

After Jugo

Sarajevo, the life of a generation

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a multimedia project by Marco Pavan

www.marcopavan.com

Deni

My name is Ernat Deni Čomga, I have 3 names. I am studying law at the University of Sarajevo and I am the president of the Democratic Youth Movement (DOP). It is a non governmental organization registered in BiH, which means we work in the whole country and we are not limited to just one part and we can make our project in all Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a youth organization, there are not older people that lead the organization or someone else older than 40 years or something, there are just young people leading the organization and doing the projects.

What are your projects and how many people are involved?

We have projects of different kind: we have projects that deal with humanitarian issues, or involving democracy, and we organize round tables. The people that are involved are mainly the members of the organization but there are also a lot of people from other organizations involved in our projects as partners. And also young people that are not involved in any NGO, young people that just want to take part in some projects.

For example in 2007 we organized a humanitarian concert in a place like a youth house in Sarajevo, it is a big concert room where can be 2000 people. A lot of members took part in this project and it was quite successful.

Is it easy to involve young people in this kind of things or not? What are the problems and the good things?

I think it is quite difficult to involve young people in the projects because many of them don't know what to do in their life. I call it the "post war trauma", because many young people lost some years during the war and now they are just sitting and drinking coffee and don't know what to do. But there are some others that are studying at the university and want to change something and I think it is easy to involve these people in the organization's activities.

How is life in Bosnia for young people, how things are changing if they are?

It is a really, not easy but fun life because every week people go out two or three times to drink coffee, to make parties. It is quite common here but in the European Union people don't have time to do this because they are working, they do things for their lives. That's the difference between Bosnia and the countries in the EU. We are just more lazy, because we want to make parties, we want to have fun and even during the war people had fun. It's quite normal but I think life is hard here, because young people they can't find a job like in the EU, it is really hard to find a job and it's much harder to find a good job: something that is good for you, that fills you up as a person. It is also hard for people who finished the university, but in the EU those people with a degree can find the job they want. When they finish university and they can go to Spain, then to Great Britain, just to

have fun and work, and visiting the country, it is a normal life. But in Bosnia we are in a ghetto because we can't go out to other countries, we even can't go to other cities in Bosnia because it is a different nation. I could go to Banja Luka, just in this moment, because it is in Bosnia, but they will look at me strange: "you are Bosnian, go out from here, go to Sarajevo, go wherever you want". It is quite hard but I hope people will stop with the nationalism and will look to the future, work together and make this country a better country.

Can you yell me something positive about Bosnia?

I lived in Germany for 10 years and I think that for me this is an advantage because I see things differently from people that have been here for their whole life, because I see that you can change something. I have hope that you can change something, while some people don't see any hope. They just go: "ah, it is ok as it is, and it will never change". I think Bosnia has a big potential to become a really strong country, not only in the Balkans, but even in the EU. If you look at the Netherlands, if you look at Slovakia, just right now, they are a really strong countries and they now have a lot of jobs and are searching for people that come from other countries to work. But first of all we have to finish with nationalism and politics, people here they just think about that all day, they don't think about the economical crisis, they just think: "ah, he is Serbian, he want to do something bad to us". I think this is the biggest problem here now and if we finish with that I think we have a big potential and it will be a really good country.