1. Contemporary Austrian writer Marc Elsberg points out controversies around the technological progress of humankind in his science thriller *Blackout*.
2. We have more and more new technological devices in our houses. We can’t wait to use the latest model of a mobile phone or Software-Update. New technologies affect every area of our life. They’re making our life easier and simpler, but are they making it safer, too?
3. Are the new technologies only beneficial for us? Are they always used to the advantage of people? Unfortunately, not. Imagine that this beautiful view of a city at night suddenly turns into Blackout! It would be a total disaster. It is unlikely, but not impossible…
4. Now imagine.....Electricity power cut happens on one winter day all over Europe. All the lights are out and Europe is submerged in darkness. Road accidents are taking place in every city, people get stuck in the underground and at the airports. Several days later the situation hasn’t improved. There is a lack of water and heating in most houses. No one can buy food or the basic necessities. Pan-European chaos is inevitable. Everything is caused by an electronic terrorist attack…
5. And here we can see the value of our book. Firstly, it makes us aware, how dependant our civilization is on electricity. Secondly, the book shows a dark scenario of events whose likelihood is higher in a situation where most aspects of our everyday life depend on technology. The most important thing is that the book makes you think about the question: “Are we ready for the blackout?
6. For discussion in Forum 02. Limits of civilization progress, we propose the following topic: “Can new technologies pose a danger for humankind?”
7. We have formulated the problem as follows: Are we following the right path? Can technology be used against us? Are new technologies safe?
8. A quotation that we have chosen from this book is:

“**-** Does it matter today? - wondered the chancellor – if they're attacking us via the internet, they can do it from any place in the world.”