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FUTURIUM

2050
Our Future

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Editorial

„Young – European – searching for the future“, that could be the motto of this edition of the magazine.

Climate change, (global) wars and civil wars, the growth of the world's population, political challenges confronting our democracies as well as the digitalization of working processes and everyday life shift young people's focus more and more on questions like "What solutions and innovations in nature, technology and society are necessary and also possible?" and "What do we expect from the future?"

At the editorial meeting at the Carl-Zeiss-Schule in Berlin, students coming from the project's partner schools - Institut Joan Brossa (Barcelona), Ogólnokształcące (Krakow), Liceo Scientifico Cavour (Rome), Tallinn 21. Kool (Tallinn) - discussed and wrote about these questions.

During the project week we also visited the recently opened "House of the Futures" - the FUTURIUM (see front page). On a visitors' tour we found ideas to our questions and got to know more about potential plans and solutions like alternatives for meat consumption, green skyscrapers, intelligent and humanoid robots, innovations in medical technologies or digitized communication, working and shopping. In some of the articles you will find photos taken at the exhibition.

This Yeurope Times edition gives a brief overview of what students expect from the future. On the one hand, the expectations are sometimes alarming but on the other hand, they show optimistic proposals for resolute action.

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Berlin, October 2019



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Europe 2050: Our Future

In contrast to the utopian depiction of the future in sci-fi films, in reality a vast majority of people expect a more dystopian one, like moving to Mars. The future is undefinable one could try to define it as something unpredictable and ever-changing while others see the future as one's destiny. How could we strive toward a better future? The answer lies in us and our actions: Fridays for Future led by young activist Greta Thunberg and the European Commission's goal to achieve net-zero gas emissions by 2050.



Europe in 2050: How Do the Young Europeans See the Future?

How do the youth envision Europe in 2050? We students who are about to finish school will be the workforce and the leaders of tomorrow but what future awaits us?

Early this year the EUISS (European Union Institute for Security Studies) released a report¹, defining the future of Europe and its role in the world.



Climate change is a major threat that will cause major economic and environmental damage. **Demography** is a challenge, population in Europe is ageing while young immigrants keep arriving. **Urbanization** is also a trend, two-thirds of people will live in cities which may lead to crime, pollution and violence if not managed properly, the abandonment of rural areas will be a consequence, too. **Technology** and **connectivity** will leap forward, artificial intelligence will rival human intelligence and internet connected devices will exceed 125 billion. **Equality** is more than labor markets and income: it is about social inclusion, political participation and equal access to opportunities. **Democracy** needs to be protected if our political systems are to survive and we want to prevent and manage conflict and counteract the emergence of populist parties. **Europe's position in the world:** in order to be an influential player in the world Europe will have to change the way it thinks about defense, diplomacy and itself.

Will the challenges mentioned above be fulfilled by 2050? We certainly endorse all of them but some issues worry us youngsters much more than the rest because if we don't tackle climate change there will be no future for us, the movement *Fridays for Future* led by young activist Greta Thunberg and massively supported by the youth across Europe is proof of this concern. Also, if we as Euro-

peans want to be role models in peacemaking and diplomacy, our leaders should forbid selling weapons to countries in conflict like some EU countries do.

David Ordóñez (Barcelona)

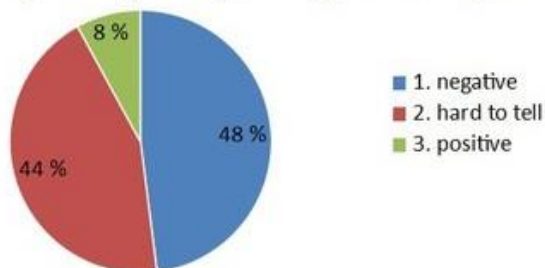
¹ <https://www.iss.europa.eu/content/global-trends-2030-%E2%80%93-challenges-and-choices-europe> *

What about our Future?

A survey among students in Cracow

Have you ever imagined our world in the year 2050? How your casual day will look like? Maybe our planet will be devastated because of global warming, or developed technology will make our life easier. Recently in our school, a survey on this subject has been taken. 29 students from 3 grades took part in the poll. Results may surprise you!

When do you think yout the year 2050, your first thought is:



Only 8% of voters' feelings about the year 2050 are positive! Young people lose faith in a better future. That's terrifying, isn't it?

We asked them about their first thought related to the year 2050. Almost half of the students told they think about natural disasters like global warming, polluted environment, lack of water and the end of the world :)

On the other hand, a different part of participants thinks about technological development. Except for these two groups, there we got answers about: overpopulation, obesity, work, war and decline in freedom of speech.

Another question in the survey was "Where do you see yourself in 30 years?".

Among the study group, two of the most popular answers are "with my family" and "at work", next is "hard to tell". Despite all these responses, there are some original ones like

"being dead", "going to jail" and "being a misunderstood philosopher in a blind society"- that's my favorite.

The last question in our survey was: "In your opinion, will mankind gain or lose by that time?"

There seems to be no surprise that the majority of the poll's participants claim that we will lose by that time. There are two times more opinions about losing human contact and interpersonal abilities. The most common answers concern the decline of mankind dignity, the depletion of natural resources and degradation.

However, there are also answers picturing a positive change. Some believe that there will be nations whose approach to the environment will change and we will be able to achieve a lot. The general development of new technics and medicine is noticed.

In summary, the future doesn't look good in teenagers' eyes. As we can see young people are aware of the current condition of our planet and they know what we should be afraid of. They are up to date with technological news. Participants of the survey seem to have a realistic viewpoint to their "close" future.

Let's be hopeful that they are wrong with all these negative visions.

Bartosz Brzeszcz (Cracow)



Europe 2050 – The road to a climate neutral economy

To overcome the detrimental impact of climate change on the economy and limit global warming to 1.5°C, the European Commission has set a long-term goal for Europe to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.



Image: <https://pixabay.com/photos/renewable-energy-renewables-solar-2232160/>

The European Union is currently responsible for 10% of global greenhouse emissions. To reach the set target of net-zero by 2050 emissions must be reduced dramatically. One viable solution for this is decarbonization. However, the transportation, manufacturing, and construction sectors will still require substantial amounts of energy. Today the major part of the energy system is based on fossil fuels. This system is not sustainable in the long run, thus the challenge for the EU to adopt renewable energy technology, which can provide a sustainable future for Europe.

Carbon capture and storage, previously seen as a key factor in decarbonizing the power sector and energy-intensive industries will most likely play a minor role, considering the rapidly deployed renewable energy technologies. However, capture and storage are likely to be needed, especially in the transitional phase, for carbon-free hydrogen production. They are necessary for achieving negative emissions by capturing CO₂ from biomass-based energy and industrial plants.

Hydrogen will most certainly have an increasingly important role in the decarbonized energy system. Hydrogen will be produced by water electrolysis using carbon-free electricity or by reforming natural gas steam using carbon

capture and storage. The produced hydrogen can then be used for the decarbonization of various industries. It can be used as power storage to accommodate for variable energy sources and as an energy carrier in heating and transportation.

To conclude, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is achievable if members of the EU cooperatively strive towards a greener future.

Karl-Kevin Kõörna & Karl Väärtnõu (Tallinn)

Mars, our “Planet B”?

It's almost 2020, and we are only now approaching the Red Planet, Mars. Launches to Mars had already begun in the 1960's, even if we had not yet been to the Moon.

Incredibly, since 2003 we have two stable rovers on Mars, Spirit and Opportunity, a rover landed in 2011 called Curiosity and another one called In-Sight that landed in 2018. At that time, the prediction for the arrival of the first man on Mars had been made for the year 2032. Nowadays we actually predict that mankind will indefinitely establish itself there in the near future. Many wonder if humans could actually benefit from the exploration of space, but it will soon be populated thanks to new technologies that will be developed in the next few years, even if it will take years for people to get used to this different kind of living. People are progressively becoming more and more interested in these scientific researches, and soon living outside of planet Earth will be publicized. There will be billboards encouraging us to start living on Mars, sports teams will no longer be sponsored by airlines and such, but by brands like SpaceX, Blue Origins, and others like them. Going into space will no longer be just a dream of a child, but it will be within everyone's reach thanks to the new space tourism.



Now we are already looking forward to the year 2100, when we will have started to colonize the Red Planet and will have planted resistant vegetation that shall make the atmosphere more livable to us humans. By that time, Mars will no longer be the so-called Planet B, to which we would flee once the Earth is destroyed in consequence to our actions. The situation will have drastically improved, and the now called point of no return, the year 2050, will be seen as a new beginning for humankind.

Francesca Zennaro, Andrea Gennari (Rome)

How do I imagine the future to be?

How will the world in 30 years look like? I think this is a question many people keep asking themselves. Today's technologies are already quite advanced. Considering the current state of IT and medicine, I think in thirty years from now on, everything will definitely be further developed:

Potentially by then, scientists have found treatments for certain diseases of whose existence we do not even know yet. Diseases such as cancer may no longer be as difficult to treat as they used to be, and they may even be able to prevent these diseases from occurring at all. In general, I think there will be great progress in the medical field, not only due to technological progress, but also due to many years of research. Moreover, we do not have to stay in annoying and crowded waiting rooms anymore. Instead, there will be

online portals or video chats with doctors for simple questions and treatments.

Besides the medical advancements, I believe we will also advance further in the field of information technology, especially when it comes to smartphones and computers. Just think about how much is already possible: one can hardly imagine what smartphones in thirty years will be capable of. It is likely that we do not have to talk with each other anymore, everything will be handled through our phones. Furthermore, I think that due to technical progress every single one will become even more alone and will hardly see the necessity to interact with others. Items or groceries can be purchased while commuting on the bus or train or wherever else. I think there will still be actual stores but cashiers will probably be replaced by self-service check-outs. Everything will work electronically.

Another advantage, which the future could hold, is a solution to the problem of pollution. Maybe there will be further developed cars whose fumes are not so harmful for our environment anymore or all vehicles could be replaced by electric cars to create a more environmentally friendly world.

In brief, I think our future will bring many fantastic and advantageous inventions that will make life even easier for us. Existing problems will be solved or at least we might get closer to a solution than we are today.

Martha-L. Karpe (Berlin)





POTSDAMER PLATZ

DB

Countries & Politics

This section focuses on the important points and facts concerning politics and the general governmental system in the European countries - something that affects everyone as it is the way society is represented. Moreover, it is a well-known fact that political decisions and movements have had a strong impact on society throughout history. The following articles centre around e-residency in Estonia, youth climate strikes, the relationship between young people and politics and a housing movement in Catalonia.

A bad relationship

Uninformed, disinterested and distant. This is the profile that characterizes the relationship between the youth's world and politics.

As the years go by, politics has become less and less a priority in kids' life, who prefer to deal with other topics: from reality shows to sports, passing for the fun of Saturday nights



or for the various social networks. But why did this happen? How can we explain this almost total indifference of young people in political life, despite it should deserve much more attention as it concerns all citizens_closely?

Answering is easy. In recent years, politics has been increasingly seen as a world apart, separated from the real life of the citizen, which prevails corruption and personal interest.



The fact that this doesn't happen with the same strength and determination does nothing but increase the distance between the two worlds, because the vocabulary of one becomes distant and incomprehensible to the other and vice versa.

The statistic that worries is that voting uninformed, many new electors don't know well who are entrusting the fate of the future governments, as if, indeed, they were all the same, while it isn't.

Moreover, the criticism of the lack of attention to politics is not just a sterile moral judgment. The lack of interest of young people for the political life of the country and for the choices that must guide it, open worrying scenarios in order to defend democratic principles and constitutional freedoms.

It is like saying that "the absent are always wrong" where the absence is to be understood as that incapacity to catch and to grasp in time authoritarian and anti-democratic signals. Therefore, what is surely desirable is that this trend is reversed, and young people begin to talk about politics, to participate in the public life of the country, to exchange points of view, supported and guided by the careful study of our past and present history.

Claudia Carbonarin (Rome)

Youth contributes to environmental care

On September 24, a youth climate strike took place in Krakow, which was attended by over 2,000 students from all high schools in Krakow. The youth took to the streets to move the Krakow authorities to act for the climate crisis. Did it succeed? - We don't know that. We hope to reduce the consumption of meat



and animal products. Not much is said about this, but the meat economy emits too much greenhouse gas into the atmosphere. Our

daily choices matter. Instead of buying another T-shirt in a chain store, let's go to a second-hand shop and give a second life to outfits. Thanks to it, you will not contribute to the slavery of young people in Asian countries and wasting water. Did you know that for one T-shirt you need over 2700 litres of water, which corresponds to the three-year demand for drinking water of each of us? Some small steps taken may change a lot.

Kinga Kowal (Cracow)
Natalia Siemińska (Cracow)
Maja Sum (Cracow)

Fridays for Future in Berlin

The biggest climate strike in Berlin took place on the 20th September, where many people came together to get across the importance of the Paris agreement to reach the essential reduction of the greenhouse gases.

“We do not trust in the promises of the politicians anymore. We will be on strike till they take action and we will only stop when the 1.5 degrees Celsius aim is guaranteed.” (Fridays For Future, FFF)

The idea of the strike was clear: #AllForTheClimate – people all over the world should start participating in the movement to achieve the much-needed change. People went out on the streets in 5400 cities in 150 countries. All in all, there were 1.4 million participants all over Germany, in Berlin there were 270 000. The young people were especially motivated to take part in the event as it was an intriguing day for the citizens.

On the one hand, the so-called “Climate Cabinet” of the German government came together to publish the “climate package”, a proposal of different policies to reduce the CO₂ until 2030. On the other hand, the climate conference of the United Nations in



New York was the reason for the demonstrations. The message: We must implement the Paris agreement (1.5°C aim) to reach the essential reduction of the greenhouse gases as fast as possible.

Fridays for Future Germany suggests special aims and actions, for instance: By 2030 abandonment of coal mining production.

By 2035 reduction of the output of climate-wrecking gases to zero in total assets – 15 years earlier than it has been expected & energy from 100% renewable sources

The manifestation started at the Brandenburg Gate. Students, adults, parents with their kids as well as famous organisations like Greenpeace or Bread for the World participated. Although speeches were given, it was so overcrowded that the majority of the people could not hear or make sense of them.

The participants were standing between the Brandenburg Gate and Friedrichstraße, the protestors filled 1.2 km avenue, while the programme was still on when the crowd

started walking towards the government building. There you could see posters, banners and the demonstrators singing the slogan of the movement: “What do we want? – Climate Justice! - When do we want it? - Now!”

To sum up that Friday, many people took part in the climate demonstration. Berlin has 3.7 million inhabitants and 270 000 came to the climate strike, though climate change affects all of our lives.

Anna Sperlich (Berlin)

Assemblies for Housing in Catalonia

What is an Assembly for Housing?

It is a self-managed assembly structure which offers support to neighbours affected by housing problems and is formed by people who are concerned about this issue.



What are their goals?

It is a very embryonic movement and as such, there is still an ongoing debate. There will be a congress but for now, it is aimed at building an assembly in the neighbourhood to set up a workers' movement and structures of counter-power such as popular schools so that migrated people can learn Catalan, popular gymnasiums for young people in the neighbourhood evidently without the support and in fact against the government.

How are they organized?

Assemblies where there is no organizational model set up by means of various commissions. Like many other social movements, they use social networks to spread information and mobilise people.

What is the history behind the housing movement?

The serious housing problem we are currently experiencing is not new. For many decades, the so-called "real estate lobby", made up of developers, banks, national and international banking entities and (very important) public institutions, has made and makes real estate business one of the most important pillars of the economy and the production system in Spain. The promotion of private property, liberalization and speculation with the developable land, the unregulated construction of houses and buildings or the indebtedness of vulnerable sectors have been the usual prac-

tice. With the brutal arrival of the mortgage crisis, the contradiction has become more evident than ever: housing cannot be both a profitable business and a basic necessity that has to be available fairly and equally to everybody.

Abril Rasúa (Barcelona)

E-residency

E-residency is a program launched by Estonia on 1 December 2014. Estonia is the first country to offer e-residency. This program allows global citizens to access Estonian services such as company formation, banking, payment processing, and taxation. The program is perfect for digital nomads, freelancers and start-up companies. By 18 January 2015, there had been applications from 225 countries, most of them from Finland (224), Russia (109), Latvia (38), the United States (34) and Great Britain (22). E-residency has brought Estonia a direct economic profit of 25 million euros in 5 years.

E-residency has several benefits. It allows company registration, document signing, encrypted-document exchange, online banking and fulfilment of medical prescriptions. E-resident can be entirely location independent - you can start a company 100% online from



anywhere in the world and you can move abroad without the need to re-establish your company. It has been beneficial for internet entrepreneurs in emerging markets who do not have access to an online payment provider, and for start-ups from countries such as Ukraine or Belarus which suffer financial limitations from their governments. The Estonian virtual residency program shows how established nations may also adopt similar strategies to micronations (online citizenship applications), providing an example of what citizenship might look like in a post-national world.

Sadly, there have been some issues with the program. In 2017, the Estonian government froze the digital ID cards of the e-residency program, two months after discovering a major security flaw that could enable identity theft. There are also some concerns in relation to banking. Banks have shut down several e-resident accounts because they are not able to audit the person's identity fully and that may lead to a higher chance of money laundering.



E-residency has had a massive impact on global entrepreneurship and of course Estonia's reputation as an "e-country".

Merili Saamere (Tallinn)

* Image on page 4

[url=https://flic.kr/p/LFaPH9][img]https://live.staticflickr.com/1828/29322957638_1e071a9ae2_6k.jpg[/img]/url][url=https://flic.kr/p/LFaPH9]The future is Europe: street art on Rue de la Loi, Brussels[/url] by [url=https://www.flickr.com/photos/126337928@N05/]Jeremy Seartoff/url]. en Flickr



Berlin: Reichstag building. Home of the German Parliament

Culture & Science

Culture is what makes a population different from another, it is an identity we are born with. Culture and science go hand in hand - with the advancement of science, culture changes also. Some countries have strong ancient traditions while others live their culture through science and technology always in search of new ways of living.

In this section, we will explore the differences between old deeply-rooted traditions and the new discoveries that could be part of our culture in the foreseeable future. We will talk about how the job of musicians is changing, driverless buses in Tallinn, how a Polish video game became famous all around the world, a Spanish festival and a historical palace in Germany.

Please don't stop the Music!

At this moment in history, the future is our generation's biggest concern. If our only home, the Earth, is at stake, so are our futures. Many jobs, with the ever-growing phenomenon of digitalization, will probably risk disappearing: one of them is that of the musician. By this, it doesn't mean that music itself will never be made again: it means that musicians specialized in playing one or a few instruments will most likely be out of a job in the next couple of years.



The digital composition of music is, in fact, enabling some people to make money out of music without ever having to study it or even playing an instrument, making it almost impossible for musicians to earn a living out of music. Instrumental musicians nowadays usually end up supporting singers or orchestras on their tours, which prevents them from fully developing their own art. To avoid the profession of the musician from disappearing, everyone should start supporting their art by purchasing, digitally or in other forms, their music and stop streaming or illegally downloading it.



*Francesco Contarino
Giulia Di Luzio
Francesca Zennaro
(Rome)*

Driverless buses

As Tallinn's population grows, the city's road network faces more cars and larger and heavier freight vehicles. Tallinn is looking at how innovative solutions can be implemented using connected and autonomous vehicles for both passengers and goods.



Tallinn Transport Department in cooperation with Tallinn University of Technology have launched a driverless bus project within the framework of which a driverless bus will be introduced to a circuit surrounding Kadriorg Park for a six-month period beginning in October 2019. The project brings knowledge and competence in organizing environmentally friendly and smart automated public transport. The bus drives with guidance by cameras, laser radars, and a master controller.

Driverless vehicles can reduce traffic congestion because they can travel more efficiently. They follow fixed routes, which are simpler to handle than the various complicated routes a taxi or car usually travels. More busses mean fewer vehicles on the road overall, and as a result, major benefits for our planet.

However, this technology hasn't developed to the point where autonomous vehicles can drive during serious weather conditions such as heavy snow or rain. Additionally, they can't read hand signals so while self-driving vehicles do recognize other cars and people on the road, they don't yet recognize the actions of traffic cops directing traffic or cyclists making a lane change.

Self-driving technology is growing more and more sophisticated, which is good news for people who rely on cars or buses as their main source of transport.

Paula Mõik (Tallinn)

La Mercè festival: Tradition and Modernity

Every September, Barcelona's local festival, La Mercè, fills the city with hundreds of cultural and recreational activities. From the traditional human towers gatherings, parades and fire runs, to concerts, shows, street art, children's activities and a special programme devoted to sustainability and sports.

Popular culture and tradition

During the festivities, the various cultural groups in the city help everyone to engage with popular culture and tradition. The streets host all sorts of festive figures, with giants, dwarfs, and fire beasts. The main events are human towers gatherings, fire runs, parades, and exhibitions of popular culture with giants, dragons and beasts.



Light and fire

Video mappings are projected onto the façade of the City Hall. The beach is the place to go for fireworks, with an International Fireworks Festival being held there and the traditional fireworks and music show finale that rounds off the celebrations.

Mercè Street Arts (MAC) and Live Music Concerts

As part of the festivities for La Mercè, the MAC Festival (Mercè Street Arts) selects and promotes shows featuring dance, circus, street theatre, mime and other forms of multidisciplinary technologies displaying the latest artistic trends from home and abroad. More than a hundred concerts make up the festival programme catering for all tastes and audiences.

Associate a la Festa

Another part of La Mercè is *Associa't a la Festa*, a festival to experience and celebrate the role of associations. The emphasis is on co-production and collaborative work carried out with local residents offering different activities designed for all audiences to take part in.

Sustainability and sports

Car Free Day, an event which forms part of European Mobility Week, is also part of the celebrations. The streets become a green space for people to relax and play in, reconquered by citizens and offering peace and quiet and all sorts of recreational activities inviting people to redefine their relationship with the asphalt for a while. Sport also plays a part in the festivities for La Mercè, from athletics to adapted football, the now-traditional mass fitness class, beach rugby, kite skating, chess and beach volleyball.

Theodora Geuther (Barcelona)

Photo: sean-do-EHLd2utEf68-unsplash

Turning Passion into Profit

CD Project Red is a company that promotes Polish video games. On 19.05.2015 the whole world heard about the CD Project Red. It was the day when “The Witcher* 3: Wild Hunt” had its premiere. It is the third and the last part of the trilogy about the white-haired protagonist – Geralt of Rivia. The trilogy is based on books written by Andrzej Sapkowski, a famous Polish fantasy writer. The game was a global success and the number of sold copies exceeded 33 million.



But, how did they manage to make something that huge out of a simple hobby and a free-time pursuit? Was it a good idea for two teenagers to make video games in their twenties? Of course, it was. Two pals from the same class found it to their cost. As for Poland, it was the time of change.

The business was booming, and stock markets started to play a role. To gain access to the newest games, those two buds made contact with foreign developers. As their hobby started to be more important in their lives, they decided to set up their own company. That's how in 1994 CDP.pl was created. Initially, they were importing games from the USA. They made deals with such companies as American Laser Games, Acclaim, Blizzard, Blue Byte, Interplay and Psygnosis. In 1996

CDP released first games with Polish instructions in unique boxes with Polish text on them. It turned out to be a brilliant idea. Their next milestone was the production of “Baldur’s Gate” which was sold in 100 000 copies.



After a few years, the company changed the name to CD project Red Studio and started to develop the first watcher game. After 4 years the game was ready to release and during the first 3 days, 35 000 copies were sold in Poland. The Witcher earned more than 100 prestige awards from critics such as Game Spot, GameSpy and IGN for the best RPG. As their success continued, they decided to make their gaming platform – GoG Galaxy. The same year when the first game had its premiere, another one was announced – The Witcher 2: Assassins of Kings. Fans had to wait another 4 years to play their most anticipated game of 2011. Assassins of Kings doubled the profits of its precursor and even Barack Obama has a copy of that game! It was given to him as a present by our former prime minister – Donald Tusk. In 2012 CDP announced that they were working on their newest product – Cyberpunk 2077.

In 2015 one of the most important premieres of the decade took place – The Witcher 3 Wild Hunt. During the first 6 weeks, The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt was sold in 6 million copies and throughout the rest of the year it earned over 300 critic awards, 5 Golden Joy-

stick Awards 2015 and was considered by many as the best game of 2015. Now, after 2 huge expansions of The Witcher 3, CD project Red focuses on their latest project – Cyberpunk 2077 whose premiere is planned on 16.04.2020.

If there was one thing that we could consider the moral of that story it would be that over-used phrase: chase your dreams.

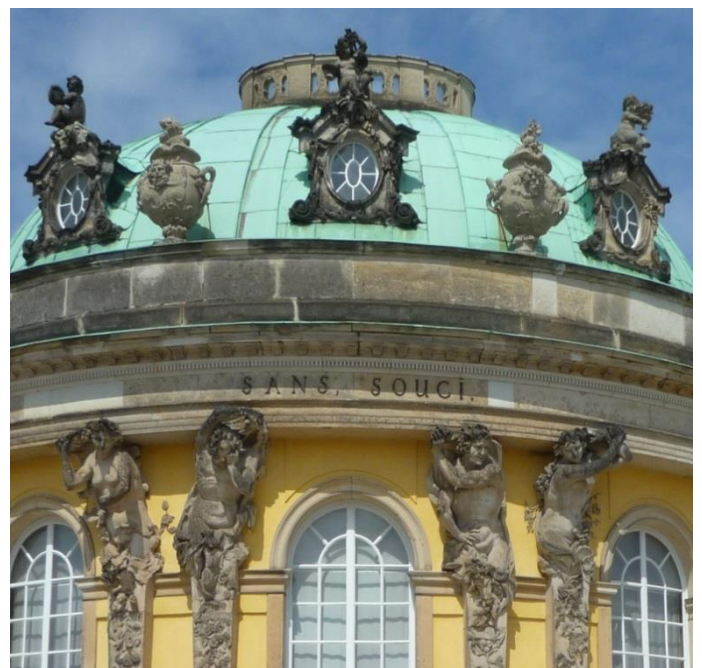
Filip Konopka (Cracow)

* *The game is only for people of the age of 18+*

Sanssouci – a short trip to the surroundings of Berlin

About one hour from the city center of Berlin (by train) you arrive at the palaces and parks of Sanssouci.

The ensemble belongs to the UNESCO World Heritage and is one of the most well-known sights as well as museums of Berlin and Potsdam. The palace was built between 1745 and 1747. The architect Georg Wenzeslaus von Knobelsdorff designed the building, together with the King of Prussia Friedrich II. (Frederick II), also called „the



Great“ because of his political and military success.

Frederick had the idea of a palace in proximity to his capital Berlin. He gave the castle the name “Sanssouci“, (French: sans Souci = without a care) and this tiny palace became the most favorite home of the King. After the German reunification, in accordance with Frederick’s will, his casket was laid to rest in the terrace of the vineyard of Sanssouci. No wonder, because the building looks delightful and even the parks around the palace are so beautiful.

The park consists of several so-called garden parts. It means that the park has a number of subject areas, e.g. the Nordic and the Sicilian gardens.

In addition, vis á vis the palace, there is the “Ruinenberg“ (ruins hill), and on top of it Frederick had a fountain built. The architect of Sanssouci, the above-mentioned von Knobelsdorff and the theatre painter Innocente Bellavite decorated the hill with artificial ruins and Roman columns. Incidentally, the hill also got its name from these ruins. However, the fountain did not remain for a long time. Because of technical difficulties the project had to be cancelled.

Frederick (called “Old Fritz“ by the people) did not only beautify the park but also the west and east wings of the palace were re-

built: the east wing became a picture gallery, in which, like the name suggests, paintings are exhibited. The west wing became the “guest palace“, which got the name “New Chambers“. The name comes from the fact that it was originally an orangery, which was refurbished, turning it into a guest house.

But unlike one might suspect, renewing his home every so often was not the king’s interest, rather the opposite is true. Frederick did not like modifications and renovations and by that fact, the rooms were only redecorated occasionally. That serves as one reason that Sanssouci still has its old-fashioned charm.

As you can see, Frederick the Great loved his palace so much. Of course, there were reasons for that. In Sanssouci, Frederick could relax very well outside the hustle and bustle of the city of Berlin. And after his wars or conquests, he spent most of the year at Sanssouci Palace, where he was able to pursue music and poetry, his secret passions. It is believed that the king called his palace „Sanssouci“ because that was the motto of his life: living without any trouble and this palace and park area was a location to relax, to reflect and to recreate.

In summary, one could say a beautiful palace with a little less beautiful background. Nevertheless, you should visit the palace and parks of Sanssouci if you will stay in Berlin.

Renée Pielenz and Mila Lüdicke (Berlin)



Leisure & Entertainment

In this section, the articles will give you ideas to fill your free time. You will read about Estonian escape rooms and vegan cafes, the best movies and TV series according to German students, post-apocalyptic situations that might occur in the future, digital love with artificial intelligence and about the experience of a student who studied in the Philippines for a year.

In the section *Leisure and Entertainment*, you will find a bunch of articles that can help you find ideas to fill your spare time.

You will read about escape rooms, (mostly) vegan cafes and their development, a student who studied abroad and a list of film- and series recommendations if you don't know what you want to watch. Also, you're going to ask yourself if loving a non-human program is possible and how a post-apocalyptic world would look like.

Life in Post-Apo World

There's a lot of predictions of how the future will look like. Most of them are some of along the of technological utopias or a perfect world without problems. And we have to admit that this kind of future is the one we would prefer. But there is always the other side of every medal. A whole "post-apo" genre focuses on predicting how our planet will look like but with a little bit more cynicism than its perfect



cousin because it's all about life on Earth after a worldwide apocalypse. But that begs a question: "Would anybody like that kind of future?"

Well... for some people it would be just interesting to see something different. For others... I'm sure everyone has their reason. But we can't deny that there is a lot of fans of this

genre. From books, through movies to games, our culture is filled with apocalyptic visions of our world, each one more unique than the last. Yet it's called "post-apo" for good reason. It's not about the total extinction of life caused by a big apocalypse. It's about the few remaining humans trying to survive a barren wasteland that their planet has become.

One of the most successful franchises of this genre is "Metro". Started by Dmitry Glukhovskiy with his first book "Metro 2033". The "Metro" franchise has now grown to a pop culture giant. The whole story is set within the Moscow Metro, where the last survivors are hiding after a global nuclear holocaust. It explores the everyday life in the Russian underground as people are struggling to find food, survive the attacks of mutants, stay sane and not give in to the madness that their life has

become. Seventeen years have passed since the release of the first book and there are two sequels, three games and one movie in production. So, we have to admit that what happens inside of the Russian tunnels has to be pretty interesting.



There are plenty of other predictions about the apocalypse that will destroy almost all mankind as we know it. You can find zombies, aliens or even super-intelligent robots. But what separates “Metro” from all of it, is its realism. We have the technology to turn this fiction into real life, so maybe that is what’s interesting about it. But let’s not freak about the possibility of nuclear war. After all, it’s all just “fiction” ... right?

Paweł Górnjak (Cracow)

„Her“ - Is Digital Love Possible?

„Her“ is a film directed by spike Jonze settled in a future that touches themes such as artificial intelligence and consciousness.

Joaquin Phoenix plays the role of Theodore, who works for a website that writes personal handwritten letters on behalf of other people. He’s a lonely man, suffering from a recent divorce and unable to move on from his previous relationship.

However, his life changes completely after buying an operating system that has an arti-

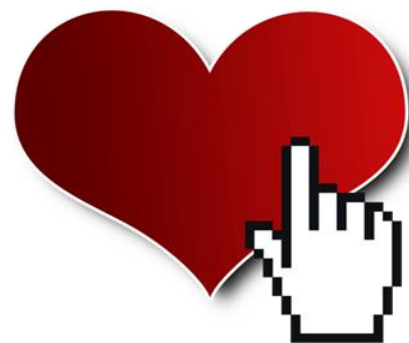
cial intelligence. Theodore gives to the OS a female voice, and Samantha, as she names herself is constantly evolving she feels human emotions and develops a human consciousness even if she’s not sure if it’s up to her to decide what emotions to feel or if she’s programmed to feel that way.

Theodore starts speaking to Samantha more and more using some kind of headphones and they start to fall in love with each other, or at least he does, and she acts in the same way as him.

She’s so sad about not having a body and not being a real human, but they still fall in love seriously and start going out with other couples, since they feel like a normal couple, and they even go on holiday together.

One day, since Samantha doesn’t answer anymore Theodore goes crazy, then he finds out that she just disconnected for a brief amount of time. As he asks her if she’s talking with someone else simultaneously, he discovers that she talks to around 8000 other people at the same time and she’s in love with 641 of them.

At the end, Samantha tells Theodore that she has to go forever, as every OS, since they are all going to be disconnected permanently.



cursor-Gerd Altmann

This movie brings to the surface a question: “Is it possible to fall in love with a non-human partner?” In nowadays society we interact more and more often with people through the internet, sometimes even with people, we’ve never met in real life. Is there a difference,

then, between real people and extremely developed artificial intelligences, if we never actually get to meet them? In the movie the question is not fully answered, giving the spectator the possibility to think about it on its own.



handshake-3382503_1920 Gerd Altmann

In fact, as Theodore considers his relation as a regular one, even the spectator couldn't tell that he is speaking to a computer without knowing it from the beginning and while they are falling love with each other, the only thing you can notice is that he becomes a lot happier and more confident with himself.

Alssia Pittacio (Rome)

Entertainment in Estonia

In the recent years, the number of different escape rooms in Estonia has grown rapidly. Even though most of them are located in the capital of Estonia, Tallinn, anyone can easily find escape rooms in smaller towns as well, for instance, Pärnu and Tartu. Some of the most remarkable ones in Tallinn are "Claustrophobia", "No Exit" and "Exit Room". There are various themes to choose from when it comes to the escape rooms: KGB, asylums, prisons, haunted chambers and so on. Therefore, anyone can find something suitable. In addition, there are quite a few entertainment areas and parks in the countryside. One of the most intriguing ones is an "Eiffel Tower Amusement Park" in Hiiumaa, which is the second-largest island in Estonia. The main sight is the single-handedly constructed high-rising wooden replica of the Eiffel Tower. Moreover, there are other fun activities as

well, for example, trampolines and a fun quiz room.

In addition to exciting escape rooms, a lot of new cafes and restaurants have been opened in Estonia, each one of them usually has their own niche. Most of the newer cafes are all about organic and vegan food, which has been growing in popularity in the recent years. For example, this spring cafe Lisanna was opened in the Old Town, it only offers vegan coffee, snacks, cakes and so on. The vegan communities have expressed concern over people working in restaurants/cafes not being aware of what "vegan" means, which can cause a lot of problems. Having successful vegan restaurants and cafes might set an example for others and let vegans and vegetarians have meals without concern over what is in the food. I am sure that in the future there will be even more vegan-oriented restaurants because meat production is one of the leading causes of global warming.

Birgit Saar, Jelizaveta Potapenkova (Tallinn)

My Top 10 Movies and Series

Who does not know this situation – You want to watch a movie at home, but you don't have any idea what. Sometimes friends of mine ask me if I could give any recommendation for a Netflix broadcast.

I created a list with – in my eyes – popular series and movies for everyone who struggles with the same problem. I'm very sorry



that some series are Netflix originals and if you do not have the possibility to watch Netflix. But let's start! I start with series and movies for everybody who likes mystical and magical ones.

Series

1. The Vampire Diaries
2. Stranger Things
3. The Order
4. Chilling Adventure with Sabrina
5. Dark
6. Riverdale
7. Pretty Little Liars
8. Elite
9. The Purge
10. The A-List

Movies

1. Fantastic beasts
2. Lord of the rings
3. Harry Potter
4. Maleficent
5. Jumanji 1,2,3
6. Jurassic Park
7. Jurassic World
8. The Hobbit
9. The Purge
10. Maze Runner



You will read about other categories in the next editions.

Julina Drieschner (Berlin)

Studying Abroad as a Teenager

Imagine that you are a 15-year-old teenager who has been invited to studying the Philippines for a whole school year. Would you have the courage to take the opportunity right away?

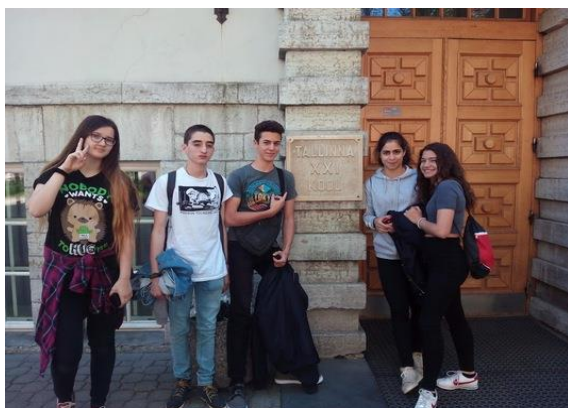


My name is Jordi Ramirez, I'm 17 years old and currently living back home, in Barcelona, but only a few months ago I was seven thousand miles away. Ever since I was a kid I wanted to study abroad, to learn a new language, to meet new people, to discover new cultures ... In September 2017 I was lucky to be selected to take part in this Erasmus+ project and in May 2018 I travelled to Tallinn as part of the Barcelona delegation. I believe it was the last push I needed to fulfil my dream. Around Christmas 2017 an old childhood friend who had moved to the Philippines invited me to spend a school year with him. It sounded tempting but very intimidating, too. After my Erasmus experience, I just couldn't refuse such an opportunity and so a few

months later I was in an eighteen-hours flight headed to the Philippines.

At first, I had mixed feelings about this new country. I loved the country as a whole, but at the same time, I was scared to start school. The first difficulty I encountered was the language and it took me almost a month to be able to speak fluent English. I also had some difficulties adapting to the culture. The Philippines is a very conservative country where respect is essential. Last but not least, it was sometimes hard to deal with the feeling of homesickness.

Despite the difficulties, I enjoyed one of the best years of my life. I travelled a lot around the country, visited many islands, a lot of cities and paradisiac beaches. I got to try all sort of Asian dishes, from Filipino food to Chinese, Korean and, my favourite, Japanese. I discovered a whole different culture and lifestyle. I met new people and made really good friends, improved my English more than I could have ever imagined and became wiser academically and socially.



This experience was clearly life-changing for me, at such an early age, I put myself through new situations that taught me tons of lessons and made me grow up as a person. To anyone who is thinking about studying abroad, I can only encourage them to do it. Don't be scared, gather courage to make the decision and do it with a positive and open mind and then you will be ready to enjoy every bit of the experience.

Jordi Ramírez (Barcelona)



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