I’m European

What does it mean to be European? For me it has big meaning. It’s something buried deep inside me, something, which is essential for my existence. It’s also brings a lot of responsibility with it.

I didn’t choose to be European. I was predestined to become one. Although Slovakia wasn’t part of EU when I was born, we became member of the Union shortly after. I was lucky enough to spend almost my entire life as a citizen not only of Slovakia, but also as a citizen of EU. Slovakia became part of a big whole which grows stronger and better every year.

Being a member of Union brings many benefits to the table. For me the most important one is travelling. The idea itself, that we can travel freely wherever we want as long as it’s a state in EU, is magnificent. I really like to travel a lot. I spend almost all my money on travelling. Nowdays we have quite a lot of opportunities. We can choose where we want to study, where we want to work, where we want to live. But it wasn’t like that all the time. Before we became part of EU, travelling to different counties was strictly forbidden. I can’t imagine not having an option to move freely on the map of Europe.

Secondly, we all share the currency which liberates us from the obligation to change money every time we travel to a different country. We don’t need to change money for low exchange rates. Anyone can buy a fly ticket to Rome for example and they are done. There’s no need to do anything else apart from packing your staff. People don’t even need a passport when traveling. Simple ID card is all the need to pass the borders inside Schengen territory.

As I’ve already mentioned, there aren’t only benefits to being European. There’s also a great deal of responsibility. We are not only citizens of our countries, we all share the same citizenship. We all share citizenship of Union. We can’t choose to represent only our land. Anywhere we go, we also represent Europe. We represent much bigger whole which has much more weight than anything else.

There are many pros of being a member of EU. I’m honestly very glad and very grateful for having the chance to live in times of united Europe. There was not a single among countries of Union since its birth in 1958. Counties always offer help to each other be it in financial form or any other form. It means a lot to me to be European.