

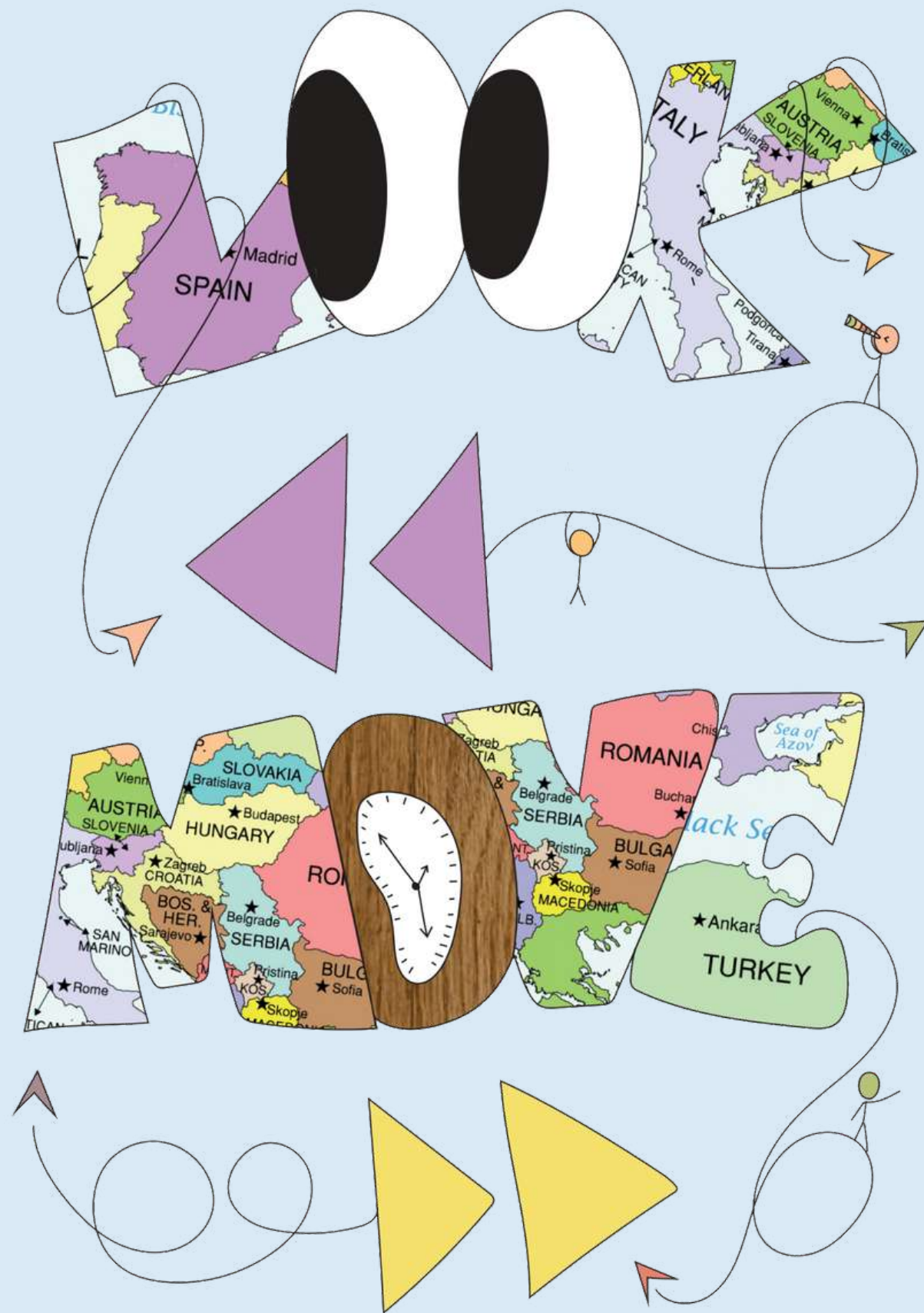


Looking back – Moving forward

YOUTH EXCHANGE
15.4. - 23.4.2022.

E-BOOKLET

Šibenik, Croatia



The project "Looking back Moving forward!" has been funded with the support from the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union. The content of this brochure is the sole responsibility of ARGONAUTA and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.



INTRODUCTION

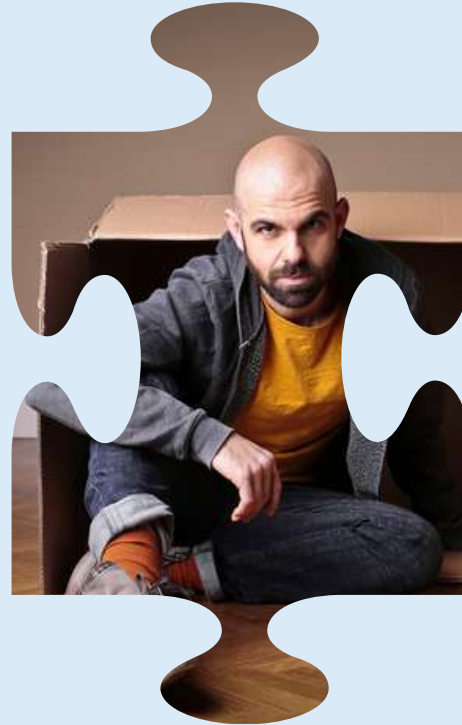
Looking back, moving forward! is a Youth Exchange program that aims to build a bridge between the past and the future; focused on what is common for Europeans and how we can learn from history; foster reconciliation and constructive approaches to remembrance, and promote the European spirit of cooperation, understanding, and tolerance and active participation of young people. Different historical events had an impact on the social relationships of those involved and have created a context today in which an approach that promotes reconciliation and fosters remembrance is needed.

That is why 42 people, including coordinators, participants, and team leaders from around Europe, got together to create a safe space to meet these objectives. They gathered information on the armed conflicts in their countries and on historical places, shared their views, and reflected on these topics. In the following e-booklet, they will summarise and share a bit about what they have been doing this week.

OBJECTIVES



promote **cultural diversity**, and learn about other cultures while living and working in mixed nationalities

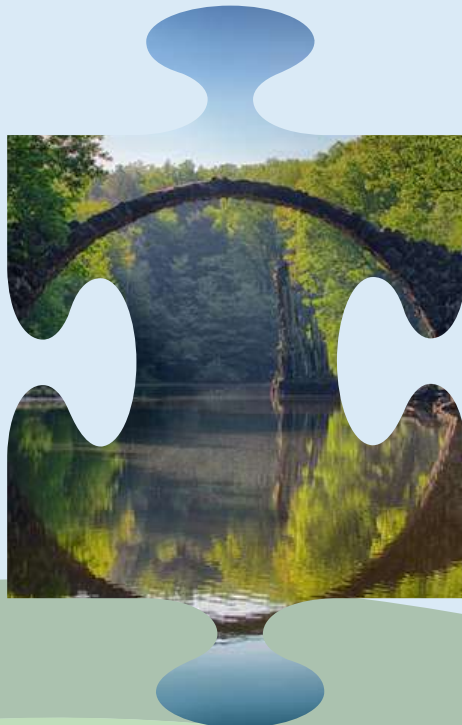


increase the knowledge of historical facts in participants and develop **critical thinking**



provide space for a constructive way of addressing a controversial topic through **non-violent communication**

prepare a 20 days **digital campaign** consisted of posters promoting values of the project



conserve historical heritage through storytelling and the testimony of people by creation of an audiobook



prepare and implement an open **poetry/story reading event** to share historical heritage, promote diversity and promote European cooperation.



DAY ONE

On the first day, all 42 participants arrived at the accommodation site until the late evening, they rested and introduced each other, and even if there was just a bit of time to have dinner and do the first energizers of the project, they could not wait for the next day to start to meet each other! They made a celebration arrival party and talked for hours and barely slept!



DAY TWO

The first day was dedicated to various group activities such as icebreakers and energizers. Some games were more dynamic and others more relaxed. The objective was for the group to get to know each other and gain confidence. The participants defined their goals for this project, as well as their impediments and fears and how to overcome them to achieve their objectives and establish rules for coexistence. At night, they were welcomed by the Croatian group that prepared a relaxed party atmosphere.



DAY THREE

The participants started the day with some energizers such as musical chairs to prepare themselves for the activities of the day. They talked about their most precious values while they had to choose between them in a "storm activity". After this shocking and self-learning experience, they had an empathy workshop led by the Spanish group and a workshop about the different stereotypes about all the countries, led by the Serbian participants. Afterward, they talked about fake news and acquired the knowledge to think critically and identify them. But that was not all! At the end of the day, they introspected the learnings of the day drawing their "roller coaster of emotions" and identifying their different points of inflection as well as the benefits acquired through them. To celebrate this amazing day, the Italian and Macedonian group prepared their cultural night to share their traditional dances and food. After a day filled with great activities, they visited a nightclub!



DAY FOUR

Ukraine War TODAY

How it started: On February 24th 2022 Vladimir Putin announces a special military campaign against Ukraine

①

Russia launched a comprehensive invasion of Ukraine

②

③ Russia has a big interest in Ukraine's territory, along with wanting to prevent Ukraine from joining NATO

④ Prelude: Volodymyr Zelenskyy approved Ukraine's partnership with NATO; Putin proposed a prohibition of Ukraine joining NATO; NATO put troops on standby

casualties: 4,633

⑤ Likely outcomes: pro-Russian regime in Kyiv, a modern version of the cold war, a global economic crisis

KEY FIGURES:

- 1. Russian president Vladimir Putin
- 2. Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskyy
- 3. U.S.A president Joe Biden

It teaches us to be grateful for everything we have, because real threats exist and we can never know when they'll come.

In this workshop, they examined wars that affect humanity. Different groups were formed to talk about 5 different important wars and to prepare presentations. The groups introduced their battle presentations in active and creative ways, such as recreating news channels or making theatrical presentations. In addition, the groups made posters of these wars. As a result, each country learned about the content and effects of wars with their presentations as they gained awareness.

Afterward, the workshop of our Turkish group started. Each country became a group with its own team, and many countries designed their own "national identity flower" to reflect their cultures and values as a country. They started brainstorming, saw what they had in common with other countries, and added them to the leaves of the flowers they created. And then the teams presented the flowers they created. During the presentation, the countries analyzed their similarities with each other.

DAY FOUR



Afterward, believers were randomly divided into groups in the workshop on conflict prepared by our Italy team. They discussed the definition of conflict and debated when it could happen, where it could happen, and with whom it could happen. They learned how close the ideas on conflict can be to each other and determined the different roles played in a conflict by performing diverse plays.

In the Thor reflection session, a game to introspect about their emotions, they were divided into two groups and went to different rooms. They examined the card groups with different segments such as emotions, visuals, and explanations, and made a selection from them. They created their story with the cards to reflect their feelings throughout the project, and then they shared their stories with each other.

After an exhausting day, both physically and mentally, Serbia and Turkey gave them a great national night with all sorts of traditional food and drinks.

DAY FIVE

On the 20th of April, they were very excited to see the beautiful island of Murter! They left at 9 o'clock on the bus and enjoyed the beautiful views that the Dalmatian coast. At ten they went to Raduc Hill, where Argonauta President guided and taught them about its history through the years.

They went inside its tunnels from the II World War. There are two military underground tunnels dug deep in the hill, used as a military hiding spot. The bunker had 3 cannons that were supposed to defend Murter (also that whole part of the Croatian coast) from Italian warships. That almost led to a war between Croatia and Italy. Later on, they did a cleaning action to build together a path on the hill. Nice experience to foster cooperation, and to help each other. They had a great time and understood that it is better to use a rock to build something together than to use it against each other.



DAY FIVE



During lunchtime, they had also the opportunity to meet two ladies who brought their personal experiences about the war between Croatia and Serbia when they were kids. It was a very touching and self-reflecting moment.

Afterward, they had some hours to explore and enjoy the island. Some of them went to discover the town following a little treasure hunt: from the "LOSTURA" to the "Colentum" with a wonderful swing on the sea; and others preferred to enjoy the sun and the sea and the bravest took a cold bath!

At 7 pm, they returned to their accommodations to have dinner and to prepare the Croatian and Spanish intercultural night. They had lots of food, drink, dance and a lot of fun!

DAY SIX

On this day they prepared themselves for the open poetry reading in Azimut, which started at 19:00 in their gallery. The performance consisted of a play and a reading of poems written by our talented Italian participants. In the end, they had the great honor to listen to an original song, Stop the War, performed by the amazing duo Petar and Marta. Even though the presentation was stressful, everyone enjoyed it and had a great time!



Click WE ARE VALUES!
VIDEO

DAY SEVEN

They talked and did some introspective activities to reflect on their learning throughout the project and portray them in their YouthPass. Later, they talked about the project and gave diverse ideas and feedback as they asked for a second part!



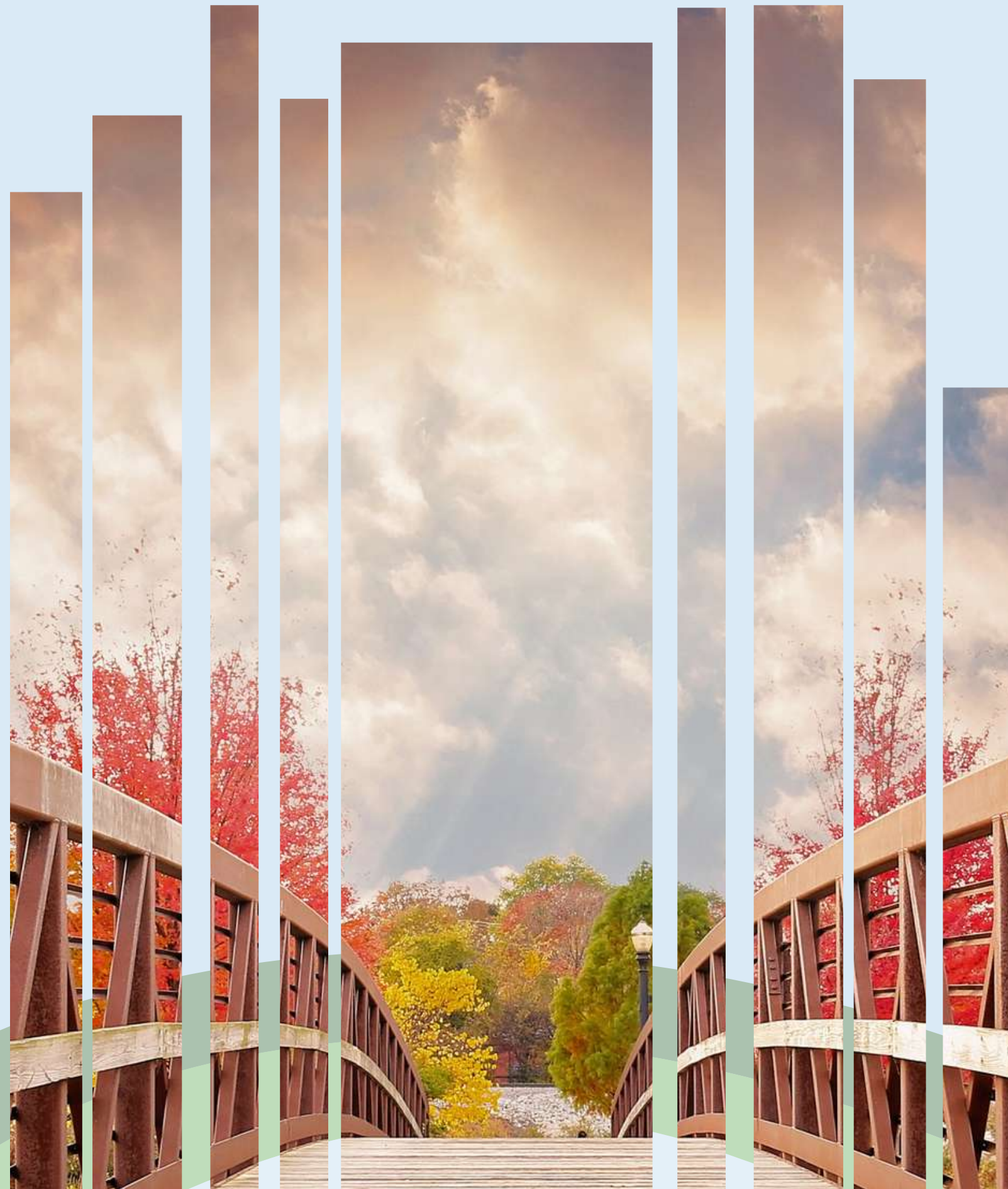
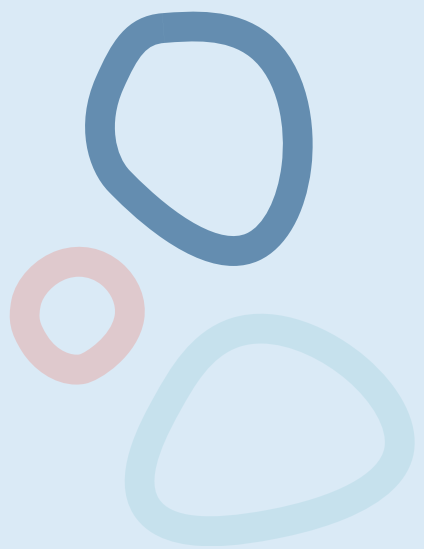
DAY EIGHT

AT 2 A.M. on the last day, they started to leave between hugs, tears, and gratitude. It was a hard goodbye but it will be for sure a "see you soon" because of the beautiful bonding created in these few days that felt like years (in a good way!).



INTERVIEWS

Before the project, in the preparation phase, every participant interviewed a few people from their home countries about an armed conflict. They have selected a few to include in this e-booklet.



CROATIA



Name: Kristina Skelin

Age: 51

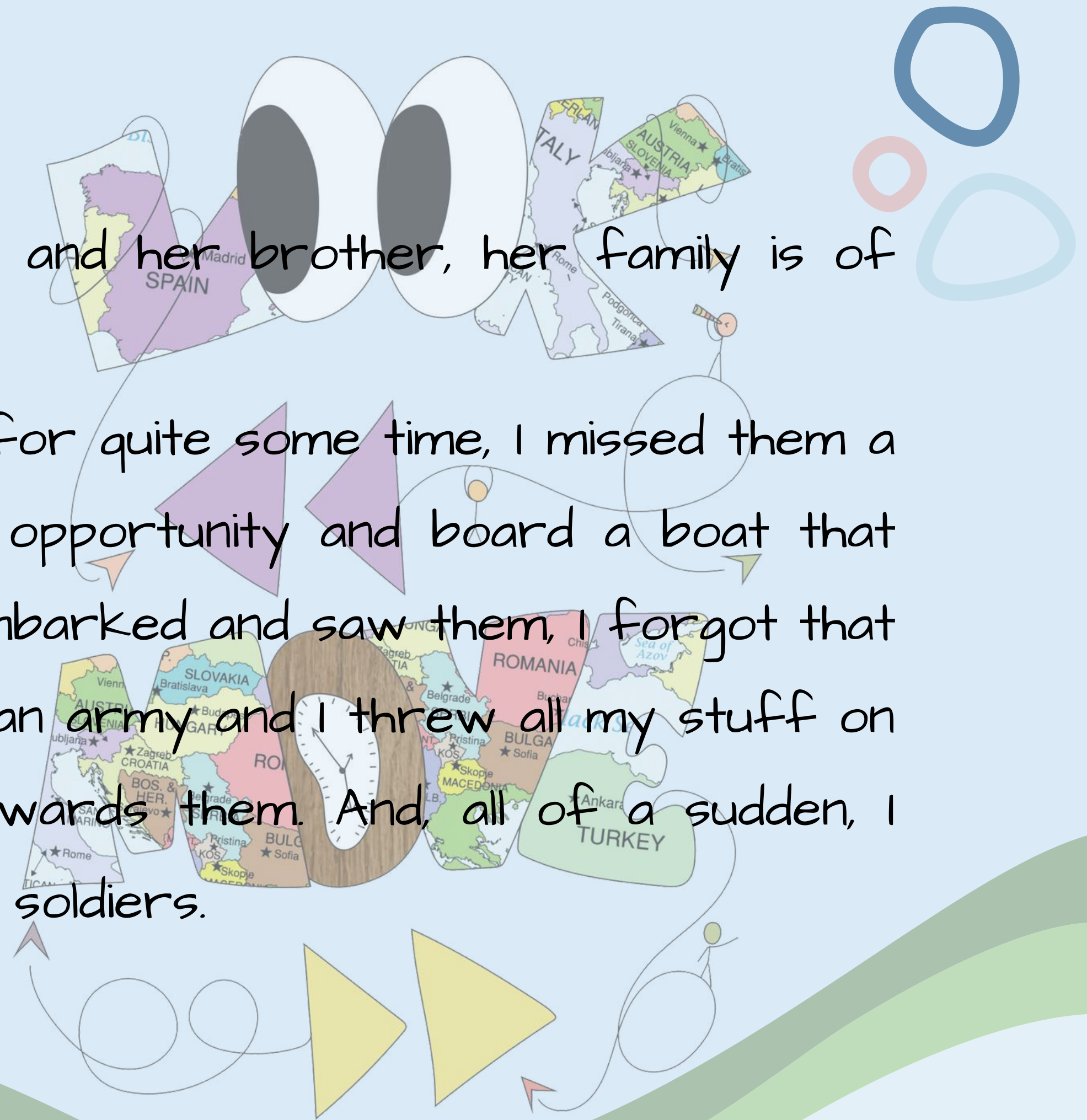
Birthplace: Dubrovnik

**Place of residence when the
conflict occurs : Dubrovnik**

CROATIA

Separated from both her parents and her brother, her family is of Serbian nationality.

Since I was away from my family for quite some time, I missed them a lot. I was finally able to catch an opportunity and board a boat that would lead me to them. When I disembarked and saw them, I forgot that the boat was guarded by the Serbian army and I threw all my stuff on the ground and started running towards them. And, all of a sudden, I was pinned to the ground by a few soldiers.



CROATIA

I am not that type of a person, but whenever I was in a stressful situation I would make a fist and put my thumb underneath all of my fingers so that bad luck would avoid me.

A cousin of mine was in the JNA. An important thing to note is that his father is Muslim. So, they were at the front and because he was really tired, he fell asleep. Once he woke up, he was in the hands of a Croatian general and his army while his team was nowhere to be seen. They had left him there in the hopes of him getting killed. Fortunately, the general realized that he is just a kid and that none of this is his fault. And, even though some soldiers wanted him dead, the general let him go without doing any harm to him.

SPAIN



Name: Tomas Plaza

Age: 79

Place of birth: Salmoral (a small village near Salamanca)

Place of residence when conflict starts: Salmoral

Date when conflict starts: 3

SPAIN

Q1-Do you remember anything about the civil war? I imagine you don't remember much, you were 3 years old (it took place in 1936 and finished in 1939).

No, I don't. I do remember my father coming back home with his military uniform on. My father took part in the war on Franco's side because Castilla (where this village is) was occupied immediately by them (the fascists). No, he had no choice. The side of the war you were on depending on where you were living when the conflict started. I think my father didn't have to actually fight though because he was on "intendencia" (the group of people that delivered food, water, and war material to the front lines). He spent the whole 3 years of the war doing this job, he was very lucky, at least this is what he tells me.

SPAIN

Q2-Do you remember anyone that died in the war?

Yes, my wife's brother volunteered to join "La division azul" (one of Franco's armies) to fight against the republic. I have this very unclear memory of some people from the village bringing him back dead. He was stupid to volunteer. This was at the very end of the war, that's why I remember it.

Q3-What I imagine you remember a lot about is the post-war period. (When Franco won the war and the military dictatorship started)

Yes, of course, I remember it perfectly.

SPAIN

Q4-I have read there were a lot of people executed by Franco's new government, do you know of any cases?

The repression was huge. I remember when the Guardia Civil (rural police force loyal to Franco) came to the village every now and then and asked the mayor if everything was okay. They were looking to see if anyone had reported another person for saying anything against the government or had talked about any communist ideas (by communist ideas he refers to any left-wing ideology). At that time, you could report someone to the mayor or directly to the police if you thought that they were "rojos" (a term used by the fascists to refer to communists, democrats, anarchists, and republicans). They would be severely punished by the police or even executed. Our mayor saved a lot of people as he encouraged no one to report anything and would always tell the police that everything was all right here (in the village). Instead in Malpartida (a village 2km away from his), some people started to report on each other and a lot of people died. It was disgusting to see the people that reported others to the police walk around without any problems, everyone knew who they were.

SPAIN

Q5-I know there was also not a lot of food around, was your family fine?

There was hunger, yes. But my father was a farmer so we had some food. Definitely not like now though. We had these papers that told us what we could buy and it was not too much. I know that in big cities like Madrid there were people starving but here we even had white bread sometimes. Some women (from his village) would hide some flour on them and take it to Madrid to sell it, they made a lot of money from this. (This was illegal and very dangerous)

Q6-Was there any object or anything that helped to keep your mind off the war and these difficult times?

Not really, I was more worried about other things and not so much about the dictatorship or the war. We had enough to eat and that's what was important. Life was tough but because of the hard work of being a farmer. I had to quit school at the age of 12 to work with my father, I never studied again. [...] Life was beautiful then, it was different but beautiful.

TURKEY



Name : Yusuf Serkan Üğlü

Age : 48

Place of birth: Adana (city in the southern part of Turkey)

Place of residence when the conflict occurs: Malatya (city located in the eastern part of Turkey)

TURKEY

Relevant family and personal data at that time: I was in my 20s and played football professionally while studying at the university. My family was in Adana and my family's profession was farming. Due to the difficult conditions in this profession, they wanted me to finish university and besides that, they wanted me to quit football because it was not a guaranteed job.

Q1-Do you remember any anecdotes you want to tell?

Since I stayed in the dormitory during university, I met not only people from my own region but also people from different parts of Turkey and made very good friendships with them.

I got to know and understand the cultures of people in different parts of Turkey and broke some of the prejudices I had previously established.

TURKEY

Q2-Is there an object or habit that you cling to keep you positive during the most difficult times? (talisman, sport, game, song, etc.)

In difficult times and when I am at a dead end: I prepare my fishing rod and go to the sea, throw the fishing line and think about when the fish will be hooked, throw out every other thought from my head and focus only on this hobby. If I fish, it is extremely enjoyable and my bad thoughts are dissipated.

Q3-Have you experienced or been told of any case in which someone from one of the sites in the conflict helped someone from the opposite side who was in danger, or in trouble?

During university periods, some political and religious conflicts of opinion made people, especially students, cruel to each other, and I witnessed many incidents due to this, but also saw people who support each other from different opinions. While I was in the physical education department, there was a protest in our faculty due to these clashes of ideas and it was violent. People with different opinions were also caught in it and were very scared. The people on the other side were taken out of the protest area. In my opinion, different ideas and opinions are important, they ensure modernity, but everyone should be able to express their opinion freely and an atmosphere of democracy should be provided. There should be absolutely no violence.

ITALY



Name: Regina

Age: 40

Place of birth: Tirana (Albania)

Place of residence when the conflict occurred: Kamëz (Albania)

Relevant family and personal data at that time: I was 15 y.o. with my mum and two sisters while my father since the first 1992 went to Italy

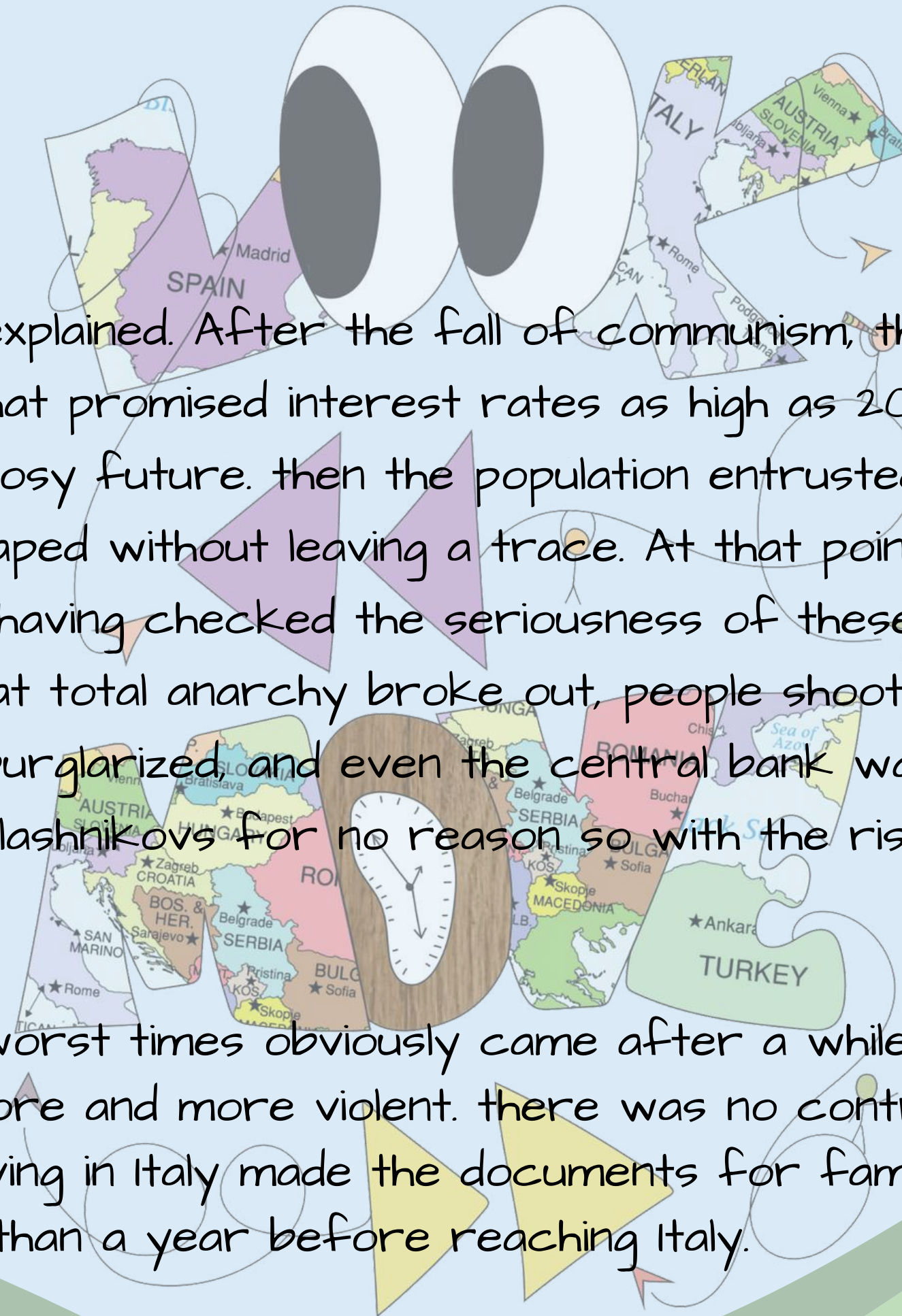
Reference war/Country: Albania Civil War 1997-1998

ITALY

Q1-Do you remember any anecdotes you want to tell?

First of all, the nature of the conflict needs to be explained. After the fall of communism, the government facilitated the arrival of foreign credit institutions that promised interest rates as high as 20-30% after 2-3 years, taking advantage of ignorance and faith in a rosy future. Then the population entrusted everything they had to these institutes which after a short time escaped without leaving a trace. At that point the population began to rebel against the government, guilty of not having checked the seriousness of these institutions. At the time of the start of the uprising, I remember that total anarchy broke out, people shooting in bulk, groceries, pharmacies, and shops of all kinds were burglarized, and even the central bank was burglarized. I remember my neighbors who fired in the air with Kalashnikovs for no reason so with the risk and fear of being hit we always stayed at home.

Each family had at least 4-5 guns in the house. The worst times obviously came after a while when food resources began to run low and anarchy became more and more violent. There was no controller and everything happened. Our luck was that my father living in Italy made the documents for family reunification and then organized our departure, but it took more than a year before reaching Italy.



ITALY

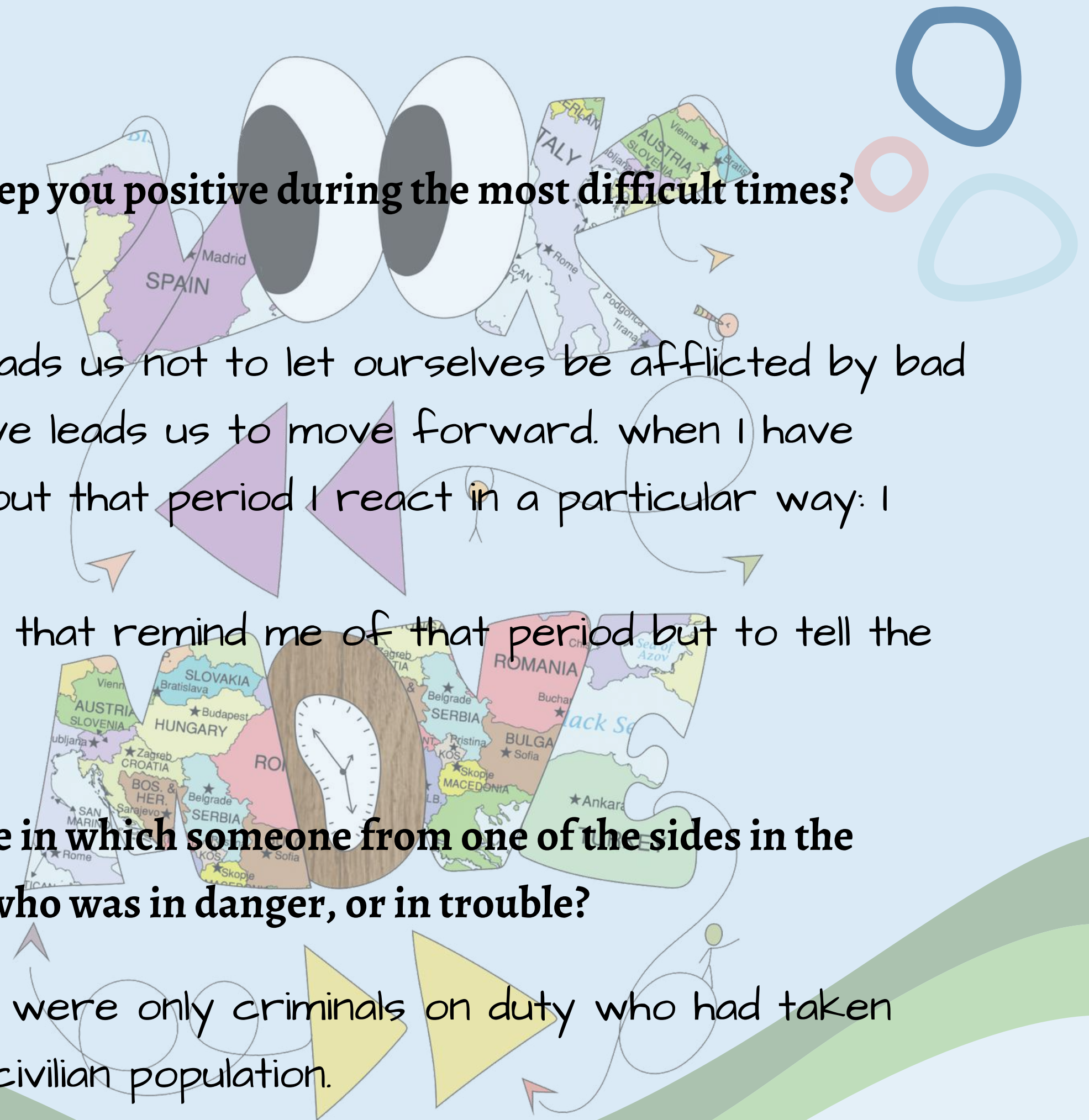
**Q2-Is there an object or habit that you cling to keep you positive during the most difficult times?
(talisman, sport, game, song, etc)**

Nothing, in particular, the survival instinct leads us not to let ourselves be afflicted by bad episodes, and therefore the willpower to live leads us to move forward. When I have moments of sadness related to thinking about that period I react in a particular way: I sleep!

There are Albanian songs from that period that remind me of that period but to tell the truth, I don't try to listen to them again.

Q3-Have you experienced or been told of any case in which someone from one of the sides in the conflict helped someone from the opposite side who was in danger, or in trouble?

In reality, there was no counterpart, there were only criminals on duty who had taken over. However, there was help among the civilian population.



MACEDONIA



Name: Irena

Age: 17

Place of Birth: Kumanovo

Place of residence when the conflict occurred: Kumanovo

**Reference war/Country:
Macedonian-Albanian war 2001**

MACEDONIA

Q1-Do you remember any anecdotes you want to tell?

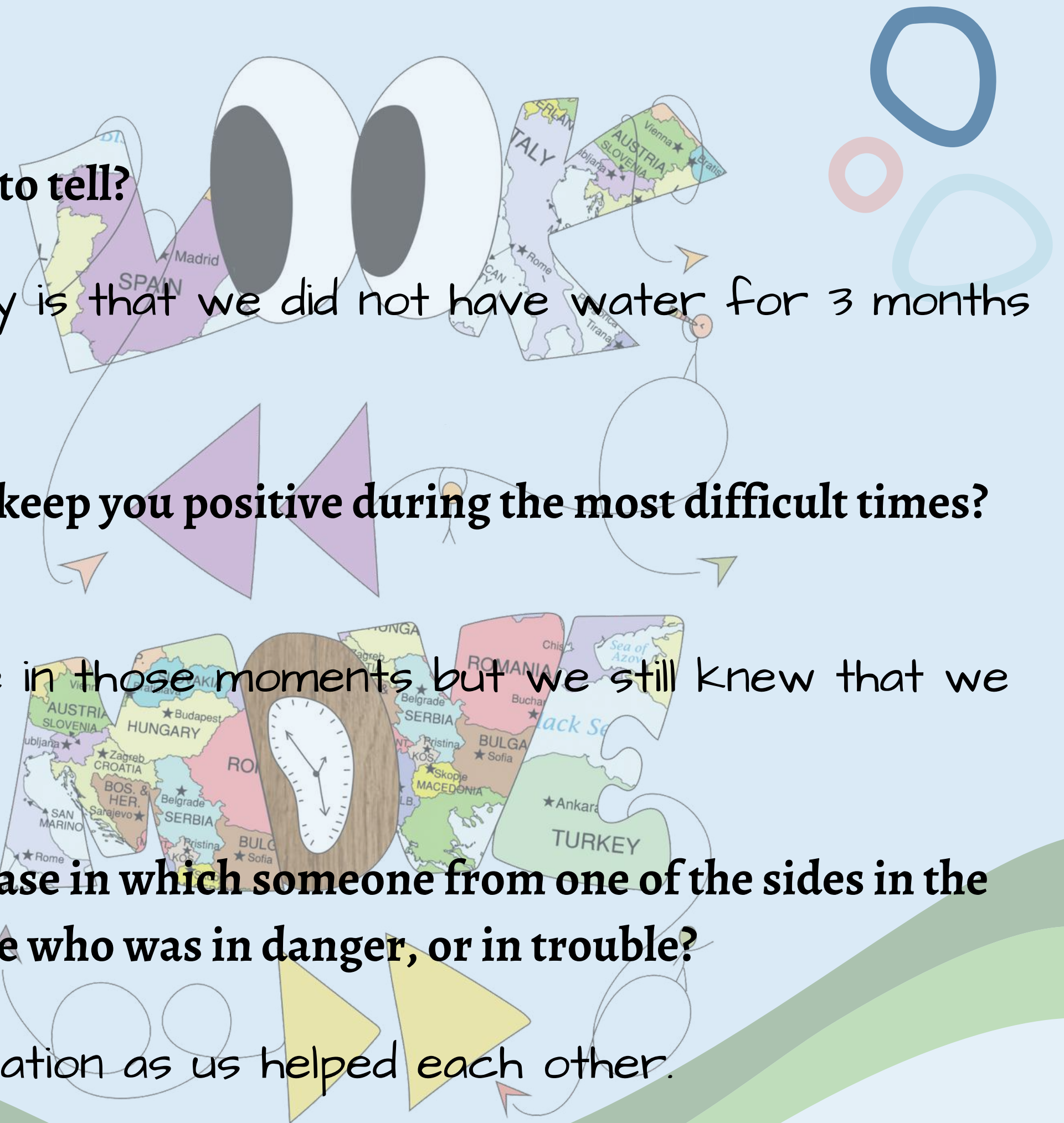
The only thing that will stay in my memory is that we did not have water for 3 months and we used our wells to survive.

**Q2-Is there an object or habit that you cling to keep you positive during the most difficult times?
(talisman, sport, game, song, etc)**

everything around me was valuable to me in those moments but we still knew that we did not have everything.

Q3-Have you experienced or been told of any case in which someone from one of the sides in the conflict helped someone from the opposite side who was in danger, or in trouble?

The neighbors who were in the same situation as us helped each other.



SERBIA



Name: Hidden

Age: 51

Place of birth: Surdulica, Serbia

**Place of residence during the
conflict: Surdulica, Serbia**

SERBIA

Q1-Do you remember any anecdotes you want to tell?

I remember, my friend and I were sitting in a kafana (traditional Serbian restaurant) when they told us we're being bombed. We got into our car and started driving home when suddenly, in the middle of the road, we saw a woman wailing and begging us to give her a ride. After a short time, she became my children's godmother. Everyone hates the bombing, but it brought me a beautiful memory and a godmother.

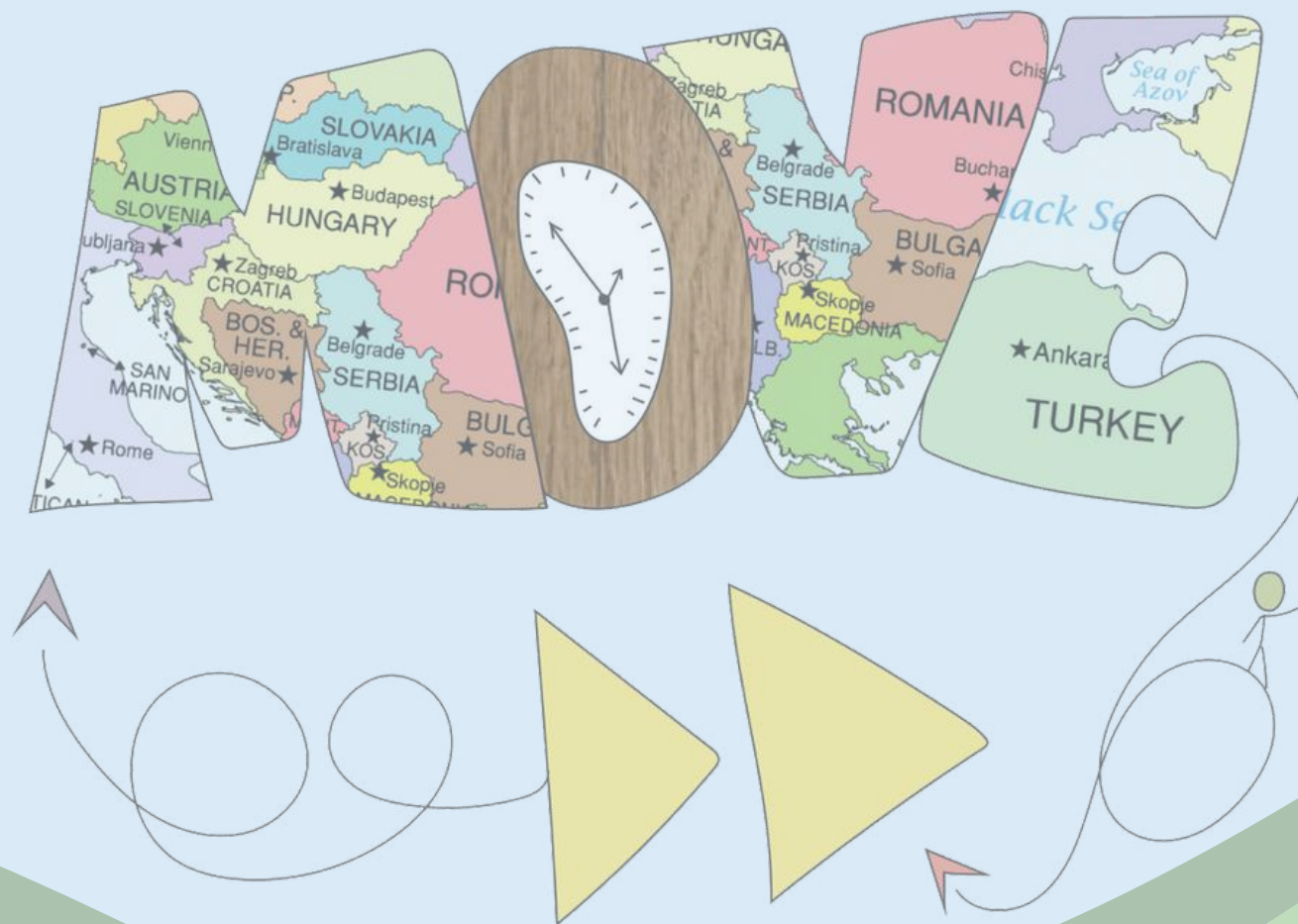
Q2-Is there an object or habit that you cling to keep you positive during the most difficult times?

Of course, I had one of those habits. When I was in those stressful situations, I would look at pictures of my loved ones, remember they were across the border and I just couldn't wait to see them again. There is nothing better than when your family is in harmony and united. The bigger your family is, the richer you are.

SERBIA

Q3- Have you experienced or been told of any case in which someone from one of the sites in the conflict helped someone from the opposite side who was in danger, or in trouble?

No, when you're in a war, you don't have time to help others who are in trouble because you're fighting against them. In war, everyone fights for their own people and just tries to find ways to survive, even though they don't have any real living conditions.



MEANINGFUL OBJECTS



The participants brought
meaningful objects for
them and shared their
stories behind...

MEANINGFUL OBJECTS

Is there an object or habit that you cling to keep you positive during the most difficult times?

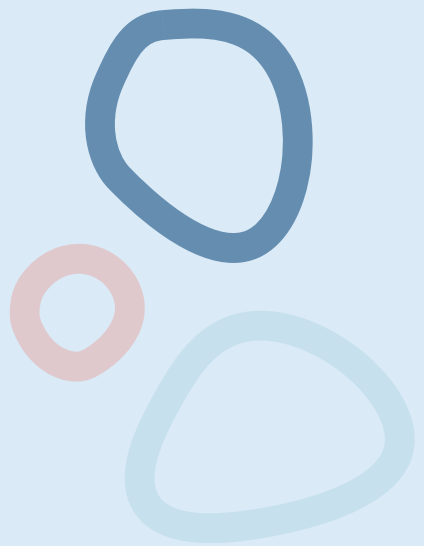
“Yes, we played bocce ball (also known as Italian lawn bowling) and cards. Also, I had a rosary in my hand. It was given to me by my wife when we went to the war, to keep me safe.”



MEANINGFUL OBJECTS

Is there an object or habit that you cling to keep you positive during the most difficult times?

I am not that type of a person, but whenever I was in a stressful situation I would make a fist and put my thumb underneath all of my fingers so that bad luck would avoid me.



SOCIAL MEDIA CAMPAIGN

One of the objectives of the project was to develop a social media campaign. Our group of youngsters used their creativity and developed 21 posters that have been implemented for one month on a social media campaign aiming at raising awareness against war, prejudices, stereotypes, discrimination, and hate and why they must end.



#WarCanNeverBeWon

*“War is what happens
when language fails.”*



#wariswhathappenswhenlanguagefails

Don't let your emotions speak by body language because of the egoism we all carry with us. Whatever you mean just say it! That's the only way you can avoid conflicts and be peaceful with yourself and the person who made you feel that way. Your opinion matters.

The main thing in this poster is that you can find a way to speak and solve a problem. The only thing that can stop you is yourself. Is it necessary to start a war when you can just sit and talk? So, choose wisely.

#youcannotcovertheamountoflivesyoutook

When you choose war over peace it's probably because of some unsolved war you carry within your own deep self. There is nothing that can recover the consequences that will happen because of your egoistic manners.

So, with this post, we want to deliver a message that "we all carry our own griefs with ourselves".

#WarCanNeverBeWon

“THERE IS NO FLAG
LARGE ENOUGH TO
COVER THE SHAME
OF KILLING
INNOCENT PEOPLE.”



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#WarCanNeverBeWon

"Peace is the key to every door
locked by war"



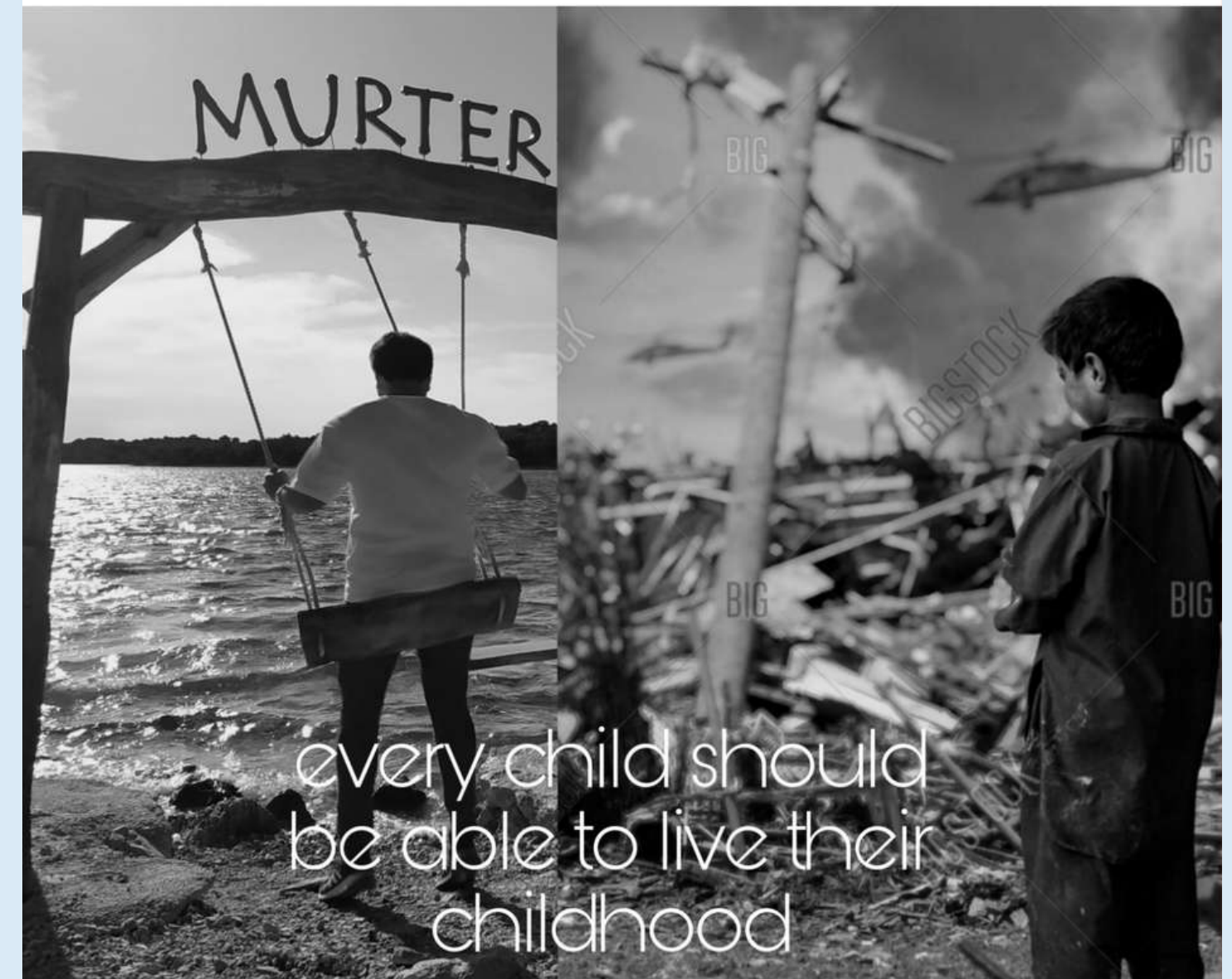
#peaceisthekeytoeverydoorlockedbywar

Everyone needs to have this key. And if you don't have it, work to have it. Try and make one. It's not just being in peace with society. The main point is to be at peace with yourself first. That's the only way you can build peace with anything else.

#warcanneverbewon

No one won the last war. No one will win the next war. It's just a lost game and it will forever be a lost game. Everything that happens is losing... Losing family, losing happiness, losing innocent people, losing our childhoods, losing our respect. And the main part, you lose yourself.

#WarCanNeverBeWon



SAY NO TO WAR

#WarCanNeverBeWon



**PEACE IS THE KEY
TO EVERY DOOR
LOCKED BY WAR**



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#saynotowar



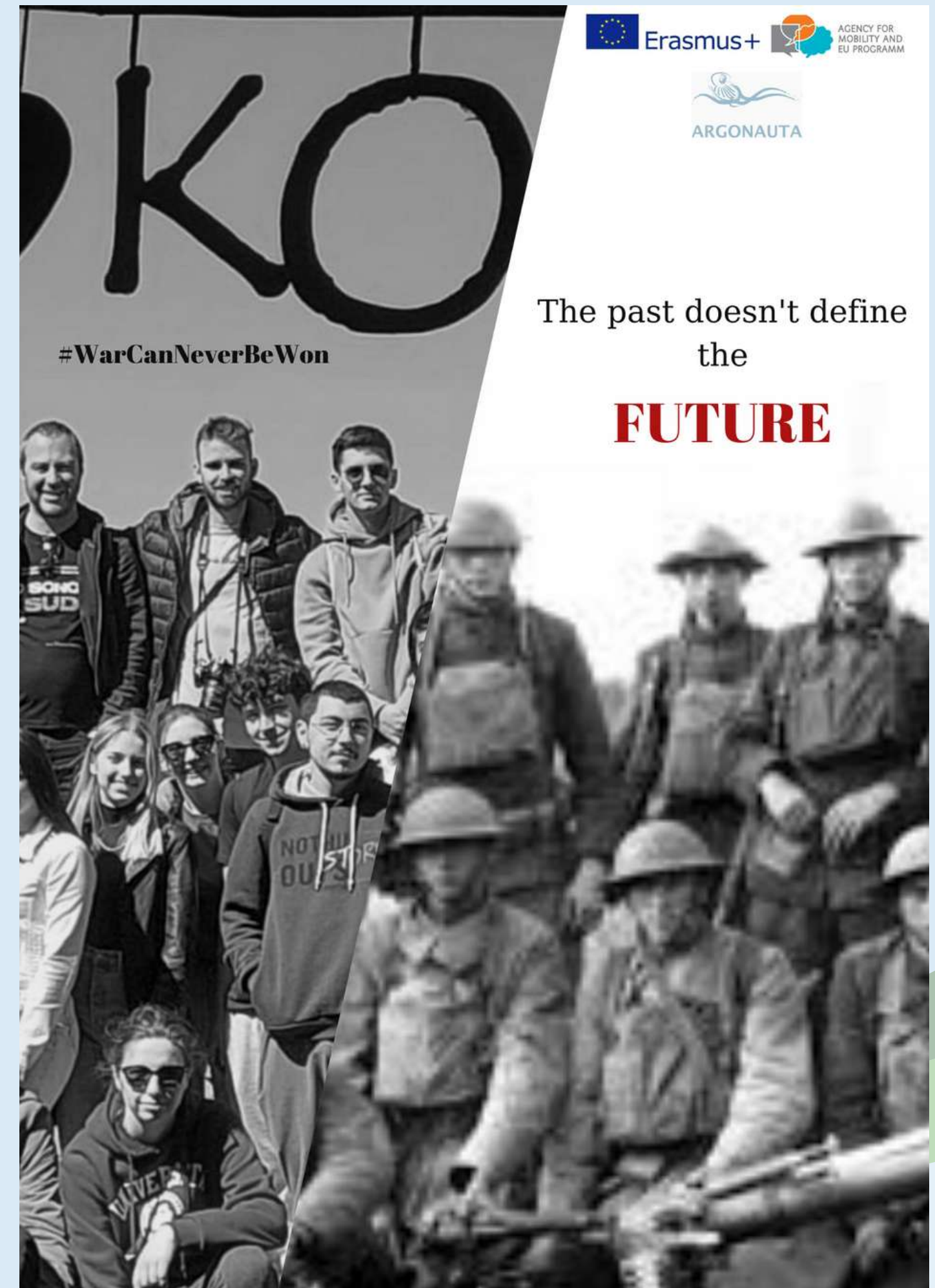
Our brains are built day by day
with loving interactions and
empathic thoughts for others, it
is what makes us humans.

#pastdoesnotdefinethefuture

We should all own our past and all of the mistakes and shortcomings that come with it. Locking your past and making sure no one gets in there is not the point. We should all speak about the mistakes that were done because in that way we are realizing the mistakes that were done. By realizing and confessing what was done, you are just one step closer to solving the conflict and the stereotypes.

Feel free to talk. It's the only way to build peace with yourself and others.

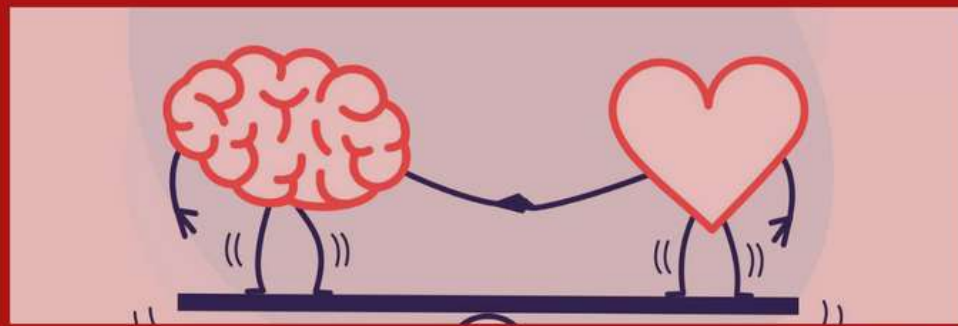
You can't let your past define you as well. If you want to be accepted, you have to be the first to accept yourself. Don't forget, you are all loved.





*Kindness is free,
anyone can afford to give it*

**Empathy allows people to become a better
version of themselves.**



The only thing that stands
between true civilization and
genocide is our capacities
for empathy and creative
perspective taking.

#kindness

Here we must hear with warm hearts and be curious regarding how to cure it. It is time to ask what sight is. It is the moment to think of what eyes are, and how often we see with a sigh, a lazy soft rejecting regret rather than the love that sees a sea of emotions within. It is time to hear fear, to feel the sadness below anger, to know that coping needs co-regulation. It is time to see that acting out is an honest request for help from one in hell. It is time to see that love is boundless, eternal, that when we give we receive - to free ourselves from basic mathematical type-thinking. Love is a seed that grows, always giving more, as natural seeds do. It's time for those deeds to rain from hearing hearts, for they will be the green spring we all seek.



*Kindness is free,
anyone can afford to give it*

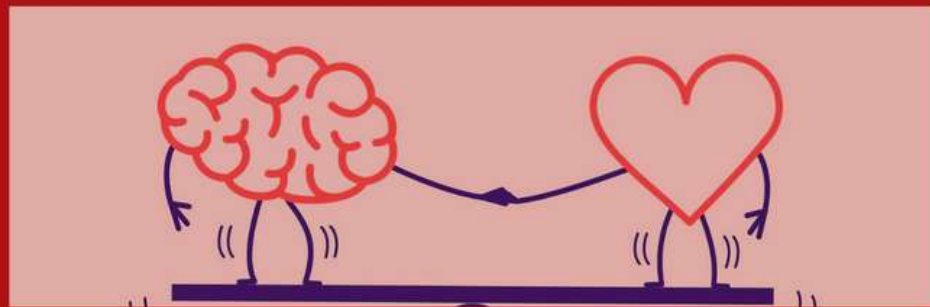
**You can understand people if you
feel them in yourself.**





*Kindness is free.
anyone can afford to give.*

**Empathy is the medicine the
world needs.**



AGENCY FOR
MOBILITY AND
EU PROGRAMMES



Erasmus+

#NoToStereotypes

Stereotypes lose their power when the world is found to be more complex than the stereotype would suggest.

When we learn that individuals do not fit the group stereotype then it begins to fall apart.

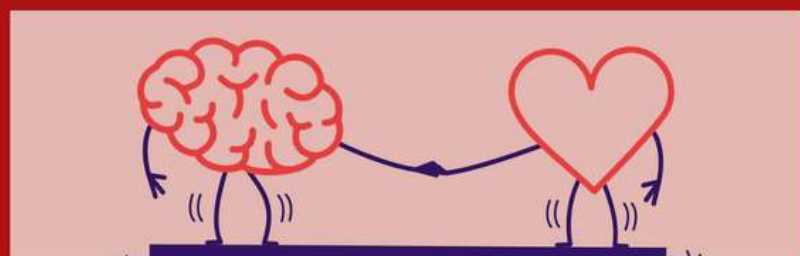
People are much deeper than stereotypes.

Empathy is a highlighter of intelligence, for it requires creative perspective taking and creativity is intelligence.



*Kindness is free,
anyone can afford to give it*

**I believe empathy is the most essential
quality of civilization.**

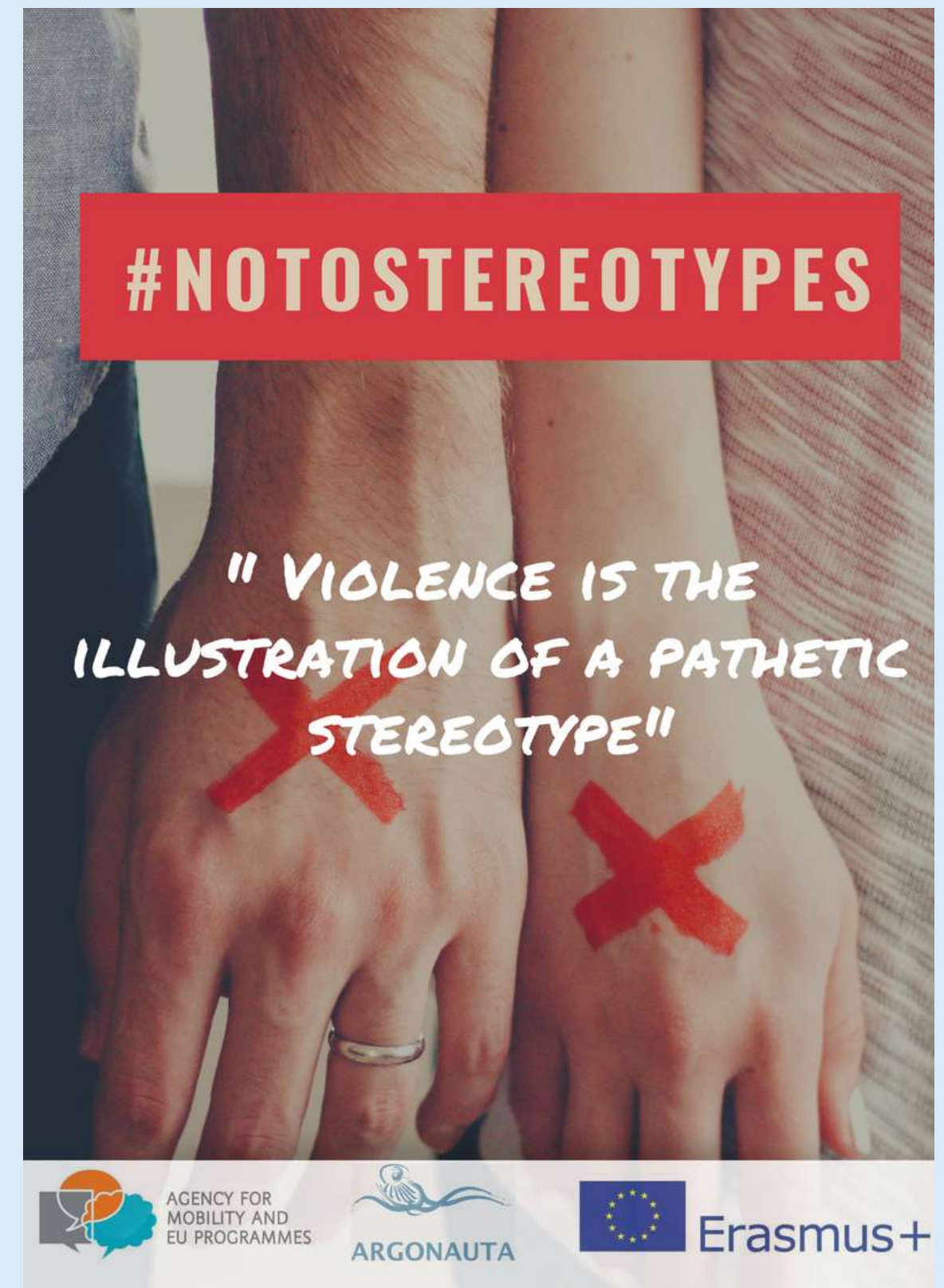
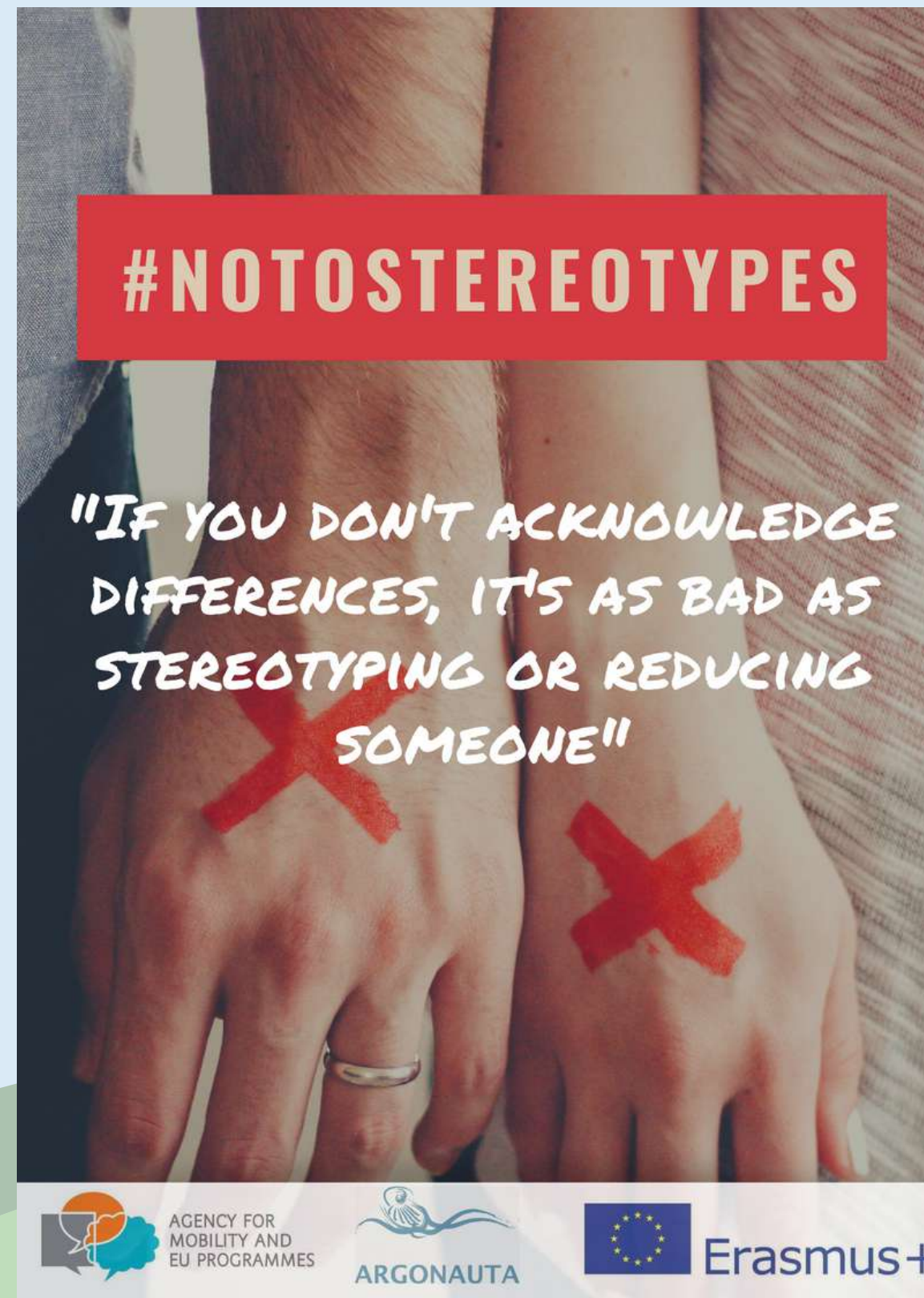


#NOTOSTEREOTYPES

"STEREOTYPES DO EXIST, BUT WE
HAVE TO WALK THROUGH
THEM."

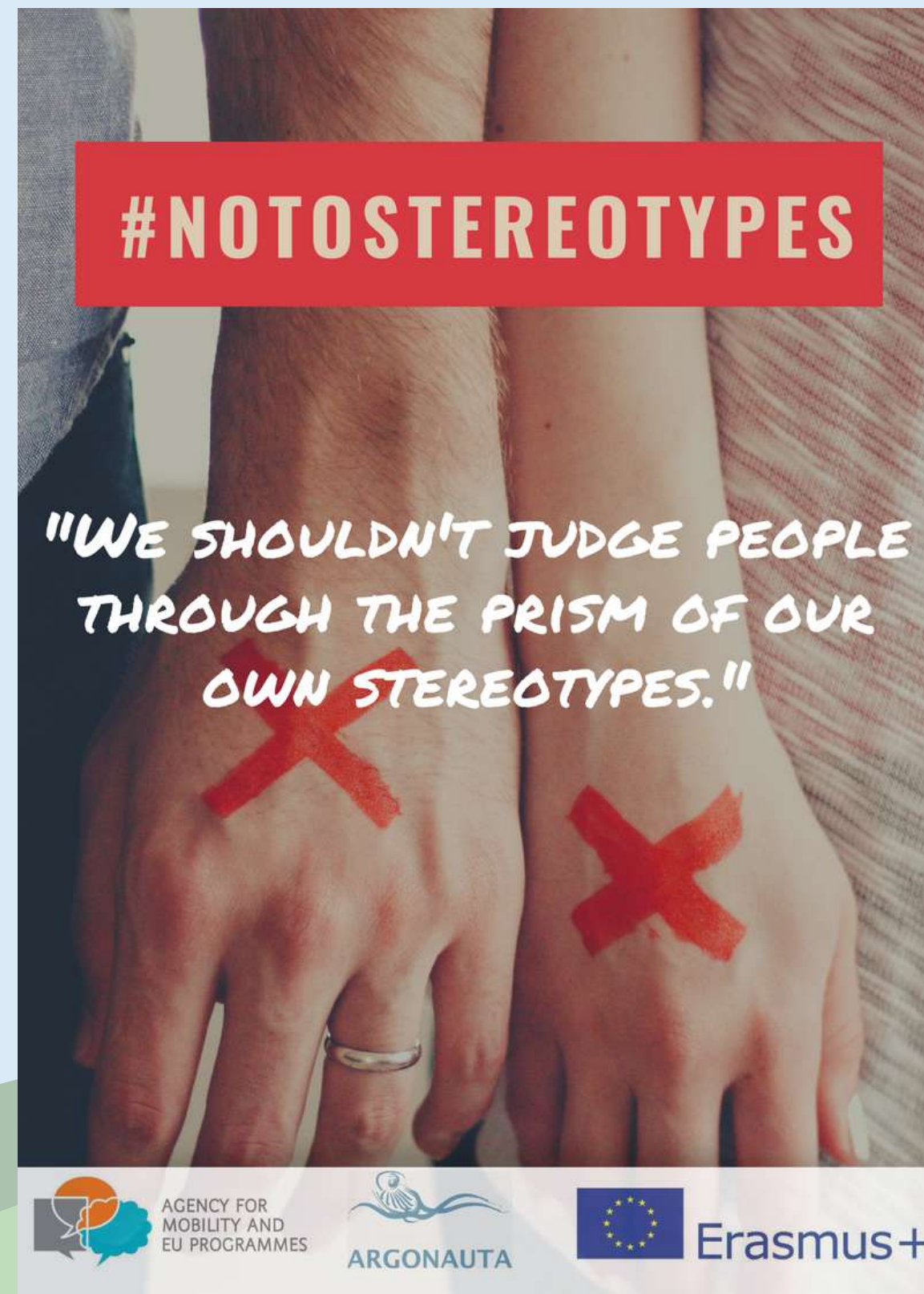
When we identify them and inform
ourselves, we are able to bloom and stop
#stereotypes.

Do not let prejudices and stereotypes
break your own and others' mental and
physical health



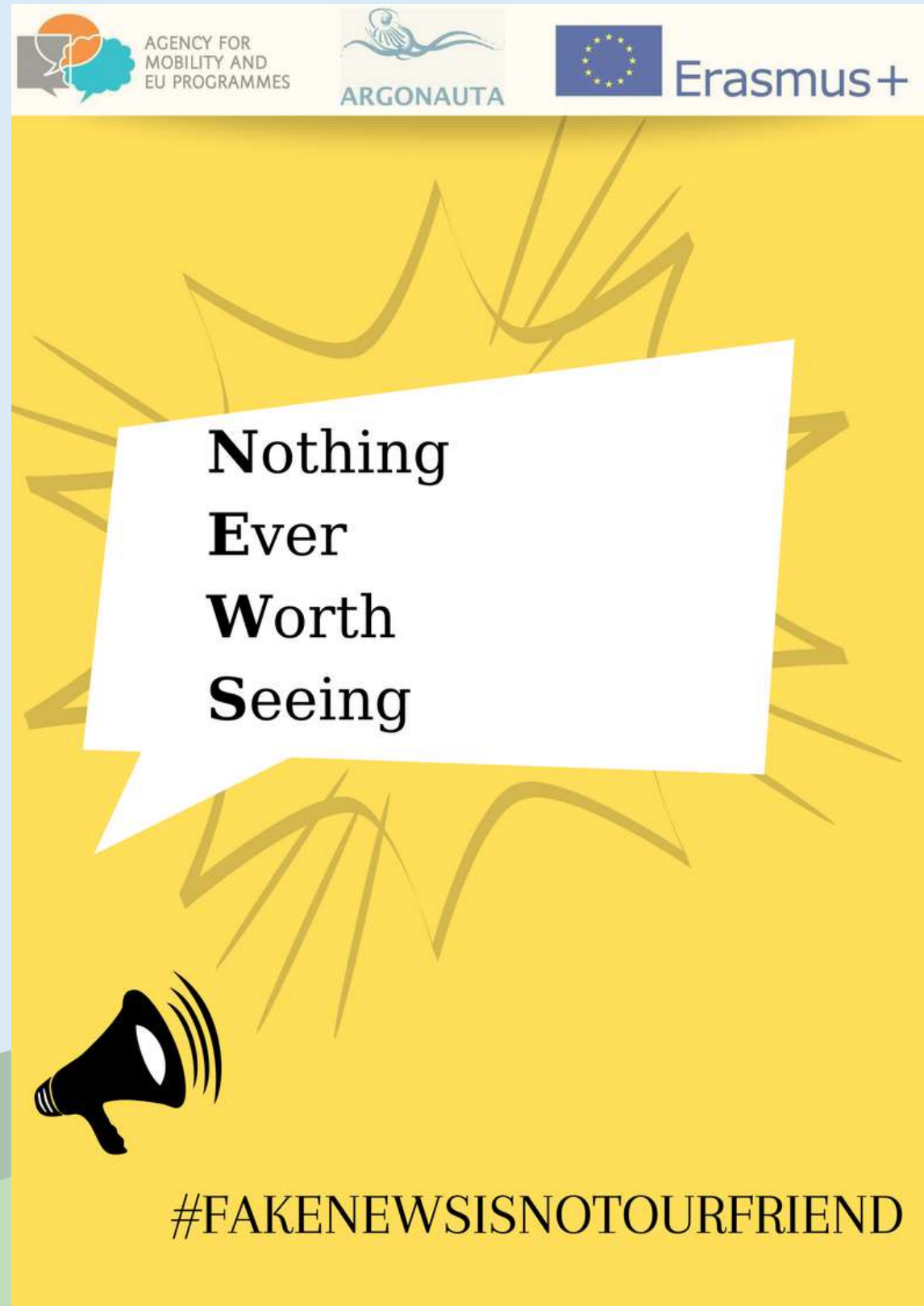
"If you don't acknowledge differences,
it's as bad as stereotyping or reducing
someone"

The first step to being a critical thinker is to be informed.



To be in peace with the world, first, we have to be in peace with ourselves

Inform yourself and build critical thinking to combat fake news.



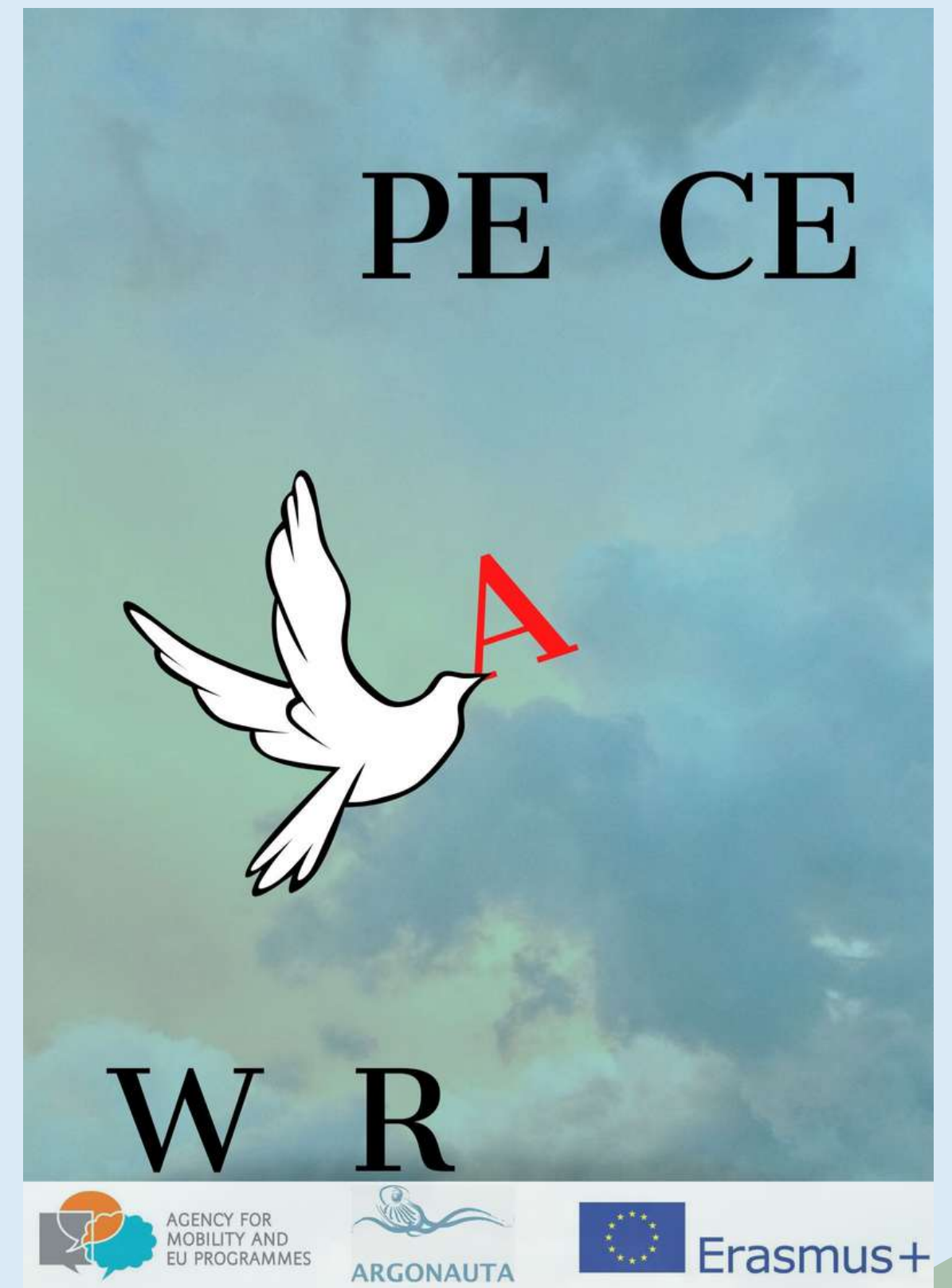
**Nothing Ever
Worth Seeing**

"We can't stop fake news from being made. But we can stop sharing it".
Think before spreading



Fake news undermines democracy and can influence citizens to do the wrong things.

YOU choose to do
peace or war



"Fake news is cheap to produce.
Genuine journalism is expensive"

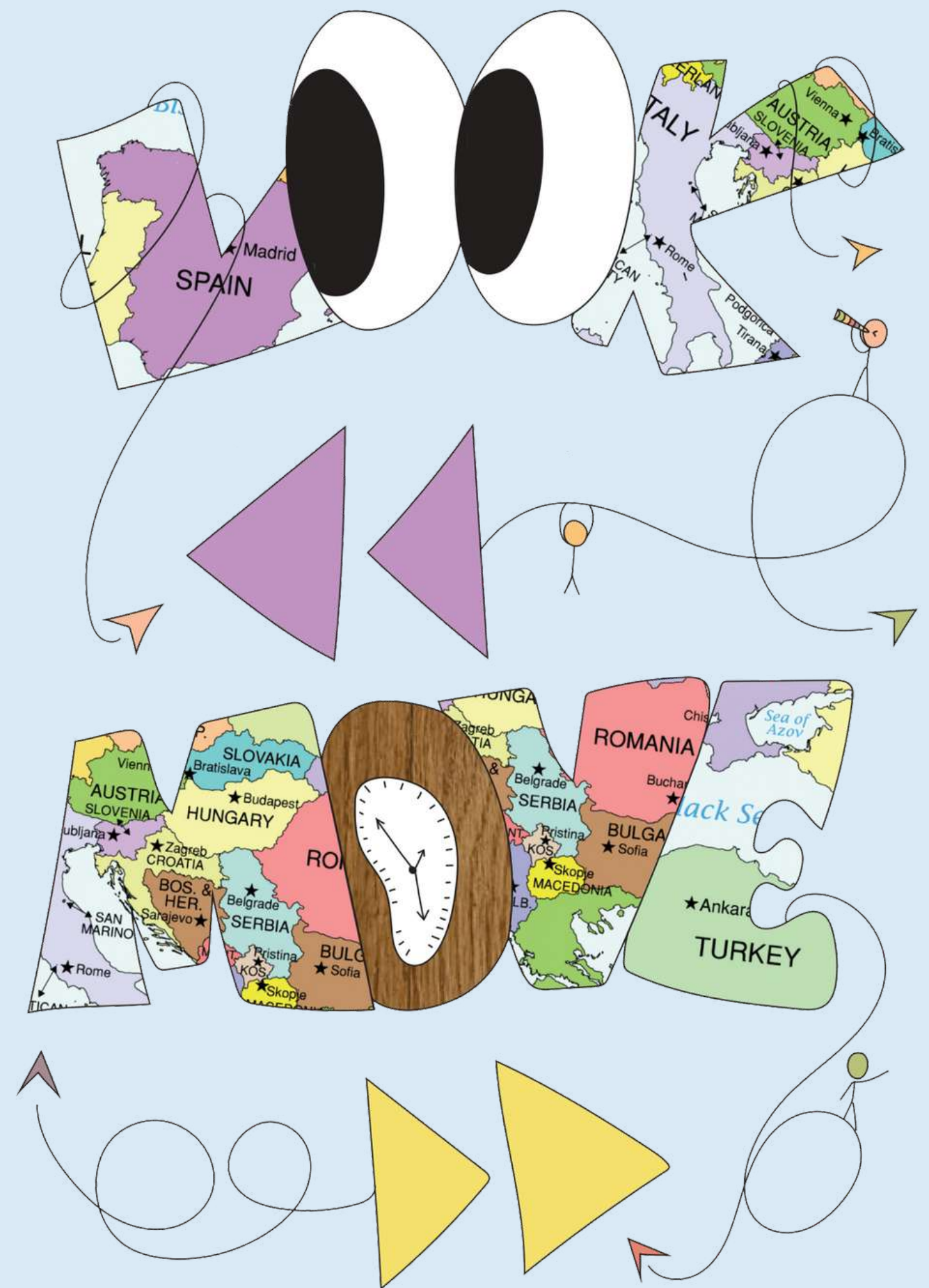
Looking back Moving forward! Youth Exchange created & led by:

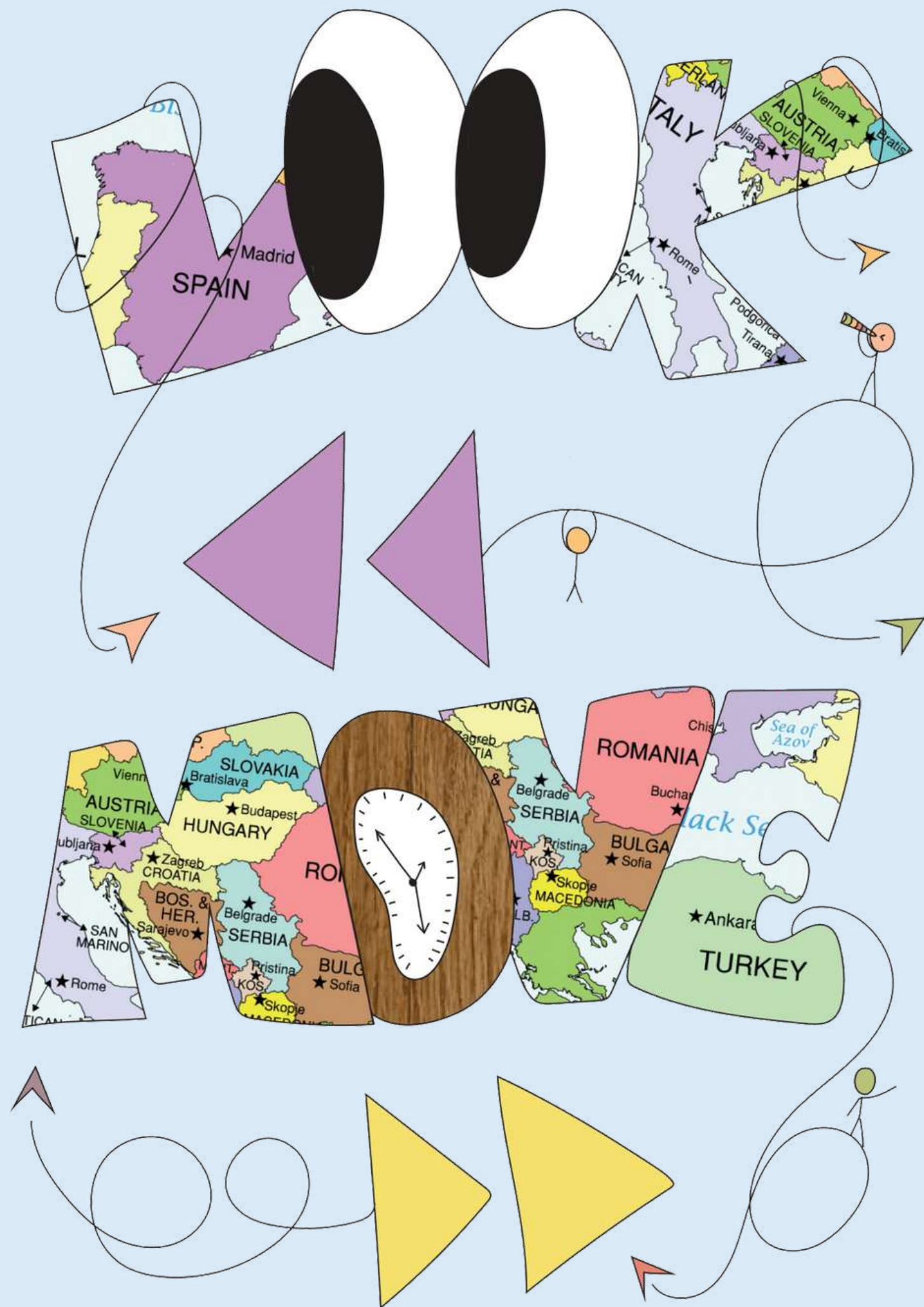
Juan Cruz Gutiérrez

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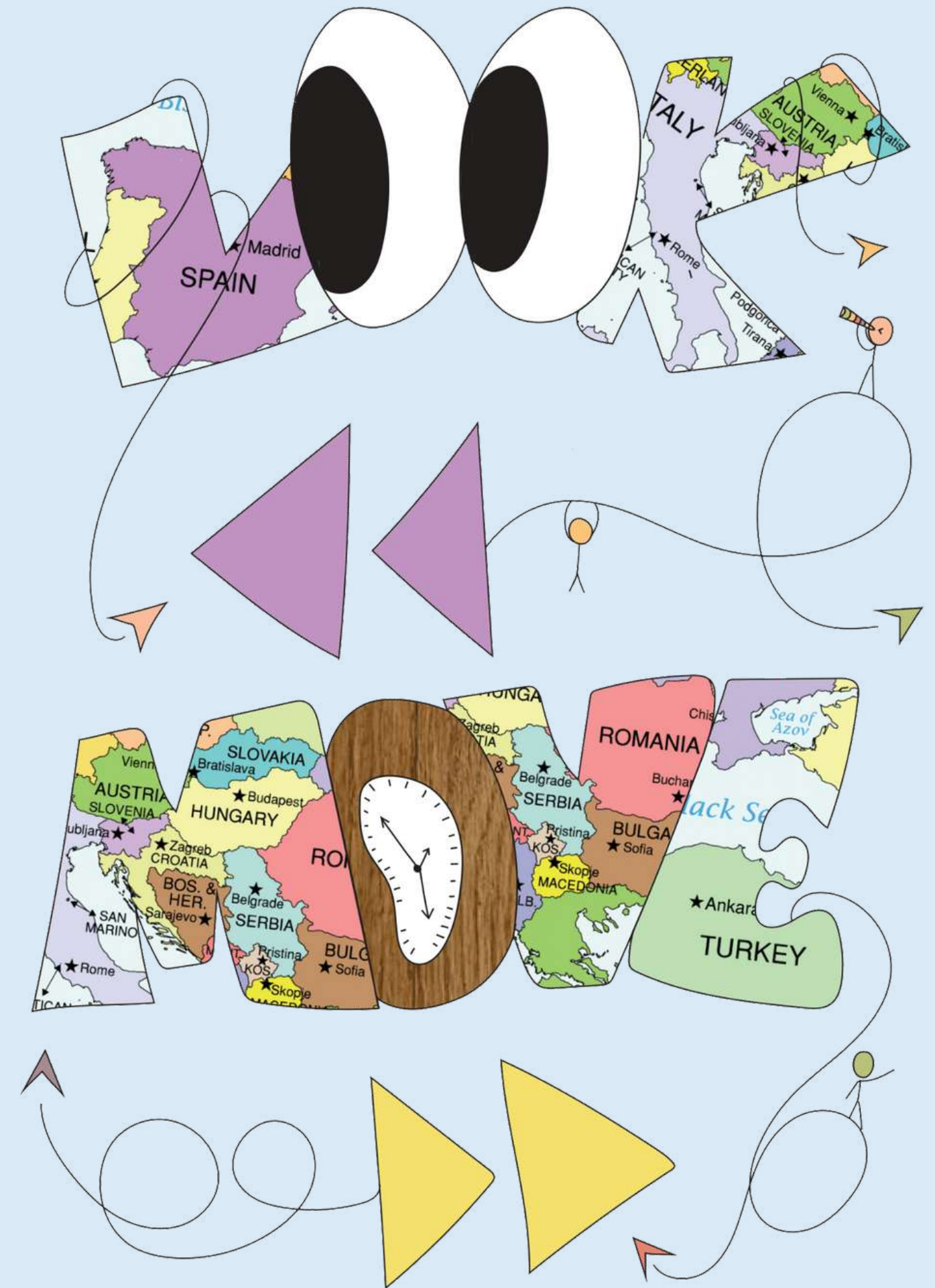
Rui Roman

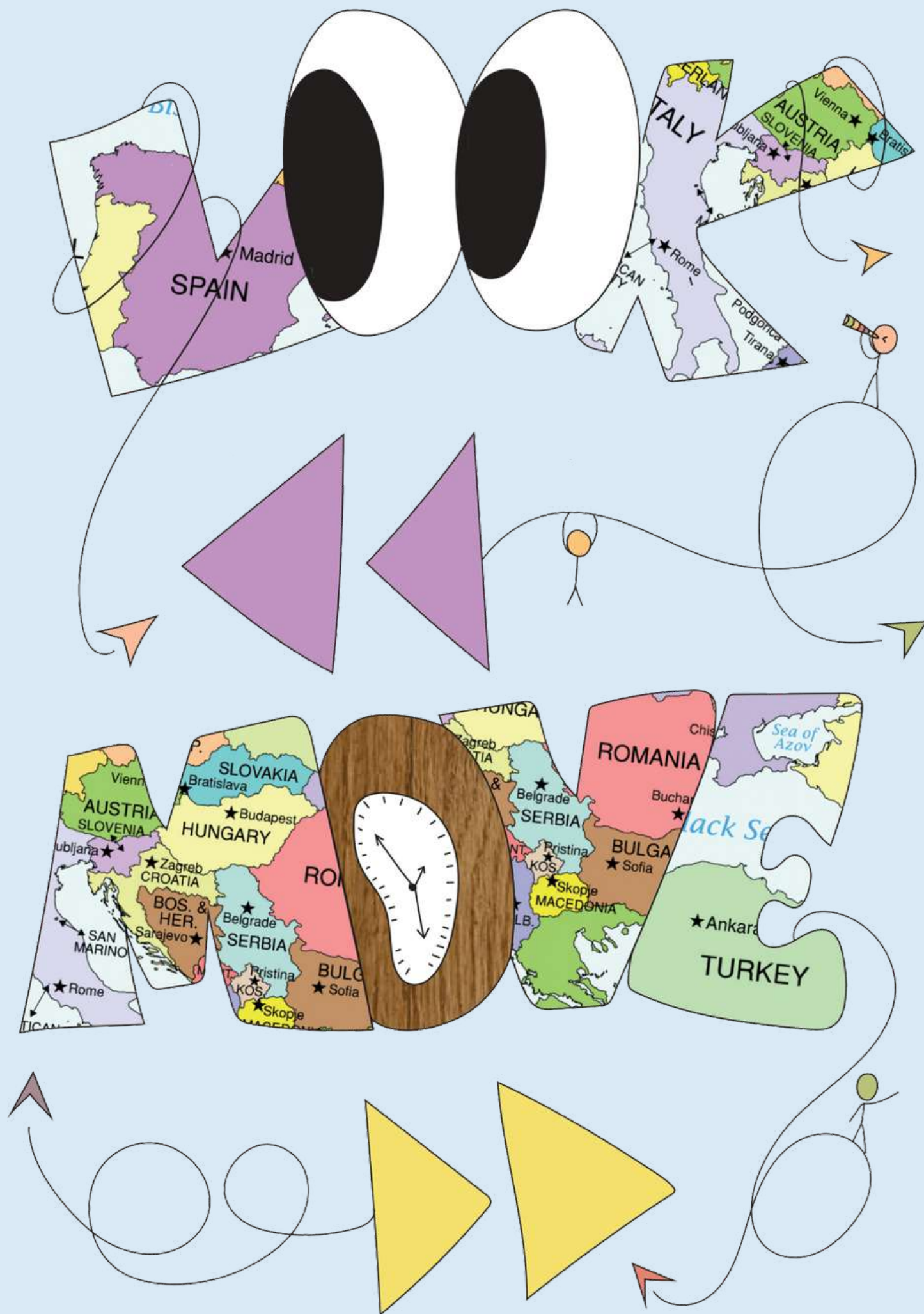
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