

PERSPECTIVE.

„My country is the best because...“

People come from different countries and it's important to say that every country has something special, something to offer. But is there any country that is the best one or better than others? In every single country there are people that are chauvinistic or patriotic on one hand and on the other hand people who don't like their own country so much and would rather live somewhere else. In this article we asked people from Slovakia, Belgium, Italy, Romania, Cyprus, Turkey and Bulgaria why they think their country is the best.

BELGIUM

#2



#1

I wouldn't say that Belgium is the best country, but it's my country and I love it. It's my place, a huge part of me, let's say a bigger one. I like that we are multicultural (people, languages), which is very nice. What's more...it's not a big country, so it's easy to travel to any place or city.

It's a country where you have a meeting place for different cultures and exchange of cultures. If you take for example Brussels, you can find there all European nationalities. These people are not shy or ashamed of their origin, doesn't matter, whether they come from Bulgaria, Romania or any other country. People are friendly and respect each other, all cultures and nationalities. Also, you don't need to travel somewhere to meet foreigners or to eat Ethiopian food or any other food. It's like world in one place. It's the same with languages. If you want to find someone to practice Swedish, you'll find it. You can get to know any culture at cultural evenings, which is an event where you can listen to music and bands from different countries.

ITALY



#1

I don't think Italy is the best country, but what I like is the fact that we have many regions, that are very different, many traditions and dialects. I really like this diversity.

#2

It's very complicated to be there now, since we have high unemployment and there are not many possibilities for young people so they are leaving and going abroad. I did it also. I'm living for 6 months in Cyprus and in this situation I don't think I will come back to Italy at least next 6 months. I would like to come back one day, when the situation will be better.

SLOVAKIA



#1

Slovakia is probably not the best country, but I love our beautiful nature and the fact that pollution is not so high as in other countries, because environment is for me very important. In my opinion, people in Slovakia are kind. Maybe we don't have a good political system, but there's a chance to change it. What's more, universities are for free and health care system is available for all of us.

#2

Because Slovakia is a heart of Europe and Kriváň is for me the most beautiful mountain ever. And we have very beautiful and colorful traditional costume, especially costume for women.

CYPRUS



#1

One of the reasons why Cyprus is the best country is because we are a small island with a vast amount of history and we have one of the warmest climates. Also is great thing that you can ski and surf in the same day. Our food is very tasty and the wine as well.

#2

We are very friendly people, we see life in a positive way and we like to party. Also a very important fact is that we live in a safe environment. I want to mention that Cyprus is the third largest island in the Mediterranean sea.

BULGARIA



#1

Our country is very tolerant to ethnicity, we have beautiful rivers, mountains and seas. Bulgaria is the right place to start a business, taxes are very low.

#2

If you are interested in history or archeology the Bulgaria is the right place to be. Also our food is very tasty and WiFi is great.

TURKEY

My country is the best because we did not lost the culture, we are very friendly and helpful. It's important that we have natural resources like gold for example. Awesome thing about Turkey is that we have a bridge between countries and we have entire cities build into mountains. The entire country is basically one giant archeological treasure.

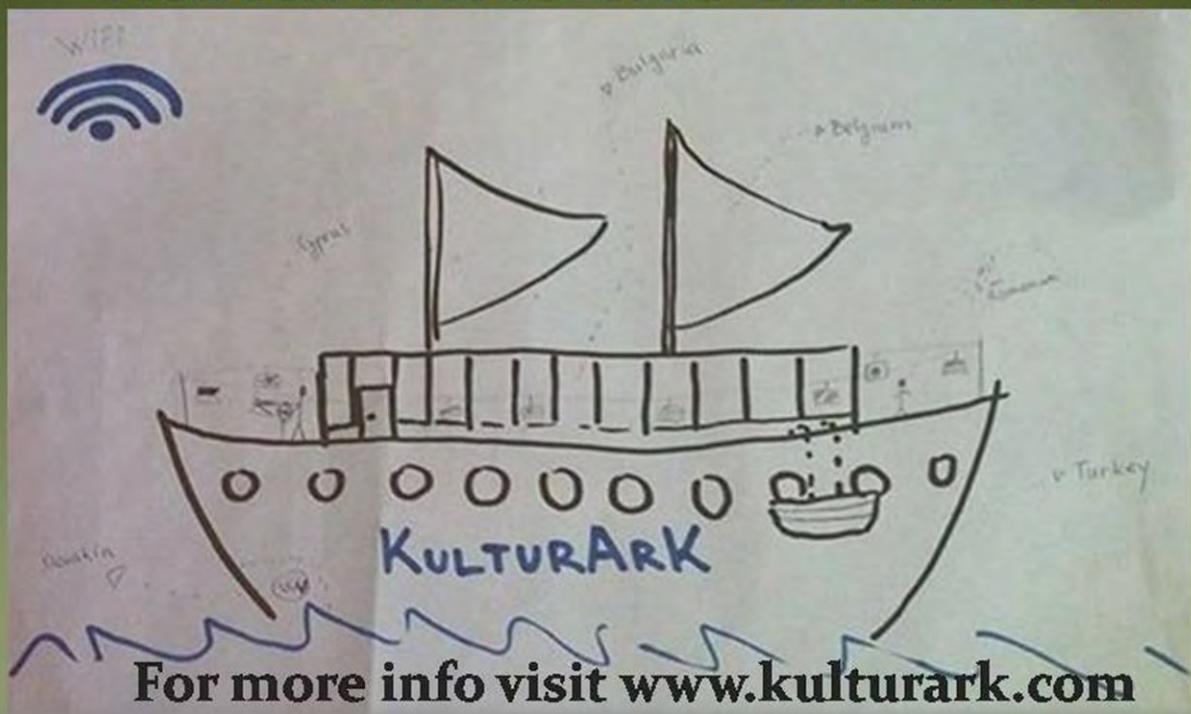
ROMANIA

Romania is the best because has varied nature and four seasons covered. The wilderness is great: you can go hiking, skiing, kayaking etc. One of the greatest things about Romania is that we have the happiest cemetery on Earth (situated in Maramures county). If you will visit Romania you will have an epic road trips, for example on Transfagarasan highway. Actually Jeremy Clarkson from Top Gear called it "the best road in the world". Also we have Dracula that is known worldwide. Romania has the largest population of the brown bears in Europe. Last but not least we have beautiful women.

- Raluca Vlad, Tomáš Runa,
Gisem

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Violence in School.

All kids are Inocent. There is no doubt here. Unfortunately not all kids grow in the same conditions. Some are more lucky then others. In this article we're gonna talk about violence among kids.

We all remember middle school. At least bits and pieces from that time. We remember our friends & teachers, the classroom, the lunch break. We remember our first desk buddy, the cool kids, the quiet ones, the football players and the computer geeks. We remember the ones that were nice, and the ones who weren't that nice.

I'm gnna tell you the story of my 2nd grade in middle school. I was switching schools, going from little to bigger city school. My parents picked i tup, mostly because the kids f all the lawyers and doctors we're going there. I was 8 yrs old when I stepped in that class room and my teacher introduced me to the others. I was always social and it was never a problem for me to talk to epable or find friends, but let me tell you what happened on my first week in my new class. I remember one day after lunch all the boys were outside in the yard and someone told me to go there. I didn't understand what was all about. When I got there, they all circled me and there was a fight. I was the new one and the others wanted to give me a lesson. n that moment I didn't really understand what was this about. I was quite big and the tallest in the class. That was the first time I saw fear, dominance and violence between kids. Later in my life I saw it more and more.

I was always a little different. I was listening a different music, I was dressed different and I choosed to do the things my own way. This was causing trouble sometimes. I was from a small town. Some of the older kids we're bulling me and cause of that I started bulling others. It took me a while to understand what was happening. When I was 12 years old my parents sign me for karate lessons & this changed me a lot. I stopped bulling others and I started helping others. It gave me a ot of confidance and a feeling of what is right to do.

We as hmans are complicated. Even when we are kids. We are a mixture of a lot of things, and we usually give back the things we are been given first. Especially kids. They are like mirrors. When you see a kid who is making problem, it's not that the kid is bad, but someone else was giving that to him. Maybe at home, maybe at school.

The problem is never in the kid. We need to find what the problem is and to help him. Grown ups are complicated, but kids can change up pretty quickly. Sometimes it's just a mater of a good conversation, or starting a new sport. We shouldn't neglect it. Kids can easily get things out of control and make the probem bigger then it is.

We can make a difference. i tis our obligatin as grown ups to take and Act & stop the violence at schools.

All kids are Inocent.

- Dimitar Gospodinov (Deanishome)

What comes to your mind when I say discrimination?

Discrimination is happening every day, everywhere, regardless the age, race or nationality. It comes in many forms and most people don't even recognize it, since many of us don't know what exactly it is. In simple words, to discriminate means to make a distinction. It is alright when we use it in everyday life, when we make decisions about what we are going to do or eat. However, it is not right when we do it with people. Therefore, discrimination is an unequal treatment of an individual based on something that is different from us. Different skin colour, religion, nationality, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, gender, physical condition... You can see that it can be almost anything. But why does it happen?

I tried to gain a little insight into this topic and asked people from various countries about their personal experience with discrimination. I found out that it is not only about discrimination. It is a huge topic interconnected with many other issues, such as inequality, racism, or globalisation. Here are some examples:

1# A lot of people migrate across countries because they cannot find the work due to bad financial situation in their own country. When they come to the new one, they are sometimes perceived as unknown invaders and local people let them feel that they are not welcomed. A girl from Cyprus described her experience like follows:

"It was a bit weird at the beginning, we perceived those people as unreliable. But they actually have things to share. They even enriched the workspace in many different ways."

2#

Another example comes from a Romanian girl who experienced discrimination based

on her nationality while she was living in another country. She was aware of the fact that Romanian people are stereotyped because of the gypsies, but she was shocked as she didn't expect also young people to be closed and judging.

3#

On the other hand, many people said that they don't have any personal experience with discrimination.

"Maybe I am too naïve or just stupid to assume it. But I didn't experienced discrimination on me. However, I heard people screaming on the street at the person with different skin colour or with different religion insults like 'Go back to your banana country' or 'go back, you stupid rat'. It is really mean."

"I haven't experienced a discrimination in my hometown as there is a lot of minorities and different religions. I was used to that and other people too. But when I came to the capital city I noticed that people put others into boxes. It shouldn't be like that."

So I will repeat again the question. Why does it happen?

The answer is simple. People are afraid of what they don't know or what they don't understand. And despite the diversity of the answers I received from my little survey, in fact, the message is the same in every each of them. The core element that starts discrimination is almost always the prejudice and lack of knowledge or understanding.

It's really not about the nation, religion, worldview, gender, background from which you come ... it's about the person. And only as long as you show respect to another human being you are being human.

- Petra Šlahorová

1. When we work together for a common purpose, we _____ .
2. People buy things they do not need, eat more than is healthy, throw it away...
3. There are places in the world where men and women are not _____ .
4. Lack of knowledge and unwillingness to gain it.
5. China is slowly becoming the largest _____ in the world, overtaking the United States.
6. We shouldn't judge people by their _____, it is racist.
7. Bringing parts into one – nations, religions, beliefs and understanding them – make us _____ .
8. Instead of discrimination we should _____ each other.
9. When I am in your country because a war is in mine, I am a _____ .
10. Closed market with a single firm which is in control is called _____ .
11. Islam. Buddhism. Christianity. Judaism. Hinduism...
12. Connectedness of the world. Interchange of worldviews, products, ideas, and other aspects of culture.

