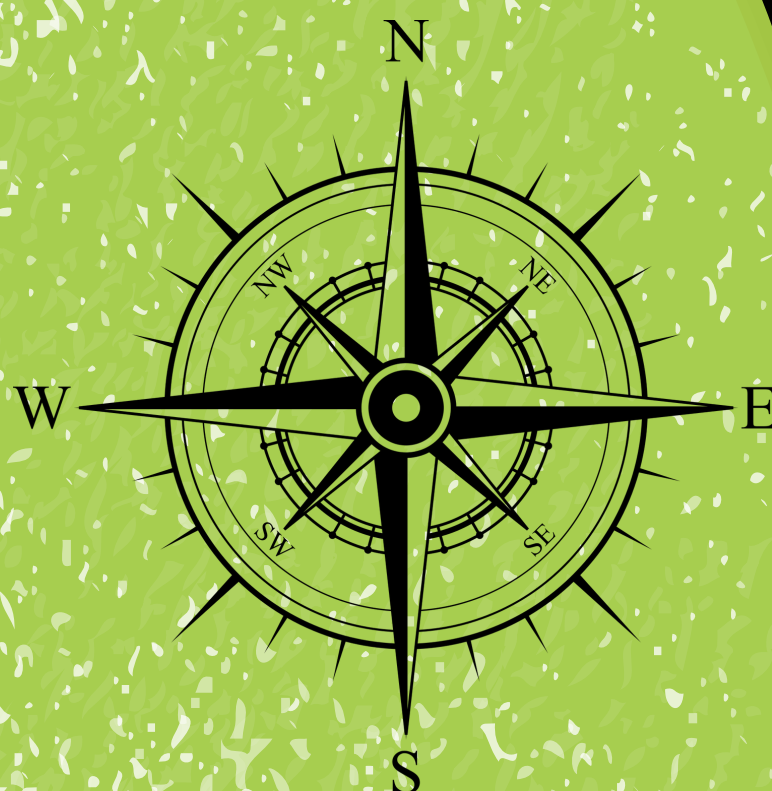


INTERNATIONAL TIMES



5 THINGS
YOU
SHOULD
TO
KNOW
BEFORE
YOU
START
TO
TRAVEL



YOUR VOTE MATTERS



GEOPOLITICAL
ALLIANCES. WHAT
EUROPE SHOULD DO IN
GEOPOLITICAL AGE?

**EU IS CITIZENS'
OXYGEN. HOW
IMPORTANT IS IT?**



Geopolitical alliances. What Europe should do in Geopolitical age?

AFTER THE COLD WAR, THE WORLD POWER BALANCE HAS CHANGED. AND WHILE THE US TRIED TO IMPOSE THE UNIPOLAR WORLD CONCEPT WITH ITS HEGEMONY AS THE SOLE SUPERPOWER, NEW GEOPOLITICAL POWERS EMERGED. THE NEW POWERS HAVE BEEN STRIVING TO CHANGE THE BALANCE OF POWERS AND TRY TO ENLARGE THEIR SPHERES OF INFLUENCE UNDER THE SUN. CHINA WITH ITS ECONOMIC POWER HAS THE FIRST POWER TO TRY TO DO THAT. RUSSIA AFTER PUTIN'S MUNICH SPEECH IS THE SECOND ONE. RUSSIA HAS FORMED ITS OWN ECONOMIC AND MILITARY UNION WITH SOME OF THE POST SOVIET COUNTRIES AND STILL OWNS STRONG MILITARY POWERS. AS FOR THE LESS STRONGER COUNTRIES THERE ARE INDIA, TURKEY, IRAN, SAUDI ARABIA, BRAZIL AND SOUTH AFRICA. ALL OF THEM ARE TRYING TO PUSH THEIR HEGEMONY IN THEIR REGION INVOLVING IN THE CONFLICTS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS.

IN THIS "CLASH OF CIVILIZATIONS" NOTED BY SAMUEL HANTINGTON EARLIER IN THE 1990S, THE EUROPEAN UNION HAPPENS TO BE OUT OF COMPETITION. WHY IS IT SO? LET'S START FROM THE ROOTS. THE EUROPEAN UNION EMERGED AS AN ECONOMIC STRUCTURE. IN THE MIDDLE OF 1950S THE EU TRIED TO BECOME NOT ONLY A UNITED ECONOMIC POWER BUT ALSO A POLITICAL AND MILITARY ONE, BUT THE PROJECT FAILED TO BE BORN. THERE WAS NO SENSE TO BUILD A NEW MILITARY FORCE WHEN ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE UNION WERE ALSO A PART OF NATO. HOWEVER, WHEN THE COLD WAR ENDED THE EUROPEAN UNION HADN'T BEGUN A NEW GEOPOLITICAL FORCE. SELECTING SOFT POWER AS THEIR MAIN INSTRUMENT OF CONDUCTING FOREIGN POLICY, THE EU SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING MORE CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES IN THE EARLY 2000S. HOWEVER, NOW THIS DOESN'T WORK. THE EUROPEAN UNION NOW IS CLASHING WITH THE HARD POWER POSTURE OF TURKEY AND RUSSIA. THAT IS WHY THE EUROPEAN UNION SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER MAKING ITS EXTERNAL POLICY STRICTER. THOUGH THE PROBLEM IS THE LEVEL OF INTEGRATION THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS FOR NOW. EUROPE SHOULD SERIOUSLY CONSIDER CREATING A UNIFIED EXTERNAL POLICY POSITION AGAINST THE THREATS THAT IT HAS NEARBY. FOR THAT EU SHOULD GO FOR HIGHER LEVEL OF INTEGRATION PROCESSES IN EXTERNAL POLICY AND MILITARY ASPECTS. EUROPEAN UNION SHOULD DEVELOP A UNIFIED AND STRONG POSITIONS AGAINST THREATS THAT IT HAS IN SHORT AND LONG TERM PERSPECTIVES.



Your vote matters

„BAD OFFICIALS ARE ELECTED BY GOO CITIZENS WHO DO NOT VOTE”

MODERN DEMOCRACY IS KNOWN AS THE „REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY”, CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES IS FIRSTLY MADE BY PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION PROCESS AN ELECTING HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVES. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS OF PARTICIPATION IN POLITICAL PROCESS, BUT VOTING IS ONE OF THE BEST FORMS OF PRESENTING CITIZENS VOICE AND ROLE IN GOVERNING PROCESSES. THE CONSTITUTION OF THE COUNTRY DEFINES THE ELECTION AS RIGHT OF THE CITIZEN TO PARTICIPATE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES BY CHOOSING THE REPRESENTATIVES, IT HAS TO BE NOTED THAT VOTING RIGHT IS NOT ONLY A PRIVILEGE OF THE CITIZEN BUT IT IS ALSO AN OBLIGATION TO PARTICIPATE IN IT AND ENJOY THIS RIGHT. EVEN THOUGH, THE ELECTION FREE AND FAIR ELECTION IS ONE OF THE MEASURES OF DEMOCRACY, IN SOME COUNTRIES, THERE IS A TENDENCY, THAT PEOPLES PARTICIPATION RATE IN THIS PROCESS DECREASES, IN THIS ARTICLE WE WILL ANALYZE THE ROLE AND IMPORTANCE OF VOTING AND THE REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD VOTE.

YOU SHOULD VOTE BECAUSE THE IDEA OF DEMOCRACY IS, THAT THE CITIZENS ELECT THEIR REPRESENTATIVES WHO ARE ACCOUNTABLE TO THEM, INCREASING THE CITIZENS PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTION PROCESS MEANS BETTER REPRESENTATION MORE ACCOUNTABLE GOVERNMENT AND MORE PRESSURE FROM THE CITIZENS.

YOU SHOULD VOTE BECAUSE YOUR VOTE IS YOUR RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITY. VOTING IS MORE THAN JUST ELECTING SOMEONE BECAUSE YOUR VOTE DEFINES THE POLICY OF THE COUNTRY WHICH WILL AFFECT ON YOUR LIFE, YOUR COMMUNITY AND YOUR NATION. IF YOU DO NOT VOTE YOUR LIFE WILL BE AFFECTED BY SOMEONE’S CHOICE, WHICH MEANS IF YOU DO NOT USE YOUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO VOTE, YOU WILL HAVE THE GOVERNMENT ELECTED BY OTHER CITIZENS AND YOU WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE DECISIONS OF PEOPLE WHOM YOU HAVE NOT SUPPORTED.

VOTING IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD, IT MEANS THAT IF YOU DO NOT LIKE THE GOVERNMENTAL POLICY AT ANY SPHERE OF LIFE FOR EXAMPLE HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, TAXATION ETC. VOTING IS YOUR CHANCE TO CHANGE THE SITUATION AND MANDATE THE PEOPLE WHO WILL BE YOUR VOICE IN THE GOVERNMENT. HOPE THE MENTIONED REASONS WILL HELP YOU TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS AND ALWAYS REMEMBER „ EVERY ELECTION IS DETERMINED BY THE PEOPLE WHO SHOW UP”



Eu is citizEns' oxygen. How important is it?

IT IS UNDENIABLE THAT EU PLAYS A PIVOTAL ROLE ON ITS CITIZENS' LIFE. NOT ONLY DOES IT AFFECT THEIR DAILY LIFE BUT ALSO THE QUALITY OF THEIR LIFE AND THERE ARE MANY EXAMPLES WHICH AFFIRM THAT. NOBODY COULD DENY THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE PART OF THE EU HAS MADE MANY REFORMS IN ORDER TO BE MEMBERS OF THE UNION AND THE MOST OF THE TIMES THE AFTERMATH OF THIS CHANGES WERE SATISFYING. FOR EXAMPLE COUNTRIES LIKE GREECE, SPAIN OR PORTUGAL CHANGED THEIR DICTATORIAL REGIME SO AS TO INTEGRATE IN THE UNION. SO, WHICH ARE EVENTUALLY THE BENEFICIAL ASPECTS OF EU?

FIRST AND FOREMOST, AS IT WAS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, EU INTEGRATION DEMANDS, AS NECESSARY PRECONDITION, DEMOCRACY. IT IS INDISPUTABLE THAT IN DEMOCRATIC STATES CITIZENS TAKE DELIGHT IN MORE FREEDOMS INSTEAD OF AUTHORITARIAN REGIMES OR DICTATORSHIPS. IN MANY COUNTRIES, DEMOCRACY AND LAW REFORMATION WORKS LIKE THE MEDICINE THAT A DOCTOR GAVE TO A PATIENT WHO SUFFERED FROM A CHRONIC DISEASE. THEREFORE, IT IS PROFOUND THAT MANY COUNTRIES WITHOUT EU MAY STILL HAVE OPPRESSIVE REGIMES AND THEIR CITIZENS WOULD STILL TRY TO NULLIFY THE SITUATION.

MOREOVER, EU IS ACTUALLY AN ALLIANCE. ACCORDING TO EU TREATY, WHENEVER A MEMBER STATE HAS TO HANDLE A THREAT WHICH COMES FROM A THIRD STATE, THE OTHER MEMBER STATES HAS THE "OBLIGATION" TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THIS STATE. FOR INSTANCE, IN 2021, WHEN IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES TRIED TO ENTER INTO GREECE THROUGH EVROS BORDER, WITH THE SUBORNATION OF TURKEY, EU MEMBER STATES STOOD BY GREECE. IT SHOULD BE ALSO HIGHLIGHTED THAT INITIATIVE OF THE EXTENSION OF THE FENCE, WHICH IS IN THE BORDER BETWEEN TURKEY AND GREECE WAS ACCEPTED AND SUPPORTED BY EU.TOO. THERE ARE MANY CASES LIKE THIS. THUS, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT CITIZENS OF MEMBER FEEL MUCH MORE SAFE THAN THE OTHERS.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, EU MEMBER STATES' CITIZENS CAN TRAVEL AND WORK WHEREVER THEY WANT AMONG EU MEMBERS STATES WITH FEW OR EVEN WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS.FOR EXAMPLE, FOR A TRIP IN FRANCE THE ONLY ONE THAT YOU NEED IS AN IDENTITY CARD.ANOTHER ADVANTAGE OF BEING PART OF EU IS THE FREE MOVEMENT OF CAPITAL. WITH ALL THESE BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES IT CONSTITUTES A FACT THAT THIS MAKES EVERY CITIZEN'S LIFE EASIER.

TO SUM UP, IT IS PROFOUND THAT EU FACILITATES A LOT ITS CITIZENS' LIFE. GENERATIONS WHICH HAVE USED TO LIVE AS NOT ONLY CITIZENS OF THEIR STATE BUT ALSO CITIZENS OF THE UNION, EU SEEMS PIVOTAL FOR THEM. OTHERWISE WE COULD SAY THAT AS INDIVIDUALS NEED OXYGEN SO CITIZENS OF EU NEEDS EU.



5 things you should to know before you start to travel

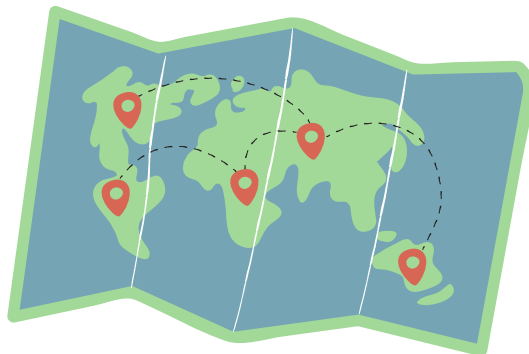
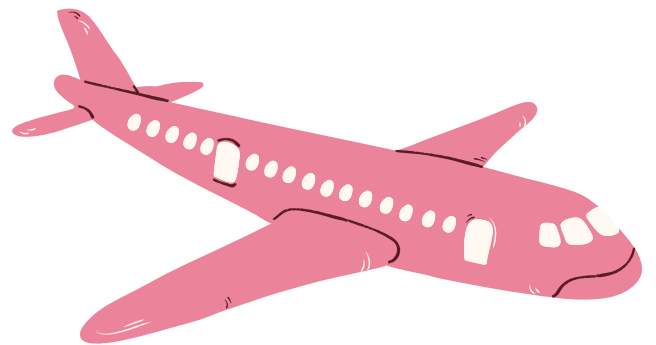
1. MAKE A LIST OF THINGS YOU NEED ON YOUR VACATION. THAT WAY, YOU WON'T CARRY TOO MANY UNNECESSARY THINGS WITH YOU, AND ON THE OTHER HAND, MAKE YOUR TRIP.

2. PLAN YOUR FIRST DAY. A LOT OF TIMES THE TIME IS GOING TO THE LOGISTICS. SO YOU HAVE TO FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHERE YOU ARE PLANING TO GO, WHICH ATTRACTIONS CAN BE FOUND. HOW BEST TO USE YOUR LIMITED TIME.

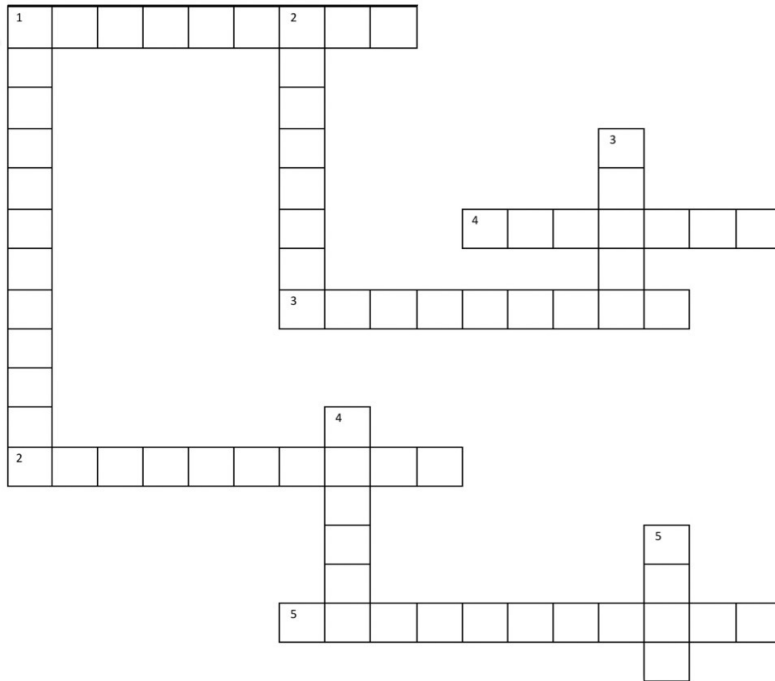
3. CHECK THE WEATHER . THE WEATHER IS THE SINGLE FACTOR MOST LIKELY TO AFFECT YOUR TRIP POSITIVELY OR NEGATIVELY. SO IT'S VERY IMPORTANT TO HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE WEATHER U ARE GOING TO.

4. YOU SHOULD BE VACCINATED IT WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER AND WILL PROTECT YOU

5. CHECK THE REGULATIONS THE COUNTY YOU ARE GOING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT DOCUMENTS U NEED TO HAVE RELATED TO COVID 19.



Game



VERTICAL

1. North Korea's regime is _____ .
2. NATO is an _____ of the most European countries and USA.
3. An organisation formed by people with the same interests can be called an _____.
4. _____ is a system or ordered way of doing things.
5. Synonym of travelling.

HORIZONTAL

1. _____ is a form of government in which people have the authority to deliberate and decide legislation or to choose governing officials to do so.
2. Representative branch of power.
3. The process of voting.
4. A participatory member of a political community.
5. The study of the effects of geography on politics and international relations.



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