



Transition from the past to the future

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- October 1996 was for me the first EURAG conference in Budapest
 - And again Budapest 2021: 25 years of membership of EURAG

- In 1996 a large organization
- Office in Graz
- 4 employees and 2 volunteers (translators)
- 4 languages (English, German, French and Italian)
- Financial support Graz and Steiermark
- President Edmee Mangers (before separation)

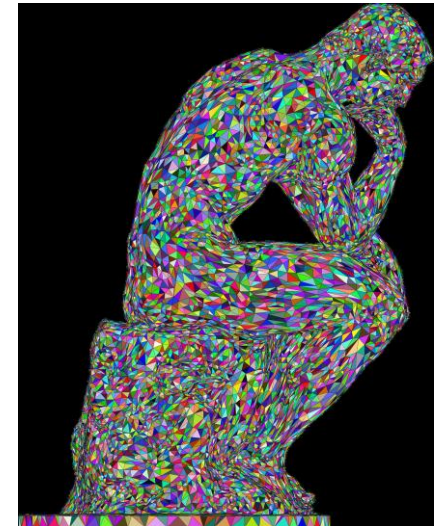
- After retiring in 2007: secretary general EURAG (President Eveline)
- A difficult period
- Problems financial support, office in Vienna
- Financial support of Austrian government
- Project problems, EU claim of Euro 65,000

- After a lot of meetings, discussions, letters, process servers and mails the new board could not be held responsible for earlier mistakes
- Most important: the project and the financial report were signed by an EU employee

- After the period “Eveline”, interim president Gisli Páll Pálsonn
- Austrian government ended the financial support
- Leaving the office in Vienna
 - Most important parts of the archives in Vienna (Gertraud)
 - Rest of the archives to one of our bedrooms in the Netherlands



- After Gisli (thans a lot!): Dirk Jarré (what a luck!!)
- 2012 office to Dana in Prague
- A lot of travelling between the Netherlands and Prague
- And now: the jubilee days of thinking about the future



- After World War II:
 - Our generation and the generation of our parents (re)build societies
- Next generations:
 - Growing up in relatively good circumstances
- After 1989:
 - Changing European borders (open up)
 - Free traffic (people, money and products)
 - Economic (and financial) progress
 - On average: higher educated levels
 - Care and cure improved



- The new generations active in decision making functions in politics, industry, companies, organizations
- No experiences with and knowledge of difficult social situations
- Living in peace, without war in the immediate living environment
- Travelling all over the world (also by internet and phone)
- No own memories on bad times

- And: no real feeling with earlier times and the world of the older generations

- But also: individualization
 - the growing role of capitalism
 - decreasing social feelings and actions
- Increasing rule pressure (bureaucracy)
- Climate change
- Increasing migration
- Increasing number of conflicts around Europe
- Question: is our democracy finding her borders?

- Role of social media and fake news
- Distance between (local, regional, national) governments and the population
- Ivory towers?
- Increasing populism and polarization
- And since February: The war in Ukraine
- Shortage of energy and higher prices/terrible inflation
- Growing difference between rich and poor
- Consequences Ageing (no real policy)

- Younger generations in media, politics, industry
- No feeling with the experiences of seniors (only our stories)

- Decreasing need to be a member of unions, clubs and society (only sport clubs)
- Also the baby boom generation
- Decreasing church organizations and the social activities
- New generations are looking for another balance between private and work

BIG question

What's our role in this world and in the future?

And what's the role of EURAG?

How can we act?



- We have to accept the new world and the new generations
- We have to let go. The new generations need their own pitfalls (self-learning), we do not become curling seniors
- We have to learn new (social) media and also about the world of the new generations (active learning)
- We are seniors and we are no more decision makers
- We have to look for relations with new generations and we have to defend our interests
- This is only possible when we have respect and valuation for new generations (our children and grandchildren)
- We can try to confront them with the value of connections and the negative results of conflicts or polarization, the values of membership
- We can be models

EURAG?



- Our connection and friendship are important for the new generation as a model
- Our friendship can build bridges between people in Europe
- We can learn from each other (knowledge and experiences)
- We can share our feelings and thoughts
- We can use new (social and internet) media, as ZOOM and teams (cheaper)
- We can make two app-groups, a board group and a member group
- We can support each other in our own (national) work
- We can support our member organizations in organizing conferences (twice a year) in their own country
- We can defence our interests in cooperation with the social platform and with the AGE platform
- Our representation on the European and the United Nations levels has added value



What we need



- Friendship and meeting
- Informal structure
- The intention to make relations
- The intention to look for new members
- The intention to connect (no polarisation)
- A positive attitude (like Rosemary?)

That is EURAG?



- A positive organization with positive members
- With respect for each other and for the new generations
- And an open mind for the future



Thank you!