

UNITY



DIVERSITY

SMART TRAVELING

ANAMARIA COJOCARIU

Living or just travelling to another country could be sometimes challenging. It's not all about preparing the luggage, but we need to take into consideration the cultural differences too.

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I will start first with the most important things to be taken care before leaving:

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I will start first with the most important things to be taken care before leaving:



1. Have a hard-shell rolling carry-on suitcase. It happened to me to walk around the city almost for a whole day with some heavy bags before the accommodation service to open.

2. Take just the needed clothes, just those that you know you'll wear.

3. Bring your own towels or even better your own bed linen (mostly for when you'll stay at a hostel).

4. Bring copies of your national ID/passport and take with you small ID photographs in case you'll have to buy local cards (as a transportation card).

5. Have some local cash money especially for the local transportation (not always can pay by card).

6. Check if your credit card will work in the country you're visiting.

7. Check if it's convenient to make often drawals from ATMs (fees and commissons could be pretty high for a small amount).

8. Check in with your doctor and insurance carrier. Check if your policy medical insurance applies overseas for emergencies. Otherwise, you should consider supplemental insurance.

9. Call your bank card provider. If you're planning to cross continents, sometimes the banks think that fraud may be occurring if transactions are suddenly happening in Nicosia or Bali when you're from Warsaw. As a consequence they will turn off your card as a security measure.

10. Be WISE and buy tickets now for places you want to visit or see. By buying IN ADVANCE it will give you more time to enjoy the sites and you'll skip the lines at the transportation desks.

11. Get a guide book or, at least, maps. These will provide you exact indications towards your destinations.

12. Bring a charger adaptor (one or even more for friends).

13. Pack an extra set of clothes in your carry-on bag (for longer trips especially).

14. Bring snacks and drinks. For sure you'll have to walk a lot, so you may not find a place to eat or a store to buy something. It can happen not to find convenient prices for you.

15. The last, but not the least on my list, bring YOU. Enjoy every each moment genuinely and live the moment.

The following part focuses more on the cultural side. I'll take as a relevant example my origin country, Romania. Romania is known for its strong traditional customs and places, next to the friendly people, great events as festivals, school camps, artistic performances, winter and summer sports, seasonal manifestations etc.

If you will throw an eye to the sparkles that make Romania unique, be sure that you'll be in a land like home.

In order to achieve this, you must take into consideration that there are some particularities about which you should research before leaving. It's not just that you'll avoid embarrassing situations, but you'll give to your host country a feeling of a stronger bond with foreigners.

RESEARCH THE PLACE YOU ARE TRAVELLING TO.

Try to learn about the people you are likely to encounter and the way they live because things will be different. For example, a burst of laughter is considered a sign of confidence and security in the West, but in Japan can be a sign of confusion or insecurity. Being aware of cultural differences like this means you won't be left with egg on your face.

Learn a few words of the local language. Knowing simple things like how to ask for directions or the names of local dishes might save you getting lost or ending up with monkey brain on your plate! Local people will appreciate the effort you've made and will be more likely to put in their own effort.

Get to know your surroundings when you first arrive. Get a map and traverse the streets around you first. Once you have established your bearings, you can venture further out without the fear of completely losing yourself. Take note on how people interact with each other and what seems socially acceptable.

You will be more informed and confident and locals will be more likely to open up to you and accept you. At their core, travellers are about new experiences that will last with them for a lifetime. By being a smart and respectful traveller, you give yourself a much better chance of making those meaningful, personal experiences count.

LIFE IS NOT A SOLO JOURNEY

Human beings thrive on doing things with others rather than simply for them.

TIZIANO CARTA

In a certain way the whole history of our societies could be interpreted as an example of how great things can be achieved through spirit of collaboration.

The main purpose that back in the days have inspired the formation of the EU are deeply connected with this concept; applied in particular with the idea that countries which share common economies and politics should over time develop less reason to start conflicts.

Today the EU still actively promotes and supports the cooperation between its members, through numerous policies aimed to help solving common problems, facilitate the share of ideas and assets, and ultimately bring Europeans closer together.

Does those policies had any concrete results?

Never before in the history of our continent there has been such a prolonged time of peace and prosperity.

Never before in the history of our continent there has been a time in which so many

Europeans have had their lives so entangled together for the most various reasons.

If we today live in an objectively better continent than ever in the past it's undoubtedly even thanks to an institution that has always worked in this sense to promote cooperation within its members.

But could those accomplishments be preserved without a tireless constant effort?

АЛЕКСАНДРА ЦОНКОВА

SHOULD EVERYONE VOTE?

Most people choose not to vote in the political elections despite of the appeals for everyone to do it. Voter participation is very important for the political studies and it's accepted that the higher percentage the better.

Often the percentage of people who haven't voted is big enough to change the outcome of the election. There are many reasons for people not to vote, for example:

1. Lack of interest-There are many people who aren't interested at politics and they don't care.
2. Not enough knowledge- Many people refuse voting because they believe that they don't understand enough and don't have good political education.
3. Not trusting the candidates-They want to vote but there is no one proper candidate to vote for.
4. Some individuals support a candidate or a political party but don't vote because they think their vote will be wasted.
5. People who are not allowed for a reason, for example being under 18 years old.

In my opinion not everyone should vote.

In my country one of the biggest problems is that most of the people aren't educated and vote just because the politicals give them money or food to do that and these people are more than the others (gypsy for example), they have more than 4 children who vote when they grow up and that's why the decision are always their.

It's ridiculous to vote if you don't know who do you vote for and what do you vote for!

WIDE HORIZONS

BARTŁOMIEJ PASIERBEK

The European Union is our common good, which we should protect together at all costs. Many people underestimate what we have thanks to the European Union, they do not know how much we can lose without caring for our common good. Why is European Union great? Because it offers us a great deal.

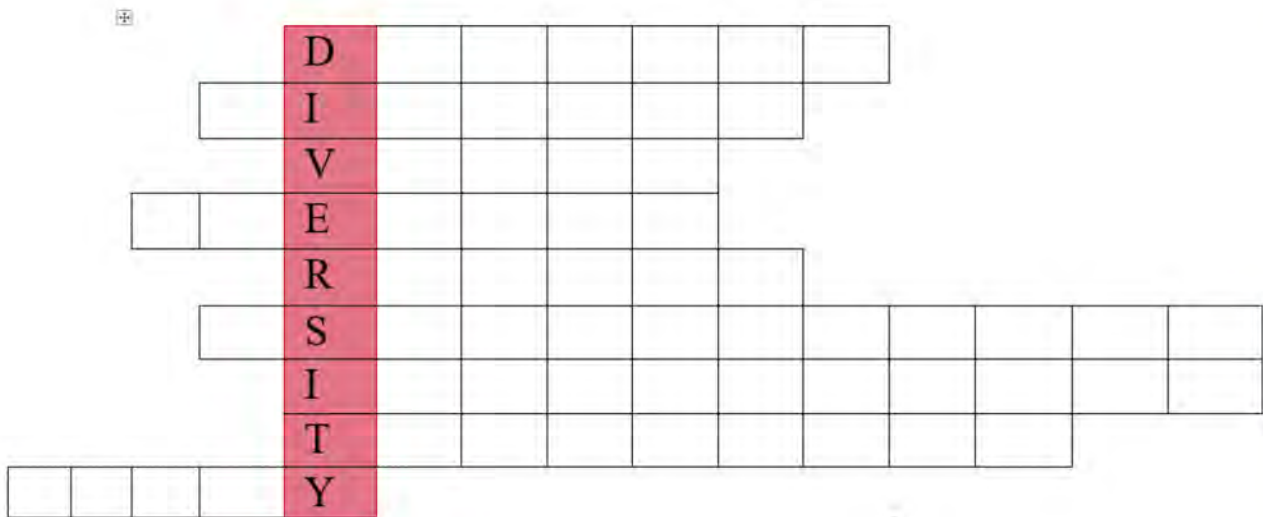
The first thing that needs to be mentioned is the subsidies that have allowed the poorer parts of Europe to develop at a rather rapid pace and to improve the living standards of their citizens.

They have changed a great deal, and probably each one of us may list at least a few investments in the vicinity of our residence, which are partly or entirely financed from the European Union budget. Schools, roads, grant projects and many other things have made it possible to significantly improve life in less developed countries. In Poland, for example, European funds have a small impact on transport, education and development infrastructure.

Another thing that the European Union provides us with is that there are many facilitations that enable us to do much more. These facilitations are visible above all when we move between countries, because we do not need a lot of documents to move from one country to another.

People in all EU countries have much greater opportunities for education and can find work much easier. The EU offers the possibility to participate in various student exchange programmes (Erasmus+) and to take up an internship or professional development.

DEPENDING ON OUR KNOWLEDGE



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1. Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior.
 2. Persons and groups acquire the culture of other group in which they come to live, by adopting its attitudes and values, its patterns of thinking and behaving – in short, its way of life.
 3. The ability or willingness to tolerate the existence of opinions or behaviour that one dislikes or disagrees with.
 4. A person who moves from one place to another in order to find work or better living conditions.
 5. The action of coming to live permanently in a foreign country.
 6. The state or quality of being one or united into a whole.
 7. An individual or group's sense of self-respect and psychological integrity and empowerment.
 8. The regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something.
 9. The power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants.



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