



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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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.

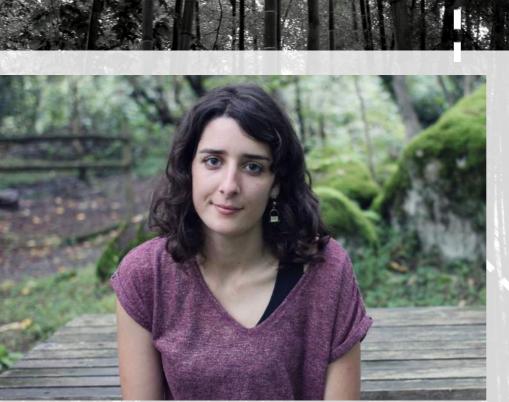
We wanted the participants to dig deep down into their minds and vanished memories to search for stories hidden in a simple symbol of one word.





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



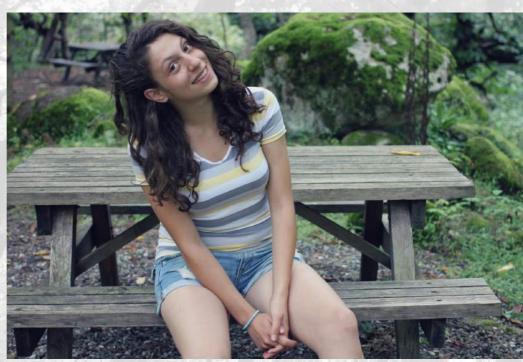


LEILA France

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

EKA Georgia

Freedom - Education Borders - Being Locked Love - Heaven Violence - Hell Minority - Discrimination Others - Curiosity Me - Discover



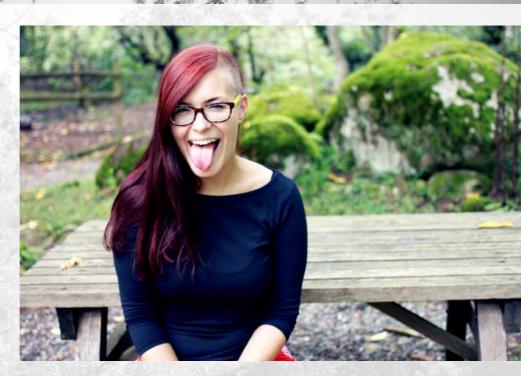


GUJI Georgia

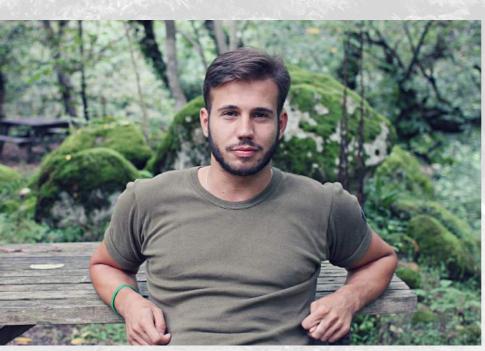
Freedom - Love
Borders - Countries
Love - Girlfriend
Violence - War
Minority - Majority
Others - Stranger
Me - Guji

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 - Sabertoooth
Minority - Lackness
Others - Pokemon
Me - Limitless







ZUZKA Slovakia

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



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





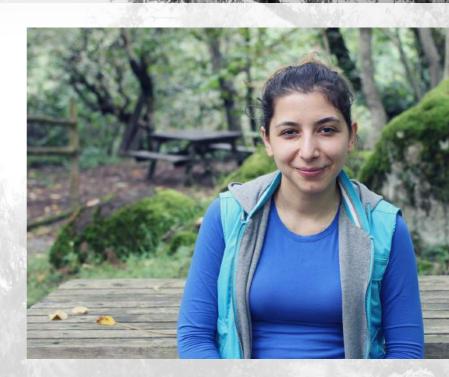


NICO France

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

SEDA Turkey

Freedom - Everything
Borders - Remove
Love - Like
Violence - Prohibition
Minority - Possible
Others - Hobby
Me - Freedom





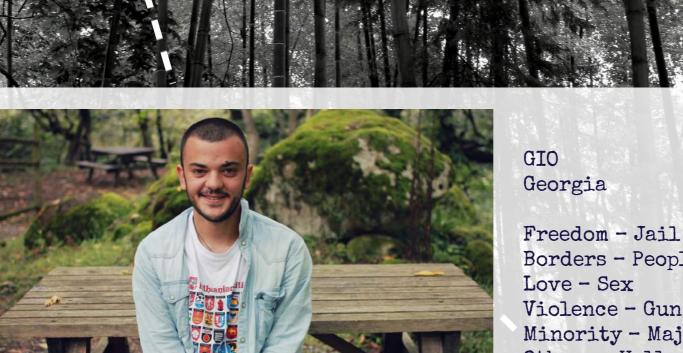
TANJU Turkey

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

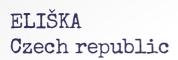
MARI Georgia

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





Borders - People Violence - Gun Minority - Majority Others - Hell Me - Awesome



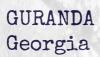
Freedom - Travel
Borders - Policeman
Love - Heart
Violence - Gun
Minority - Roma
Others - Public
transportation
Me - Happiness





VILIAM Slovakia

Freedom - Education
Borders - Obstruction
Love - Sharing
Violence - War
Minority - Home
Others - Variety
Me - Choices



Freedom - Education Borders - No Choice Love - Respect Violence - Humiliation Minority - Interesting Others - Friends Me - Development

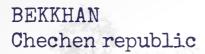






TORNIKE Georgia

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



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 - Pigmeys Others - Russians Me - Juice

EKUNA Georgia

Freedom - Responsibility
Borders - Problems
Love - Comfort
Violence - Lack of
humanity
Minority - Diversity
Others - Discrimination
Me - Individual





GABRIEL Turkey

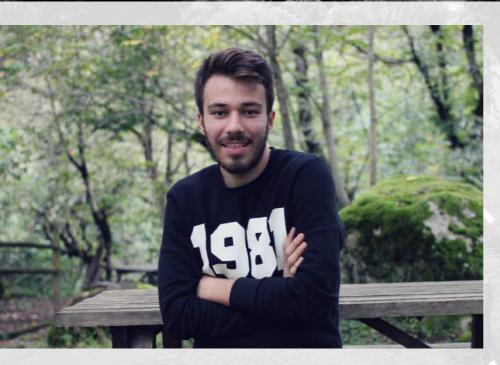
Freedom - Braveheart
Borders - Nation
Love - Happy
Violence - Women
Minority - Christianity
Others - Neighbors
Me - Sad

KUBRA Turkey

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







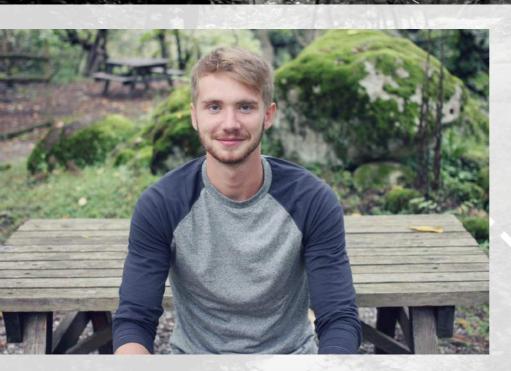
ERSEL Turkey

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



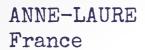
Freedom - Independence
Borders - Limitation
Love - Commitment
Violence - Hate
Minority - Right
Others - Complications
Me - Personality





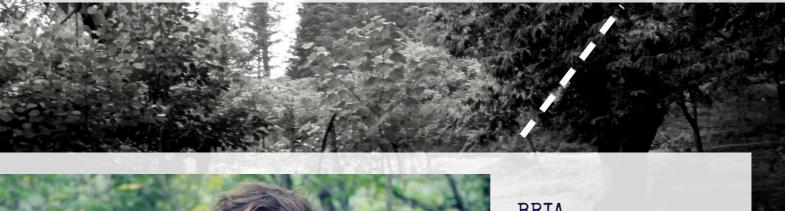
VOJTA Czech republic

Freedom - Ocean
Borders - Limits
Love - Animals
Violence - Blood
Minority - Pressure
Others - Worries
Me - Warrior



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







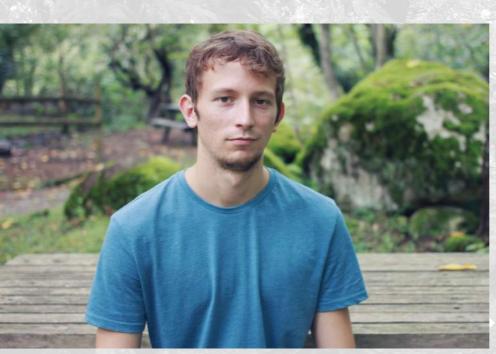
BRIA France

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

LELA Czech republic

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





MAREK Slovakia

Freedom - Air
Borders - Discrimination
Love - End
Violence - Domination
Minority - Homosexuals
Others - Envy
Me - Journalist

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



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 sac 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=aqUZempdQGQ



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 suppose to take was to Macedonia. She didn't speak much English that time. At the boarder 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 boarder 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





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.

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

Our associations and little anecdots 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.

Project implemented by:





With a support of:



Produced and edited by Migration: Not a Single Story team & participants

Design & Introduction by Lela

On-line booklet: http://migration-story.tumblr.com/