

Remembering and Understanding



Μνήμη και Κατανόηση

Peame meeles ning mõistame

Запоминание и понимание

Erinnern und Verstehen

Pripomínat' a porozumiet'

Comemorare si contemplare

Se souvenir et comprendre

Recordando y entendiendo

Zapamiętywanie i Rozumienie

Atcerēšanās un sapratne

Vzpomínání a porozumění



Editorial by Norbert Tillmann

Remembering and Understanding!

This is the current issue of the international online newspaper called EuropeanYouthVoice.

This magazine

This magazine is a special edition of EuropeanYouthVoice. The articles deal with resistance groups of young people during the Second World War, the youth unemployment in Europe and the attitude of young people to elections. This is a publication by and for young Europeans. Enjoy it!

The website

The online newspaper EuropeanYouthVoice itself exists since 2006. This newspaper wants to develop a new European Journal-

ism. It is about a peaceful living together in democratic Europe. The website is open to everybody. You can write independently articles, share photos make, produce small films or upload audio files. Put your contributions on the side yourself. All you need is a login. Simply send an email to: info@aktuelles-forum.de

The organization

The project was initiated by the aktuelles forum nrw e.V. in Germany. It's a non-profit association for civic education. Aktuelles forum was founded in 1968 to offer a forum for political discussions.

In seminars and projects we talk about controversial issues of politics, society and culture. We are committed to social justice and more democracy. Aktuelles forum isn't party-political oriented. Rooted in the Ruhr area in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, we work nationally and internationally for a European dialogue und understanding.

The title of our program in 2013 is called: „Europe: economic, ecological and socially fair?“ On the website www.aktuelles-forum.de you will find all information on our seminars and projects.

The Supporters

The project is financed by the EU – youth in action program and the land headquarters for political education in North Rhine-Westphalia, Germany.

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*Norbert Tillmann
2012*

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Young, educated, and looking for a job!

by Paula Gulbinska

When Laura (23) started studies at The Faculty of Social Sciences in The University of Latvia she had to find a job to pay for her living so she started to work as a babysitter in the kindergarten. Asked how she managed to combine studies with a part time job, she tells that it was very hard: “I had to wake up at 7 o’clock, went to the early lectures, in the afternoon went to the work and got home at 11 o’clock. I did my home works at night and woke up at 7 again. I wonder how I managed to survive it, I think couldn’t do it now.”

The average student in Latvia living in the dormitory in the first years of studies needs approximately 100 – 200 lats (200 – 300 euro) per month [1]. Many of them get social loans, help from their parents and few get scholarships but Laura had to make living on her own. As a part time babysitter she earned 240 lats. It was necessary for her to work since there was no any other way how to keep on studies but money issue wasn’t the only source of the pressure. After she got the budget place she also had to study a lot to make sure she wouldn’t lose the opportunity to study for free: “Emotionally it was very hard but I didn’t think about it much. The hardest part was getting a job after the studies,” tells Laura. For the first months after graduating Laura felt frustrated. “I sent approximately 40 CVs and in the most cases I didn’t get the answer at all.”

Laura kept on working as a babysitter since she wanted to live in Riga where there were more possibilities to get the job than in the countryside. Still Laura was determined to make career in me-

dia after graduating and it took her a year and a half until she started to work as video editor.

“You won’t get a job if you don’t have the experience but you can’t get the experience if you don’t have a job” has become a common phrase among young people in Latvia. When you ask them to tell about job perspectives in their

chosen profession, majority is pessimistic and understands there’s a possibility that after graduating they won’t find a way to earn money with the knowledge and experience gained in universities. The relation between theoretical and practical skills is not necessarily related to the demands of the labor market. One of the main reasons

is the growing popularity of Law, Economics, and Communication and Media studies. In this case labor market is overloaded with graduates in Social Sciences but qualified engineers and graduates from professional colleges are absent.

The cooperation between universities, students and employers in the most cases hasn’t been productive for the last years and only now when the quality of education

has been more actively discussed, the collaboration is possible. One of the platforms for dialogue among students, academics and employers is a forum “Ready for a Labor Market” made by Student Association of Latvia (LSA) and held in September, 2012. The presented solutions show the correlation between the practical courses in universities and potential work places and employment. Education policy makers, academics,

students and representatives of The Free Trade Union Confederation of Latvia stress the necessity to make parts of higher education programs fit the needs of labor market and employers, educate young people about lifelong learning and labor rights, and stress the role of government as the main institution capable to encourage and support both students and employers. [2] If taken these measures could become a real solution for unemployment issue in Latvia but it should be considered that the la-





EBSphoto

bor market situation is extremely dependent on the whole economic situation of the country. Also the question rises about the student motivation which is not always affected only by the quality of studies but also by the experience, personal aims and expectation of the future life. “Competition is needed if you want to grow up not only as a personality but also as employee. Motivation makes you more favorable for the labor market, especially in the time of crises when employees are looking for alternative and innovative ideas,” tells Laura.

In the beginning of the 2012 European Commission asked to solve the youth unemployment issue in Latvia since almost 30% of unemployed people are youngsters. [3] The main aim set up by EC is to make sure that graduates could find a job in four months after getting a degree. Although discussion about the quality of higher education and labor market has been a part of a daily agenda for the last years, unemployment is still THE issue for students in Latvia. Previously mentioned solutions and further cooperation between all the involved parts could give a hope for young people in the labor market.



About Paula:

“I’m studying Masters for Communications and Media in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Latvia and also working as a freelancer on Latvian Radio 1 and as a host on a noncommercial university radio “Naba”. My academic interests are related to radio, public service broadcasting and media management. I took a part in EYV project because of my interest in social issues in Europe (as for example unemployment) and also to gain some experience and knowledge about media issues in Western Europe. My free time hobbies are related to cinema and astronomy.”

N o t e s

[1] Diena. (2012). Studenti mēnesī vidēji iztiek ar 100-200 latiem. Retrieved.: 30th October, 2012. <a href=

[2] LSA. (2012). Darba tirgum derīgs. Sk.: 30.okto-
bris, 2012. <a href=

[3] EKpārstāvniecības Presesnodaļa. (2012).EK priekšsēdētājs aicina Latviju pievērsties jauniešu bez-
darba samazināšanai. Sk.: 30. Oktobris, 2012. <a href=



Survey about youth unemployment. Unemployment of young people in different countries of Europe.

Vivi, Greece, 27 years old

"25% of unemployment I think says it all."

Silvester, Slovakia, 27 years old
"Second largest in EU. Big problem even for graduated people. Will get worse new laws make you pay extra taxes if you work part time."

Jane, France, 21 years old

"The unemployment represent 6500 young people in France. Too much qualification and no job, no qualification and no job."

Kathi , Germany, 23 years old

"In our country government takes care of youth unemployment to avoid that they become poor."

Agata, Poland, 24 years old
"Every 4th person has no job."

Antonis, Greece , 30 years old
"More than 50% of young people in my country are nowadays unemployed and the majority of the rest of them are under paid (with bad salaries), which is a result of the heavy austerity measures."

Pätis, Estonia, 21 years old

"It is not a big problem."

Michelle, Slovakia, 20 years old

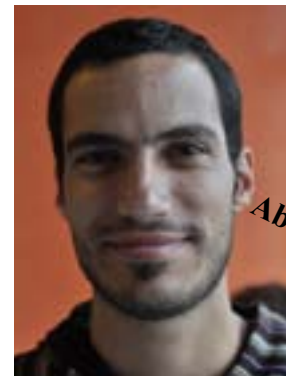
"The majority of young people who graduated from universities are unemployment because of the lack of practice. The education is concentrated mostly on theoretical issues and young people can't get any experience."

Kateřina, Czech Republic, 27 years old

"It is a difficult situation because without practices people cannot receive a job. Practices (internships) are bad paid and graduate cannot receive a high salary."

Maria , Bulgaria , 26 years old

"Most recent graduates face the challenge to find a suitable job as the job market is very limited to young professionals especially those without experience"



About Michaelis

"My name is Mihalis Pantelis, I am from Greece and I am 25 years old. I am studying electrical engineering and computer science at National Technical University of Athens. I like sports (running, basketball, football), dancing and organizing party!!! Soon enough I will take my degree and I will look for a job so I took advantage of the opportunity I had to participate in a project, organized by European Youth Voice called "Remembering and Understanding" and took place in Cologne from 24th -31st of October 2012 and asked young people from 11 different countries of Europe about unemployment of young people in their countries"

Paula, Latvia, 22 years old

"It's hard to find a job without experience but you can't get practical experience in universities. Once you get the job you get paid very badly"

Adolfo, Spain, 23 years old
"Big problem with no solution, just using imagination and work can get us out of this."

Nestor, Spain, 24 years old

"People are losing their faith and they are starting to leave to other countries"

Ivelina , Bulgaria , 25 years old

"Most of the young people in Bulgaria are unemployment, more than 50%. Most of them are educated but they can't find a job in line with their education because there are so many professionals who continue to work even after their retirement."

Cedric, France , 20 years old

"Young people without studies had more difficulty to get a job. Now it's the same with young people making long studies."

Alena , Slovakia , 22 years old

"Bigger problem to find a job have older people around forty, fifty years old."

Vicky, Spain , 24 years old

"We have to be creative to invent our own life and future, this mean NOT to wait for the big enterprises to come and knock on our door to offer us a job."

Tonia, Greece, 27 years old

"Young people don't have a job or a stable job. Many who have university degrees or master diploma could not find a job in the field they have studied , so they have to immigrate."

Kalev , Estonia, 19 Years old

"When young people really want to work they can find a job. The biggest problem is that young people are not willing to do every job"

Margarita, Latvia ,23 Years old

"In Latvia 30% of unemployed people are young."

Special on Youth Unemployment



done by

Herta Taube

Officially communication science specialist in journalism field. But interest and everyday work is more connected with promoting and video editing. I like how video piece could be changed by the art of montage.



Līva Romane

Finished journalism studies some time ago, working as a writing and video journalist and enjoying life. For me journalism is a great excuse for being nosy, asking a lot of silly questions and getting to know strangers very deeply.



Olga Fedjuhina

I have finished Business and Marketing studies and currently work in Asset Servicing for a Swedish bank. However I am also interested in media communication and try to focus on this area in my spare time.



Use this RQ code to have access to all the videos!

A series of videos on youth unemployment have been produced during the seminar week.

You can find interviews with different journalists talking about the situation on the job market for young journalists and vox pops with young Europeans and their different views on youth unemployment, jobs and work!

Youth and their attitude to elections

by Katerina Vojtechova

During the last two weeks regional and senate elections took place in different countries of the European Union. In Czech Republic only 30% of inhabitants participated. That's why the result of the elections finished by winning of the social democrats and communist party. It is because seniors are used to go to the elections regularly as they were used in the communists times. Young people are less and less participating on the elections, maybe because they are persuaded that their vote is too weak to change something. This is the crucial mistake which should be corrected as soon as possible in order to avoid these results of the elections.

A similar situation is in Greece where the socialists received a huge number of votes. It is

caused by the bad situation of unemployment when social democrats promise to people social certitude (the same as the communists) and a lot of unemployed people believe them. This happens mainly now in the crisis when nobody has a certainty of employment. If the economical situation improves, there will be a lot more people who will vote for the right side so the communists and social democrats will decline.

Youth should be more active regarding the elections. Once they will be adult and it will be

exactly the parties elected by themselves which will rule. Only themselves can influence the result of elections because they are numerous. Whatsmore a majority of them have university degrees and that means that they are quite intelligent to vote for the parties of the right side. Passive attitude and non-participating at the elections

leads to the above mentioned situation with the social democrats and communists which means dominance of the seniors at the elections.

This is the reason why in Czech Republic during forty years won elections communists.

The political situation persuaded the inhabitants to go

regularly to the elections. It were always the same people who went to vote and that's why the communists were winners. Youth are living in a different political system so they don't know how it is to go regularly to the elections in order to let win always the one party. Particularly youth which were born later than in 80's don't know the reason why should they go to the elections because they didn't live in the communist times and the Velvet Revolution.



Katerina Vojtechova

"I am 27 years old and I was born in Zlín. It is my hometown where I am actually living. I was studying languages at the University of South Bohemia, especially English and French for the administration of the European Union and French for the sphere of the european and international business. I like reading, surfing on the Internet, meeting friends and skiing"

An urban communal garden

Pflanzstelle, socio-cultural and urban agriculture in Cologne: A city garden community



by Jane Mintah

Photo by Jane Mintah

In the current context of the crisis in Europe, a sense of individualism increase between the Europeans countries and between people in a country. In a social point of view, cleavages become important between different socials classes and conditions of life. Behind these observations, some people found al-

ternative communities who allow building social links. Then, in Germany, to Cologne, I have met the Pflanzstelle who means the place where we grow vegetables. It's an urban garden. How it works? It's a Tuesday afternoon, cold and gray I went to Pflanzstelle, located in the district of Kalk-Kapelle. A

German friend who accompanies me and called Fadi acts as interpreter for the interview I am about to undertake. At a street corner, I arrived at the scene where the famous urban garden. It is bordered by a long green wire and is facing houses. So it seems to me not see anyone inside, I saw a woman who

is trying to close the gate. I call it. His name is Martina. She has 50 years working in marketing and joined the community that live Pflanzstelle. What a nice surprise when she learns that in addition to German, she speaks four languages: French, English, Spanish and Italian! The language skills

of Fadi suddenly lose all prestige, but it does not detract from the pleasure of his presence by my side this afternoon gloom. Martina gives us visit the garden while answering some questions. Since the place was a Brownfield, the soils are contaminated. So, we don't seed directly in it but in

jars and palettes. The water is difficult to access. The garden is composed by vegetables and aromatics plants. We don't use chemicals products and fertilizers. We can't sleep in Pflanzstelle. During summer and spring, it's opened everyday at 9h until 20h. But in winter and

autumn, it's more closed. Activities are established like potluck, sensitization of the nature and urban environment with many meetings, concerts, exhibitions. Financially, the seeds, the tools come from pockets of the community and donations outside.

The community includes forty people. Some of them are vegetarians and the others are vegans. Therefore, a new project on the food was created, the spread project. A group of twenty people eat every week one glass jar of vegans spread. That means every person has to produce one glass jar, shop, cook, twenty minutes of preparation, a lot of spoiled energy. In the project there is one person per week who prepares the spread for all people in the group, brings the glasses to the Pflanzstelle where the others come to take it. The system is a rolling system so, one person have to prepare forty spreads for the forty the week. In the meantime, the others prepare for you. The spread is composed with beans, garlic, cay-

enne pepper and salt from the ocean without iodine.

The people who come in the garden are mostly the neighborhoods and foreigners who represent 70% of the population in Cologne. There is an Iranian of 65 years old and I come every day to cultivate tomatoes and tobacco.

This reappropriation of abandoned space brings a new dimension to urban life and can bring people from different backgrounds and cultures through a manual activity-and especially! - Useful: maintains a vegetable garden. It is a rediscovery of the nature and means of preserving it. The garden is also a way of protest, the image of the "Ecological Footprint" fighting against intensive farming and overabundant consumption of meat, one of the disparities between rich and poor. A place where we can exchange smiles, advice, opinions ... and vegetables! Martina, for his kindness and availability, seemed to personify the will



Photo by Jane Mintah

of humanism at the origin of this experience. Clear proof that, whatever the circumstances; nothing can replace the daily exchange with each other. The urban garden initiative exists in other German cities as well as in other major cited

around the globe and seems an effective way to preserve human relations within the city. The meeting with Martina deeply affected by her generosity and her joy of living. I 'am feeling hopeful for a more consolidated world.



Photo by Jane Mintah



About Jane

"I am 21 and I come from France. I have study theater for 3 years. I metisse, born of a white mother and a black father from Gahna. My metissage made me feel like a citizen of the world. The theater is art for me is the most human. Out, humanity asks me a lot. But sport, music, song and dance are also important for me. I like many styles, many arts, many cultures, many foods. I grow the difference and make it my asset"

Youth Resistance Groups during the 2nd World War

examples of Germany and Greece

..a chronicle by Vivi Zapantiotou



"My name is Vivi Zapantiotou. I'm from Ipati, a historical town in central Greece. I've graduated from the department of International and European Studies at the University of Piraeus (Athens). I'm interested in politics, culture and music. I'm currently unemployed (victim of Greek crisis) however I don't give up being creative. I write articles for the EYV project since 2003 and this has helped me develop my communication skills, meet people from other countries and exchange common thoughts"

Youth should be always on the forefront of every action defending Freedom and Peace. During the 2nd World War a lot of resistance movements' occurred in Europe in many occupied countries.

Inspired by the story of the youth resistance movement of the "Edelweis Pirates" in Cologne, I'm going to present you some of the most remarkable youth actions against the Hitler regime during the 2nd World War occurred in Germany and Greece.

Nazism had a powerful appeal to German, however youth resistance existed also inside the Nazi-Germany either through organised groups either via informal groups, against Adolf Hitler regime. The "Edelweiss Pirates" was not a specific movement but rather an association of a number of youth movements that had developed in western Germany in response to the Nazi regimentation of youths. Named after the edelweiss badge they wore on their clothes.

This is the story of a young boy, Barthel Schink. He was a member of the "Navajos", the "Edelweis pirates" branch in Cologne, Germany. He used to gather around parks and on the street corners were the group of the «Edelweis pirates» was meeting. Barthel and his friends were discussing about how they're going to survive under the Nazis' authoritarianism and they were trying to find ways to avoid the clutches of Hitler Youth. Their activities grew bolder as the

war progressed. They painted anti-nazi slogans on walls, collected the Allies propaganda leaflets and shove them through people letterboxes and moved on to small acts of sabotages. They also helped Jews, prisoners of war and army deserters. They accused of being slackers at work and social parasites but Barthel and his friends in "Edelweis Pirates" were just young anti-conformists who wanted to be free and not ruled by the Nazis.

At the age of 15, Barthel was arrested with a number of others, tortured and imprisoned for four months. Bartholomaeus (Barthel) Schink, was publicly hanged on the gallows in Ehrenfeld, Cologne on the morning of November 10, 1944.

The most remarkable moments of youth actions against the Nazi occupators in Greece occurred after the first big parade of the conquerors was realised in Athens on May 1941. Two students Manolis Glezos and Apostolos Santas, who weren't more than 18 years old, climbed up the Acropolis and by taking the German guard by surprise they lowered the swastika flag. Their courage that led to this unbelievable action was admired all over Europe and the symbolism of this first action of resistance was particularly moving.

Their example inspired lot of young boys and girls who participated in youth resistance groups. Iro Konstantopoulou was one of them and this is her story. Born and raised up in Athens, she

belonged at a middle class family, rich enough for that time to offer her high education e.g. she could speak 4 foreign languages. However, Iro despite her comfortable life preferred to sacrifice her youth in order to "serve" her country and help by all means for its freedom.

Iro Konstantopoulou was a member of the Greek youth resistance movement of EPON (United Panhellenic Youth Movement) a resistance organisation but also the real



Bartholomaeus (Barthel) Schink (member of the Edelweiss Pirates)

expression of youth as a special social category, the top resistance group of Greece during that period. Iro took part in many resistance actions and was arrested many times and tortured in order to reveal her colleagues. However, Iro didn't, that's why she was executed by the Nazis on 5th September 1944. Her body was found shot 17 times ... as her age was that day.

The story of the Edelweiss Pirates reminded me also an

unknown story of a group of kids who acted during the German Occupation in Greece. At that time hundreds of public buildings were prescribed by the Nazi occupiers. Among these buildings were also several orphanages, from where hundreds of orphans were expelled. A group of orphans in the city of Thessaloniki took their lives in their hands in order to survive. They organized in a secret "army" with hierarchy and discipline and set up teams of impact and help. Their sources for supply were German trucks that carried food and bread and of course the so-called "black marketeers". The stolen goods were distributed to orphans and other residents of Thessaloniki who had needs. Their group was named "The barefoot battalion" and apart from

Iro Konstantopoulou, member of EPON, executed by the Nazis on 5th September 1944



the help provided to the people, with wit and courage they also helped the Resistance movement, finding ways to smuggle in the Middle East, Greeks, Americans and Englishmen officers in order to join the Allied armies there .

Young means to be spontaneous; to be near the sources of life, to do things that others do not have the force to attempt. Young don't accept compromises and conventionalities; their mind is controlled by Revolution. Young people are inspired by new ideas! We have values and ideas. Young people understand that the world will not become better transporting weaknesses of the past. Maybe we don't have experience and knowledge, however we have fresh heart and this makes our spontaneity more efficient than the cold logic of the elder.

They say that the dead live inside us and their works are for

us the elements of life. With their struggles and their sacrifice those young heroes become preachers and drivers, models for the coming generations. If we do not want to lose our orientation and to walk in an uncertain future we should secure that we won't lose our contact with the intellectual values of past. We the current young people have duty to defend our right for a peaceful life. "History is not waiting for us but walks together with us. And we the young are the present that carries on its future", wrote a famous Greek poet.

Therefore it is our duty, as descendants of those young people that with their spontaneity filled with pages of heroism the history and gave us a future more peaceful, to follow their example and fight daily for values and ideals that even today are threatened by the interests of the stronger!

by Vivi Zapantiotou

"Manolis Glezos and Lakis Santas lowering the nazi-flag "



Remembering and understanding... the lessons of history

by Georgi Georgiev

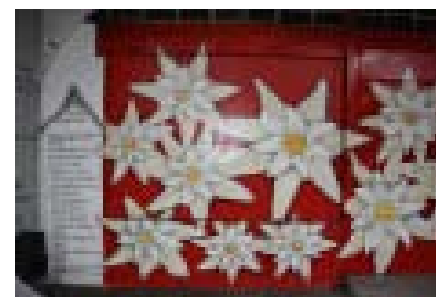
Patrick meets us at the entrance of a small church in the heart of Cologne – Ehrenfeld. We are about to learn that this place has a huge and interesting historical wealth. As if to set the mood it starts raining as the guide begins his story. He's about to tell us about the time right before the beginning of the Second World War and events happened during the war in this particular place. If you take a look at the neighbourhood now you might never know that this place was ever the lair of political propaganda. Nowadays it looks like any other typical German city – nice, big houses, tidy streets, lots of bikes. Patrick describes the lives of the people who lived here approximately 70 years ago. The timbre of his voice and the breeze we feel take us to the early 1930s when the average German had to struggle to make ends meet. Most working class families who lived in bigger cities during these years were deprived of the simplest things known to our society – big families with members of 4 people and above lived in a single room, they had no toilets and had to work almost the whole day. They were miserable. Meanwhile we've walked to another street where we stop to see a photo, shown by the guide. It is a man in a car who gained strong political influence and is being cheered by the crowd. Patrick tells us that he had promised to the people food, work and better conditions of live. They believed him. For a small period of time things really improved for the better. Young people started joining his

youth program and it's easy to understand why – it was their way of getting away of the terrible conditions they lived in. In school they were being taught how to put out fires, how to process metal, how to handle critical situations. They were being prepared for a war and to serve as soldiers in World War II. Usually after their time in the Hitler Youth they became soldiers in the Wehrmacht. On the other hand there were adolescents who denied to be part of Hitler Youth and started gathering outside the city like the Edelweiss Pirates in Cologne. They used to go to the countryside where they could stay close to nature and get in touch with other people who felt like sharing the same way of life. These young people were later being chased by the nationalistic party that was in charge for refusing to join the youth program even though they were not criminals. In November 1944 a group of thirteen people, the heads of the Ehrenfeld Group were publically hanged in Cologne.

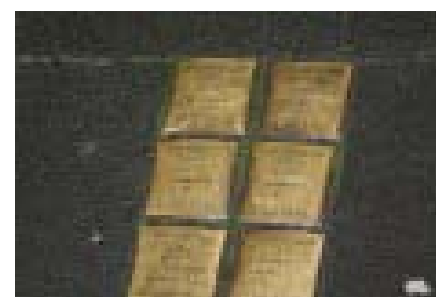
We move on to another street and we stop in front of a house. Our guide shows us six paving stones of bronze on the ground. They have inscription that says 'Here lived ... Roma, deported on 21 May 1945'. You see, this well known political figure had the crazy idea that the German race is superior to all the other races and it should be 'cleaned up' of all 'impurity'. I suddenly feel a lump in my throat. I'm at the very place where people were chased, arrested and sent to concentration camps just for being themselves. I suddenly feel very cold, but it's not the wind and it is not the rain either... Our last stop is the Gestapo headquarters here in Cologne. Patrick tells us that this is the first place where people were brought after being arrested by the Gestapo. In the building almost nothing has changed – it is a museum now and the walls look the same way they did 70 years ago. We head to the cellar where the prison cells were. All the inscriptions on the walls are preserved – I recognize some Russian messages and



Memorial for the Cologne victims on Schönstein Str, next to the railway station



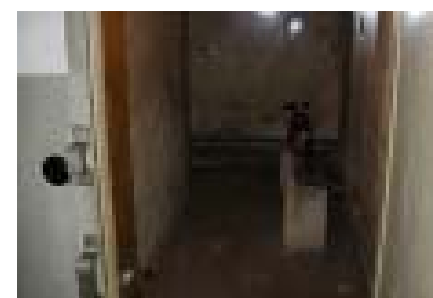
Many of the members of this organization were hanged publically



These 6 pavement stones acknowledge the lives of six people who were deported during the World War II



In the cells there isn't a WC. People could go to the toilet once a day with a guard next to them



Up to 25 people used to inhabit this small room during the toughest times

understand them without translation, because our languages have a lot in common. I don't have to listen to the guide to find out what had been going on in here during the war. People were being arrested for nothing in particular and tortured. Patrick explains the Gestapo didn't even try to mask the sound of their screams. On the walls are to be read many farewell letters and sometimes just parts of diary texts of people wondering how much they've got to live... some of them predicting their own death.

Suddenly I am stunned, because I recognize a swastika on the wall. I simply couldn't believe it. Why would a person imprisoned here draw something like that? Patrick explained to me what the situation was – the Gestapo started arresting people just on suspicion and the victims were often confused, thinking that here was a misunderstanding. In order to confirm their political persuasions they carved the symbol.

This story is easy to remember, because of its shocking content, but what's to understand from it? Personally, I believe that history teaches us a great lesson, proving that no race is superior to the others. So, from now on such ideas are simply unacceptable. It also tells us that not all people are the same, that there were Germans who were in opposition to the empowered Nazi party who did something to change the situation and whose names will be always remembered.

I look at Germany as a country now and I see a big difference. Old hostility is forgotten,

Deutschland is now part of a union with other countries which were its enemies during the war and it's again the economical engine of Europe. Its society consists of people of different nationalities, colors and ethnic groups living together as one. Is there a better way to understand this particular lesson of history?



About Georgi Georgiev

"I'm 20 years old, I was born in Burgas, but currently live in Sofia, I study law at 'St. Kliment Ohridski' University of Sofia. In my free time I like to play football and I do irish dancing as well. I think that EYV meeting in Cologne was a great experience and a fun way to meet many new people of different nationalities"

Gestapo and KGB

Past and present

by Anti Haugas

When thinking about secret police, the first organizations that usually come on our mind are KGB (also known as NKVD and MGB) and Gestapo. To young people these organizations are also known from different movies, TV-shows and documentaries. Though, those two organisations were located in different parts of Europe and under different rules, the aim of them was the same – to protect the power and retain dictatorship. People were eavesdropped, dissidents were sent into dark cold prisons and cellars. Secret agents were often drafted among regular citizens, did not matter if they wanted it or not. All the houses had ears. The members of Hitler Youth gave out even their own parents. That kind of censorship and governing forced the people to just watch, it was almost impossible for a man to do something about it.

When in Germany Gestapo lost its power at the end of the World War II, in Soviet Union KGB was on power until 1991, though, there are rumours that Russia is using dossiers and former agents of KGB even today. During the last 4 years, there have been two incidents where Estonian public sector workers steal and abuse the information they have and spy under Estonian government for Russia. The situation where we have caught two spies, does not show the good job of Estonian police, but it shows how many of those people might live in this Nordic country. By Estonian professional

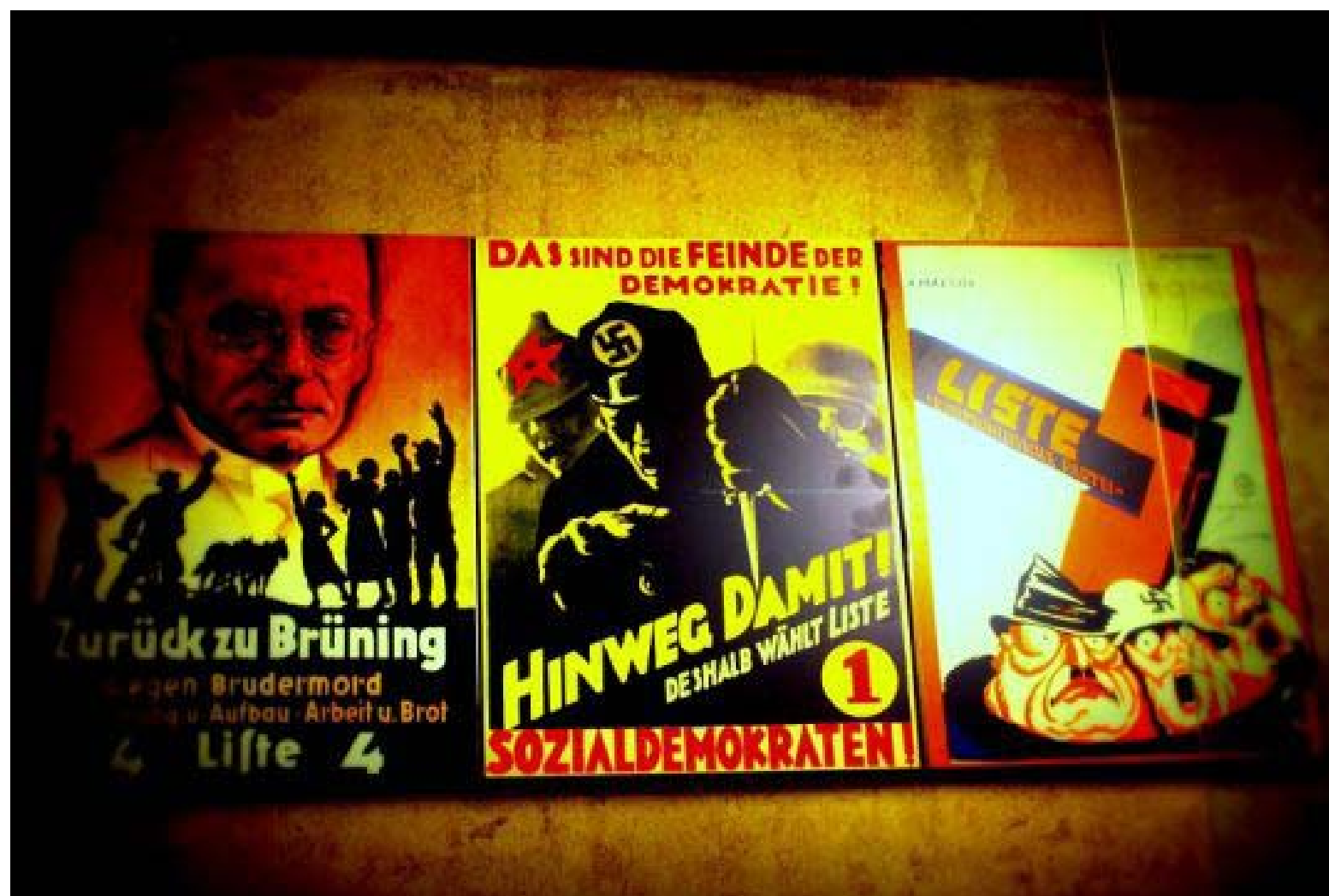
espionage info 500 betrayers in a country of 1.3 million people are yet to be caught. Probably most of them are closely watched by Estonian intelligence service but the others pose a great threat to our fragile independence. The case that Russia does not want to give Estonia the list of former KGB agents shows us clearly that they are still interested in those people. By the way, Vladimir Putin used

to work for KGB in eighties in Eastern-Germany. Retaining dictatorship was mostly based on recruiting new espionage agents, chasing and interrogating suspects. To force out the information, people were often tortured and kept in inhuman conditions and cells. In the 21st century and Europe, we would not act like this even with our worst enemies. There



About Anti

“I am an 20-year old Estonian mechanical engineering student. I love to do all kinds of sports and spend time with my friends. My main hobbies are snowboarding, volleyball, singing and space science. I also belong to a liberal youth party”



are some extreme measures like simulating drowning but it is illegal to cause physical damage. For example in the Gestapo headquarters of Cologne, 32 people were jailed and pressed in 4-square-meter cells. Prisoners were allowed to visit toilet twice a day and they were not allowed to wash themselves. In a dirty room many illnesses started to spread and due to mental shock some people were not able to return to their normal life after the war had ended. If soldiers who fought in the First and Second World War were sorted into „dead generation“ we can also call some former prisoners dead for society, if they suddenly did not disappear in mysterious cases. To avoid it to happen again, we need to be extremely critical in all cases of political repression and censorship. The power is impossible without people following the trail the dictator has set.

Are Romas and Sintis the real problem? -A hint on Rethinking

by Elisabeth Olajumoke Adeyanju Omonga

For at least five centuries Romas and Sintis have lived in almost all European countries. Today up to 10 million Romas and Sintis live in Europe. Originally they come from North India – proven in the 18th century by linguists who show the relation of the language Sanskrit and Romanes. Although there is evidence of a peaceful coexistence of Romas and Sintis in the European countries in the middle ages, many stereotypes and prejudices against Romas and Sintis developed during the past centuries. These were later used by the Nazis in their propagandan and up to 500.000 were murdered by the Nazis. So, talking of Remembering and Understanding, I want to give a hint on Reflecting and Rethinking our prejudices on Roma and Sinti today.

Deconstructing the “Gypsy problem”

There was a discussion at the EYV meeting about solving the “Gypsy problem” in certain European countries, where they seem to be a more or less disturbing „phenomenon“. Defining the presence of Roma and Sinti in a country as a “problem” is one thing, degrading them as a „uneducated, lazy, smelly, money-grubbing children machine making people with a lifestyle of stealing“ is racist.

The general widely known term „All human beings are equal“ seems to be forgotten when it comes

to speaking of minorities in a white society - in this case white European society. During the discussion I noticed a continuously differentiation between „We“ and „the other“. Solutions toward the so called “Gypsy problem” were formulated rather in this kind of way: „We the educated

need to cultivate the uncultivated...“. The stereotypes the Nazi Régime used in their propaganda to murder 500.000 Romas and Sintis seems to have a revival. Separation between We the Europeans and Them the Romas and Sintis, the Blacks, the People of Colour etc. are defined as a constructed dichotomy



Europeans need to help the uneducated...“, „We the civilized Europeans need to civilize the uncivilized.“ or „We the cultivated Europeans

of good and evil. Because we see stereotyped representation of these groups („the others, the strangers“) in the media, school books

and in the law, we believe these representations. We get influenced by the images we see, even worse we take them for granted. On the other side, we also see the representation of us the Europeans in the media etc. as the intelligent, good and civilized (apparently „the norm“). These are generalizing images, trying to oppress a minority and to motivate „episodes of everyday racism“ (Book by psychoanalyst Grada Kilomba called „Plantation Memories – Episodes of Everyday Racism“).

“I’m not Racist, but...”

the ‘Gypsies’ take the money from the government and don’t want to work, because they are lazy!“

Nearly every sentence during the discussion in our EYV meeting started with „I’m not racist, but...”

(e.g. „ALL the Romas steal“), which reminded me of the www. notracistbut.com page, a website collecting every kind of racistic statements published in the internet beginning with „I’m not racist, b u t . . . “.

Racism is about politics and economics. Meaning it is about power and wealth. The privilege is given to one group and is being denied to the other groups. Only a group with power can impose its racist beliefs on a whole society. The function of racism is to increase that groups privileges, power and wealth. More than half of the Romas in southeast Europe have to live with less than 100 Euro a month. Living condition are worse with less chance to take part in social or economic growing.

Children are suffering of discrimination in schools due to the effect of

institutionalized racism. The government isolates the Romas in slums or ghettos in order to stabilize the formed segregation. This is how racism works: The privileged white European explaining his misery through the unprivileged Roma and Sinti. Modern racism emerged as a way of enabling and justifying “white supremacy”.

And not long ago, radical right-wing Czechs marched in Nový Bor and Varnsdorf: „The right-wing extremists chanted “Gypsies must go” and “Free, social and national” - a phrase also used by members of the right-wing extremist National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD).“ (Wave of Hate, SPIEGEL Online International, by Frank Brunner and also see: www.romea.cz).

Rethinking & Reflecting prejudices

The discussion showed once again how near we can be to the ideology of the Nazi Régime. Not even considering the consequences with certain statements we make (e.g. „stealing is in their blood“), we continue pointing our finger to a constructed enemy. Instead of criticizing images we absorb through the media or other information base, we run away from our responsibility unconsciously supporting the oppression of a group. We are making prejudices to our own reality – but in fact there are just fantasies. By putting people into categories, there is no way for any objectivity and the potential for degrading, discriminating and hating a group of people grows. I think all this suggests

that it makes sense to fight the various stereotypes and prejudices collectively. Rethink your thoughts and reflect about yourself always.



About Elisabeth

“I’m 20 and originally from Aachen (Germany), but moved to Berlin to study Regional Studies Asia & Africa and Portuguese at the Humboldt University. Next year I will spend one semester in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). I love languages, sports and of course adventure. And to expose my adventures, feelings and experiences with people, I usually write”

“They just can’t understand I have friends from other countries”

What role plays nationalism in your country? What role it plays among young people? And do you find it dangerous? That were questions we asked ten young participants of intercultural week in Cologne. They provided us with answers from different countries of the EU to develop general picture about notion of nationalism in Europe.

by Alena Fričová

Georgi Georgiev, Bulgaria (20)

In Bulgaria, nationalism influence mainly older people, who are already retired. It is because there is not much tolerance between different social groups and older people are the ones who hate the most. I find it dangerous, because things that nationalists describe in their policy may be appealing. People think that they manage to solve all problems in Bulgaria, but it's not so simple. If you want to solve all Bulgarian problems, you have to think about everybody in the country, not just Bulgarians.



Michaela Lennerová, Slovakia (20)

In my opinion, nationalism is still very dangerous. Looking back to history, young people were, are and will be very easily manipulated. In Slovakia, the situation is not so positive. We have some radical politicians, for example Jan Slota, who call for struggle against gypsies and Hungarians in our country and youngsters are often tempted to join these radical streams.



Ferran Porchas, Spain (19)

I think that nationalism is still very important in Spain. We can see the problem on Catalan-Spain relations. During Catalan national days there were one million and half people demonstrating on the street for Catalonia's independence. Of course, sometimes nationalism can be used for hiding certain things, for example economical problem, but I don't think that it is so dangerous. At least, I hope it isn't.



Paula Gulbinska, Latvia (22)

Nationalism in Latvia plays a huge role, especially among young people. We have a party called National Alliance and they are quite extreme radical right-wing and supported by young people. From one side it is great that we have young people who loves their country and care for it, but in the same time, when there is question of different cultures, especially Russian people in Latvia, they are quite... conservative is a soft word. They can't accept the fact that we are not living ninety years ago. We have to find other way how to live together in the new society. I don't know whether it's a question of education or experience but youngsters are not trying to understand that.



Cédric Florentin, France (20)

Nationalisms pull my country into difficult situation because a lot of people all over the country have tendency to follow this ideology or they lean towards racism. My father lived in other country when he was child and I think that all people should be able to live together with foreigners, so that they don't have problems with identity and religion. However, I think that people need liberty of expression.



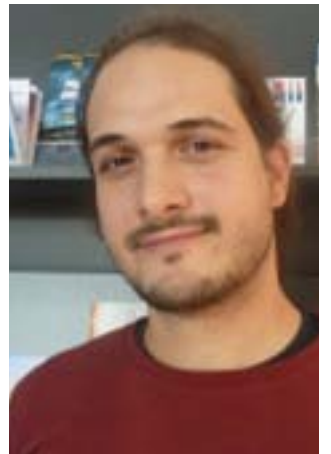
Barbora Heresová, Czech Republic (18)

Extreme nationalism in Czech Republic is big problem, especially among young people. They are often leaning to the extreme left or to the extreme right. We have problems with gypsies, they hate gypsies so they are trying to join extreme political parties. Sometimes they say that they want to kill them, sometimes they separate themselves from them. I think it's dangerous and youngsters should care more about people who are not integrated and not go to extreme political parties.



Antonis Triantafyllakis, Greece (30)

Nationalism has risen up much higher these days. It used to be a minority. We have Golden Dawn party, which is essentially neo-nationalism party. They reached about 7 % of voters in previous election and rumours say that it almost doubled now. You can see that raise of nationalism in Greece is extremely dangerous because it has certain similarities with rise of nationalism in Germany. I just hope that thanks to education and better informed people it will not result in another world war. Every kind of crisis provokes the notion that if you are in danger you have to hold on your head and fight other heads.



Maria Iridon, Romania (19)

The majority of people in Romania do not care for their country because of poor management in politics and economics. They have really negative feelings about Romania, and students usually go to study in other countries because they don't think that our educational system can offer them a good perspective. This is also happening with older people, who mostly leave to Spain, Italy, UK and Canada. Romanians don't feel like they are part of a community, because our community is not united. Our sense of identity was lost during World Wars, when other powers influenced our politics and economy. However, there are Romanians that love their country and try to influence the others. They say that Romania can develop if people put their interest into building a better future.



Fadi Mustapha, Germany (17)

I think Second World War is over but there are still groups which are big fans of Hitler. We have a party called National democratic party of Germany NPD and they are so called neo-Nazis. They don't like people from abroad. It's hard to say if it is dangerous. It certainly would be threatening if the situation is going to be like today, people from abroad are coming to Germany, they get jobs and NPD party gets more members.



