

ErasmínE+

European Youth Magazine

*Abroad
why not?*

**The future
of the EU**

**Sardinian
& Czech
culture**

EURES

WHY (NOT) TO LIVE ABROAD? TIPS & TRICKS

Why do young people have the desire to live abroad? What are the main reasons of this important and hard change that they are willing to undergo (experience)?

Well there are many of them. Visions of brighter future, better salaries, higher standards, fulfilment of the old dreams. It always looks so brightly, easily and ideally. But the reverse is true. The reality can hurt sometimes a lot.

It is a really long process before you start living abroad. Starting with the basic information you should find out about the country you want to live in, ending with the full integration into the “new” society.



Personally, I am actually “living abroad”. I come from Slovakia, but I have been living in Brno, the second biggest city of

the Czech Republic, for already four years now. I am studying pharmacy there. I have to say it was not hard to get used to the new environment. We were separated twenty-two years ago, but before that we have been one country for a long time – the Czechoslovakia. I came to live to the Czech Republic with few of my friends from my grammar school. We did not have a lot of problems with the integration in the Czech society, as we understand Czech language and the people are very nice and so similar to the Slovak people. Neither with the financial matters, as the economic situations and charges are pretty the same. The only change for us was the currency – as we have already euros from 2009 and in the Czech Republic they still have Czech crowns. I have to say that even if euro helped to raise Slovak

economy, it is much worse, because people are spending much more money and things got a little bit more expensive. I can see the difference in Brno when there is something for 100 Czech crowns, I am thinking “*oh that’s a lot of money*”, but if I was in Slovakia I would just think “*oh it’s only 3,5 € (100 czech crowns), quite cheap!*” and then I buy it. But apart from the currency I do not have any problems with the integration – neither in school, neither in society generally.

Going to live to another European country would be totally different. You always have to consider the risk: benefit ratio, like we pharmacists say. You need to think about the main reason of your decision, about your main motivation and mostly about the things you are willing to sacrifice.

From my personal experience with “living abroad”, but also working abroad in Greece and New Zealand, I am able to provide you with some useful hints.

1. The most important thing is to find the job/position well in advance to have the certainty. You will need a lot of time for another important things before coming to the new country. But be careful with signing any

document in case you change your mind ;)

2. It is very useful and more important to have some acquaintances in the country you want to work in. They can help you with a lot of needed things, explain you the differences, habits and customs that are usual in the country. They can really make you a lot of things much easier. And last but not least they can help you with the hard beginning, when you could easily start feeling desperate or lonely.

3. If you do not know anyone in the country, try to make as biggest research as possible about the place/country you want to work in. The economic situation, costs of the groceries, accommodation, transportation, currency, healthcare system, insurance, working time and working hours, climate and weather, people's nature, religion etc. A lot of work for you to do!



4. Look for the accommodation in advance. It can become a big problem if you come to the country, there is no appropriate accommodation and you cannot afford the one that is free.

5. It is always good to have some vision. For example how would you cope with the timing of your day?

6. Expectations are not bad, but remember – the lesser the better. Do not be an idealistic daydreamer. Think realistically. It is possible that your dream will not come true the way you have wished, you will not be satisfied with your job, the team in the job will not suit you. A lot of unpredictable things can happen, but try to think and always be one step ahead, even if it looks impossible. Once you make the decision, do not lose the hope and logical positivism.

To conclude, the key point is to be really well informed and prepared and to always consider the ratio risk: benefit. It is really important for you to consider your priorities (family, personal values and standards, work, religion) and according to them make this hard but life changing decision.

Best of luck!

Filip Kňáček.

THE FUTURE OF THE EU

The future of the EU certainly seems to be brilliant and interesting. I just want to emphasize that it is more complicated than we thought until today. Let me explain my point of view.

Firstly, EU is a connection of European countries. Not every country of Europe can be member of this union. For instance, Serbia is in Europe but their accession issues go not so well. It means that not so fast as the government thought. Internal problems of this country cause that Serbians can become an EU member around 2020-2022.

What about Turkey? Turkey wants to be a part of the EU but how it is possible if only 3% of this country is located in Europe. What is more important, more than 90% of EU population do not want this country to join the EU.

Secondly, let's take a look at the Schengen area. The newest problems, such as an immigration of Syrian citizens cause that this area is tinier than before and the countries are just scared of

new cultures of Muslim people.

Thirdly, there is the Eurozone. Last year, this are caused really serious problems in European economy. Greece sells their islands and houses and the prize is extremely low, so they are almost for free, as investors said. Poland has its own currency. As a result, its economy is safer. Accepting a new currency may lead to unstable economy.



Nevertheless, I would like to note that those countries which has joined above mentioned organizations actually lost their independence. Their economy and social development are under control of certain politics who are supported by the biggest membership countries. But these countries are also supported by monopolistic companies. So who dictates the rules of the EU? There are a lot of other issues related to this topic and they will be discussed in the next issue of our magazine.

Karol Gruetzmacher

ITALIAN AND SARDINIAN CULTURE

Festivities, Saint Efsio, Parigilie, Sartiglia

Globalisation has affected all the world and the phenomenon has an increasing tendency. However, there is a country that keeps its own traditions thanks to which every region maintains its specific characteristics. In Italy, only big cities have accustomed to different ways of living, accepting other cultures. But particularly in one region, customs are deeply-rooted and it is Sardinia.



Here, the religion is very important, most of the people are Catholics and in fact, many festivities are related to religious events, like for example Saint Efsio festival, where Catholic believers wearing typical dresses parade in the streets of the capital in order to thank Efsio for the plague rescue. One of the most exciting festivals is the carnival that takes place in villages situated in the centre of Sardinia, during which local people wear masks on their faces and clothes made of sheep pelt with bells on their back that ring with their every movement.

“El Sartiglia” in Oristano is also famous. It consists of an equestrian tournament in which people from many Sardinian villages ride horses while they are trying to catch a star hung on a cord.



On this occasion, people also celebrate “Le Parigilie” where the same people ride horses forming a row and doing acrobatic choreographies.



Sardinian people are very proud of their traditions and as for social interaction, they are very welcoming and benevolent. In fact, in villages located in the centre Sardinia, it is considered to be offensive when someone offers you something and you do not accept it.

Valeria Podda

TRADITIONS & CUSTOMS OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Since the Czech Republic is a country with a rich cultural history, there are plenty customs and traditions which are passed from generation to generation and therefore they are still alive. Even though many of them are related to Christian holidays, such as Christmas or Easter, most of them are of Pagan origin and they are followed by almost every Czech, no matter what religion they believe in. There are also many traditions that our country shares with its neighbours or even ulterior states, this article, however, will focus on customs which are unique and typical only for our beautiful country.

EASTER

On Easter Monday, Czech boys and men go out into the streets, from one house to another, in order to visit all the girls and women. Their visit has a special purpose though. They have to whip each person of feminine gender with a hand-made plaited osier stick. Many people from foreign countries who are not acquainted with this tradition are shocked when they learn about it because they find it sexist and violent, so we have to disabuse them of this notion. The reason why boys and men do this is actually positive – it is believed that this process is good for girls and women’s blood circulation system and they are going to be healthier afterwards.



Whipping is often accompanied with throwing girls into icy water and, as we all know, cold baths can help strengthen our immune system as well. It is clear that this tradition is blossom and give them a kiss. It is believed that those women who are not so lucky and do not get kissed under a blooming tree will wither in a year.

not very popular with girls. Still, in appreciation of this, girls give boys a ribbon for their sticks and decorated eggs that they made themselves. Since we talk about the Czech Republic, it is obvious that a shot of home-made liquor is offered to them as well.

MAY 1ST – TIME FOR LOVE

As well as almost all other countries throughout the world, the Czech Republic has been also influenced by the tradition of St. Valentine’s Day, which is celebrated in February, as a result of the globalization tendency. Nevertheless, many Czech people across all ages do not consider it to be a Czech tradition and think that it is only a commercial holiday, so they boycott it and choose another day of the year to celebrate their love. It is May 1st, which is also the Labour Day, when we express our feelings to our beloved partners. And how do we do it? It is easy. Men have to bring their lovers under a cherry tree in



traditions to find out what they can expect in the following year. For example, every member of the family makes a small boat from a walnut nutshell, put a candle in it and then all boats are floated in a sink filled with water. If the boats stick together, it means that the family will stay together as well. When someone's boat floats away from the rest, the person will probably leave the others.

Another custom foretelling the future is really simple. A person takes an apple, cuts it in half crosswise and shows it to the others. If the core is shaped as a nice star, the person is going to be happy and healthy in the next year. If not, nothing pleasant can be expected.

CHRISTMAS

In the Czech Republic, the Christmas Day takes place on December 24th, which is considered to be the most important day of Christmas holidays. We usually start this day with a cup of hot cocoa and a piece of "vánočka", typical sweet bread with raisins. The lunch is normally very simple, because we do not want to overeat and want to save some space for the upcoming dinner. However, there are also these who do not eat at all the whole day in hope of seeing a gold pig which is believed to bring good luck. The dinner consists of pea or fish soup, followed by fried carp with potato salad. As a dessert, traditional Czech Christmas sweets are served.

Before the presents brought by Christ Child are distributed from underneath the Christmas tree, families keep several

As you can see, there is a variety of different traditions which are quite unique and make the holidays more enjoyable. So if you have the opportunity to visit our country during any holidays, they are definitely worth trying.



Radka

EURES

Are you looking for a job abroad and you do not know where to start? Go and check EURES!



EURES is network that facilitates the free movement of workers with in the EU, Switzerland, Iceland, Lichtenstein and Norway.

EURES is accessible throught its web portal, where you can find a

database of vacancies in individual countries, useful information and much more in your own language.

More than a thousand of advirers working for EURES will provide you with infomation and advice related to job recruitment.

This portal, howeve, is useful not only for those looking for job, but also for employers who search for employees.

Go & check ee.europa.eu/eures.

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