

Are we all racists?

By Evelina Kvartunaite

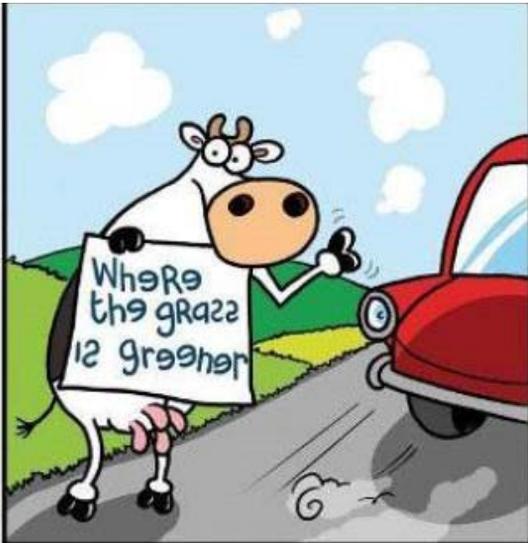
Yes. That's the answer I always come up with at the end of my contemplations. You might ask why, of course. You might say we all live in this world without limits, where - as the programme for youth organized by the EU states - we are all different, all equal. But are we in the end?

I was born in the Soviet Union and the saying we had then was also about equality - all equal but some are more equal than others. Sometimes it seems to me that equality and freedom are just sugar coated illusions we are all being fed. Yes, we all are born under the same sky, we can go to school (although according to UNESCO, 20.6% of the world's adults are still illiterate), we can work (in 2004 more than 2.6 million people in the EU with a successfully completed education at the third level were unemployed), have homes (although all of us probably notice homeless people wherever we go), dreams, plans, etc. Then I wonder if this is really a world we, as human beings, are proud to live in? Are we solving problems or only performing plastic surgeries on society?

While all these questions keep spinning in my head, I ask again - are we all xenophobes? My guess is - yes. I know I am. I also know I have met a lot of

people would take me in a certain way only because of my nationality, age, ideas, political views, gender.

Does this mean we are all doomed to spend our lives in closed boxes? No, I don't think so. I think the only way out is to try. To open your eyes and learn, ask, be curious. Then it comes as a surprise that not all Italians eat pizza every day and that there are no polar bears in Finland. An even bigger surprise is to find out about your own country when you are abroad. Therefore I wish for you to travel, to explore. Albert Einstein once said, "The world is a dangerous place to live! Not so much because of those who make evil, but because of those who look on and allow them to do it." I hope you do not forget that!



Multi-kids or how intercultural works for children

Indeed, its a great thing we can travel and explore our horizons, go study abroad and get jobs in the most amazing destinations but do we remember our children?

There are many aspects to be considered but the Danish National Institute of Social Research reported that many children with foreign backgrounds stumble during their first days at school.

More than one out of four children with refugee or immigrant backgrounds speaks little or no Danish when they start school.

Just as many feel bad at school and have problems communicating with their classmates and teachers.

'It's a large minority that can't be ignored,' said institute researcher Else Christensen to daily newspaper metroXpress.

She emphasised that a similar-sized group of ethnic Danish children felt bad at school too, but that the immigrant children's language problems were an additional hindrance in their way to a successful education. 'Some of them catch up in Danish, but others find it difficult to ever get a reasonable education,' Christensen said. Recent international studies have revealed that half of all children of immigrants finish schooling at age 15 with insufficient academic skills to continue their education.



Feb.

don't miss!!!

By Evelina Kvartunaite

February 1st at 18.00

Stammtisch at

Café Cuckoo's Nest

(Vestergade 73 5000 Odense C)

A great opportunity to have great fun together, having a bite to eat and enjoy a cosy ambience.

February 8th at 18.00

Spanish Circle and friends of the Spanish Language are invited for the exciting Carnival Fest!

At "Gamle Frugt Plantage", in Æblehaven 30, Martofte.

Contact us

For further information to:

icnewsletter_odense@yahoo.com

