

EU-TOPIA

Being young in Europe

Gabriella Szaszko - Being Young in Europe

I am a 25-year-old girl from Hungary. I finished university not a long time ago, and then travelled to Canada and spent there two months. Now I have ended up living in Poland. I would like move to different countries and travel a lot before I settle down. I don't think that I want to live in my home country. I love the feeling that comes with new people, new countries, I even like shopping in a foreign supermarket. That's what makes life more interesting. I felt the common European youth identity a lot of times in different ways.

encounter Hungarians as well in addition to the various foreign nationalities for whom your Hungarian identity can be unique in your own country.

Interestingly enough, I felt the European youth identity in Canada for the second time. I worked together in a summer camp with some French, Hungarian and English people besides the Canadians. We travelled far away from our home countries and sharing this common background brought us very close to each other. It was nice to get to

know some new people in a faraway land.

I felt the European youth identity in Poland for the third time. Here we have some language issues. I live in an apartment with my boyfriend and four Polish young people. We speak in Hungarian to each other with my boyfriend, they speak in Polish among themselves, and we use English to contact with each other. It's a jumble of languages, really, and there are times when we speak in

these three languages at the same time, which is quite funny.

I really like the common youth identity among young people. You can feel that somebody is interested in you and that somebody feels the same. It is really beneficial that we can go wherever we want to, we can work, study and live in a country new to us. With that we can be more and it helps us tear down the wall that separates cultures.

Once I felt it in my home country. We have this summer festival, called Sziget Fesztivál. Once a year in August there are a lot of young people on a small island on the Danube. Everybody is so open and nice to each other there. Everybody speaks English, everybody is interested where are you from. It even happened one time that I started a conversation in English with a Hungarian boy. That's the spirit of Sziget; many cultures with many languages. It's easy to forget that you are in fact in Hungary and that you may



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