

A EUROPEAN ON THE ROAD

STORY
JOANNA
SANECKA

ART
DENNIS
WOJDA



STEFAN
**BATORY
FOUNDATION**


**VISA-FREE
EUROPE**
WWW.VISA-FREE-EUROPE.EU

ODESSA.

IT STARTED
AS A LAZY
DAY AT
HOME.



BUT IT WASN'T MEANT TO BE...

HEY,
ANDRIY.

HOW IS THE WORLD'S
BEST CAMERAMAN
DOING?

KASIA!
HOW ARE
THINGS IN WARSAW?



GREAT NEWS!
OUR FILM
GOT NOMINATED
FOR THE
EUROPEAN DOC
FILM FESTIVAL!



WOW!
AWESOME!



WE'RE
GOING, OF
COURSE. THE
FESTIVAL STARTS
IN 2 WEEKS.

GREAT!
BUT WILL
I GET A VISA?



THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO VARIOUS STATE
OFFICES TO GET ALL THE DOCUMENTS.



11 HOURS LATER I WAS THERE.

WHEN DO
THEY CLOSE?

4 P.M.
BUT DON'T
WORRY, WE'LL
GET THERE.







IF I GET
THERE AT 4 A.M.
I'LL BE THE FIRST
IN THE QUEUE.

A black and white cartoon illustration of a man with glasses and a scarf, sitting on a bench at a train station. He is leaning back with his arms crossed, looking thoughtful. The background shows the structure of a train station with tracks and overhead wires. A large speech bubble above him contains the text: 'IF I GET THERE AT 4 A.M. I'LL BE THE FIRST IN THE QUEUE.'

I DIDN'T HAVE
ENOUGH CASH, SO I
SPENT THE NIGHT AT
THE STATION.

Below the bench, there is a block of text: 'I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH CASH, SO I SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE STATION.'

AN IDEA CAME TO ME AS I WAS IN THE QUEUE.

PLEASE
FILM THIS!
IT'S AN
OUTRAGE!

HONEST
PEOPLE ARE
BEING TREATED
LIKE GARBAGE
AND THUGS WILL
GET BY ANYWAY!



I HAD EVERYTHING THEY WANTED: FORMS,
VISA FEE, PHOTOS, PASSPORT, INSURANCE,
HOTEL ALREADY PAYED,
BANK STATEMENT,
TWO-WAY TICKET...



IT WASN'T
ENOUGH.

EMPLOYER?

I'M A STUDENT
AT ODESSA
UNIVERSITY.

YOU'LL NEED A
CERTIFICATE FROM
THE UNIVERSITY.





SO. BACK TO ODESSA.
I'VE HAD ENOUGH ALREADY.



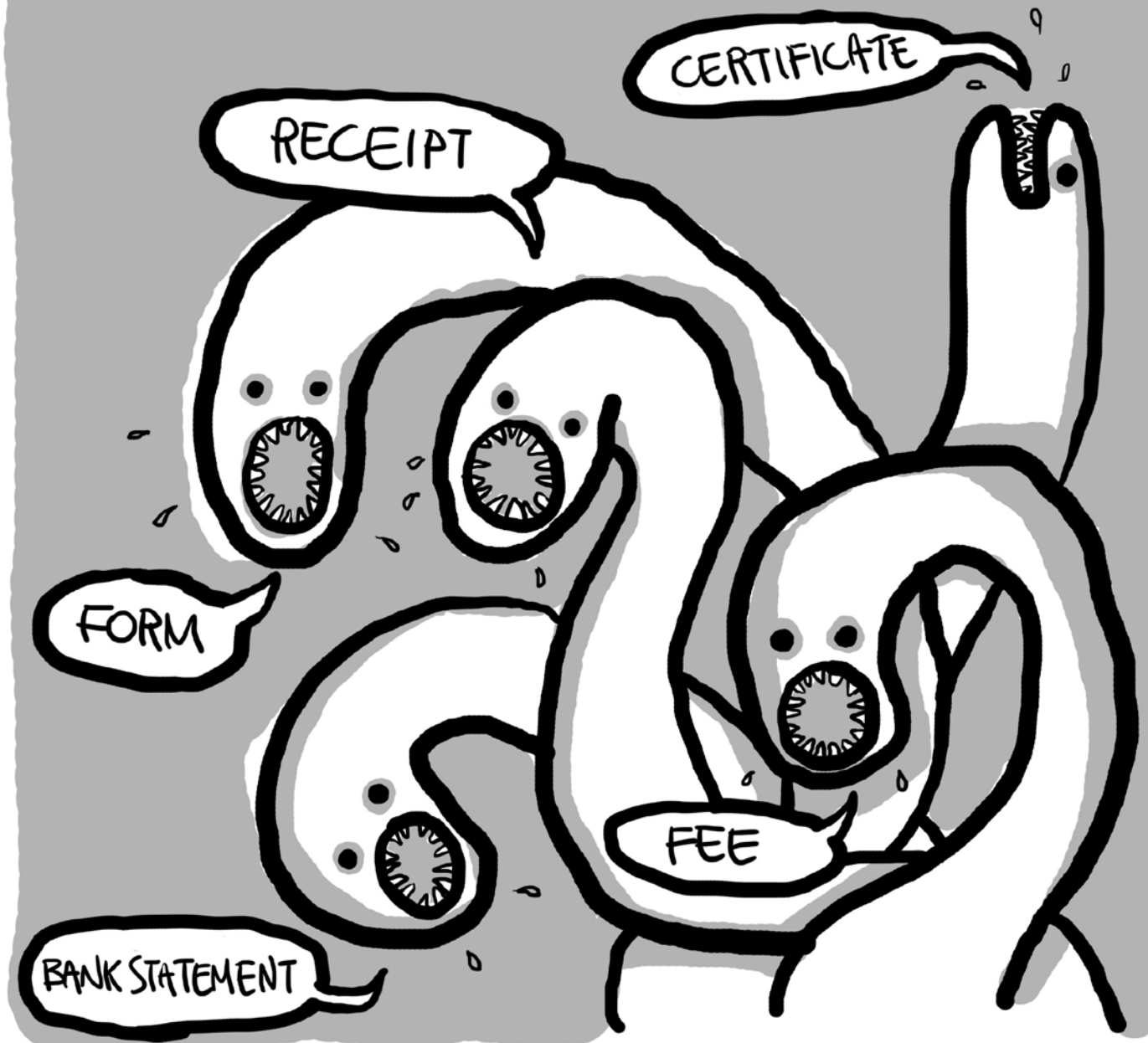
I'M GOING TO
THE CONSULATE
TOMORROW.
WE'LL SEE
WHAT THEY SAY.

I'LL KEEP MY FINGERS
CROSSED. I'M LEAVING AT
THE END OF THE WEEK,
I WANT TO VISIT SOME
FRIENDS IN BERLIN ON THE
WAY.



LUCKY YOU.
IT'S SO EASY ON
THE OTHER SIDE
OF THIS BORDER.

ON THE TRAIN TO KYIV I HAD A NIGHTMARE.





A black and white cartoon illustration. On the left, a man with glasses and a mustache, wearing a light-colored jacket, is holding a large professional camera with a long lens up to his eye, ready to take a picture. On the right, another man is shown in profile, facing left. He is wearing a light-colored jacket and has a cigarette in his mouth. He is looking towards the photographer. A large speech bubble originates from the man with the camera, and a smaller one is at the bottom right.

I'VE BEEN STANDING HERE
3 DAYS. THEY KEEP ASKING FOR
MORE PAPERS. I WANT TO VISIT MY
GRANDCHILDREN FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

I'M A VERY
DODGY TYPE
YOU SEE.
HA! HA!

A black and white cartoon illustration. On the left, a woman with her hair in a bun is leaning over a desk, writing on a piece of paper with a pen. On the right, a person is sitting in a chair, facing away from the viewer. A large speech bubble from the person in the chair says, "HERE, A CERTIFICATE FROM THE UNIVERSITY. WHEN CAN I COLLECT MY VISA?". A smaller speech bubble from the woman at the desk says, "IN 10 WORKING DAYS.".

HERE, A CERTIFICATE
FROM THE UNIVERSITY.
WHEN CAN I COLLECT
MY VISA?

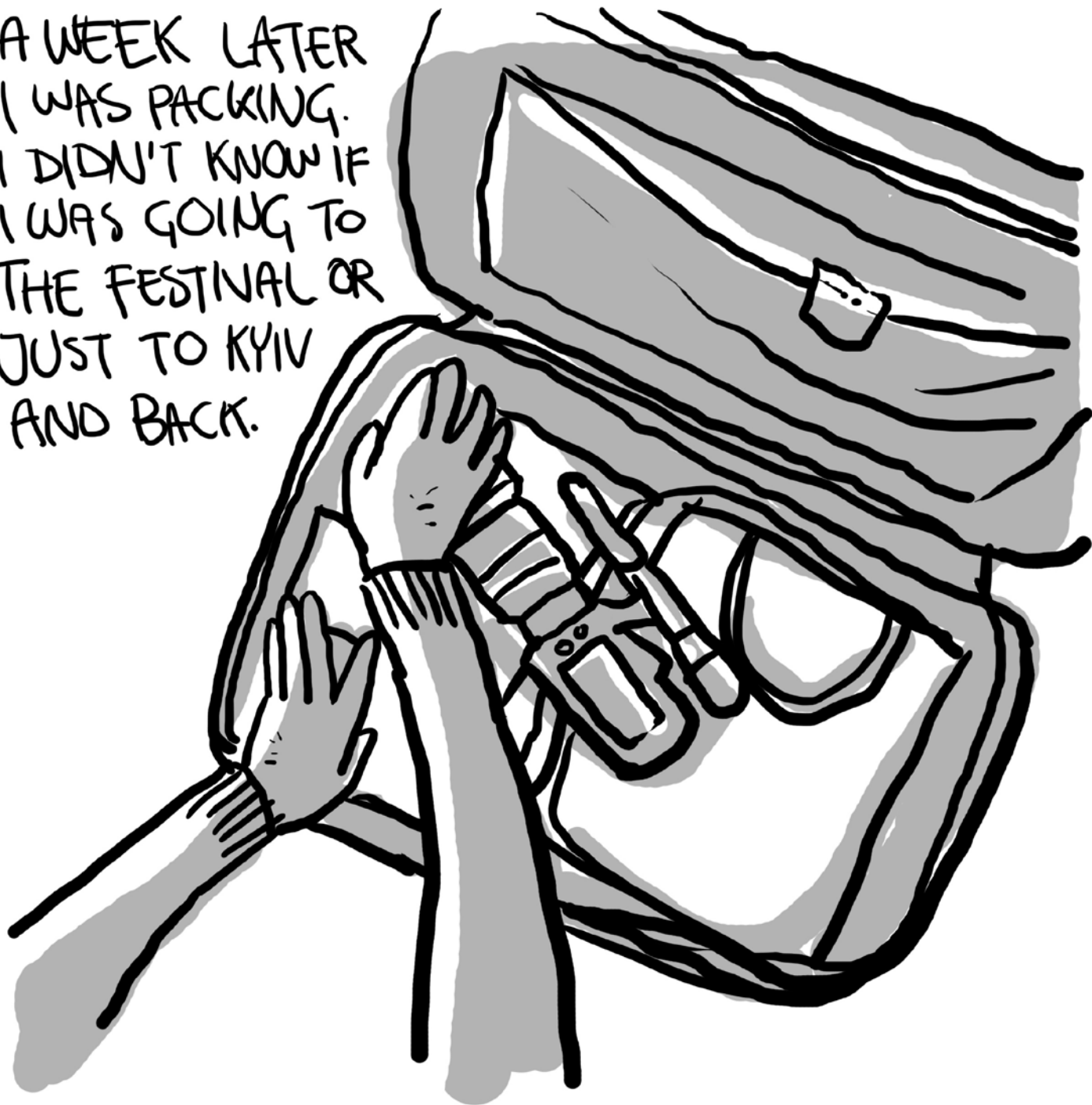
IN 10
WORKING
DAYS.



ISN'T
THERE A WAY
TO MAKE IT FASTER?
THE FESTIVAL I'M
GOING TO WILL
BE HALFWAY
OVER...

YOU
CAN ASK
IN A WEEK.

A WEEK LATER
I WAS PACKING.
I DIDN'T KNOW IF
I WAS GOING TO
THE FESTIVAL OR
JUST TO KYIV
AND BACK.



I GOT THE VISA.
TOO BAD THAT ONLY
FOR 3 DAYS.

EUROPEAN DOG FILM FEST

KASIA!

ANDRIY!
SO GREAT
YOU COULD
MAKE IT!



GETTING AN EU VISA IN
EASTERN EUROPE IS A
NIGHTMARE. WE NEED
TO MAKE A FILM ABOUT
THIS! I'VE ALREADY SHOT
SOME MATERIAL.

FANTASTIC.
AFTER THE
FESTIVAL WE
GET TO WORK.



THANK YOU SO MUCH!
IT WASN'T EASY TO GET HERE FROM
MY COUNTRY. THIS AWARD REMINDS
ME THAT I'M A EUROPEAN AFTER ALL.



THE END

I COULDN'T GET THE VISA ISSUE OUT OF MY
HEAD. SOMETHING REALLY NEEDS TO BE DONE ABOUT IT.

POSTSCRIPTUM

YOU MAY THINK THAT THE IRON CURTAIN HAS BEEN GONE FOREVER. WELL, NOT FOR ALL EUROPEANS. EUROPE IS STILL DIVIDED BY AN INVISIBLE WALL - THE VISA BARRIER.

CITIZENS OF UKRAINE, MOLDOVA, ARMENIA, AZERBAIJAN, GEORGIA, BELARUS AND RUSSIA STILL NEED VISAS TO TRAVEL TO THE EUROPEAN UNION. EACH TRIP TO PARIS, BERLIN OR ROME FOR THESE EUROPEANS MEANS THAT THEY NEED TO PREPARE PILES OF DOCUMENTS, TRAVEL HUNDREDS OR EVEN THOUSANDS OF KILOMETRES TO THE RELEVANT EU STATE CONSULATE, WAIT IN LONG QUEUES, PAY FROM 35 TO 60 EUROS FOR VISA FEES AS WELL AS BEAR ADDITIONAL COSTS. IT TAKES AT LEAST TEN WORKING DAYS FOR AN EU STATE CONSULATE TO ISSUE A VISA. BUT ONE CAN NEVER BE SURE IF THEY WILL GET A VISA AT ALL.

IF WE REALLY WANT TO PROMOTE CONTACTS BETWEEN PEOPLE, EXCHANGE OF IDEAS AND KNOW-HOW, DEMOCRATIC VALUES, TOURISM, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WE NEED A VISA-FREE EUROPE - FOR ALL EUROPEANS!



THE STEFAN
BATORY FOUNDATION

SAPIEŻYŃSKA 10A
00-215 WARSAW

TEL.: (+48) 22 536 02 00

FAX: (+48) 22 536 02 20

BATORY@BATORY.ORG.PL

WWW.BATORY.ORG.PL

WWW.VISA-FREE-EUROPE.EU

TRANSLATION: KLEMENTYNA DEC

EDITING: JOANNA FOMINA

DESIGN: DENNIS WOJDA

©COPYRIGHT BY FUNDACJA

IM. STEFANA BATOREGO

THIS PUBLICATION IS DISTRIBUTED FREE OF CHARGE

ISBN 978-83-62338-14-6

WARSAW 2012