

Zygmunt Dyras

THE VISEGRAD IDEA AND ME

If two years ago, someone asked me what the Youth Visegrad Club was, I would only be able to tell him, that it's some kind of association, helping young people doing things which can make citizens of The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland become closer to each other. One year ago, I was given the chance to join the YVC. And I did. Joining this society was one of a few things that I wanted to achieve in the high school. Now, if again someone asked me what YVC is, I would tell him, that for some people these three letters contain more meaning than anyone could expect. I would explain him or her that:

Y means Youth.

Young people are the future of the integrated Europe. That's why The Visegrad Club is made for students. Learning foreign languages and meeting people from other countries help them to open their minds for the European Union. We can practice our English with friends from Hungary, Slovakia and Czech Republic while talking about our future. How am I by myself connected with the Y letter? I am young, I love speaking foreign languages and meeting new people. I don't have to look for examples of how the YVC is helpful. The availability of speaking English during the last visit in Slovakia helped me to pass the FCE exam.

V means Visegrad

Visegrad is a city in The Czech Republic, where, during the middle ages, kings from Europe used to meet to discuss together the future of their countries. When we think about Visegrad, we think about integration. It is some kind of symbol. The first meeting took place in 1335, when Karol Robert, Kazimierz Wielki and Jan Luksemburski signed The Visegradian Pact. About 650 years later, Józef Antall, Lech Wałęsa and Vaclav Havel again signed a pact telling us to help our neighbours. Now, we continue the tradition and we try to do our best for Europe to become a better place for everyone. What do I have to do with it? When this summer I was in Prague, and I didn't know where to go, I met a man. We spoke in English. When I told him I was from Poland he just smiled and said: "Come on friend, I'll show you some great places in here". We walked about 7 hours in Prague and he showed me many things that I wouldn't have seen by myself. It is absolutely great, that no matter where I go - to Slovakia, Czech Republic, or to Hungary - I will meet people always ready to help. That is the way the things in all Europe should be. The YVC keeps on making young people know their neighbors better and learns them that there is no need to be afraid of other nationalities.

C means Club

Joining the Visegrad Club is not a compulsion. But I know some people that did not join it and now they only wish to have the availability of joining the YVC again in the next year. There are many clubs that we know but our club is like a big family. Someone could laugh of what I wrote, but two of our friends are called “Mamusia” and “Tatus” which simply means “Mum” and “Daddy”. I can always count on my friends from the YVC. We learn together, we know each other very well and many of us are friends not only during the trips or at the school. In our club we can have fun, we can meet many interesting people and we have to work to improve our English and marks.

YVC means integrated Europe which is a key to our better future. The future we create.

I learn a few foreign languages to be able to talk with people all around the world in their national languages. After high school I would like to study European law and become a lawyer. I do hope that being a member of The Visegrad Club will help me to get a good job, maybe not in Poland. My dream is to get a job in Prague and to live there – I fell in love with this city. My future is inseparably connected with the European Union. I also hope that there are more young people like me- fighting for their better tomorrow and the better tomorrow of their homelands.

If a young student asks me in the future what the Visegrad Club is, I will answer –It’s your chance to make yours and your friends’ future become something that you will be proud of. Just as I am proud that I am a member of The Youth Visegrad Club and I can create my future by myself.

Editorial note:

Author is a member of Polish section of The Youth Visegrad Club.



Zygmunt Dyras i Antoniusz Dietzius w czasie spotkania Klubów 1 V 2005 (fot. D. Kruk)