

## About journalism, the European Dream and Diversity

Iwona Reichardt sits in the chair, taking her hair on one side. All participants are entering the room, when some EUSTORY participants recognize their interviewee from the pictures of the internet because they have already read some of her articles. During her presentation Iwona introduces herself as a Deputy Editor and Lead Translator for the magazine "New Eastern Europe". After that, the participants are divided into their interview groups and are doing the last preparations for the interview. "I think Adelina would like to start!", says Elin. In the background you can hear the other groups talking to their interviewee. Adelina wants to learn about the basic rules every journalist has to follow. Iwona leans forward and starts talking.

Basically, every journalist should firstly write about the truth and verify the facts. Because in fact, the government and the public could lie, for example in terms of body count.

Iwona talks considerably. She wears a grey pullover with silver pattern.

Iwona was taught about Anglo-Saxon journalism. She mentions also that objectivity is obligatory for good journalism. Quality journalism is for "New Eastern Europe" magazine very important, and which is related to certain values. Every paper should be aware of basic principles. At least, the journalist has the task to interpret the facts and to get the gist. Iwona explains these rules with a clear voice.

Before the interview, the participants found out she spent a year in the United States. Her husband is an American, also working for "New Eastern Europe" today. Then, in America, she worked as a young journalist and editor with "Foreign Policy" magazine being her first job. The relationship to her boss was rather old-schooled like between "the student and the master". In this way she could learn much more about Anglo-Saxon journalism. Iwona underlines her statements eloquently with gestures. This learned structure would be the best way to learn a profession. She listens attentively to the questions answering them with shining eyes filled with passion. "In fact, in America I missed Europe a lot, so I think my European dream, you know that's why I came back never turning to the American Dream." The European Dream, as the opposite of the American Dream. In her young days she went on protests of the Solidarność, at first because she fancied a boy these times. But in her twenties she occupied herself much in political issues and found a great interest in these ones. Iwona and her generation in Poland stood up for democracy and the European dream. A peaceful Europe was once a great goal for the Polish people.

"I will never regret this experience, because it taught me some certain values like gender-equality!", she says about her time in the USA. Iwona is a great feminist who recognizes the problems of Polish society in relation to minority groups and gender-equality. After the European Dream of democracy was achieved, it became true that the society in Poland has changed. The country was challenged by many problems, and that is the case until today. Poland is a very homogenous and white society which doesn't quite accept diversity. The church has a great influence on the people and their perspectives on certain issues. Iwona points out, that it is a great problem that there are no coloured people. "I was actually hoping that Poland accepts these new immigrants from the Middle East, so that it finally gets more diverse!", she says with a strong look. Everyone in the group is from a different country and also dealing with the refugee crisis. Iwona is open-minded and the interviewers could talk with her on the same level because she shared with them opinions they could identify with.

In the United States, she later got employed as a policy researcher in the World Bank. Her main topic was urban poverty. Iwona gathered research and analysing skills however she was unsatisfied with this profession: She could not interpret facts because the interpretation was coming from the institution. Working for "New Eastern Europe" gives her more liberty to evaluate facts and also share opinions.

At the end of the interview, the young Europeans are wondering what was her most exciting experience? Iwona explains she worked on a series of articles for a feminist magazine called "Zadra". She interviewed many women who are working in foreign policy about their job and sexual discrim-

ination. These women were living in Warsaw, Kiyv and Berlin. Before these interviews she expected in Germany gender-equality would be more developed than in Ukraine, so that Poland would be in the middle in relation of that. But she found out to be partly wrong. At least each country has their own problems. In fact, in Ukraine firstly it isn't important of which gender you are because there is much activism and the democratising society is more focussing on issues. But in the end, the women can follow this activism just until they have children. If you look at Germany, the situation of gender-equality is much better but despite that women aren't still fully satisfied. The family situation in Germany is not that advanced like in Scandinavian countries or France. Iwona is also somewhat unhappy about the situation in Poland. The younger generation is much more conservative than her generation and the society is marked by gender roles and prejudices. Regarding all these problems Poland has, why Iwona is still motivated and passionate during her work?

"I was always an idealist. I think we can change this and I believe in people! And Poland will change for the better! Don't worry about that!"

The discussion has come to an end and the young interviewers could gather very inspiring and motivating words from Iwona!

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