



How do you see Europe? What is the future of Europe for you?

„The history of Europe is everywhere you look”, an American said about our continent. „Europe is a fascinating mix of traditions and innovations”, was the opinion of someone from Asia. „Europe is a continent of endless exploration”, believes an Australian. Foreigners seem to love the fact that our way of living varies so much from country to country, as well as the authenticity of our values and connection to our past, our ancestors. Although all of this is true, what does Europe look like through the eyes of a European? More specifically, a teenage Romanian girl.

For me, the essence of the continent is captured by this exact picture I took, while on vacation in Budapest, Hungary. At first glance, it can be a difficult concept to grasp, but with a bit of attention to detail, a few of the most important standards, that know no border here, can be observed: sustainability, health, honesty and innovation.

First of all, I want to mention the fact that everywhere I go I see people on bikes, or walking a lot, plenty of recycling bins, tote bags, and others making the best out of our public transport system. This doesn't only show a high interest in the fight against climate change, but also in the fight against diseases related to sedentarism. Europe is the healthiest continent in the world and this ranking has its obvious reasons. I feel amazing to be able to bike to school and walk almost everywhere. I consider these as the perks of living in a small town. All these details are very noticeable in the picture above. There is not even one car in sight and the tram is full to its capacity.

Second of all, we are known to be an honest and pleasant community and I completely stand by that. In my experience, everywhere in Europe I have travelled to so far, I have had the luck

of meeting amazing people. Especially during Erasmus+ projects! The other participants were so open-minded and eager towards learning new information about others' cultures. This aspect of our continent is highlighted in my photograph by the bikes that were left unattended. In order for this to happen, you need a lot of trust in your peers.

Third of all, I see Europe as the home of innovation. Not only in the public transportation area, which is clearly visible in the photography, but in the domain of infrastructure as well. Even though this is not the most obvious aspect of my chosen picture, I think that without such eye-catching and imposing buildings, which can be observed in the right corner, the history of Europe would not have been so well known and interesting.

I am sure about the fact that our land will evolve even more in the matters discussed above, by having more modern cars and investing even more in public transportation and architecture. I cannot wait to see the best possible version of this area of the planet, in the years to come.

In conclusion, I love our high quality of life and all the opportunities this offers us. I think that without the right investments, we would not have been able to have such beautiful experiences and I cannot wait to grow old in this environment. Not only will it be more eco-friendly, but also more sustainable for its communities.