

THE VOICE OF EUTH



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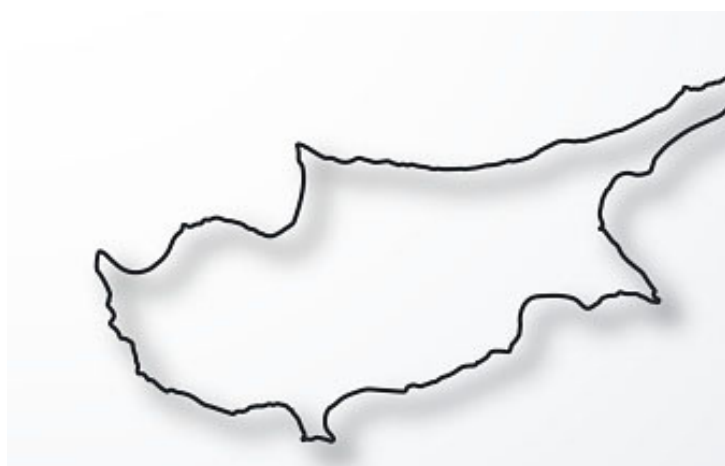


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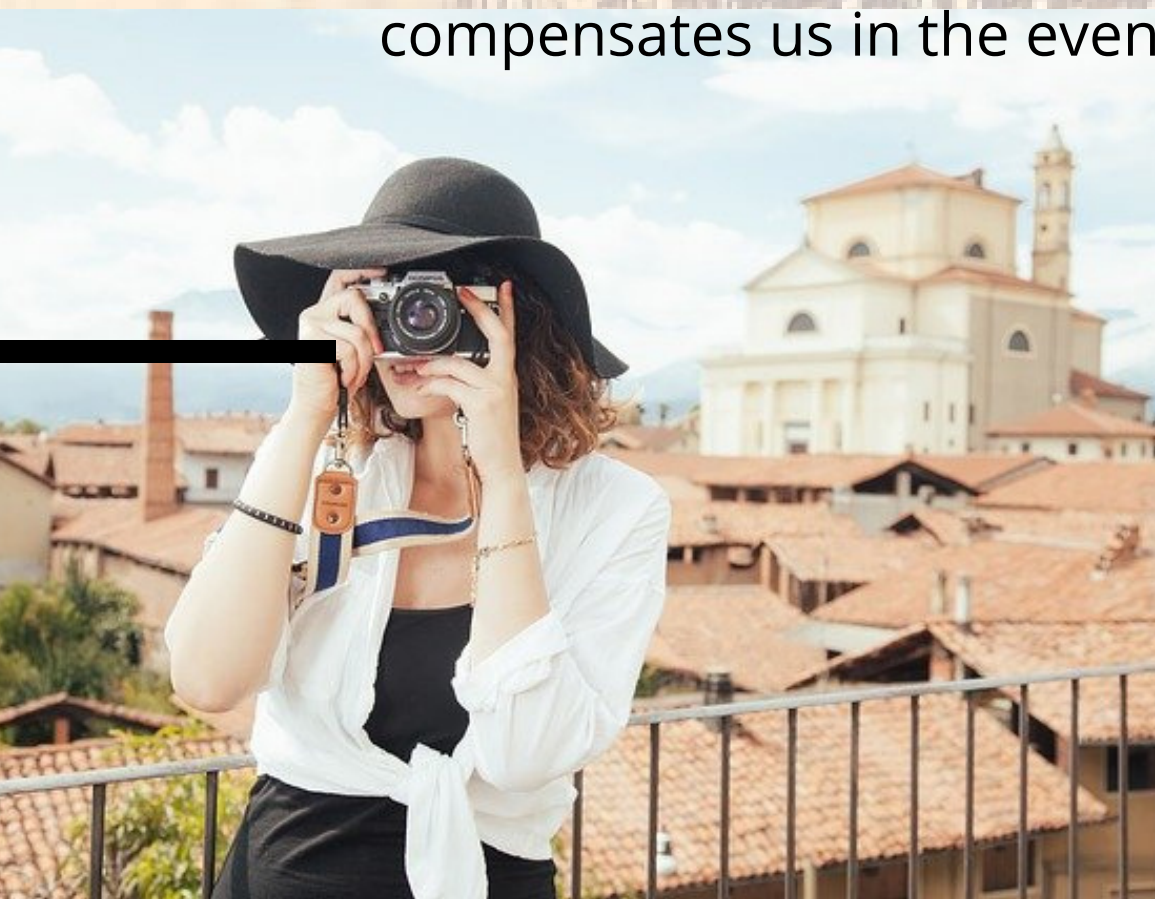
THINGS TO KNOW WHEN TRAVELING TO ANOTHER COUNTRY



When we plan a trip the first thing we think about is not to forget the tickets and to put everything we need in our suitcase whether one is going on vacation or is leaving for an educational experience. Today there are more than two reasons to travel and to change country, thanks to the European Union we have also found that it has become easier to move through the countries that are part of it but the needs of travelers have changed as well. we have expanded the airports and increased aircraft traffic (not truly in favor of the environment) and this is directly connected with the increase in airport safety and goods controls which is very important to ensure that everyone has a safe and enjoyable trip.



Today it is very safe and often cheap to travel, and people do it for a variety of reasons, more than we can imagine, we are also able to do this thanks to cooperation between countries in the EU and beyond. To make a trip even more reliable we rely above all on ourselves and our organizational skills and this is proportional to our personal experience as travelers. So here we come up with all the things necessary to make sure that a journey begins and ends as we have planned it. It is important to know that flights can be canceled, they can change schedules or have problems during the crossing for this we must always have a backup plan or if it is possible to take out an insurance plan that compensates us in the event.



The second very important thing is, depending on the country where you are going, do not forget to consult a doctor and to carry out any necessary vaccinations.

(Yes, also the one against "Sars CoV 2" or covid-19). If we travel with pets we must make sure that they are well and that they do not suffer during the trip, they are our friends and we must treat them as they deserve.

Last but not least we need to make sure that the country we are traveling to will be safe and even if there are inner conflicts at the time we must inform ourselves through the institutional web sites of our country of origin and the one to which we are traveling.



Europe provides us with very valuable tools to make a simple journey an unforgettable experience but the biggest responsibility lies with us and we must do our best to avoid any mishap. Now that we know the basics to leave, we can start packing our suitcase and remember not to forget your underwear and spray deodorant as well.

Make sure that a journey is not just an opportunity to relax but also an opportunity to learn something new.



HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED EU AND HUMAN RIGHTS



The Coronavirus has constituted an unprecedented global crisis, naturally raising the topic of human rights

Free speech is the foundation of democratic society. Media and public opinions have seriously contrived to deepen the debates on how the government policies affect social life and the sovereignty of personal freedom.

Lockdowns and limitation of movement, restriction of activities of any kind have been the reason for raising questions such as

- Do we trust our governments
- Is what the EU does for us is really the best and in our interest
- Are we really free to choose



The pandemic has also raised questions in terms of financial security, stability and trust as part of the narrative on human rights.

The lockdowns brought in other significant questions, such as :

- Are the restrictions really temporary
- How resilient are we as a society and as political entities against crisis
- How far is the imposition on human rights in terms of restrictions going to get.



Restrictions have affected our access to information, there were numerous delays in the processing of data in certain EU states, and the misinformation and the large spread of fake news have interfered with the fundamental human right of being informed about current affairs.

The corona virus pandemic has forced the Council of Europe to take extraordinary methods. Restrictions and quality of information have raised the question of how much our human rights are sovereign in reality.

Voting Is Very Important

Having a voice is a privilege. It may not seem like that in today's society, but if people had the same rights hundred of years ago as we do now, they wouldn't even believe it. When somebody had a voice in the past, it meant they had right to express their opinions which was a huge privilege. The others weren't heard

because they did not even have a possibility to express themselves, even though they would really want to.

Nobody asked them, they were simply part of a lower class and they just had to accept it.



Nowadays the situation is a lot different. People have the voice nowadays, they have countless possibilities of expressing their ideas, they have so many options how to change things or how to at least contribute to common good. Yet so many people deprive themselves of that privilege. They don't even bother to find out about the political situation, they will just complain about it and ignore it, rather than doing something to make it better. These people think they do better thing not to participate in this matter and not to even inform themselves about the situation, because they just think everything is bad and there's no way to change it.



The thing that they actually do not realise is that by not contributing with their vote, they are just making the situation worse.

By not expressing themselves, by not using the voice they have, they support the ideologies they do not like. They will tell to themselves “one vote will not change anything”. But if thousands of people will think the same thing, it will end up in maybe 50% participation, and the other half which could really make some difference will be just passively eating on their couches for things to change.



I wish everyone realised what actual impact they can have in the society.

Everyone should value the huge privilege they have gotten, because still in some countries, many people can only dream about it.

Voting is important, is standing for yourself, for your country, for your values. Vote, don't expect the things to be changed by themselves. Use the voice you have, don't stay silent.



Life without the EU

It is hard to imagine a continent without alliances. Everyone wants to be connected with their neighbours and cooperate with them in various fields. So it is difficult to imagine a Europe without the European Union. But let's try it.

Firstly, people would not be able to travel around the continent so easily. There would be special documents you have to fill, visas you have to get. Imagine if you wanted to travel from Poland to Portugal with a car. Now, you can just take your passport or ID and drive.

But if EU didn't exist, you would have a lot of documents to fill, spend an extended amount of time at the borders checking all the documentation. So, that would not be as enjoyable as travelling around the continent that has relationships that allow to travel without any additional documents.

Secondly, there would not be aligned values and laws that let countries develop faster, more efficiently and with support from others. That would create a severe differences in quality of life among the neighbouring countries. By keeping each other in check, countries can achieve wide spectrum of equality, human rights and ecological development. In addition, EU provided financial support for developing countries help them reach the requirements faster and reduce the time of progress by years. That is why it is important to keep close connections with the countries around, cooperate and contribute to creating a better future. So, being part of the EU becomes very important.

Lastly, the cost of import and export taxes would fluctuate and prices of the products would increase. By being part of the EU, we not only have ability to easily travel as individuals but also products and businesses can easily be transferred around Europe. If the EU would not exist, there would be constant changes in import and export taxes, products that can not be produced in the country would be more expensive and not everyone would be able to afford it. There would be difficulties with transferring of business or growth of the businesses internationally. Therefore, there would be less opportunities and job opening inside and outside the country. That is why without EU, countries would not have that much opportunity regarding occupation and products.



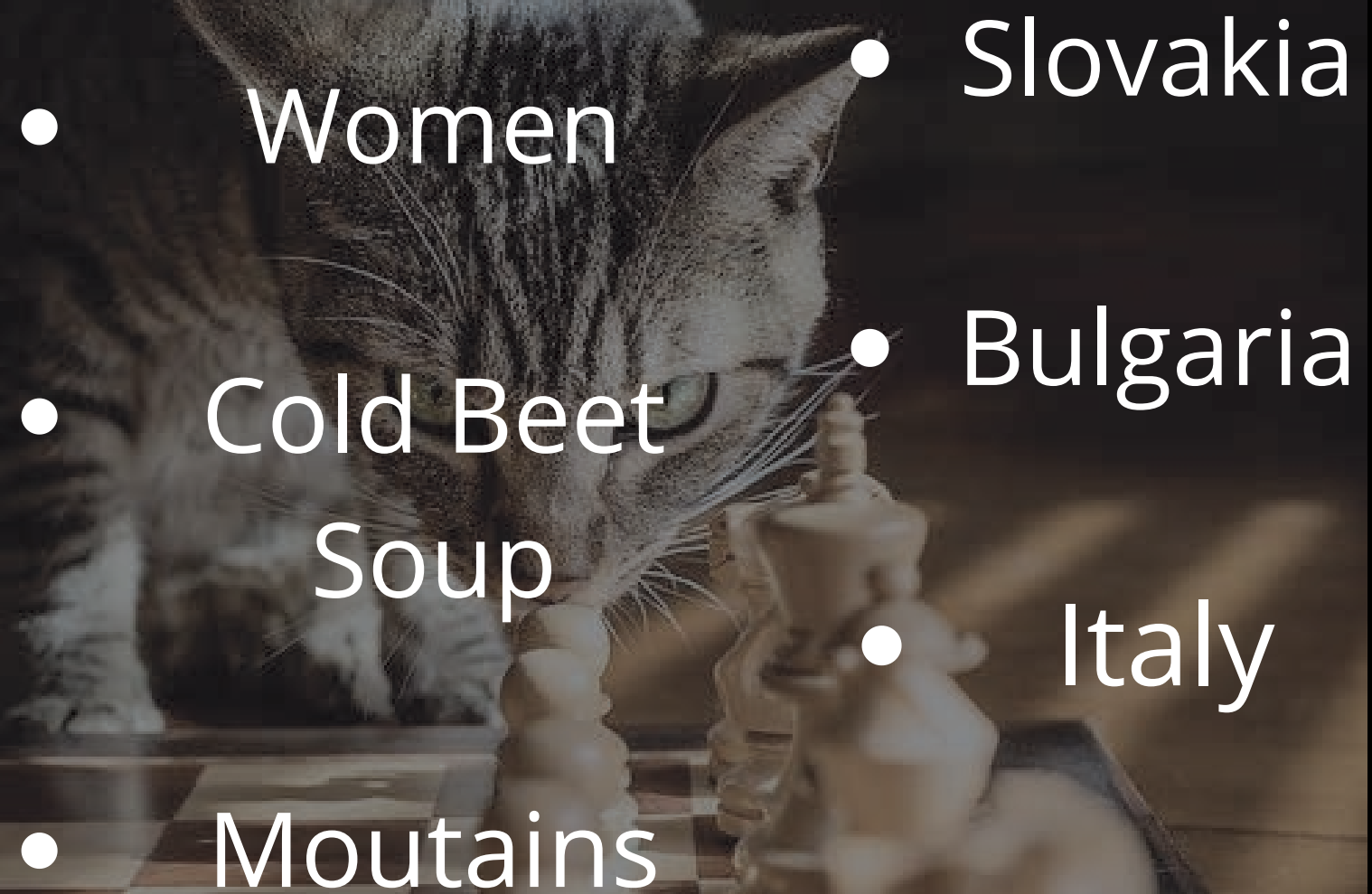
Of course, there are more examples of what would change if EU would not exist. The three examples above are provided as positive effects of EU. However, as any political alliance it has its benefits and drawbacks but I believe that Lithuania, my native country, sees more opportunity than threats and believes that life without EU would be less appealing in comparison to the benefits that we have now as the EU country.

My Country Is The Best, Because....

(Join the lines and win the big prize- a trip to one of the countries mentioned in the game)



- Architecture and Archaeology
- Lithuania

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- A close-up photograph of a tabby cat's face, looking intently at a chessboard. The cat's whiskers are prominent, and its eyes are focused on the chess pieces. The chessboard is in the foreground, with several white chess pieces (a king, a queen, and a rook) visible. The background is blurred, showing a wooden floor.
- Women
 - Slovakia
 - Cold Beet Soup
 - Bulgaria
 - Italy
 - Mountains



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