

A photograph of a forest with tall trees and green foliage, serving as the background for the text.

Youth in Action

migration

not a single story

25th August – 1st September 2014
Mtirala, Georgia
International Youth Exchange

Dear reader,

the booklet that you are just about to read has a simple message: Migration is not a simple, black and white phenomenon and the people who's life is somehow influenced by migration are not at all the same, as we sometimes tend to imagine them, basing on our experience with stereotypical images that too often appear in the mainstream media. There are many stories, many different personalities and identities, various motivations for leaving one's home and settling down in a new place.

This publication is an outcome of an 8-days outdoor Youth Exchange of the same name, that took place in August 2014 in Mtirala National Park in Georgia. During this project 32 young people from Georgia, Czech Republic, Turkey, France and Republics of Chechnya and Ingushetia with migrant backgrounds met. Every single participant shared his or her own life stories and at the same time all the participants had a chance to discover the stories of the others from their own or from a foreign country.

The main idea behind this project was to explore different versions of migration throughout Europe.

According to the United Nations', one of many different definitions of migration, a migrant is "any person who lives temporarily or permanently in a country where he or she was not born, and has acquired some significant social ties to this country." We can say, that in our project we gathered people with many different motivations for migration, representing nearly all the types of migration: There were students who moved to another country to reach better education, labour migrants, refugees, IDPs, volunteers, travelers, youngsters from families of mixed nationalities...

In this booklet you can find outcomes of our common work, when the participants tried to record and share the stories using various media tools. All of them can be also found on our website: <http://migration-story.tumblr.com/>.

Please read and watch the stories with an open mind and open heart. Enjoy them and don't hesitate to share them with your friends because this is the only way how more than a single story can be heard!

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Youth in Action
migration **n**
not a single story



WELCOME TO MTIRALA!
Watch the introduction video by Ayup on:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFNmYeiTLNQ>

Youth in Action
migration
not a single story

Sometimes words themselves may mean more than sentences.

When we migrate we may become lost in our identities, become a persons without borders - sometimes even without home.

We carried out an experiment during a youth project - we asked each participant to share their first association connected to the same seven words:

FREEDOM, BORDERS, LOVE, VIOLENCE, MINORITY, OTHERS and ME.

We wanted the participants to dig deep down into their minds and vanished memories to search for stories hidden in a simple symbol of one word.

We wanted to show, that:
We may speak different languages, but there are meanings that we share.

LEO
France

Freedom - Peace
Borders - Crossing
Love - Relation
Violence - Hurts
Minority - Creativity
Others - Happiness
Me - You



LEILA
France

Freedom - Liberty
Borders - Stupidity
Love - Family
Violence - Murder
Minority - Respect
Others - Siblings
Me - Selfish



EKA
Georgia

Freedom - Educa-
tion
Borders - Being
Locked
Love - Heaven
Violence - Hell
Minority - Discri-
mination
Others - Curiosity
Me - Discover



GUJI
Georgia

Freedom - Love
Borders - Countries
Love - Girlfriend
Violence - War
Minority - Majority
Others - Stranger
Me - Guji



KLÁRKA
Czech republic

Freedom - Caucasus
Borders - Pain
Love - Eternity
Violence - War
Minority - Super
Others - Entertainment
Me - Non-formal
education



ROBIN
Czech republic

Freedom - Me
Borders - Nations
Love - Women
Violence - Hate
Minority - Respect
Others - Commonness
Me - Human

AYUP
Ingushetia

Freedom - Ingushetia
Borders - Poland
Love - Tragedy
Violence - Revenge
Minority - 300
Spartans
Others - People
Me - Person



VAKHA
Ingushetia

Freedom - Equality
Borders - Difficulties
Love - Good
Violence - Evil
Minority - Power
Others - Creatures
Me - Muslim

CAN
Turkey

Freedom - Pigeons
Borders - Frustration
Love - Purity
Violence - Sabertooth
Minority - Lackness
Others - Pokemon
Me - Limitless



ZUZKA
Slovakia

Freedom - Mind
Borders - No
Love - Yourself
Violence - Suffering
Minority - Originality
Others - Family
Me - Us



TIMA
Chechen republic

Freedom - War
Borders - Obstacle
Love - Dream
Violence - Weapons
Minority - Pinching
Others - Crowd
Me - Melancholy



DZHA
Chechen republic

Freedom - Comfort
Borders - Control
Love - Dream
Violence - Blood
Minority - LGBT
Others - Space
Me - Different

LOUISE
France

Freedom - Equality
Borders - Crossing
Love - Happiness
Violence - Fear
Minority - Battle
Others - Meetings
Me - Twins



NICO
France

Freedom - Travel
Borders - Control
Love - Happiness
Violence - Hurt
Minority - Identity
Others - Strangers
Me - Willing

SEDA
Turkey

Freedom - Every-
thing
Borders - Remove
Love - Like
Violence - Prohi-
bition
Minority - Possible
Others - Hobby
Me - Freedom



TANJU
Turkey

Freedom - Fly
Borders - Suicide
Love - God
Violence - Father
Minority - Pomakians
Others - Respect
Me - Forever



MARI
Georgia

Freedom - Bird
Borders - Cage
Love - Heart
Violence - Hate
Minority - Sadness
Others - Strangers
Me - Life



GIO
Georgia

Freedom - Jail
Borders - People
Love - Sex
Violence - Gun
Minority - Majority
Others - Hell
Me - Awesome



ELIŠKA

Czech republic

Freedom - Travel

Borders - Policeman

Love - Heart

Violence - Gun

Minority - Roma

Others - Public
transportation

Me - Happiness



VILIAM

Slovakia

Freedom - Education

Borders - Obstruction

Love - Sharing

Violence - War

Minority - Home

Others - Variety

Me - Choices



GURANDA
Georgia

Freedom - Educa-
tion
Borders - No Choice
Love - Respect
Violence - Humi-
liation
Minority - Intere-
sting
Others - Friends
Me - Development



TORNIKE
Georgia

Freedom - Wolf
Borders - Limitless
Love - Amazing
feeling
Violence - Injustice
Minority - Big force
Others - Not defined
Me - Just me



BEKKHAN
Chechen republic

Freedom - War
Borders - Azerbaijan
Love - Borders
Violence - Pressure
Minority - Chechens
Others - People
Me - You



ALI
Chechen republic

Freedom - Chechnya
Borders - Stone
Love - Girl
Violence - War
Minority - Pigeys
Others - Russians
Me - Juice



EKUNA
Georgia

Freedom - Respon-
sibility
Borders - Problems
Love - Comfort
Violence - Lack of
humanity
Minority - Diver-
sity
Others - Discrimi-
nation
Me - Individual



GABRIEL
Turkey

Freedom - Braveheart
Borders - Nation
Love - Happy
Violence - Women
Minority - Christia-
nity
Others - Neighbors
Me - Sad

KUBRA
Turkey

Freedom - People
Borders - Country
Love - Boyfriend
Violence - Angry
Minority - Group
Others - Foreign
Me - Smile



ERSEL
Turkey

Freedom - Palestine
Borders - Greece
Love - Istanbul
Violence - People
Minority - Rights
Others - Me
Me - Vanishing



JAN

Czech republic

Freedom - Independence

Borders - Limitation

Love - Commitment

Violence - Hate

Minority - Right

Others - Complications

Me - Personality



VOJTA

Czech republic

Freedom - Ocean

Borders - Limits

Love - Animals

Violence - Blood

Minority - Pressure

Others - Worries

Me - Warrior

ANNE-LAURE
France

Freedom - Rainbow
Borders - Red
Love - Sky
Violence - Gun
Minority - Small
Others - Dark
Me - Free



BRIA
France

Freedom - Choice
Borders - History
Love - Life
Violence - Power
Minority - Discrimi-
nation
Others - Human being
Me - Free

LELA
Czech republic

Freedom - Choice
Borders - Overcoming
Love - Warm feeling
Violence - Fear
Minority - Oppres-
sion
Others - Challenge
Me - Adventure



MAREK
Slovakia

Freedom - Air
Borders - Discrimi-
nation
Love - End
Violence - Domination
Minority - Homo-
sexuals
Others - Envy
Me - Journalist

Interviews prepared and realized by Guranda, Mari, Vojta,
Robin, Leila and Marek.
Foto by Lela

2 ANECDOTES



STORY OF GABI'S PARENTS

Gabi's mother comes from Syria, city of Qamishli. Her father, Gabi's grandpa would always dream about visiting Istanbul. His dream came true once when they took a trip to Turkey in 1984, together with his daughter. Gabi's father Aydin lived in Istanbul. By coincidence, they met one day on the street at place called Büyükçekmece. They talked and both of them were very sad when Güler had to return to Syria. They promised each other to keep in touch. At that time the only option was to send each other letters, so they were writing long tender messages, adding sweets and small gifts.

One day, after two years from their first meeting, the letter from Aydin contained something more - a ring, marriage proposal.

Watch a Story of Gabi's parents

on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqUZempdQGG>

2 ANECDOTES



STORY OF SEDA

Seda comes from Turkey. She got very enthusiastic about the opportunity to be part of youth organizations and participating in youth projects in other countries, where she can meet and learn together with youngsters from all around Europe, as well as to practice her English skills. The first trip she was supposed to take was to Macedonia. She didn't speak much English at that time. At the border she was approached by a policeman, who was crudely asking her documents, talking to her in Macedonian and English. She gave him her passport but still the border policeman was requesting something more. As she was alone, she got very stressed and could not find out what it was. Without being offered any help, Seda was sent back to Turkey. After she found out that the required document was an invitation letter, hidden in her backpack.

Watch Story of Seda on:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_zAUPnHl_ic

By Nicolas & Louise

FOUR SEASONS OF MIGRATION



During the Chechnian war, our family escaped in Belorus . Father was often going for earn the living , Because we didn't have money .

These stories of Tima, Ali, Guranda and Viliam, what I've heard were the most powerful and hard to listen. I decided to choose those four stories which made me feel sad because their protagonists went through very hard times in their lives. They are gathered into four seasons: starting with a story from childhood and ending with elder migrant story. I tried to share these interviews with you to give you a glimpse of how it is to be a migrant and to have give you power to overcome difficulties.

EKA

Watch Four Seasons of Migration:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=422Bmz_jiVQ&feature=youtu.be



Migration is never just a single story.

Every each of us has different life experience, migrated for different reasons with diverse motivations.

Our associations and little anecdotes reflect these stories. Some of them are influenced by very specific backgrounds and situations, person's uniqueness...but some of them are shared, no matter the age, country of origin or language spoken.

We wish you, dear reader, to always search for these similarities in diversity. Find it in this booklet and also everywhere around yourself.

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