A pair of hands is shown holding a small, vibrant green seedling with several leaves, growing out of a mound of dark, rich soil. The hands are positioned around the soil, with fingers visible, suggesting a gentle and caring hold. The background is softly blurred, focusing attention on the hands and the plant.

**Travel
through
culture**

**Things you wish
to know before
living in
another
country!**

**Unity in Diversity: what we
strive to achieve both in the
EU and worldwide**

**What is
active
citizenship?**

O.N.E.
One Nation Earth

What is active citizenship?

'Active citizenship' should give you a clear understanding of how your actions can help the community as a whole by taking initiatives and showing motivation, which can not only help your local community but it can be amplified and recognized internationally.

How active citizenship can be applied locally ?

Active citizenship can be applied by various activities which range from running campaigns to clean particular areas within a community, such activities frequently take place in Malta during the summer, where people from the public together with an NGO gather to clean up several beaches. Such an activity promotes awareness regarding the improper discarding of items such as plastic bags and glass bottles and how the accumulation of such materials cause several coasts to become heavily polluted.

You can be part of active citizenship by introducing alternative remedies/solutions to the community, this can be done by the use of animals for therapy. By training ex-racing horses which are at risk of being euthanized or abandoned due to them not being able to perform anymore to be used for equine-assisted-therapy, in this regard you can help local sanctuaries to provide such services so as to start up a business and help them gain the funds needed for the sanctuary to keep running smoothly. Therefore it is up to the general public to take the initiative to give something back to the community.

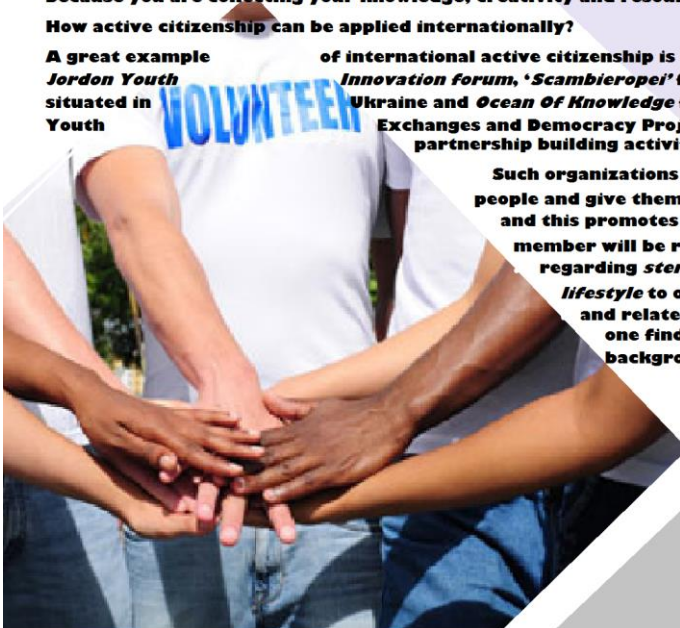
Have you ever thought about creating an exhibition? Well this is another form of active citizenship because you are collecting your knowledge, creativity and resources and sharing it with the public.

How active citizenship can be applied internationally?

A great example of international active citizenship is how organisations such as *TDM* situated in Malta, *Jordon Youth Innovation forum*, '*Scambieropei*' found in Italy, *Media Development Centre Dialogue* situated in Ukraine and *Ocean Of Knowledge* found in Croatia come together to bring about Exchanges and Democracy Projects, training courses, career placements and partnership building activities.

Such organizations promote 'Active Citizenship' by gathering a group of people and give them the opportunity to take part in international projects and this promotes *diversity, integration and multiculturalism*. Each member will be responsible for *promoting and raising awareness* regarding *stereotypes, laws & policies, religion, culture and lifestyle* to other countries. This will help members to associate and relate to one another, it is surprising how many similarities one finds, even though they come from different backgrounds and beliefs.

In the end it is up to you to come up with creativities and knowledge and apply it in a way where this is spread so that more people can actually learn and inform themselves about such ideas, keeping in mind that in order for active citizenship to be legitimate one has to abide by laws and policies and revise any ethical issues.



Travel through cultures

Natalia Večerić

I am Croatian. At least they told me so when I started learning how to listen. First words were slowly started to sneak in my thoughts and without even thinking about it, about history that lies beneath, I started absorb this valuable songs and dances that make my heartbeat rise in the rhythm of Croatian tradition. Accepting the tastes as my own, like they were Croatian forever, and no one could tell me they are not, I didn't even realized that I am living my culture.

Then the first travel came. Prag!

On the edge of my adulthood, for the first time I tried the food that is not made in my country. I can remember the fear that made me think about the first bite. It was the same meat we use, the same vegetables, but the taste was somehow different. Even though I did not think about it like I do now, from the prism of the sociologist, the question about similarities and differences between the Cultures was burning inside of me. This question changed my life. I started to travel all over Europe. Ten different countries gave me ten different lectures.



A young girl with dark hair, wearing a vibrant, multi-colored embroidered headscarf and a matching red hat. She is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a neutral expression. The background is softly blurred, showing hints of purple flowers.

*On my trip to Italy,
I was a participant in Erasmus+
project, just like I am now. This was
the first time to stay in international
group of people. I was seeing a food that
we normally eat in Croatia, but different order,
different taste. I have heard the words from the
countries like Romania that I was finding culturally
totally different than mine, and they were the same.*

***Are we all different? Or are we at least sharing
the same history? Yes! We are different. We are learning
how to live our culture, and we find it exclusively ours.
But still, wondering about it showed me that there are a
lot of similarities that we refuse to see. Maybe we just
don't want to accept it, but once when we do, we will
feel European.***



**Unity in Diversity:
what we strive to
achieve both in
the EU and
worldwide**



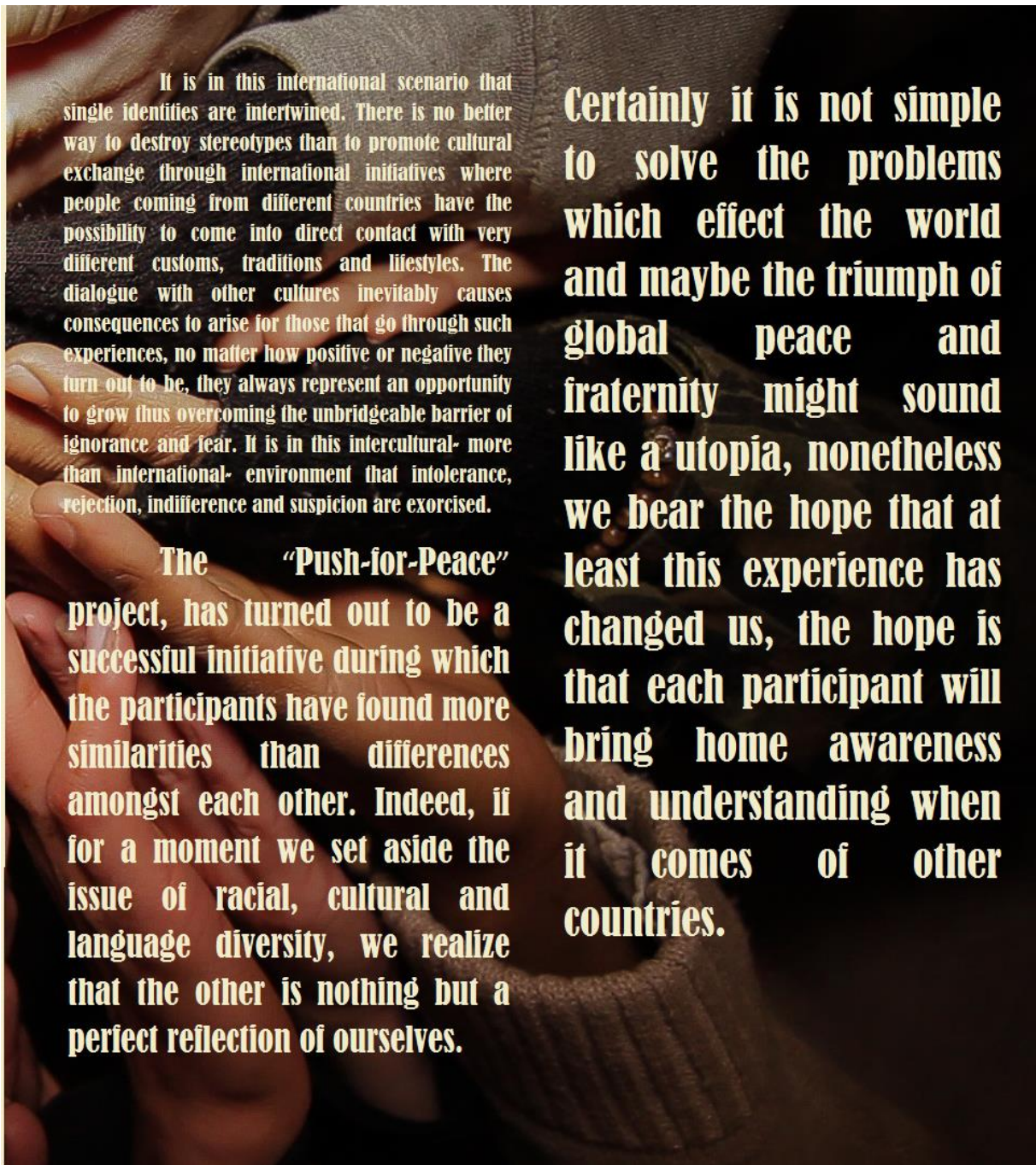
The larger the EU becomes, the more important it is for people who live in it to realize that their Union has been built on common values. In its 50 years of history the Union has encouraged the spreading of democracy, stability, security and prosperity all over the continent.

The EU has been built on principles such as the free movement of goods, services, labour and capital. In addition, another fundamental principle is the promotion of equal rights for all citizens before the law. However, there is something as important for the EU, that is, the need to build a common identity which is able to define people as members of the same nation. This idea had been around for a while and it led to the celebration of the motto "Unity in Diversity".

How can this unity be achieved?

This is a difficult question whose answer lies in the issue of the cultural background since the people at one end of the European continent may feel very different to those at the other end. Most of the times a country thinks that it has little in common with another one, not to mention that every nation is proud of itself, thus thinking that it is better than other ones. Such an attitude sometimes ends up encouraging prejudices and stereotypes which contribute to give a distorted representation of otherness.

Generally, we might acknowledge that the word "Unity" contains a certain contradictoriness and ambiguity, because a misuse of this term could imply an intent to globalize and subjugate cultures. Basically, Europe is more of a mental construct than a geographical entity, it is an idea that finds its roots in the "sense of belonging", as well as in that of "common membership". Nonetheless, these principles can hardly be promoted without accepting the important role performed by identity, considered as a way to define the human being in his/her singularity or as a way to differentiate him/her from the others. The celebration of identity is nothing but the first step for the construction of the European values which would find better fulfilment in the collective, that is in the cohesion among people.



It is in this international scenario that single identities are intertwined. There is no better way to destroy stereotypes than to promote cultural exchange through international initiatives where people coming from different countries have the possibility to come into direct contact with very different customs, traditions and lifestyles. The dialogue with other cultures inevitably causes consequences to arise for those that go through such experiences, no matter how positive or negative they turn out to be, they always represent an opportunity to grow thus overcoming the unbridgeable barrier of ignorance and fear. It is in this intercultural- more than international- environment that intolerance, rejection, indifference and suspicion are exorcised.

The “Push-for-Peace” project, has turned out to be a successful initiative during which the participants have found more similarities than differences amongst each other. Indeed, if for a moment we set aside the issue of racial, cultural and language diversity, we realize that the other is nothing but a perfect reflection of ourselves.

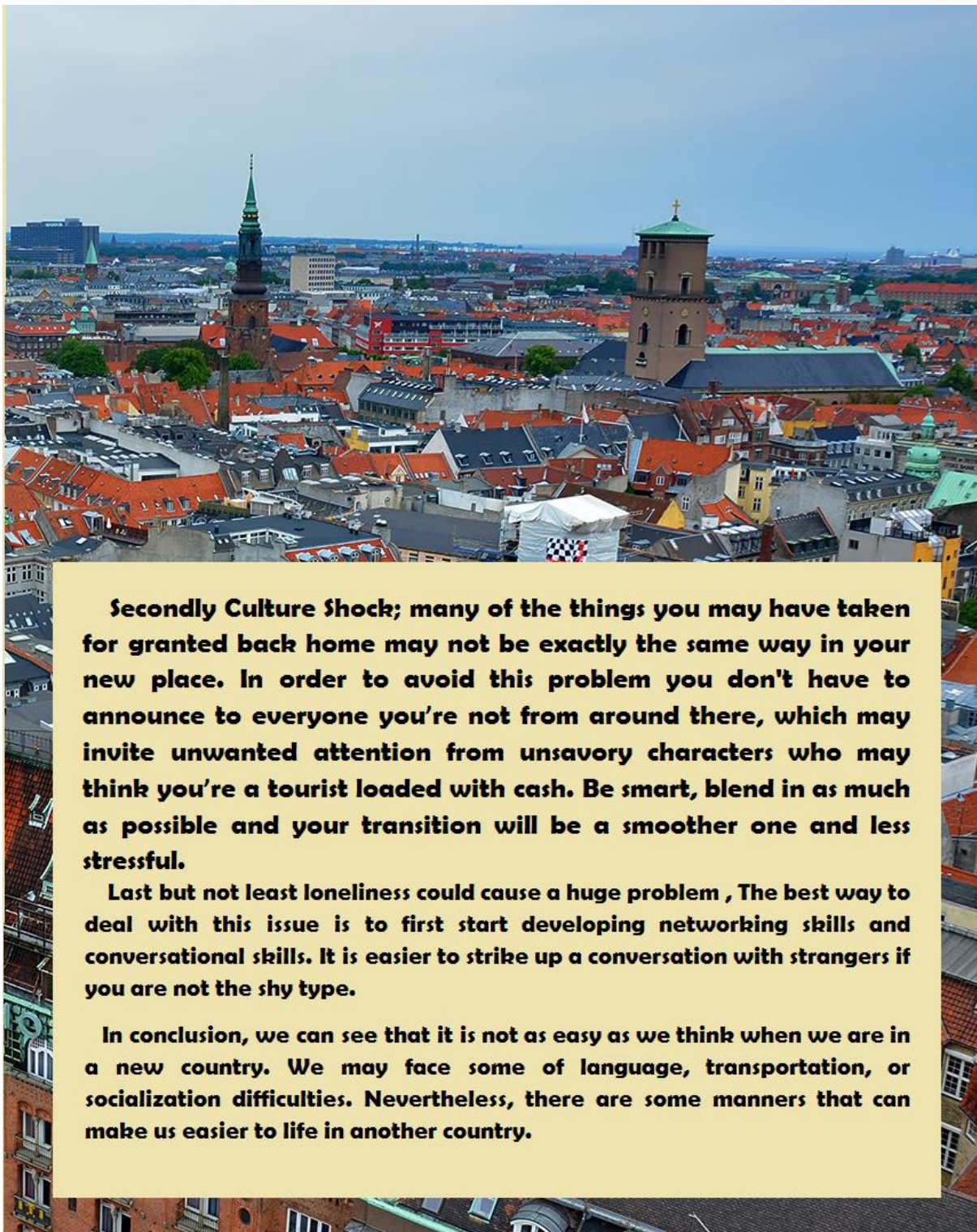
Certainly it is not simple to solve the problems which effect the world and maybe the triumph of global peace and fraternity might sound like a utopia, nonetheless we bear the hope that at least this experience has changed us, the hope is that each participant will bring home awareness and understanding when it comes of other countries.



Things you wish to know before living in another country!

Living in a foreign country excites the imagination, ignites the adventurous spirit, and inspires you to explore. It can also scare you. Learning to live in another country is more challenging than what others might think. Making yourself understood in a local language, and eating different food. You have to learn how to do many new things while unlearning old that have become second nature. You must accept your new home on its terms. Living abroad successfully also involves a subtle but important change in your expectations of yourself and others. More importantly, you have to cope with it. This article will discuss several tips in which might be helpful.

To start with, Language Barriers are considered as the first and most important problem that you might face in a new country. Depending on the country that you are choosing, language can certainly put a damper on your day-to-day interactions with the locals. Even if you choose to live in an English-speaking country, your accent may immediately identify you as a stranger, which may further alienate you depending on the group around you. The best course of action is to start learning the language of whatever country you intend to travel to long-term. Learning important phrases, such as "Where is the restroom?" might be helpful. Learn the key phrases, learn the local slang and you'll be well on your way to blending in with your surroundings.



Secondly Culture Shock; many of the things you may have taken for granted back home may not be exactly the same way in your new place. In order to avoid this problem you don't have to announce to everyone you're not from around there, which may invite unwanted attention from unsavory characters who may think you're a tourist loaded with cash. Be smart, blend in as much as possible and your transition will be a smoother one and less stressful.

Last but not least loneliness could cause a huge problem , The best way to deal with this issue is to first start developing networking skills and conversational skills. It is easier to strike up a conversation with strangers if you are not the shy type.

In conclusion, we can see that it is not as easy as we think when we are in a new country. We may face some of language, transportation, or socialization difficulties. Nevertheless, there are some manners that can make us easier to life in another country.

Democracy through the World

Connect the statement with the state:

In 24th of August it becomes independent.

*A.
Malta*

Women got the right to vote in 1947.

*B.
Jordan*

Death penalty is legal.

*C.
Italy*

In 2012 was a referendum to define marriage as a community between man and women in the statute.

*D.
Ukraine*

Legalized civil union in 2016.

E.