

INSIGHT

MIGRATION WITHIN THE EU

**THE BIZARRE WAYS OF HOW THE
CZECHS AND BULGARIANS FIGHT
AGAINST REFUGEES AND
IMMIGRANTS**

**WHAT I MISS THE MOST ABOUT
MY HOME COUNTRY**

DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION

CONTENTS

pg.3

MIGRATION WITHIN EU

pg.5

**WHAT I MISS ABOUT BULGARIA
WHEN I GO ABROAD**

pg.7

**THE BIZARRE WAYS OF HOW
THE CZECHS AND BULGARIANS
FIGHT AGAINST REFUGEES AND
IMMIGRANTS**

pg.9

**DEALING WITH
DISCRIMINATION**



MIGRATION WITHIN THE EU

... by Robert Baláž

Since the establishment of the Schengen area, most citizens took full advantage of it. Suddenly, salaries which were commonplace in the western countries were within arms reach for a myriad of citizens from countries of Eastern Europe. The countries offered two, three or even four times the salary for the same job; it therefore comes as no surprise that thousands of positions in the west were soon filled, which enabled the men and women working abroad to make good use of the extra money in their home countries after their return. There is always a price for everything, and these new opportunities were no exception.

Even those with families commonly stayed in the country they were working at for prolonged periods of time, making an "incomplete" family a common sight especially in east European countries.

This, however, is not the only downside of the gargantuan, open job market the EU brings with it. More often than not, the positions in the east countries are left vacant, and are filled with employees of slightly lower quality or not at all, which puts an additional burden on the infrastructure and economy of a given country. Several decades ago, the majority of citizens attended university in their respective countries. However, the barriers hindering one's efforts to study in prestigious universities in foreign countries are mostly history. Nowadays, the best students tend to aim for foreign universities which are rarely located within the

borders of their country. The newly acquired social network and work experience enable the students to easily find employment in the country of their study, which further diminishes the already slim chance of their return to the motherland.

It is safe to say that the large wage gap between certain countries within the European Union is starting to diminish, as the numerous EU funded regional development projects are bringing innovation and opportunities into the post-soviet countries within the union. These are just a few of the countless of benefits a EU membership brings along. Perhaps in the foreseeable future the wages will be completely equal in the EU, regardless of the country.

As appealing as it may seem, this situation would strip certain companies of the cheaper labour readily available in the countries, which may force them to outsource their work or raise the prices of their products and services, which would result in numerous complications.

Europe certainly is a place of diversity in all facets of life, and it is likely to remain that way. While the current system is by no means perfect, it is definitely a step up from the old isolated system of countries.

WHAT I MISS ABOUT BULGARIA WHEN I GO ABROAD

... by Ema Karayusein

I am a really passionate traveller. I love visiting new places, meeting new people and getting to know other cultures. There are, though, things I always miss about Bulgaria – my home country, when I go abroad.

FOOD AND DRINKS

I have had the luck to try delicious food from all over the world. Original Italian pasta, Polish pierogi and Romanian papanasi are only few of the many examples I could give.

However, I always crave for the many kinds of Bulgarian banitsa , for the shopska salad made with original Bulgarian cheese and for a slice of bread covered with lutenitsa. The drinks I miss the most is Bulgarian alcoholic mint and the cocktail we make in the summers when we mix it with Sprite. I tell all of my new friends about this majestic combination and invite them to visit me and give it a try :}

PEOPLE

Of course, I meet amazing people no matter where I go. Regardless of the fact how nice they are, though, they can't replace my family members and my friends. They say home is where your heart is and my heart always stays with my beloved ones. Even if I enjoy my stay in the new country, I always have to go back home and meet my dearest people.

LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

As every linguist I love foreign languages – they are one of the main reasons why I love travelling in general. And still, sometimes I have a really difficult time trying to explain someone what a Bulgarian idiom means because not all of them have equivalents in other languages. My French and Slovakian friends would never get the joke we have about how you are going to take an exam if you have gotten drunk before it. No one would also understand when I say yes and when I say no because of the different body language I have. Once all of my foreign roommates asked me why I am the one who buys pralines and cakes when I have a birthday. They tried to convince me that they have to surprise me when I have a special occasion. A matter of different cultures I said.

THE BIZARRE WAYS OF HOW THE CZECHS AND BULGARIANS FIGHT AGAINST REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS

... by Klára Hromádková

From the number of the anti-immigrant movements that exist in the Czech Republic, it could seem that the country is flooded with refugees.

Actually, nothing could be more far away from truth. .

In the Czech Republic there are over 40 political parties and movements which are greatly concerned about the topic of immigrants and refugees and feel like that our country is endangered by them. Probably the most well-known and influential one is Liberty and Direct Democracy which is the only anti-immigrant movement in the Czech Parliament. Ironically, it is led by a man who is half Japanese and half Czech.

Another kind of famous and widespread movement is Martin Konvička's Initiative which gained its popularity mainly because of a fake ISIS attack in Prague which was organized by this group and intended as a protest against the immigrants. With the intention to show people how their life under the ISIS rule would look like, the men from the movement drove with a car onto the most visited square in Prague, yelled „Allahu akbar“ and then fired guns without pellets. This caused panic among the foreigners who did not know that this stunt would take place and thought that it was a real attack of the Islamic State.

In the Czech Republic there are also many people who decided to fight against the refugee crisis in its own and musical way. One example is a rock and xenophobic band called Ortel (which could be translated as „Verdict“ in English) with its most famous

song Mosque which is often played at the anti-Islam demonstrations. Even despite the song is full of factual mistakes and the music itself is of a bad quality, the band was still able to win the second prize in a musical competition „Czech nightingale“ which is a survey of popularity of Czech singers and bands.

Another example of a musician who is deeply concerned about the preservation of the Czech culture is a singer Olivie Žižková who became famous mainly thanks to the song called „Europe, Start Breathing“ which reacts to a refugee crisis in Europe. The music is accompanied by scenes from the underground where the frightened singer looks around because she is afraid of seeing a refugee. Of course, not a single one appears in the video.

In the video you can hear lots of Islamic terms but the singer actually does not know what they mean which she openly admitted in one interview.

Not only the Czech Republic has its special bizarre ways of fighting against refugees, Bulgaria is not an exception in this. Probably the most weird Bulgarian attempt to protect the country against the immigrants was made by Petar Nizams who volunteered for „hunting“ illegal immigrants. This guy decided to take justice in his own hands and when he saw people crossing the borders with Turkey, did not hesitate a second and pacified the immigrants in its own special way – tied their hands with pig tails. He was also recording the whole process on a camera.

To conclude, these (silly) attempts may be at least little understandable in Bulgaria where the number of refugees can cause problems for the country but it is hard to understand these panic in the Czech Republic which has accepted 12 refugees so far.



DEALING WITH DISCRIMINATION

.. by Valenin Vutov

At least once in your life you become an object of discrimination. Whether it is about your age, gender, origin, religion, sexual orientation, race /colour, any kind of disability or something else, discrimination isn't pleasant for anyone and shouldn't be tolerated. We all have our differences and we should learn to respect each other. If you ever feel discriminated, here are some things you can do:

1. **Develop a positive self-image**

Experiencing discrimination can make you feel low, unworthy, or less important than those around you. Don't take these experiences to heart. Try to see the great things about yourself and remind yourself who you are

2. Challenge negative thinking
Negative thoughts attract negativity and conditions like anxiety and depression. Find ways to stay positive and make changes to feel good about yourself.

3. **Empower yourself**

Create some goals and keep pushing yourself to achieve them. Face your fears and overcome them. For example, stand up for someone and show that you are on their side or talk about discrimination and caring during class.

If the problem is more serious, you may need to:

4. **Lean on other people**

Find a friend who will listen to you and support you in your struggles. If they don't seem ready to help you, you can easily recognise who is real and who is only pretending to be your friend

If you want to go even further, you may:

5. Seek therapy, join a support group or even make a police report

Therapy can help you learn or develop new skills so you can feel more confident and empowered. A support group is a place you can meet other people who also share similar struggles. A police report is taking a legal action and using your legal rights.

6. Contact a hotline for help, organisation or share your thoughts online.

Contacting a hotline for help can provide you with some pieces of advice and information. You can find organisations that are against what you have experienced and stand for your thoughts. Or even you can just share freely what you want. There are many forums, sites and places where you can feel safe to speak up.

Even if you haven't been discriminated, you should be kind to others. Be careful how you use the words and think before you speak!

