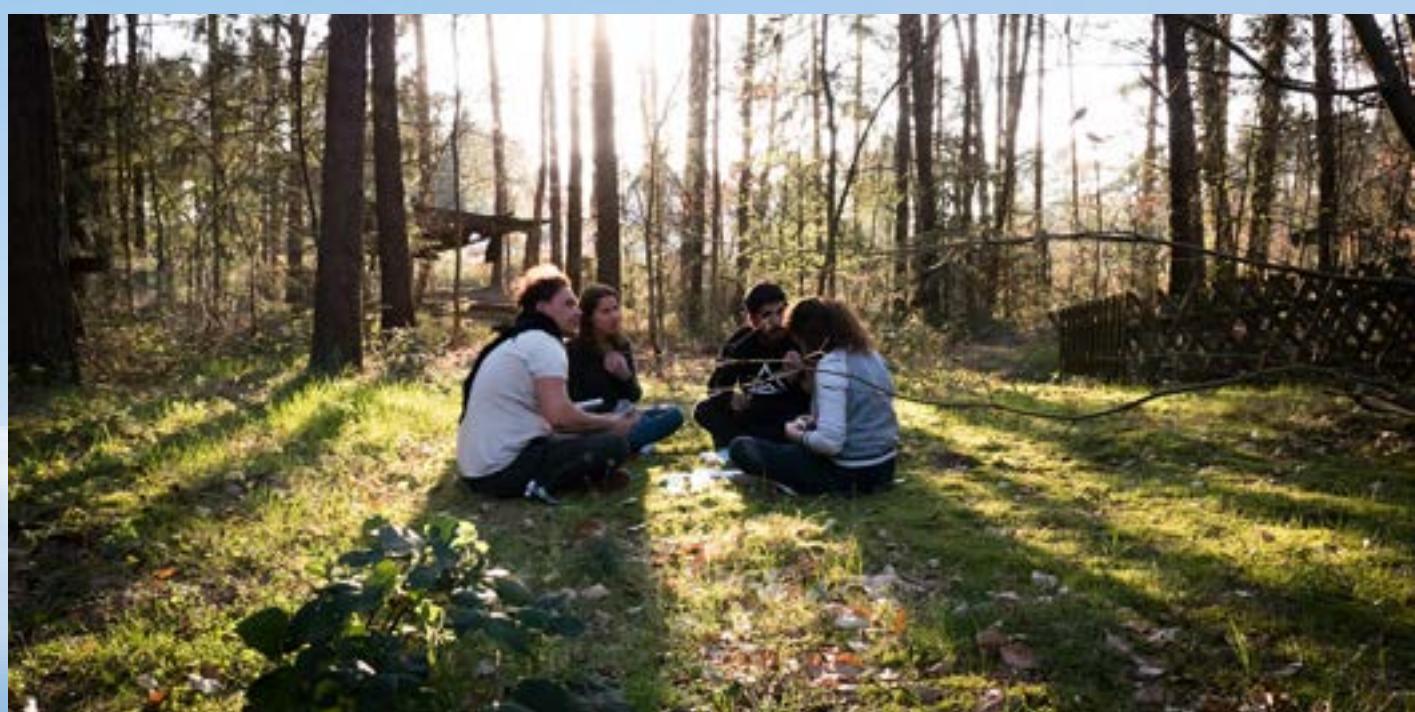
I will speak for myself, using the “I” sentences as one of the learned methods in this training. I met



people who are not my trainers anymore, are not my friends, and are not coaches or supervisors. I met my peers, my travel mates, I heard real-life stories, happy and challenging ones as well, but I grew personally. There are so many questions in my head, and this is normal because being a trainer means learning from your trainee, from the experience, from the emotion and reactions of your learners, it is an ongoing process.

People in our lives are coming with a purpose. We always build two-sided relations and we are putting a part of our energy, soul and time into every relationship that we are building. These relations may not be lasting for a lifetime but for sure they will be one corner in your life. When you will have the need for that “safe corner”, you will take yourself there and recharge your batteries.

Vafire Muharemi



Rripi i Gjelbër European:

Nga “rrip i vdekjes” në brez i jetës

Kur në nëntor të 1989-s Gunter Shabovski, Sekretari i Partisë Socialiste për çështjet e mediave, gati rastësish, njoftoi hapjen e kufirit të brendshëm-gjerman dhe Murit të Berlinit në një konferencë legjendare për shtyp, njerëzve të Gjermanisë Lindore vështirë se mund tu besonin veshët e tyre per këtë ngjarje. Kjo ditë ndoshta u bë dita më e rëndësishme në historinë e re gjermane - por edhe evropiane. Ndarja e Gjermanisë dhe Evropës si një e tërë në lindje dhe perëndim papritmas mbaroi dhe Lufta e Ftohtë pati (pak a shumë) një fund të qetë.

Për rreth 40 vjet “Perdja e Hekurt” që e ndante Evropën nga Kieli në Detin Ballistik deri në Trieste në Adriatik dhe më tej; dhe për 40 vjet vija kufitare nuk ishte kaluar nga askush, përveç ushtarëve të RDGJ-së për mbrojtjen e kufirit. Unë vetë jam shumë i ri për të kujtuar atë kohë, por u rrita me shumë anekdota dhe histori nga familja e nënës sime e cila ka jetuar në një fshat të vogël i ndodhur direkt në kufirin e brendshëm gjerman.

Qeveria e RDGJ-së bëri cdo gjë për të penguar largimin nga vendi; kështu që “ikja nga Republikës” (dezertimi nga republika) konsiderohej krim i vërtetë dhe dënohej rëndë nga autoritetet e RDGJ-së. Gjatë viteve, kufiri midis lindjes dhe perëndimit forcohej me gardhe, fusha të minuara, kulla vrojtimi me ushtarë të armatosur dhe objekte të vetëshkatërimit dhe disa qindra njerëz humbën jetën duke u përpjekur të iknin nga diktatura gjermano-Lindore. Kjo barrierë e papërshkueshme është banda e vdekjes, në Gjermani ajo është mbi 1400 km e gjatë dhe mes 50 dhe 200 metra e gjerë e cila pret përmes fusha, pyje, lumenj dhe liqene kudo ku janë kufijtë politikë.

Si u bë ish-“perdja e hekurt” zinxhiri më i gjatë i biotopeve të Evropës

Papritmas në 89-ten gjithçka ndryshoj! Kufiri i vjetër

e humbi tmerrin e tij dhe u çmontua vetëm për disa muaj. Sot ka vetëm pak vende ku ende mund të shohim rrënojat e objekteve të kufirit si muze i hapur, si p.sh. vendi përkujtimor në Hötensleben në Saksoni-Anhalt. Simboli i opresionit njerzor u bë një shans unik për natyrën! Falë mungesës 40 vjeçare të kultivimit, flora dhe fauna në këtë zonë mund të rindërtohen.

Menjëherë pas rënies së Murit të Berlinit ishte FRMNG-ja “Federata për Ruajtjen e Mjedisit dhe Natyrës në Gjermani” që dolën me planin për të vënë në mbrojtje ish-vijën kufitare. Edhe para se kufiri të hapej, aty janë gjetur shumë specie : të tilla si zogjtë, bimë dhe insekte- një pasuri e shquar dhe një pjesë e madhe e tyre gjendet në listën e kuqe të specieve të rrezikuara. Ashtu si një varg margaritarë të “Brezi i Gjelbër gjerman” janë rreshtuar biotope pas biotopesh dhe lidhen sfera të ndryshme ekologjike si një korridor ose një lloj të “autostrade e gjelbër” duke bërë një nder të madh për biodiversitetin dhe ruajtjen e llojeve të rrezikuara në disa zona të mbrojtura (edhe pse ky shirit ka boshillëqet e veta në disa vende).

Por nuk duhet të harrojmë se jo vetëm Gjermania ishte e ndarë, por e gjithë Evropa! Kështu, duke filluar në vitin 2002, iniciativa rrënjet e barit gjerman u bë një model për 24 vende evropiane dhe vizioni për më shumë se 12.500 km “Brezi i Gjelbër Evropian” ka filluar të bëhet realitet. Nga Detin Barents në veri të Detit të Zi, projekti Brezi i Gjelbër Evropian është i ndarë në katër seksione: rripi i gjelbër Feno-skandinav, rripi i gjelbër i Ballikut, rripi i gjelbër i Evropës Qendrore dhe Brezi i Gjelbër i Ballkanit - duke përfshirë kështu kufijtë e ish Republikës Federale të Jugosllavisë. Projekti është implementuar nga organizata të ndryshme që përkujdesen për zona të vëqanta si Shoqëria Ekologjike Maqedonase në Ballkan për zhvillimin e specieve dhe parandalimin e shkatërrimit te biosferave të vlefshme.



(c) Axel Hindermith https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grenzdenkmal_H%C3%B6tensleben_mit_Grenzpfahl_Mauer.jpg#/File:Grenzdenkmal_H%C3%B6tensleben_mit_Grenzpfahl_Mauer.jpg/



(c) Klaus Leidort By Lubikl - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0 de, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=14899081>



(c) Bernhard Landgraf https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lynx_kitten-2.jpg#/media/File:Lynx_kitten-2.jpg



(c) Olaf Meister https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grenzmuseum_H%C3%B6tensleben2.jpg#/media/File:Grenzmuseum_H%C3%B6tensleben2.jpg

Gjatë 20 viteve të fundit ka pasur një zhvillim të madh drejt një sferë unike të biodiversitetit përgjatë kufirit të mëparshëm të Luftës së Ftohtë dhe ish-rripit te Vdekjes e cila u bë një strehë për shumë lloje si rrëqebulli euroaziatik që u bë një kafshë portret për projektin EGB. Pra, ky është një shembull i jashtëzakonshëm i koordinimit ndërkombëtar dhe përpjekjeve për mbrojtjen e natyrës përtej kufijve kombëtarë. Në vitet e fundit ka pasur përpjekje për të emëruar ETUC si një Sit të Trashëgimisë Botërore të UNESCO-s nën titullin "Perdja e Hekurt dhe Brezi i Gjelbër: Rrjetet dhe Mundësítë për Bashkëpunim në një Peizazh Kufitar Evropian". Projekti EGB p.sh. "Konkursi i Fotografisë së Gjelbër të Ballkanit", organizuar nga Ballkani i Gjelbër - OJQ e Federatës së Bisedave të Natyrës.

Megjithatë, qëllimi i kërkimit është të bëjë një rrip përgjatë tërë Evropës, për tu përballur me problemet dhe komplikimet si ndërtimi i infrastrukturave të reja, shpyllëzimi, bujqësia intensive dhe turizmi masiv. Prandaj është jetësore të siguroheni që ajo të ruhet dhe të mos humbet në "botën njerëzore moderne".

Në vitin 2019 gjerdanii gjelbër gjerman po feston përvjetorin e 30-të, dhe dëshiron ta bëjë Rripin e vdekjen atë një parajsë të jetës.

Sascha Schlüter
Përkthim: Paulin Zefi

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Background Picture:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/EuGB_solid_labels_web.png

Europe a vision for every citizen

As the EU comes together for elections of MEPs in the European Parliament it is wise and important to look at the place of young people within the present and future development of the EU.

After a historic EU parliament election cycle with one of the highest turnouts since the formation of the Union it is prudent to look at the place of youth as the present and future of Europe.

For many young people the end goal of the European Union should be to transcend the nation states and unite people in a association of citizens. Young people are at the forefront of this end goal and only with them can we achieve a peaceful and united Europe.

The issues that we as a generation must face, and many are still to come, will have to be solved in the context of the EU focused on the vision for the EU and the place of its citizens within its jurisdiction.

Europe, after centuries of bloodshed and violence for the first time in its history has been able to consolidate itself in a period of peace that everyone hopes will last. Many are saying that with the EU the axes of war are buried for good, but I argue they should be smelted down in the name of peace. Since its conception, the EU has had one ultimate end goal - integration.

Integration is a long process where people ultimately recognize each other as human beings, it is the innate acceptance within a person to see the “other” as a human being on equal footing. In the current state of the EU, young people are leading because for the

first time we have a generation of Europeans that have come of age without the conception of strict border division. The cafés in the Benelux countries where you can sit in two countries at the same time are proof enough.

The place of young people in the present EU and the future Europe is their ability to push forward an inclusive concept of European citizenship where people do not see themselves as European as a secondary addition to the citizenship of their nation but as citizens of Europe first and foremost. Many young people already have this conception. With this broad change of mindset towards the EU in their whole generation they may be the catalysts of a process of deeper European integration.

The opportunities of young people to travel and to communicate digitally across borders in the whole of Europe means that the mindset barriers of previous generations do not exist. As long as we choose to fund programs like EVS and Erasmus+, programs that bring people together we will see the development of a prosperous Europe as an association of citizens in a democratic setting.

Nikola Donev

Diplomat for a day

MMUN 2019

Model United Nations, also known as Model UN or MUN, is an educational simulation and/or academic activity in which students can learn more about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.

The Coalition of Youth Organizations SEGA organized the 8th National Conference "Macedonian Model of the United Nations", which was held on 13.01.2019 in the premises of the European University in Skopje. Volunteers Center Skopje sent their own team of 7 participants and one group leader to the conference. Each participant was assigned a country and they were divided into different committees for which they had to prepare position papers that were later presented to the chair person and other participants. During the conference the participants had to defend their countries positions and find an agreement with the other delegates to, in the end, write a position paper together.

Model United Nations is a great opportunity for everyone, because it gives you the chance to see how the United Nations works, and it's a good chance to improve your skills in public speaking and your English skills. MUN is a conference that gives young people the opportunity to try to solve global problems and learn a bit more about the UN sectors.

David Stoilkovski



I am really pleased with the conference, I learned much more about the United Nations, how to write a position paper and how to be a true delegate for at least one day.
 David Stoilkovski

My experience in the MMUN competition was rather pleasant and engaging, I got more familiar with the system of United Nations and all in all was very satisfied with the outcome.
 Marija Maneva.

THE ELEGANT SECESSION STYLE OF THE PARLIAMENT OF NORTHERN MACEDONIA

Many of the classical fortresses throughout history were built in the form of pentagram. For e.g. such are Fortezza da Basso in Florence or the building of Pentagon in USA. One of the buildings that were built within this pattern is the building of the Parliament of Northern Macedonia. Although built before the WWII it still remains as one of the largest buildings in Republic of North Macedonia.

How and when was this lovely building built? On the concourse in 1930 won the Czech architect Viktor Lukomski, but the building was later built according to the design of another Czech- Victor J. Hudak. The most popular architectural style in this period was Art Nouveau (or Art Deco). These artists, architects and designers lived in Central Europe. They were almost unexceptionally from the high class, liked to enjoy life but also had many vices. One of them was cocaine. Some researchers claim that the drugs had a big inspirational effect on the designers of this group. The first hallucinogenic prints were also produced within this artistic movement.

However there was(were) another perhaps less rich group(s). They “invented” the style of Secession which is somewhat not so decorative, far more functional and less decadent. All art historians agree that this style is a branch of the previous one, but they have different theories about its origin. Some are locating it in Dresden- More particularly in the group of artists gravitating around Paul Klee; some in the Viennese group of artists etc. This art and architectural style later gave birth to functionalism, reductionism and to many other stylistic and artistic movements. This architectural style is considered to be one of the rarest. What is typical for the Secession style is that (unlike Art Deco) it doesn’t





have any floral depictions- just geometrical decorations. This is not the case with some of the interior designs in the parliament, such as the wood-carvings of Glisha Kostovski from Tetovo with his troop.

There is a lot of diverging information about the Parliament building during the WWII. Some say it was at that time used as headquarter for the occupying forces. I remember that once on TV I saw information that some researchers found corpses in the basement of the building. The building was also used as a facility for the local government and as headquarter for the people's government of the People's Republic of Macedonia- that existed within Yugoslavia.

However the authentic beauty of this elegant building was severely damaged by many inconsistent reconstructions throughout the years. I visited it and saw its interior in the 90s. I was impressed by its shiny corridors and the luxurious stairs, accompanied by the specially designed wood furniture gave an impression of an aristocratic castle. I also remember the wonderfully geometrically decorated metal fence of the stairs. Everything was just in 2 colors - white and light brown.

Igor Pop Trajkov

The European Green Belt:

From "Death Strip" to Lifeline

When on November 9th 1989 Günter Schabowski, the Socialist Party's Secretary for media affairs, more or less by accident, announced the opening of the inner-German border and the Berlin Wall on a legendary press-conference, the East-German people could hardly believe their ears; and the cheering and joy over this unpredicted event that was considered to be the impossible for decades was limitless. This day became maybe the most important day in younger German - but also European - history. The division of Germany and Europe as a whole in east and west was suddenly over and the Cold War came to a (more or less) peaceful end.

For around 40 years an "Iron curtain" was dividing Europe from Kiel on the Baltic Sea to Trieste on the Adriatic Sea and even further; and for 40 years the border stripe was entered by nobody but soldiers - such as those of the DDR-Grenztruppen (the GDR's border protection troops). I myself am too young to remember that time, but I grew up with plenty of anecdotes and stories from my mother's family that used to live in a small village located directly on the inner-German border. The neighboring village was only around one kilometer away but still in unreachable distance. When my mother talks about her childhood there, she always keeps stressing that she grew up "literally at the edge of the world".

The GDR's government didn't let anything unattempted to keep the people from leaving the country; so "Republikflucht" (desertion from the republic) was an actual crime that was punished draconically by the GDR-authorities. Over the years the border between east and west was strengthened with barbwire-fences, minefields, watchtowers manned with armed soldiers and self shooting facilities. Several hundreds of people lost their lives trying to escape from the east-German dictatorship.

This impenetrable barrier hence was considered to be the "Todesstreifen" (death strip), in Germany it was over 1.400 km long and between 50 and 200 meters wide and it cut through fields, forests, rivers and lakes wherever the political boundaries demanded it.

How the former "Iron curtain" became Europe's longest chain of biotopes

But in '89 suddenly everything was different! The old frontier lost its horror and was dismantled in only a few months. Thus nowadays there are only few places left where one can still see the ruins of the border-facilities or a few hundred meters of old border-installations that were left as open air museums like for example the border memorial-site of Höhtensleben in Saxony-Anhalt. What used to be a symbol of oppression and being locked-in for the humans was a unique chance for nature! Thanks to the 40 years lasting absence of human cultivation the flora and fauna in this area could reconquer lost terrain.

Immediately after the fall of the Berlin Wall it was the "Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland" (BUND) - the German Federation for the Environment and Nature Conservation that came up with the plan to put the former frontier-line under protection. Even before the border was opened there were found many species - such as birds, plants and insects - in a richness that is outstanding and a great part of them are to be found on the red list of endangered species. Like a string of pearls the "German Green Belt" is lining up biotope after biotope and connects different ecological spheres with each other like a corridor or some sort of "green highway" doing a great favor to biodiversity and the preservation of endangered species in these protected areas (even though this stripe has its gaps in some places).

But we must not forget that not only Germany was divided, but all of Europe! Thus, starting in 2002, The German grassroots' initiative became a model for another 24 European countries and the vision of an over 12.500 km long "European Green Belt" started to become reality. From the Barents Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south, the European Green Belt project is divided into four sections: The Fennoscandinavian Green Belt, the Baltic Green Belt, the Central European Green Belt and the Balkan Green Belt - also including the borderlines of the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. The project is being implemented by different organizations that contribute to taking care of the respective areas such as BUND managing the German Green Belt or for example the Macedonian Ecological Society in the Balkan-part and establishing a sustainable development facing the loss of diversity of species and destruction of valuable habitats.



(c) Axel Hindermith https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Grenzdenkmal_H%C3%B6tensleben_mit_Grenzpfahl_Mauer.jpg#/File:Grenzdenkmal_H%C3%B6tensleben_mit_Grenzpfahl_Mauer.jpg



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In the past 20 years there has been a great development towards a unique space of biodiversity along the former frontier of the blocs of the Cold War and the former Death-strip became a refuge for many species like the Eurasian Lynx that became an iconic animal for the EGB-project. Also this is an outstanding example of international coordination and nature-protection attempts across national borders. In the past few years there have been attempts to nominate the EGB as a UNESCO World Heritage Site under the title "*Iron Curtain and Green Belt. Networks and opportunities for cooperation in a European Border Landscape*". Also other efforts have been made to promote the EGB-project like for example the "*Balkan Green Belt Photo Contest*" organized by Green Balkans - Federation of Nature Conversation NGOs.

Nevertheless the aim to create such a belt through whole Europe is facing different threats, problems and complications such as the construction of new infrastructures, deforestation, intensifying agriculture and mass-tourism. Therefore it is of vital interest to make sure that the progress already achieved is being preserved and even extended to not let this unique and singular space be lost to the "modern human world".

In 2019 the German Green Belt is already celebrating its 30th anniversary and there is great hope that this project will be of delight for generations to come and that the former "Strip of death" will entirely become a Haven of (wild-)life.

Sascha Schlüter

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Background Picture:

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/b/be/EuGB_solid_labels_web.png

Полски орли набрзо ке летаат под Македонското сонце...



Иако сум во Македонија и многу ми се допаѓа, јас сепак сум од Полска, па затоа сакав да напишам нешто што спојува повеќе нации и во исто време го потхранува нивното ривалство. Спорт. Било каков спорт. Но затоа што следи Полско – Македонската битка во Европските квалификации, сега се работи за фудбал.

Отсекогаш сум сакала спорт. Уште од моето детство следев спортиви како скијачки скокови, со тоа што покасно станав лудо заљубена во одбојка. Секоја година додавав различни спортиви на мојата персонална листа за спортиви кои мора да ги следам. Ракомет, тенис, уметничко лизгање, брзо лизгање, сноуборд... Понекогаш знаев да го уклучам телевизорот и во исто време и моите два компјутери, за да можам да следам повеќе спортиви истовремено бидејќи не сакав ништо да пропуштам. Многу е чудно тоа што откако дојдов во Македонија почнав да следам хокеј на мраз! Никогаш не следев многу фудбал, се додека еден многу голем настан не се одржа во мојата држава.

Со доаѓањето на летото, 2012 година Европското првенство во фудбал се одржа во Полска и Украина како домаќини. Се сеќавам како прво го гледав натпреварот Полска против Греција. Седев пред телевизорот и се чувствуваја рамнодушно бидејќи до тогаш нашиот тим не се сметаше за јак тим, затоа и немав големи очекувања. Исто така не очекував дека од овој ден натаму ќе станам голем љубител на фудбалот. Од моментот кога Роберт Левандовски даде гол, започна лудилото. Тоа беше прекрасен почеток на натпреварот за нас. Секако, понатаму имавме многу неуспеси,

не успеавме да влеземе ни во фазата на групи. Но од тогаш љубовта за фудбалот почна да расте во моето срце.

Од таа година почнав да ги гледам убавите и лошите моменти на мојот тим, поддржувајќи ги и во добро и во лошо. Почнав да имам фаворити во тимот. Се запознав со Премиер лигата и се запознав со сите фантастични приказни за Манчестер Јунајтед и за Ливерпул. Се заљубив во шпанскиот национален тим. Го следев бразилскиот национален тим заедно со пријатели од Бразил за да станам вистинска „canarinha“. Почнав да се шегувам со Шпанците кои беа фанови на Реал Мадрид или на Барселона, така што јас навивав за Атлетико Мадрид.

Многу поразлично се доживува спортивот кога се следи во живо. Се наоѓаш таму на стадионот или арената и одеднаш се што си го гледал на екран е пред твоите очи. Поради некоја причина отсекогаш сум била голем фан на бугарскиот одбојкарски тим и посебно сакам да ги гледам средбите помеѓу Полска и Бугарија. Еден мој сон беше да ги гледам во живо. Тој сон конечно се оствари последното лето кога бев во Варна за Светското првенство со Италија како втор организатор. Го поминав моето лето во Бугарија и пред тоа, за моја среќа,

Полска се најде во истата група како Бугарија. Отидов таму со моите бугарски пријатели, па имавме интересни соочувања како пријатели. Мојот тим победи и се што можевме да направиме после таков натпревар е да одиме да јадеме баничка и да пиеме ајран, затоа што јас славев, додека тие не баш толку како мене, но сепак ја прифатија супериорноста на мојот тим и беа среќни за мене и за искуството кое заедно го споделивме.

Една година подоцна тука сум во Македонија и го очекувам натпреварот помеѓу македонскиот и полскиот национален фудбалски тим. Ова извлекување беше многу среќно за мене. Ја гледав церемонијата на бирање тимови пред да дојдам во Македонија и одеднаш двата тима се најдоа во истата група. Тогаш си помислив како ова ќе биде добра можност да го гледам натпреварот затоа што најскоро ќе одам во Македонија. Покрај тоа, иако следам фудбал многу долго време, досега не сум гледал натпревар на интернационално ниво во живо. Пред два месеци ја имав таа можност. Отидовме на националниот стадион во Скопје да го гледаме натпреварот Македонија против Латвија за Европскиот квалификации во фудбал 2020. Иако не беше полн стадионот, атмосферата беше прекрасна. Си го пронајдов скриениот македонец во мене, почнав да пеам „Слушам кај шумат шумите“ за време на паузата, навивав за Македонците како луд и на крај ја славев „нашата“ победа. Овој натпревар не беше на високо ниво, на некои моменти дури беше и досаден. Но како искуство, за оваа атмосфера, сепак се исплатеше тоа што отидов заедно со моите пријатели.

Уште само неколку дена, мојот полски тим, посилен дури и од европските натпревари 2012 година доаѓа тука во Скопје. Никогаш не сум го гледала мојот тим како игра во живо. И не се сеќавам на натпревари кои сме ги играле против Македонија. Последниот натпревар Полска – Македонија беше во зимата 2012 откако Европското првенство беше толку тешко за нас, како пријателски натпревар. Натпреварот заврши 4:1 за полскиот тим и единствениот играч од тој натпревар кој ќе игра и сега е Милик Аркадиус.

Нашиот тим се има многу променети во последните неколку години. Полските играчи уште пред да играат за полскиот тим се гледаат како звезди, но сепак не можевме да составиме силен тим. Постојано имавме промена на тренери, по секој нареден неуспех и тогаш се појави господинот Навалка кој ги спои сите звезди и конечно направи силен тим. Иако не успеавме за последното светско првенство во квалификациониот дел сепак цело тоа искуство беше прекрасно за нас. Претходно имавме добро

бодување за време на Европско првенство 2016 година, така што бевме победени само преку пенали во четвртото финалско од Португалија, кои станаа таа година Европските шампиони. Натпреварот кој нема никогаш да го забараавам е тој кој го игравме против Германија во квалификациите за Европско првенство 2016 година. Беше 11ти Октомври 2014 година, Варшава кога игравме против силниот германски тим и тогаш светски шампион. После толку фудбалски битки на кои сме се бореле и сме изгубиле – за прв пат во историјата, успеавме да победиме. Тоа не му значеше многу на светот но за полските љубители на фудбал тој ден беше легендарен. Сега, пред уште еден квалификационен натпревар, овој пат против Македонија, можеме да најдеме повеќе артикли и статистики во медиумите. Полскиот тим е сеуште чувствителен после огромната загуба во последното светско првенство. Меѓутоа, нашите играчи застануваат на нозе и се успешни во клубовите во кои што играат. Фокусот е претежно на фантастичното трио од напаѓачи. За сите од нив, сезоната од клубовите е завршени. Роберт Левандовски победи на Бундеслихата со Баерн Минхен и повторно беше прогласен за најдобар стрелец, со 40 гола во целата сезона, во германската Бундеслига и во Лигата на Шампиони. Милик Аркадиус успеа да даде 20 гола за фудбалскиот клуб Наполи со што стана втор во А серијата. Последен, но не помалку важен е Кристоф Пиатек – кој е нов во клубот оваа година, но ги воодушеви фановите на фудбалскиот клуб Милан. Новодојден кај циновите на Италијанската лига, тој успеа брзо да го добие надимакот „Il Pistolero“ така што успеа да даде 30 гола во 42 натпревари, со што стана трет на листата на најдобри напаѓачи, токму пред Кристијано Роналдо.

Броевите изгледаат многу импресивно но не се броевите тие кои ја играат играта. Полска треба да направи силен тим за да се соочи не само со македонскиот тим туку и со навивачите. Јас ќе бидам капка во морето од прекрасна македонска публика, но силно ќе навивам за мојот тим. Очекувам прекрасна игра која ќе го исполни срцето на еден верен навивач.

Евелина Ханска

Преведувачка: Маја Колеска





HABEMUS PAPAM IN SKOPJE!

On May 7th 2019 Pope Francis came to visit Skopje as the last station of his Balkan-Tour for the first papal visit to Macedonia ever.

In the morning the pontiff came by plane from Sofia/Bulgaria to visit the home town of Mother Teresa. Indeed the Macedonian population consists of around two third orthodox Christians and around one third Muslims but there's also an estimated number of around 15.000 roman-Catholic Christians living in the country.

Especially this diversity - according to the pope - is what makes Macedonia a very unique and special place and these attributes can be of great favor relating to the ongoing European integration of the country. Before holding a mass on Macedonia square and speaking to the people he went to visit the birth-house of Mother Teresa who was born to Albanian parents in Skopje in 1910. Also it was pope Francis himself who canonized Mother Teresa in 2016 and, by doing so, added her to the circle of Christian saints.

In his speech he held during the holy mass he described Macedonia as a "Mosaic in which every piece is fundamental for the uniqueness and beauty of the whole".

Furthermore he noted Macedonia's function as a "bridge between [orient and occident]" and praised the Macedonian people for their solidarity with the refugees during the crisis in the Middle East over the past years. Thus he encourages Macedonia (and also its other western Balkan neighbors) to take further steps towards an integration into a Europe.

Sascha Schlüter
Photographer: Lasse Olsson

Source:
<https://www.rferl.org/a/pope-francis-arrives-in-north-macedonia/29925552.html>



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