

THE - STORY

OF

EVS

By JIMARIE BRINKMAN

AT

INEX SLOVAKIA

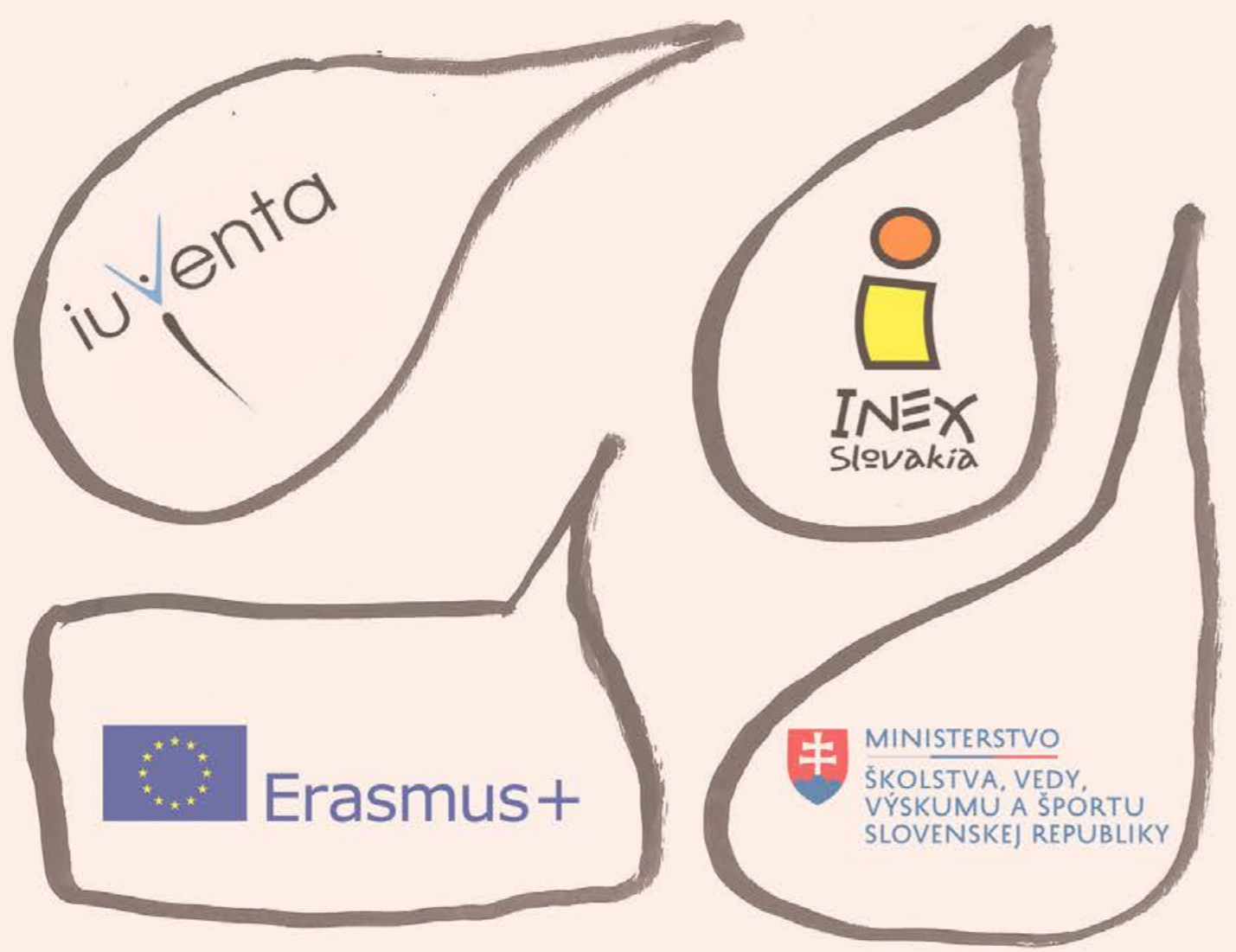


# INTRODUCTION

SINCE FEBRUARY 2017 I AM PARTICIPATING IN A PROJECT CALLED 'WE ARE THE ONES WHO REALLY CARE'. IT IS A VOLUNTARY PROJECT FROM ERASMUS +. I WAS SENT BY MY SENDING ORGANISATION SIW IN THE NETHERLANDS AND HOSTED BY INEX SLOVAKIA. INEX IS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATION, THAT MANLY ORGANISES VOLUNTARY WORKCAMPs IN SLOVAKIA IN THE SUMMER, BUT THEY ALSO SEND VOLUNTEERS ABROAD AND HOST EVS VOLUNTEERS, LIKE ME. BESIDES WE DO TRAININGS AND DAILY ACTIVITIES IN A CENTRE OF PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. YOU CAN FIND THE ACTIVITIES THAT INEX DOES MORE DETAILED IN THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL.



We are  
the ones  
who really  
care.



Project 2017



FROM EVS I LEARNED TO DIVE INTO A COUNTRY I DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE. MY MENTOR SVETLANA WAS WAITING FOR ME AT THE AIRPORT. TOGETHER WITH EMIL, QUENTIN'S MENTOR, WE WAITED FOR QUENTIN. NADIA WAS ARRIVING AT BRATISLAVA AIRPORT. TOGETHER WITH THESE PEOPLE I WOULD SPEND MOST OF MY TIME, SHARING A FLAT AND WORK. SVETLANA HELPED ME TO FEEL HOME SOON IN BRATISLAVA.

FOR THE FIRST  
TIME IN  
SLOVAKIA.



SLOVAK  
PASTRY  
WITH  
POPPY SEEDS

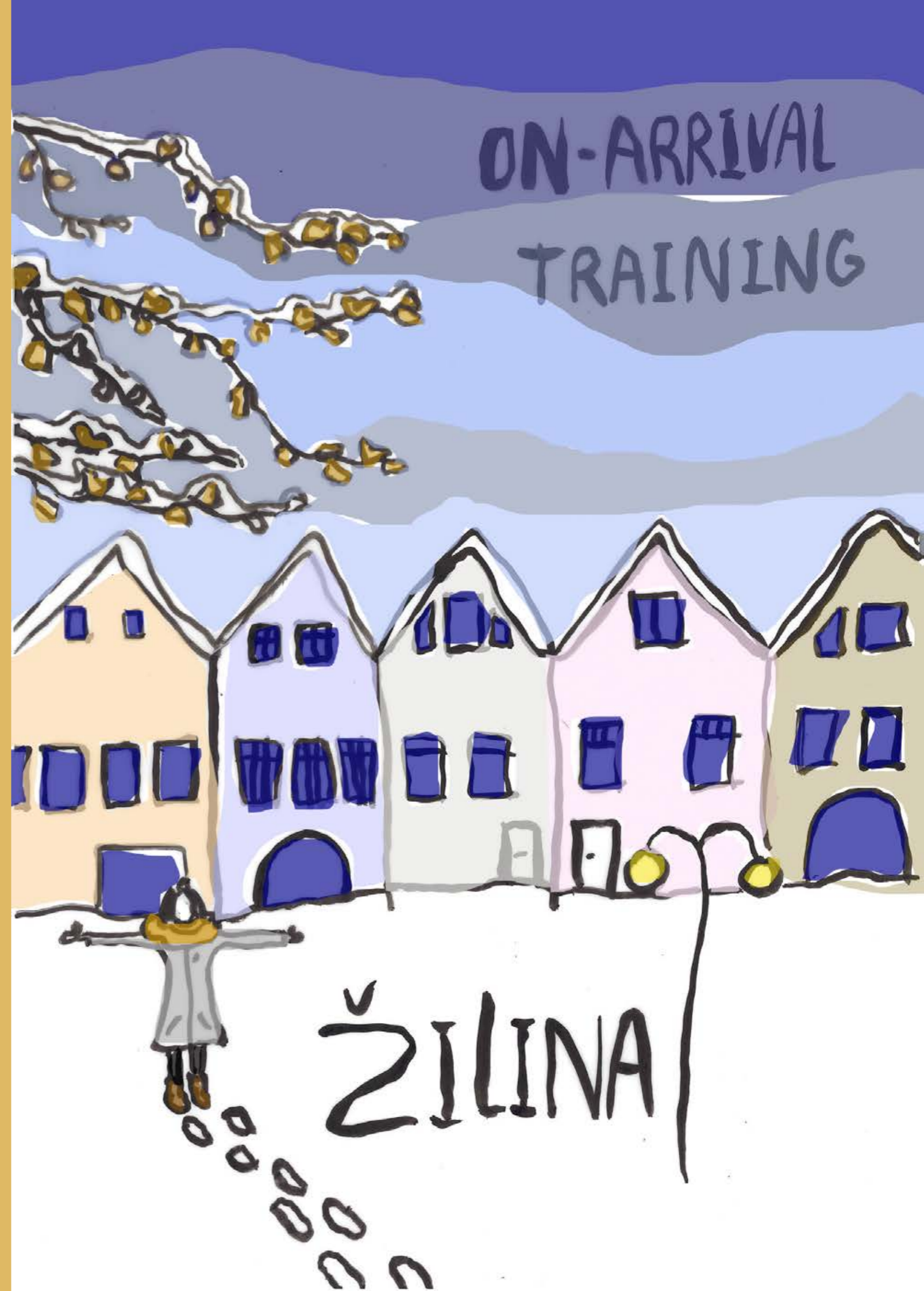
SLOVAK  
CHEESE  
SYR





# MEETING NEW FRIENDS

THIS TRAINING WAS AT THE SECOND WEEK THAT WE WERE IN SLOVAKIA. I WAS GLAD TO MEET OTHER PEOPLE THAT DID EVS. PEOPLE WHO HAD TO ADAPT TO ANOTHER COUNTRY LIKE ME. WE PLAYED MANY CULTURAL GAMES. AND THEY PREPARED US ON THIS YEAR ABROAD. ONE OF THE THINGS I HAD TO DO WAS MAKING PLANS, BECAUSE TIME FLIES.



# ACTIVITIES AT INTEGRA

I FELT SO MUCH LOVE IN THE WAY WE DID ACTIVITIES AT INTEGRA, A CENTRE FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS. WE WENT THERE WITH VALENTINE'S DAY, FOOL'S DAY, OUR CITY EVENT AND SAINT NICOLAUS. I LEARNED HOW TO HAVE FUN WITH CLIENTS WITHOUT TALKING OR BY ONLY USING A FEW SLOVAK WORDS. THE THING I LIKED MOST HOW NON-JUDGEMENTAL THE PEOPLE ARE, EVERYONE IS ACCEPTED. THIS WAS GIVING ME A WARM-HEARTED FEELING.

Valentine's Day  
Integra





# my first workcamp

OUR FIRST WEEKEND WORKCAMP WAS IN ECO-SLATINKA, A VILLAGE IN THE CENTRE OF SLOVAKIA. IT IS A BEAUTIFUL LANDSCAPE, PEOPLE ARE VERY COMMITTED TO HELP THE ENVIRONMENT. LATER IN AUTUMN WE WOULD GO THERE AGAIN TO PLANT APPLE TREES.



PLANTING  
APPLE trees  
in Eco Slatinka

# THE GAME

FOR INEX I MADE A GAME BASED ON THE GAME DOBBLE. THE GAME WORKS LIKE THIS: YOU NEED TO FIND THE SAME IMAGE ON YOUR CARD AND THE CARD IN THE MIDDLE, THAN SAY IT OUT LOUD. YOU ADD YOUR CARD IN THE MIDDLE. WHEN YOU HAVE NO CARDS LEFT IN YOUR HANDS, YOU WON. THE GAME IS USED FOR LEARNING SLOVAK AND ENGLISH AND IT IS PLAYED DURING THE WORKCAMPS OF INEX IN SLOVAKIA.



creating a  
Dobble  
game for  
Inex camps



I HAVE NEVER IMPROVED MY ENGLISH AS FAST AS DURING MY  
EVS. BY WRITING ON MY BLOG I REFLECTED ON EVERYTHING  
I EXPERIENCED. DURING LEADING CAMPS AND TEA MEETINGS  
I IMPROVED SPEAKING IN PUBLIC. TO BE IN AN INTERNATION-  
AL ENVIRONMENT I LISTENED TO MANY STORIES OF FRIENDS  
AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS. I LEARNED NEW WORDS AND SAY-  
INGS, NOT ONLY IN ENGLISH, BUT IN ANY LANGUAGE DEPEND-  
ING ON THE PEOPLE I MET. AFTER THE SUMMER I STARTED  
FOLLOWING ITALIAN LESSON. THIS BECAUSE I ALREADY KNEW  
THE BASICS FROM A PREVIOUS ABROAD EXPERIENCE.

languages

Getting better in  
English writing

BLOG

[ilmariopreis.blogspot.nl](http://ilmariopreis.blogspot.nl)



SPEAKING!



and listening

Improvement



# SLOVAK

TOGETHER WITH NADIA AND QUENTIN WE HAD SLOVAK LESSONS. BECAUSE SLOVAK IS IN THE SLAVIC LANGUAGE FAMILY IT WAS VERY HARD FOR ME TO LEARN IT. A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LANGUAGE FROM THE LANGUAGES I ALREADY KNEW. BUT I MANAGED TO MAKE MYSELF UNDERSTANDABLE WHEN I TRAVELLED IN THE SMALL VILLAGES OF SLOVAKIA.



Slovak lessons

# Education

WE PREPARED THE YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WENT ON A WORKCAMP FOR THE FIRST TIME BY ORGANIZING THE 1TH TIMERS MEETING, TO MAKE THE BEST OUT OF THEIR EXPERIENCE





# LEADING Training

BECAUSE OF THREE TRAININGS WE GOT TO KNOW HOW TO ORGANIZE AND MANAGE A WORK-CAMP IN SLOVAKIA. MOST OF THE LEARNING PROCESS WAS BY PLAYING GAMES, BY PRESENTATIONS AND BY DOING. WITH THIS EXPERIENCE I CAN LEAD CAMPS ALL OVER THE WORLD.





# Personal Project

THE PERSONAL PROJECT I CHOSE WAS ABOUT GRATITUDE. INEX ASKED ME TO MAKE A WORKSHOP ABOUT A PRESENT TOPIC. AND BECAUSE I HAVE EXPERIENCE IN MEDITATION THIS WAS SOMETHING THAT INTERESTED ME THE MOST. FEELING GRATITUDE CHANGED ME A LOT AND I WANTED TO TEACH THIS TO OTHER PEOPLE. A PART OF INEX PROGRAM IS THE STUDY PART, TO EDUCATE YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT PRESENT DAY TOPICS.

## Messenger Workshop about Gratitude



I FEEL  
GRATEFUL  
FOR ALL THE  
PEOPLE  
I MET.

I AM  
THANKFUL FOR  
HAVING MORE THAN  
ONE PLACES  
THAT I CAN  
CALL MY  
HOME.

FOR ALL  
THE DIFFERENT  
CULTURES I GOT  
TO KNOW BETTER





# NATURE

MY HOLIDAYS I SPENT IN NATURE. I DISCOVERED WITH MY BOYFRIEND THE MALA FATRA. WE ENJOYED BEING IN THE FOREST A LOT. AT HOME WE DONT HAVE SO MUCH NATURE. IN THE MOUNTAINS IT WAS MUCH CHILLIER THAN IN THE HOT CITY OF BRATISLAVA. WE STAYED AT CHATA POD SOCHYM WHERE WITH MY BASIC SLOVAK I GOT TO KNOW THE PEOPLE BETTER. WITH MY SISTER I WOULD COME BACK LATER IN THE SUMMER TO ENJOY THE SAME MOUNTAINS.

# MALÁ FATRA

HALUŠKY!!  
KNEDLIKY!!

chata pod  
sochým →





# GETTING STARTED WITH THE REAL WORK

ZLATNA NA OSTROVE WAS THE FIRST CAMP I LEAD DURING THE SUMMER, TOGETHER WITH MY CO-LEADER MARTINA. I LEARNED HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE. ALSO TAKING RESPONSIBILITY, LEARNING ABOUT DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND PEOPLE MADE ME FILLED WITH JOY. AND CYCLING OF COURSE BECAUSE I MISSED THIS SO MUCH SINCE I MOVED TO SLOVAKIA.

## Zlatna na Ostrove





# IMPROVING LEADING SKILLS

BREKOV HRAD WAS THE SECOND CAMP I LEAD AGAIN TOGETHER WITH MARTINA. IT WAS GREAT TO IMPROVE MY LEADING SKILL, PLAYING GAMES AND GETTING MORE UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENT CULTURES.



Makra Kamenek!

BREKOV  
RENOVATING A  
CASTLE IN TWO WEEKS



# ANOTHER CAMP, BUT IN A DIFFERENT COUNTRY

AFTER LEADING A CAMP IT WAS TIME TO GO ON A WORKCAMP AS A PARTICIPANT. I CHOSE ICELAND, BECAUSE IT WAS ONE OF THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES I HADN'T VISITED YET. I WAS MAINLY INTERESTED IN THIS CAMP BECAUSE IT WAS ABOUT A HEALTH AND REHABILITATION CLINIC, IMPORTANT WERE THE ORGANIC VEGETABLES THAT GREW IN GREENHOUSE HEATED BY HOT SPRINGS. THE NATURE IN ICELAND IS VERY PURE, THE WATER IS SUPER CLEAN AND THE PEOPLE ARE ONE OF THE HEALTHIEST AND HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD.

WITH A GROUP OF INTERNATIONAL PEOPLE (SLOVAK, FRENCH, GERMAN, DUTCH, JAPANESE, AUSTRIAN, ITALIAN I TRAVELLED THROUGH THE COUNTRY. PEOPLE WHO BECAME MY FRIENDS DURING THESE TWO WEEKS.









# EVS TRAININGS

ONE PART OF EVS IS TO HAVE TRAININGS. EVS IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN BY NON-FORMAL AND INFORMAL EDUCATION. WE GOT THREE TRAININGS TO LEARN HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF THIS ONE YEAR-EXPERIENCE. THE FIRST WAS IN THE NETHERLANDS, A PRE-DEPARTURE TRAINING, THE SECOND AN ON-ARRIVAL TRAINING IN ZILINA AND THE LAST MEETING IN HIGH TATRAS. ALL MEETINGS WERE VERY USEFUL, IT WAS GOOD TO REFLECT AND EVALUATE. I GOT CONNECTED TO OTHER EVS VOLUNTEERS AND I GOT TOOLS HOW TO SURVIVE EVS. ALSO KNOWING ABOUT OUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES WAS VERY USEFUL. I BUILD UP A NETWORK OF EVS PEOPLE WHICH MADE ME FEEL SUPPORTED.





# informal learning

FROM THE PEOPLE I MET I LEARNED A BIG VARIETY OF SKILL AND KNOWLEDGE. FROM POLITICS TO GAMES, FEELINGS TO PHILOSOPHIES. ALL THESE DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS SHAPED ME INTO WHO I BECAME AS A PERSON. I FEEL MORE BALANCED AND OPEN MINDED.

LEARNING NEW GAMES FROM ITALIANS TO PLAY WITH MY GRANDMOTHER.





# TEA MEETINGS

NADIA, QUINTIN AND ME, WE DID DO EVERY MONTH ONE OR TWO TEA MEETINGS, EXCEPT DURING THE SUMMER, BECAUSE OF THE CAMPS. IT STARTED WITH PRESENTING OURSELVES AND OUR COUNTRIES, TILL INVITING PEOPLE WHO HAVE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE FROM CAMPS OR TRAININGS. WE ALSO HAD A MEETING ABOUT DISCRIMINATION AND A GAME NIGHT.



We organized  
Tea meetings about different

LET'S  
TALK ABOUT  
RACISM

4 topics

WHAT ARE  
STEREOTYPES?



I LED  
A TEEN  
CAMP  
IN  
ENG-  
LAND

I WENT  
TO NEPAL  
TO WORK  
ON A  
FARM!









# Seasons change

FROM WINTER TO SPRING AND FROM SUMMER TO FALL. THE SLOVAK CLIMATE IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FROM THE DUTCH CLIMATE. LESS RAIN, MORE SUN AND MORE SNOW. SOON IT BECAME AUTUMN. IT HAS BEAUTIFUL SUNNY DAYS WHERE YOU COULD HEAR THE LEAVES CRISPING WHEN YOU WALK THROUGH THEM.

WALK TO THE  
INEX OFFICE



AUTUMN



# PROMOTION

HERE YOU SEE MY ALTER-EGO PRESENTING INEX AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS. TO ATTRACT YOUNG PEOPLE TO THE EVENTS AT INEX, LIKE WORKCAMPS AND TEA MEETINGS OR ONE DAY ACTIVITIES AT INTEGRA (THE CENTRE FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS). IT WAS INTERESTING TO GET INTO ANOTHER WORLD, WHILE MY BACKGROUND IS ARTS WHERE I MET WAY MORE LOSE SPIRITS THAN IN ECONOMICS. ACTUALLY THIS WHOLE EXPERIENCE OF EVS IS DIFFERENTLY FROM WHAT I WAS USED TO. I DEFINITELY GOT OUT OF MY COMFORT ZONE, AND AS I LEARNED IN SLOVAKIA, THAT'S WHERE THE MAGIC HAPPENS.

## EKONOMICKÁ UNIVERZITA

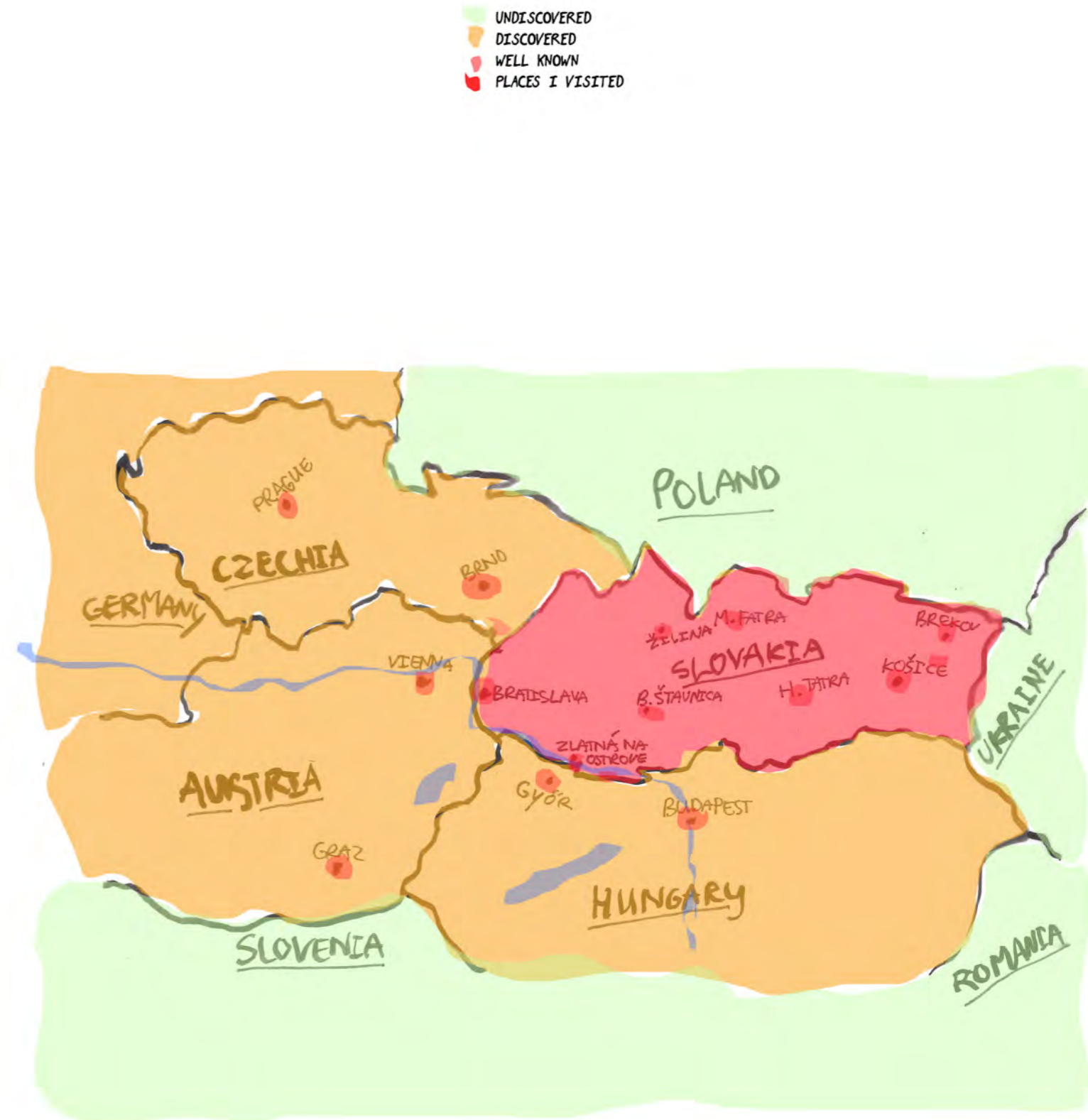
INEX IS  
A NGO, NON-  
GOVERNMENTAL-  
ORGANIZATION. INEX  
CAN SEND YOU  
ABROAD ON A  
SERVICE CAMP OF  
ONE OF THE  
90 COUNTRIES  
ALL OVER THE  
WORLD.





DUE TO EVS AND INEX I TRAVELLED AROUND INTO THE AREA OF CENTRAL EUROPE AND ICELAND. IT WAS VERY INTERESTING TO MEET EVS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, LIKE CZECH AND ICELAND. COMPARING COUNTRIES, DISCOVERING SIMILARITIES IN CZECH AND SLOVAK LANGUAGE AND CULTURE WAS INTRIGUING. TRAVELING WITH VARIOUS PEOPLE WAS UNFORGETTABLE.

# CULTURAL AWARENESS

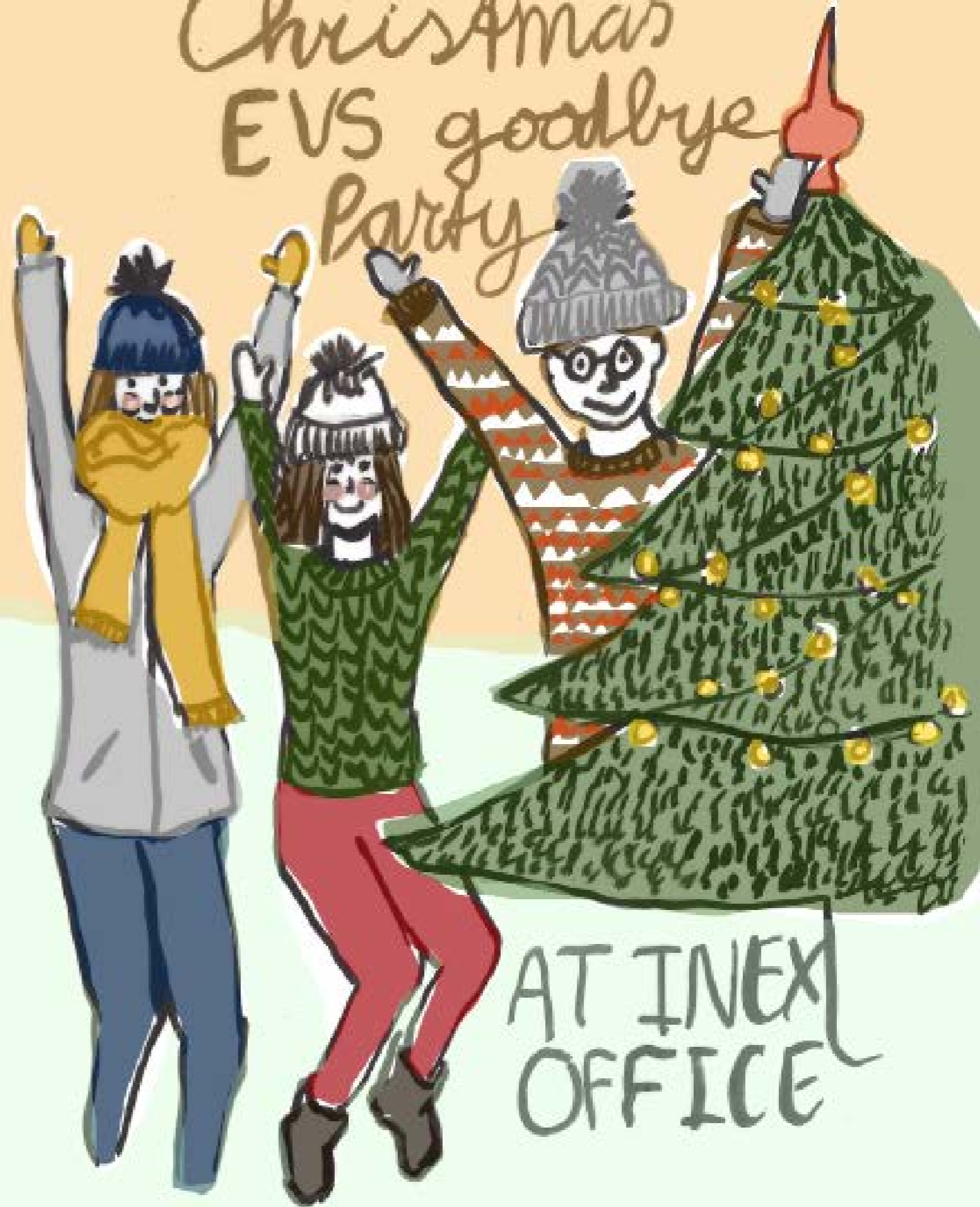




# youth pass & goodbye Party

THIS IS OUR LAST EVENT OF INEX AND THE DAY AFTER I WILL GO HOME WITH MANY NEW MEMORIES ABOUT AN INCREDIBLE COUNTRY WITH AMAZING PEOPLE. I GOT NEW SKILLS WHICH I CAN USE IN MY FUTURE JOB AND FUTURE LIFE. HOPEFULLY I CAN CARRY ALL MY LUGGAGE AND I WISH I HAVE STUNNING VIEWS IN THE TRAIN READING MY BOOKS OR LISTENING TO MUSIC. MUSING WHAT I WILL DO NEXT, DREAMING ABOUT SEEING MY LOVED ONES.

16 Dec.  
Christmas  
EVS goodbye  
Party



AT INEX  
OFFICE



