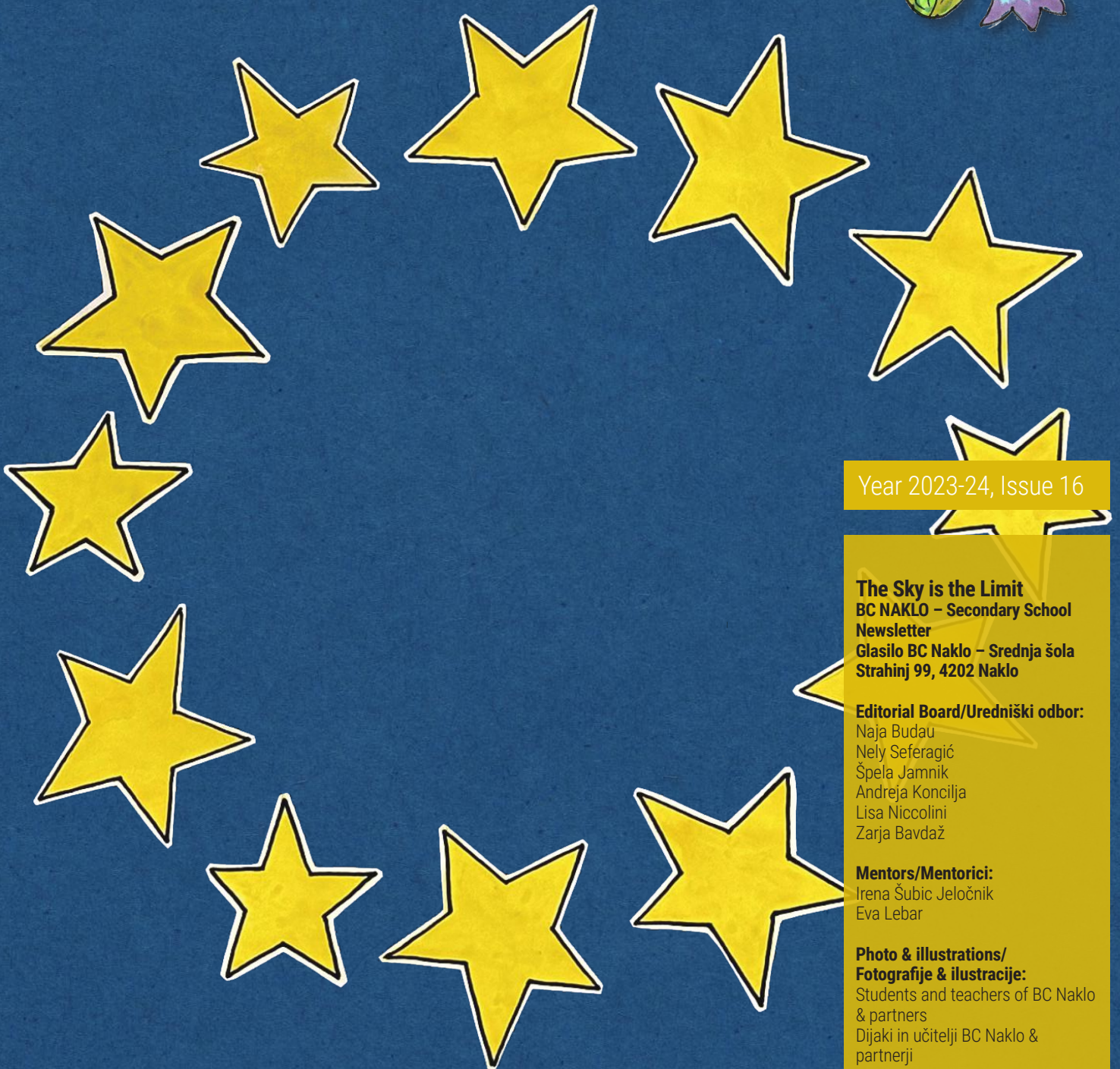


# THE SKY<sup>is</sup> the **LIMIT**



Year 2023-24, Issue 16

**The Sky is the Limit**  
BC NAKLO – Secondary School  
Newsletter  
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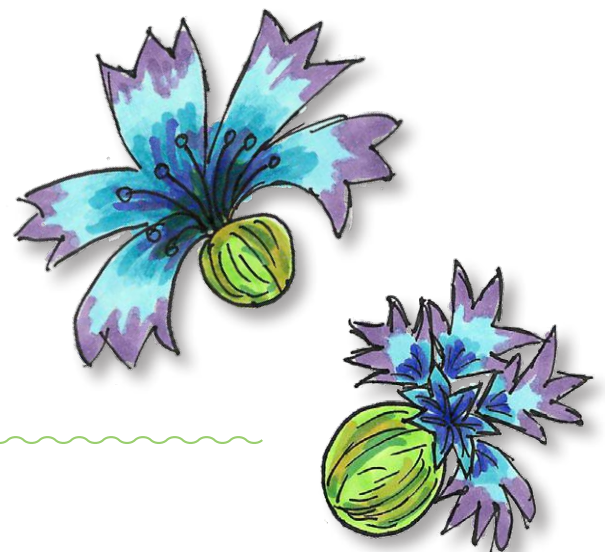
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## FROM THE EDITORS

By Naja BUDAU & Nely SEFERAGIĆ

The second and last issue this year is entirely dedicated to the elections for the European Parliament taking place between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June. We were inspired when our first year students visited the House of European Union in Ljubljana and their Europa Experience Centre. In the days after, they produced a number of articles, interviews and artwork to promote attending the forthcoming elections. They covered

topics on European union, elections, disabilities, mobilities, money, Agenda 2030 and more. Our students wrote where they have been in the EU already – most prominent countries being Norway, Estonia and Germany. Our teachers were on the go as well, visiting Tenerife, for example, and many international conferences in various countries. An important topic in this issue is active citizenship in

which our students are involved every year. Because this is our last time working on the paper as editors, we want to give thanks and gratitude to our teacher and mentor Irena Šubic Jeločnik as she was the one who originally dragged us into this mess (ha ha) – beware! We are hopeful for the next generation of editors, who will take over and hopefully continue our legacy in the following years.

## Recent and on-going projects & mobilities

By the PROJECT OFFICE

### Akreditacija VET 2022/Erasmus+ project

#### Mobility for students

- Landbrugskolen Sjælland, Dansk (October 2023)
- Olustvere Teenindus-ja Maamajanduskool, Estonija (November 2023)
- Voss vidaregåande skule, Norway (February 2024)
- Zespół Szkół Centrum Kształcenia Rolniczego in Samostrzel, Poland (April 2024)

#### Mobility for staff/teachers

- University of Bern, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Anatomy, Switzerland (November 2023)

#### Invited experts

- Lea Colner (November 2023)
- Alejandro Segura Arana (February 2024)

### Akreditacija VET 2024/Erasmus+ project

#### Mobility for students

- Biosphärenpark Nockberge, Austria (June 2024)

#### 'UČINEK' (Effect) project

#### Mobility for staff/teachers – Courses and training

- Stress Relief and Well-Being Strategies for Teachers, Spain (August 2023)

### Akreditacija SCH 2023/Erasmus+ Mobility for staff/teachers – Courses and training

- ChatGPT and Basic AI Tools, Greece (June 2024)
- Conflict Management, Emotional Intelligence and Bullying Prevention, Spain (June 2024)
- Mindfulness, Spain (June 2024)
- Technology and Media in Education, Spain (July 2024)
- Team Leading in Education, Spain (July 2024)
- Building a Sustainable Future, Portugal (July 2024)
- Design Thinking for Educators, Spain (July 2024)

## What is EU all about?



By Marcel ROZMAN,  
Nejc TONEJC & Gaber  
LANGERHOLC

### What do we think about the European Union

The European union is important to us because it brings countries together and makes things easier. We all have the same currency and crossing borders is not as complicated. Our country also gets some money from it, so we can build more buildings etc.

### EU: its origins and history

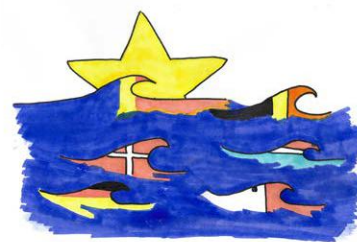
The European Union was founded in 1952. It was created due to fears of another world war and aimed at integrating countries through trade, thus

creating a union of steel and coal. The first countries to establish the alliance are Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Germany (western part) and Italy. The states are known as the Internal Six. Later, several other European countries joined the alliance. In 1992, the Federation of Steel and Coal was renamed the European Union. Until 31st January 2020, the European Union had 28 members but there are now only 27 after the UK's withdrawal. The youngest member of the European Union is Croatia, which joined the European Union in 2013.



## Why EU?

By Luna KLANČAR & Sara  
MIROŠNIČENKO



Freedom for citizens to live, study or work anywhere in the EU

Freedom

Crisis number

Democracy

Peace

Common currency

Free flow of mobile data in all member countries of the EU

Encouraged investment and mutual support amongst member countries

Market expansion

Unity

More cultural diversity

Equality

# European parliament



By Marcel ROZMAN, David GRADIŠAR & Aljaž KNAFELJ

The European Parliament stands as a symbol of democratic governance within the European Union, representing over 446 million citizens from its member states. Elected directly by the people, it holds the power to shape EU legislation, ensuring that laws are transparent and responsive to citizens' needs. Additionally, the Parliament serves as a watchdog, monitoring EU institutions and member states to safeguard democratic values and fundamental rights. Through its vital roles in legislation, representation, and oversight, the European Parliament reinforces the democratic principles upon which the EU was founded, fostering unity, accountability, and legitimacy across Europe.



We think that European parliament is very important for our community because we rely on our partnership

with other countries outside of the European Union. As one united community we have military power that is

protecting Europe from threats and helping people in harm that live in the European Union.

# EU elections

By Gaber LANGERHOLC & Janez CUKJATI



**UPORABI  
SVOJ GLAS  
EVROPSKE VOLITVE  
9. JUNIJ 2024  
EVROPSKE-VOLITVE.EU**



**How to vote**  
The website you can vote on is <https://elections.europa.eu/en/>. There you can choose a country you will vote in and a language in which you will receive information about the election.

**How to ensure there is no cheating in the election**  
Free and fair voting is the point of democracy. People who vote should have free choice without any manipulation, which is why countries must ensure safe voting.

**Why you should vote**  
Between 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> June 2024, millions of Europeans will attend the election in order to create a new future for the EU. We have the right and duty to vote and make our voice heard. If we don't, others will decide for us and determine our future.

**How does voting work**  
Every 5 years EU citizens vote for the members of parliament.

**Our opinion**  
We are not old enough to vote yet, but when we are, we will definitely attend it!

# Money in the EU

By Julija SOKOL & Lana Ruby KARNIČAR

## Beginnings

First countries of the EU started using euro in 2002

## Today

There are 20 countries that have euro as their currency: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Germany, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

## Advantages

It's easier to exchange goods and services. We don't need to exchange money anymore. Travelling to other European countries is easier and cheaper.

## Characteristics

We have banknotes and coins. The images on them are different from country to country but the overall design is the same. The value of money all over EU is the same.

## Interesting facts

European Central Bank (ECB) takes care of the euro. The sign for euro comes from the Greek letter epsilon.



# Countries: Match the fun facts!

By Lars VOZELJ, Enej ŠOLAR & Nikolaj MILAKOVIĆ

**How well do you know EU countries? Match them to the descriptions below.**

1. The country that kept its own currency rather than adopt the euro after joining the EU.
2. Joined the EU in 2007 and became one of the largest recipients of EU funds for infrastructure development.
3. The third largest island in the EU. It joined the EU in 2004.
4. This is the largest economy in the EU and a key driving force behind European integration.
5. The smallest EU country by area and population.
6. The country is home to the European University institute.
7. Holds the record for the fastest accession negotiation to join the EU.
8. This is one of the 6 founding members of the EU.



Estonia

Cyprus

Italy

Malta

Germany

France

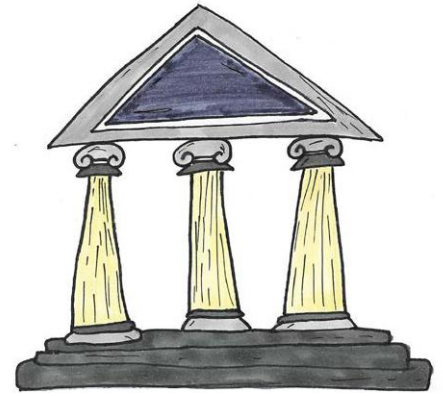
Romania

Denmark

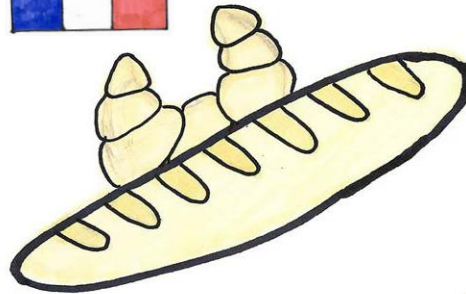
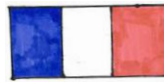
# Knowing, not guessing

By Ana KRT, Neja EGER & Laura DOVJAK

1. This country has one of the oldest flags in the world. Their flag includes the colour red. They speak German. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.



2. This country is small, there are around 2 million people in that country. The longest river is the Sava and the longest stream is the Kokra. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.



3. Their famous food is rabbit stew and the capital city is Valleta. Their president is George Vella. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.

4. This country has a simple flag. It is red and white. This country has four national languages, one of them is French. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.



5. This country has beautiful nature. People in this country don't use cars that much, they like to ride bikes. Their most known flowers are Tulips. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.

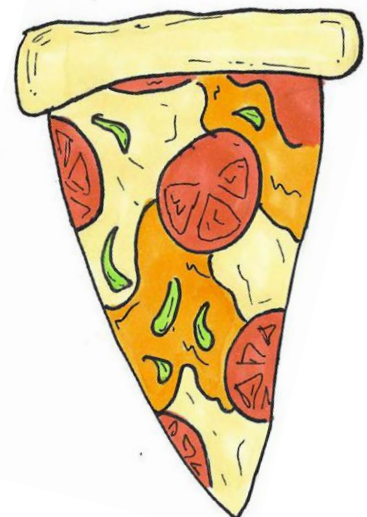


6. Their flag is red and green. One of the most famous people from that country is Cristiano Ronaldo. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.



7. Their traditional dance is flamenco. Girls dancing that dance wear red dresses. Their country has a red flag that has the colour yellow in it. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.

8. In this country, fashion is really important. They have really good food. One of their specialities are snails. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.



9. This country has good food. For example, pizza and pasta. This country has a shape of a boot. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.

10. This country is known as a cold country. Their specialty is Finnish sauna. The flag is white and blue. This country is \_\_\_\_\_.



# Amazing opportunities in education



**Nara JERALA, Leja STARE & Kaja JAGODIC talked to Špela LANGUS**

At BC Naklo we are very grateful because our project office enables us to take part in numerous projects and programs like Erasmus+ exchanges and mobilities in various EU countries. It allows students to visit, study or work in EU countries other than their own. Three students talked to Špela Langus on how international exchanges work. Read below.

## **With what projects does your project office work?**

We implement national and international projects, more specifically under the programs Erasmus+, Las Gorenjska košarica, LAG Stražišče zeleno središče, EIP projects sub-measures 16.2 and 16.5 and European Cohesion Policy program.

## **How many Erasmus+ on-going projects are currently in place at our school?**

We are currently implementing 22 projects.

## **What do exchanges offer to young students?**

Exchanges help acquire knowledge, develop skills and competencies in

professional fields; learn about other cultures and make new social contacts; form and strengthen the students' identity and expand the European dimension.

## **Which countries do we cooperate with in Erasmus+ exchanges?**

Currently we have partners in Norway, Poland, Austria, Estonia, Germany, Croatia, Denmark, France, Spain and Italy.

## **How many days do mobilities normally last?**

They usually last from 10 to 12 days.

## **What support does the EU provide to carry out these exchanges?**

All mobilities are fully sponsored by the EU.



# Disability in the EU

**By Julija SOKOL, Nika KUŠTRIN & Lana Ruby KARNIČAR**

Many people with disabilities are still having a hard time accessing health-care, education, jobs, leisure and participation in political life. The EU and its member countries are working to ensure that all people with disabilities enjoy their rights, can participate in

society and the economy, and do not experience discrimination. Measured in 2022, the research shows that 27% of the EU population had some form of disability. In 2022, the share of women with disabilities was higher than that of men in all member states. In the EU, on

average 29.5% of the total female population had a disability, compared to 24.4% of total male population.

A little exercise – connect the correct description of a disability with the name of the disability.



# Agenda 2030: Eradication of poverty

**By Julija SOKOL, Nika KUŠTRIN & Lana Ruby KARNIČAR**

EU wants to make peoples' lives better by 2030. They have set 17 goals and the first of them is eradication of poverty. They want to get rid of social exclusion and they want to provide social protection. They want all the people to have the same access to education.

In order to eradicate this problem, they have come up with political strategies such as promoting economic growth, jobs for more people, better health care and social inclusion for everyone. They are taking care of the collaboration between countries. Many internatio-

nal organizations and individuals have offered help. We can help, too. We can get involved in volunteer activities. We can donate things that we don't need anymore, like food, clothes, toys ... But most of all, we need to raise awareness about this problem.



# STUDENT MOBILITIES



## Where in the EU we have and haven't been so far

By 1M

Students from our class have been to many European countries, here's the list: Italy, Austria, Croatia, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Ireland, the Netherlands, Estonia, Hungary, Romania, Malta, Sweden, Poland, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein. However, nobody has visited the following countries yet: Bulgaria, Finland, Lithuania, Cyprus and Andorra.

### Italy

There are incredible ski resorts, large shopping centres and amusement parks like Gardaland. Italy also has beautiful and impressive art and architecture. We visited the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

*Kaja*

### Croatia

We love going on holiday to Croatia. The beaches are beautiful. Some of our favourite islands are Hvar, Cres, Pašman ... Some towns and resorts we have been to are Dubrovnik, Split, Trogir, Biograd na moru, ... Unfortunately, everything is really expensive and the people aren't very kind.

*Luna, Neja, Laura, Sara M.*

### Sweden

I was in Stockholm in 2020. My favourite activity was visiting the ABBA museum. The Vaasa ship was also impressive.

*Kaja*

### Portugal

Porto is a wonderful seaside city and a great place for studying.

*Tit*

### Spain

I remember the wonderful views from the top of the Teneguía volcano.

*Ruby*

### Hungary

Budapest has many bridges and great food, for example ratatouille. I was surprised by the architecture: the beautiful churches and palaces. There are many museums. Budapest has a very efficient tram and underground.

*David & Marcel*

### Estonia

It's a cold but very beautiful country, although the people are quite reserved. It is flat and has no mountains. I was impressed by how clean the towns and their environment are. The beaches are nice but the sea is too cold to swim in.

*Nejc*

### Malta

Malta has well-organized public transport to get around the island. I loved the double-decker buses! The old town of Valletta is very attractive but the highlight for me was the trip to Gozo, another island with beautiful sea and rocky beaches where we could climb on the rocks.

*Julija*

### Spain

I loved the black beaches and the view from the volcano on Fuerteventura, one of the Canary Islands.

*Aljaž*

### Germany

I have been to Germany twice for my biathlon competitions. Their sports infrastructure is better than ours but there are a lot of traffic jams.

*Lars*

### Ireland, France, Romania

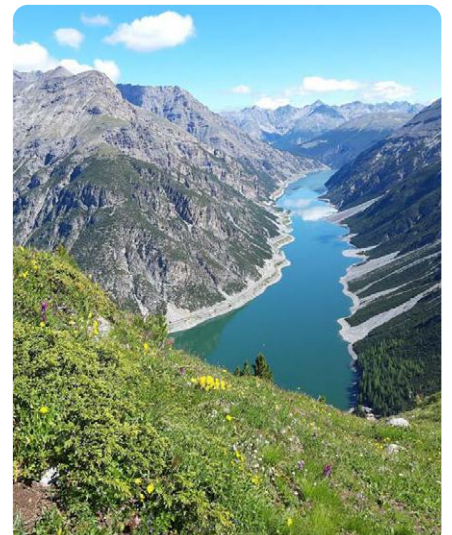
I loved the amazing views of incredible cliffs, and cheerful people. Everything is very clean and neat in Ireland. Corsica has beautiful beaches but it is not very clean, unfortunately. We travelled through Romania in a motorhome. It is quite messy and dirtier than Slovenia. Parts of bigger towns are renovated and the architecture is beautiful but there is a lot of poverty outside of towns.

*Nara*

### Luxembourg

It has nice and cosy old towns. They felt a bit like Austria or Switzerland. Even the food tasted like Swiss food to me. But then, we were just passing through.

*Ruby*





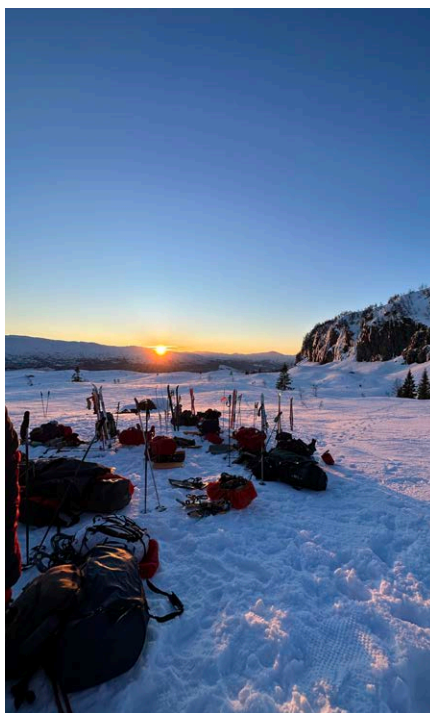
## Building a snow hotel in Norway

By Lara VIŠNOVAR

In January of 2024, six nature conservation students and one agriculture student from Biotehnični center Naklo took part in an exchange to Norway. During the exchange we gained a lot of new knowledge, experience and we

learned a bunch of new skills, that we will remember for our entire lives. Our host school (Voss vidaregåande skule) is located in Voss, a small town, known for its extreme sports and beautiful nature. We attended a programme simi-

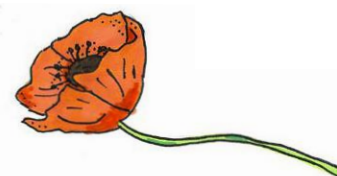
lar to our nature conservation course, called the 'wilderness programme'. As a part of their practical classes, they organised a hike and a construction of a snow hotel in the mountains for us and our teachers. In the morning we took a cable-car up the mountain, where we hiked for another thirty minutes before we got to our designated location. There we measured the snows depth and decided on where our snow hotel would stand. As soon as we decided on that, we got shovels and started digging. First, we had to dig a hallway, then our rooms and lastly our beds. When we finished with that, we built a roof out of snow bricks which we had also made ourselves. After seven hours of work, we finally got to make dinner and hang out with our Norwegian friends. The entire experience was definitely a challenge, since none of us had ever done anything like that before, but it was an unforgettable experience that gave us a lot of useful skills along with good memories and friends that we are going to treasure forever.



## Exchange in Estonia

By Špela ŠTURM, Iza ZUPANC & Zala PIPP

During our exchange in Estonia, we had an unforgettable experience filled with learning, fun, and intercultural connections. We gained valuable knowledge and connected with French and Estonian students. We attended an event, where the French and Estonian students gave us insight into their school and traditions. We also participated in various activities that connected us with our peers and provided a better understanding of their daily lives. Exploring the towns of Tartu and Viljandi was a special highlight. We learned about their historical landmarks and enjoyed their local cuisine. The exchange in Estonia was a great opportunity for learning, growth and the formation of international friendships.



# Bonding around a campfire and abseiling in Germany

By Eva LEBAR

Looking back on our trip to Germany, we had a lot of good times and some unexpected moments. Seven students and two teachers visited Germany at the beginning of April for an international youth exchange. We were invited to Germany by a group who had been to Slovenia the previous year. They welcomed us with open arms, showed us their ways of life,

and provided great food, shelter, and good company. The ride to Germany and back was quite a shock, as it took us half of the day to come to Germany, and the whole day to come back, due to some problems with the trains.

Nevertheless, we managed to have some fun in between, playing cards, doing crossword puzzles, and just tal-

king and getting to know each other better. The most memorable moment that will stay with me forever is the abseiling down the tower. Abseiling is "the activity of going down a very steep slope while holding on to a rope that is fastened to the top of the slope (Cambridge Dictionary)." Here are some of the highlights that students wrote down:

By Kata MANČEK PÁLI & Nika KOLJANIN

Tuesday was our first day and we arrived at dinner time so when we got to our first destination, we had some time to unpack and then we had dinner. After dinner we gathered around a campfire and told each other how

we felt there. On the second day we got to know each other a little more as we got split into two groups and had to work together to complete 3 challenges. Then we got into smaller groups of 6-7 and we talked about some

papers we had to fill out prior to coming to Germany. On the last day we moved destinations to a small camp where we had a few hours of free time and we got to explore the town and we were sleeping in a tepee.



I liked it there because the food was good and I enjoyed it when we went hiking up the hill.  
Lovro

## By Anže OGRIN

On Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> April, some other students and I took part in an international youth exchange in Germany during Project Week. On Tuesday morning, around 5:30, we gathered in front of the Kranj railway station and left at around 5:51. During the train ride, we talked, played cards, ate, and slept. In short, we were not bored. We travelled to Marburg by train, so the road was long. From Kranj we drove to Jesenice, Villach, Salzburg, Frankfurt, and Marburg. When we arrived at the location, we got into our rooms and unpacked. After a long journey, we had dinner and rested briefly. After dinner, we got to know each other next to the campfire. We slept in a house with a fireplace. We spent the next day in Kirchvers. After breakfast, we played games, did group work, and connected cross-culturally. Since my group lost in the game played in the morning, we cooked lunch and cleaned up. After dinner, it was time to talk about our feelings and our day. The next day, after breakfast, we cleaned the rooms and the house. We took all the travel equipment on the bus. The long hike was cancelled due to bad weather, but we still reached the desired destination. We took a bus to another location in Weidenhausen. Before that, we had activities in the forest, which included going down the tower with a rope. We

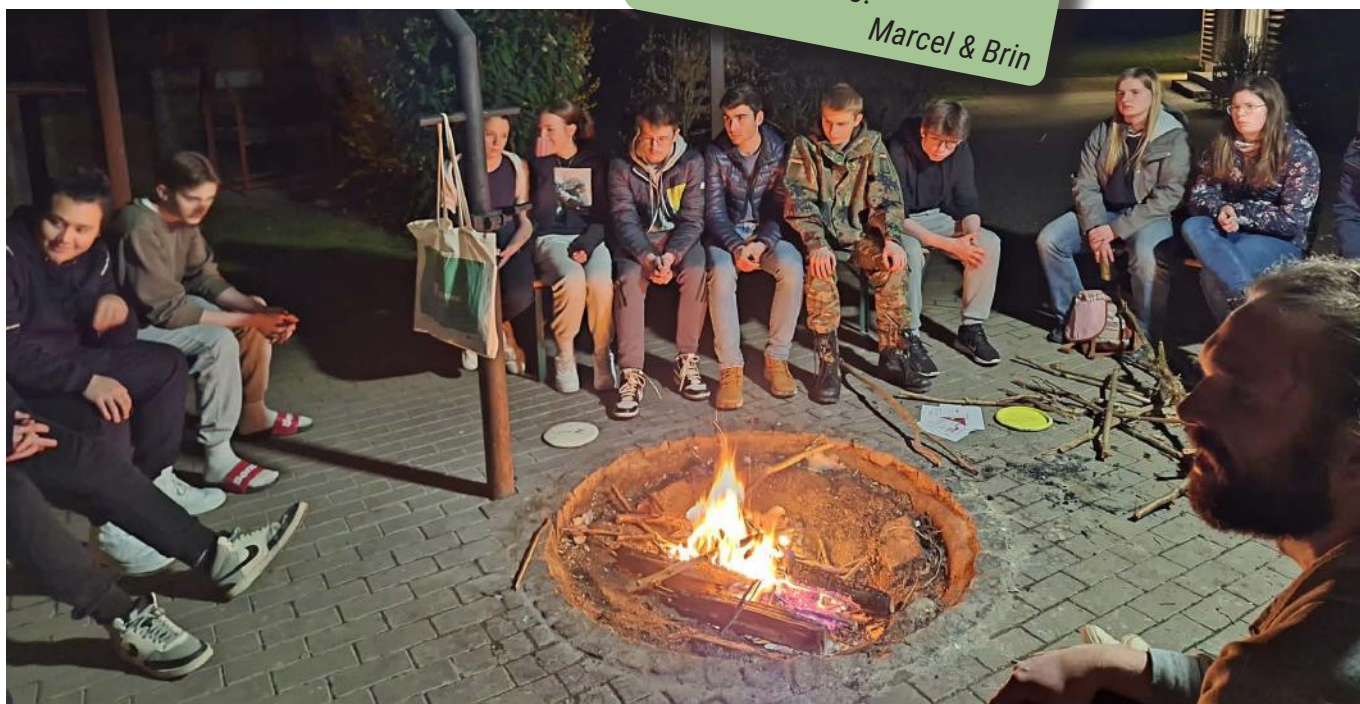
spent the night in tipis. Friday was our last day, so after breakfast, we packed our clothes, said goodbye to everyone, and left for the train to Slovenia. I lo-

ved the international youth exchange; it was a new adventure for me because I met new people and got to live in a new environment for a few days.



Germany was a blast, because we had a lot of activities, for example abseiling. The food was delicious too.

Marcel & Brin



# TEACHER & STAFF MOBILITIES

## Stress Relief and Well-Being Strategies for Teachers in Tenerife

By Špela LANGUS & Neža ČIMŽAR

Training was held at the Language school La Laguna – Europass Teacher Academy under the excellent guidance of Sheryn Moon, psychologist and teacher coach. The course was attended by 12 participants from France, Hungary, Cyprus, Poland and Slovenia. During the course, we were exposed to a variety of relaxation methods on a daily basis and we learned about the physiological changes in the body when stressed, methods of controlling these changes and ways of treating stress (warm-up exercises, breathing techniques, polyvagal theory, sleep science, communication tools). As part of the training, we had two excursions to discover the beauty of the towns of La Laguna and Bajamar. Unfortunately, we didn't manage to see the beautiful Teide volcano, because at that time the island was threatened by one of



the worst fires in Tenerife in the last 40 years. Such training courses allow us to learn new skills, spend time and

exchange experiences with colleagues from other countries and expand our social network.



## To teach is to build: An international conference with speakers from around the globe

By 1N, 4N & Project Office



Erasmus+ enables partnerships between schools within the EU. Every other year, BC Naklo organises an international conference where professionals from a number of countries and institutions share research reports and good practices. Occasionally, a delegate from a non-EU country makes a contribution as well and this is what happened last November. Among the conference speakers three stand out: Lea Colner, a Slovene teacher and principal working in Sweden; Solveig Gaarmand, a university teacher of English and German; and a Japanese student teacher Tetsuya Ida. Here's what they told us.

## Lea Colner, Sweden: Learn to be happy right now!



Free movement is the EU Treaty right which citizens value the most and see as the most important achievement of EU integration. It goes to the heart of Union citizenship. Member States and the EU share the responsibility to make the free movement rules work to the benefit of citizens, growth and employment.

### EU monitor website

Lea Colner is a young Slovenian teacher who lives in Sweden. She is one of numerous students and workers who has benefited from the above mentioned Free Movement Treaty. After graduating with honours in Slovenia in 2009 she moved to Sweden where she started working as a teacher and in 2019 became principal of the Vittra Rösjötorp international school and preschool. Last October she was no-

minated 'Principal of the year 2023' by Skolledare21 and in January 2024 she won the Leadership Award »Leader of the Year« in category Sustainability, which was handed out by AcadeMedia during the Leadership Forum in Stockholm in January. In November she attended our To teach is to Build international conference, where she gave a plenary speech.

She made quite a few memorable points in her speech, for example that the teacher is the key figure in education, that technology and equipment are not always as necessary as we might think, that there are plenty of sustainable resources that we can use in our teaching, that communication and uplifting children is pivotal and that being kind is not dangerous ... Throughout her presentation, however, it was obvious just how devoted she is to the sustainable development goals of Agenda 2030, innovation in education and empowering students for personal growth and development. Listening to her was simply inspiring!

## Solveig Gaarsmand, Denmark: I love being close to the sea

### What is your favourite thing about Denmark?

I enjoy the landscape and most of all I love being close to the sea. I lived in Munich some time ago and I still remember how beautiful the mountains looked but being far away

from the ocean made me feel homesick. I live near Odense in Denmark

### What is your favourite traditional food from Denmark?

I like fish a lot. It's really difficult to buy fish even if I live close to the water. There are hardly any places where you can buy fish. Fish seem to be dying out from over fishing and sometimes the lack of oxygen even if the Danish water is pretty clean. But we like fish dishes a lot. We also eat a lot of pork. About desserts, I like anything with fruit, especially or strawberries.

### Opinion on pancakes?

I like pancakes. When my grandkids come over, they enjoy watching me make pancakes and even more enjoy eating them.

### What are some of the most popular sports in Denmark?

One of the big sports is handball. There is also football, swimming, sailing, biking, and badminton. Those are the main sports I can think of.

### Why did you decide to visit Slovenia?

We were in a project about sustainability together with Ljubljana University. One of my colleagues had already been here and recommended me to visit you, which I have definitely not regretted. Being an English teacher it is very inspiring to visit other places and speak to other people. It is an opportunity to develop one's intercultural competences.



**How would you compare our education system and yours? What is the difference?**

I am impressed with your teachers – they are very skilled and hard-working. I am also surprised that you don't have to pay for your education. In that we are equal. I am also surprised that you have meals at school. In Denmark, you do not get meals for free in schools. Also, your focus on sustainability is impressive.

**What do you like the most about Slovenia?**

I admire the old town of Ljubljana, I enjoy the landscape and I really like the people's open character. I would like to come back some day soon!

**What would you recommend us to visit in your country?**

I am not a fan of big cities but I would recommend visiting Copenhagen. I would take you to a small museum about Vikings near where I live. There is also a small beautiful castle. Also, Legoland is one of the most famous tourist attractions and the coastline is worth visiting if the weather is good.

**Can you tell us a sentence in Danish?**

JEG KAN GODT LIDE AT VAERE I SLOVENIEN. (I like being in Slovenia.)

**Tetsuya Ida, Japan: Visit Kyoto in autumn**

**Was your stay here pleasant and how did you travel here?**

I came here by plane and travelled for about 16 hours.

**What did you study and what do you do now?**

I study chemistry and biology. Now I am completing an exchange here in Slovenia. The main topic of my exchange is ecology.

**How would you compare our education system and yours? What is the difference?**

Our schools are very different. For example, we don't have a lunch break. I was really surprised by it when I visited a school in Ljubljana.

**What is your traditional food from your local cuisine?**

Sushi and ramen are very common in my country. So is okonomiyaki, a dish from eggs and noodles. Eating out is very cheap in Japan but here it is a lot more expensive.

**Did you try any of our local cuisine?**

I have tried some but am looking forward to trying even more.

**What do you like the most about Slovenia?**

I really enjoy cycling and hiking so I am impressed with your cyclists.

**What would you recommend us to visit in your country?**

I would recommend visiting the beautiful town of Kyoto, especially in autumn when the trees have very beautiful leaves.



# I learn a lot in conversations with people

## Neja EGER talked to Member of European Parliament Romana TOMC

### How are you dealing with migration and security in the EU?

Almost 10 years have passed since the last major migration crisis, and the EU has still not provided a common answer on how to solve it. I am not a member of the committees directly dealing with migration, but I actively follow the issues and always vote according to my conscience. The EU has done far too little in this area. I wish the EU leaders would more decisively state that Europe is closed to illegal migrations, that the borders would be more controlled, and that we do not allow human trafficking, as only then can we ensure security and stability in Europe.

### Which policy areas are most important to you?

All policy areas are very important for ensuring prosperity and equality for all EU citizens. Personally, I would say that the area of social issues is closest to my heart, which I also deal with the most. I also pay a lot of attention to demography, which I believe



represents one of the greatest challenges of our time.

### How do you connect with citizens and consider their needs?

Primarily by participating in public debates, committees, and also on social networks. I also learn a lot at various meetings, in conversations with people. The involvement of citizens in

politics always surprises me anew. I am also always open for discussion through my website or email.

### Why will electricity become more expensive for Slovenians in the coming years?

The main problems lie primarily in the increased need for electricity and the disrupted supply of energy resources in the global market due to the war in Ukraine. Also, the green transition, which was overly ambitious and not in touch with reality, poses a great problem.

### Do they plan to update the transport infrastructure?

Transport infrastructure mainly depends on the plans of the governments of the member states. However, in this term, the EU has allocated about 100 billion euros for improving transport infrastructure and about 42 billion euros for improving railway infrastructure. I have no doubt that these investments will continue under the right leadership in the future.

## Trends in floriculture and horticulture

By Špela JAMNIK

Alex Segura Arana presented the floristry trends of 2024 at our school. He comes from Barcelona, Spain. He stayed at our school for two weeks. In this time, various staff members and students at the school got to know him. On the last day, he demonstrated the production of bouquets and arrangements live. His knowledge is displayed at gardening and flower fairs but he also works as a juror in competitions. Originally, he is a secondary school teacher. He says he enjoys creating wedding bouquets the most. His design depends on what kind of bouquet the bride wants – for example classic dark tones or crazy extravagant



vivid colors. Where Alex comes from, they don't celebrate Mother's Day or Women's Day. He also told a story about Romania, where he first heard about Slovenian holidays. It is important for

him that the flower shop is clean inside and out, not just the decorations. For each decoration, he explained where he would place it and how he would elevate it even more as a wall ornament or a window decoration that radiates energy into the room. For him it doesn't matter which type of flower he gets to work with, they are all special. According to him, everyone can and should get flowers, not only girls and women. Men too deserve flowers every so often, regardless of the colour. For them, all crazy things and any colours go together. During the wedding season and around holidays he and his colleague florists are very busy.



# As the floods hit, active citizenship brings a ray of hope

By students of 1L, 1M, 2L & 2M

## Floods in Škofja Loka

By Brina ZDOVC

The flooding started on 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. The rainfall was between 100 and 200 litres per square metre. It only rained for 2 days, but the damage was enormous, amounting to more than €500 million. Firefighters, police forces and mountain rescue services quickly came to rescue. In the surroundings of Škofja Loka many roads were completely destroyed by floods and landslides. That's why helicopters were used to deliver food and drinking water. A helicopter rescued a family from a flooded house in the town of Škofja Loka. Charities helped people with food, clothing and cash.

## I was a volunteer

By Matej SKOKO

The August floods severely affected Škofja Loka. I decided to help with the damage that the floods caused. Unfortunately, the ground floor of our scout house was flooded. Our kitchen, refrigerator, sofas and all of our tools and equipment were soaked and destroyed. Due to extensive damage, we needed lots of volunteers. The firefighters first pumped the water out of the basement. Then we removed the mud from the basement with shovels and buckets. We carried the damaged furniture and tools to the courtyard. As many as 15

scouts participated in this major operation for four days. We finished the work quickly, which was only possible due to teamwork. More and more volunteers came to help every day. This further contributed to our high morale and efficiency. Although the scout house is not yet completely repaired, I am happy to have been able to contribute my part in cleaning up and clearing the damage from the floods.

## The wildest floods in Škofja Loka

By Tinkara BERNIK

In the night of 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 there was a huge rainstorm. At 3 o'clock in the morning the firefighters sent the first announcement: "On St. Andrej a landslide is endangering a house." That was only the beginning which was then followed by 200 interventions. Some of them were very dangerous but most of them were just pumping water out of houses or protecting homes with water mats. The firefighters couldn't handle all of the interventions, so they only responded to life-threatening situations. Some of them included the water boat for saving people out of water. There were some gas leaks and electricity problems. The firefighters were working for 3 days without any rest. We owe them a lot.

## We were rescuing our neighbours during the night

By Eva STRŽINAR

On 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023 floods in Slovenia caused a lot of damage. My friends have a small holiday home in Podobeno in Poljanska dolina, which is close to my home. It all started at night when we heard heavy rain falling on the roof. We saw flooded areas near a river so we went to wake up the people staying in the holiday home. Their house was flooded, that's why we brought a ladder, so they could save themselves from the flooded house. They came to our house where they stayed for 2 nights. Their house was full of water and river silt. We started cleaning and removing the silt and carrying out the furniture that was destroyed as soon as possible. The cleaning took one week but the damage the flood caused is still visible today.

## Moste under water

By Gašper BOGATAJ

My aunt lives in Moste near Komenda. This town was flooded completely in August. I arrived on the third day after the floods. The village was a mess. Everyone was trying to improve living conditions and fix the damage caused by the water. Firefighters were eve-





rywhere and they were pumping water out of houses. There were many people around houses removing debris. Volunteers and scouts came and offered help. My aunt immediately invited me to remove the mud from the basement. I did a lot of different jobs such as cleaning the floor, stacking firewood from the basement, throwing the destroyed furniture on the truck. By the end of the day, I was covered in mud.

## Landslides damaged roads

By Lea PEROVŠEK

I live in Spodnja Luša near Škofja Loka. After the rain we had a lot of landslides around our house. They occurred because the slopes are very steep and the soil was full of water and unstable. Landslides destroyed and closed the roads and put a lot of sand, mud and trees on them. The roads had to be cleaned. Together with our neighbours we decided to do it ourselves. One neighbour used his excavator to remove the sand and the mud from the road so it was passable again. My father and grandfather did some work with a shovel. At the end of the day the roads were clean but still damaged. Damaged roads were secured and kept safe. I prepared tea and lunch for my family and neighbours.

## Cleaning the school after heavy floods in Cerklje

By Katja RUPNIK

The August floods left many consequences. Beside flooded houses, my primary school was also damaged.



My dad, brother and I joined the volunteers cleaning the school in Cerklje na Gorenjskem on August 8<sup>th</sup> 2023. Many volunteers had already gathered in front of the school. We quickly started to work. At first, we emptied the culture hall. We dismantled and sorted the chairs that were all covered with mud and water. When we had finished emptying the culture hall, I joined my father in the sports hall. We were cleaning the dressing rooms and toilets. My dad was cleaning the mud from walls with a high-pressure cleaning machine and I was sweeping and redirecting the water from the rooms to the corridors. When we finished our work, we moved back to the culture hall. The floor was completely covered by mud and dirt and under the stage there was still a lot of water. The firefighters pumped water and we were cleaning the stairs. It was an exhausting day, but it was worth it. I really enjoyed it and I felt proud. Together we did something good for the community in this terrible situation.

## I volunteered as a fisherman

By Jakob RAKOVEC

I am a member of the Fishing Family Tržič. During the August floods, Tržiška Bistrica flooded the commercial ponds in Žeje. Mainly brown trout, carps, pike and pike perches live in the pond. Part of the fish population was washed away, but most of them remained in the pond. The floods did a lot of damage. Water carried away the benches and

applied a lot of mud and dirt. The rain also triggered a landslide that crashed into the pond. Considering the heavy rain, I would expect that much more damage could have been done. Members of the Tržič Fishing Family also cleaned the fishing and picnic area next to the ponds.

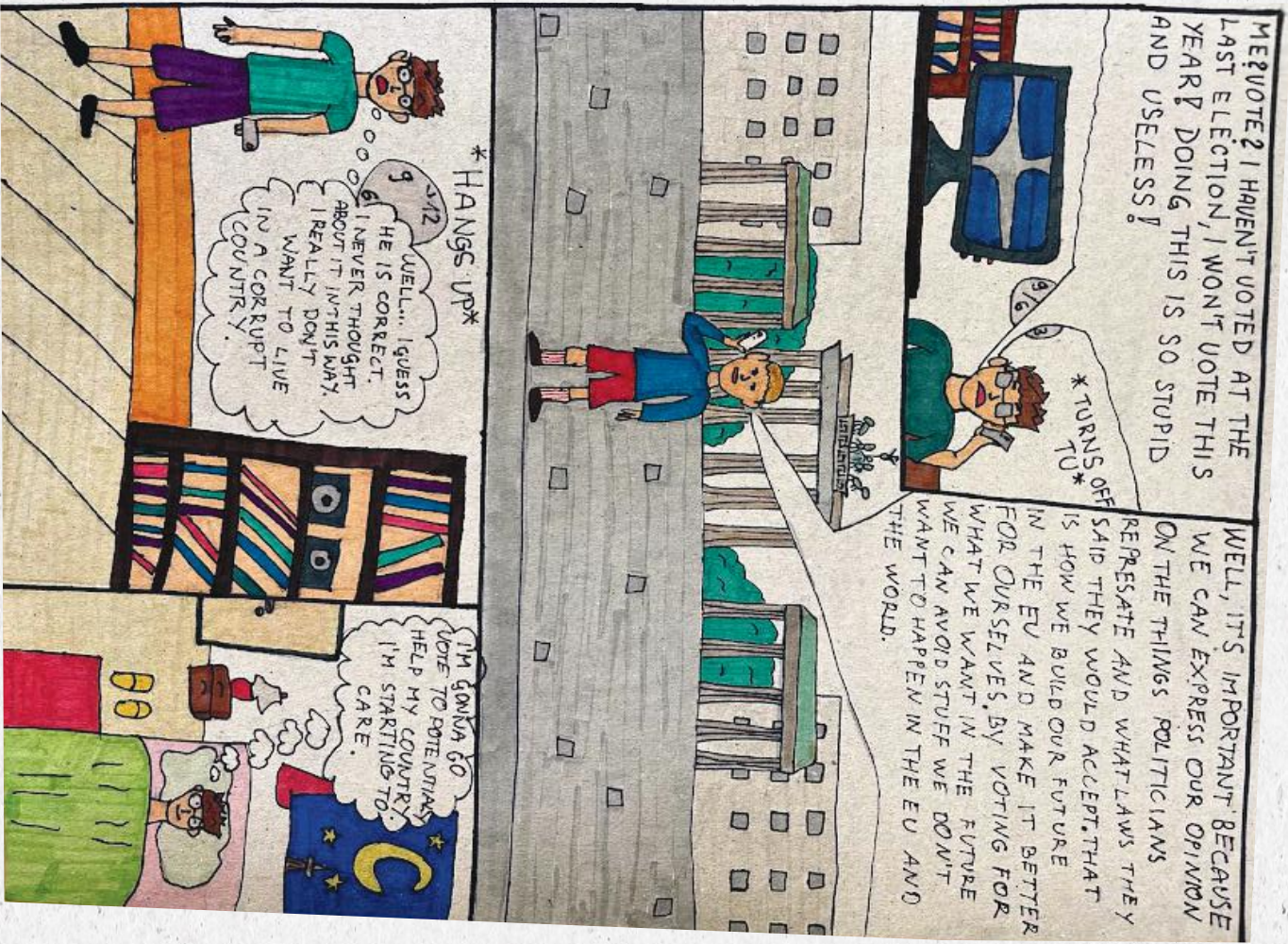
## Nurses, firefighters and mountain rescue team helped evacuating elderly

By Jan OBLAK

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, two days after the rainfall, a landslide above Koroška Bela that had been building up for about 150 years started moving. Immediately after it had moved, the mayor of Jesenice and the commander of fire department ordered evacuation for all inhabitants in the small town of Koroška Bela. I worked closely with the mountain rescue team and partly with firefighters. I was stationed in the retirement home which was a second base for people who had to leave their home. The primary base was the elementary school. The evacuation took place from afternoon till late evening. My job was to set up rooms where the people would be staying. I assisted transporting evacuees from the endangered area to either the primary or secondary base. In the end, thankfully, nothing happened. After one week people returned to their homes. In August I learned two things. First, it was not easy for people to leave their homes. Second, I learned a lot about working with people, especially the elderly.

# European election: Our future

By Nikolaj MILAKOVIĆ, Enej ŠOLAR, Nejc TONEJC & Lars VOZELJ



YES, WE CAN!

# Crossword puzzle

By Ela KOROŠEC & Katja SKODLAR



1. It consists of the heads of state or government of the European Union and the president of the European Commission.
2. Is the legislative branch of the European Union. It represents the citizens of member states and has the power to propose and adopt laws.
3. Represents the member states and is responsible for making decisions and adopting laws.
4. It is the executive institution of the European Union, consisting of 28 commissioners.
5. This is the highest court in the European Union.
6. It is the only institution of the European Union that is independent in its operation.
7. It supervises the operation of state accounts, the state budget and the entire use of financial resources of the state budget in the Republic of Slovenia.

1 European																				
2 European																				
3																				
4 European																				
5 European																				
6 European																				
7																				

## The European Union

By Taira PODJAVORŠEK & Sara MIROŠNIČENKO

In the dark times,  
when people had no dimes,  
when the conditions were tight,  
it was time for countries to unite.  
A union was created  
for many who awaited.  
It started with three,  
spread even across the North Sea.  
A flag as blue as the sea,  
sprinkled with twelve stars,  
declaring unity,  
now represents thee.



# Wordsearch puzzles

By Hana ŠAVS & Luna KLANČAR

Find 27 countries.

C	T	C	Z	E	C	H	R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	S	M	V	L	E
A	X	L	L	B	L	I	C	Y	S	W	P	O	L	A	N	D	T	N	P
H	H	U	U	E	I	R	R	P	L	B	S	P	L	Z	I	T	A	L	Y
X	R	X	X	L	T	E	O	K	O	U	M	A	L	T	A	R	A	L	S
D	H	E	E	G	H	L	A	O	V	L	K	V	O	S	P	A	I	N	Z
U	U	M	M	I	U	A	T	V	E	G	T	A	U	S	T	R	I	A	T
T	N	B	B	U	A	N	I	S	N	A	R	Y	G	E	R	M	A	N	Y
C	G	O	O	M	N	D	A	W	I	R	A	E	J	E	T	I	U	F	F
H	A	U	U	W	I	A	D	Y	A	I	J	T	E	M	N	J	S	R	L
G	R	R	L	E	A	S	L	O	V	A	K	O	S	C	T	O	T	A	A
H	U	G	P	O	R	T	U	G	A	L	P	J	R	J	E	F	R	N	T
Y	W	G	M	K	S	E	V	E	S	E	S	T	O	N	I	A	I	C	V
R	R	O	M	A	N	I	A	J	D	E	N	M	A	R	K	L	A	E	I
S	L	O	N	V	N	T	T	A	D	W	S	W	E	D	E	N	K	T	A
T	C	Y	P	R	U	S	S	D	V	F	V	F	I	N	L	A	N	D	U



**BIOTEHNIŠKI  
CENTER NAKLO**  
SREDNJA ŠOLA



Postani del razstave!  
Be part of it!

