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I LOVE YOU, EUROPE! EDUCATIONAL STAGE PLAY IN TWO ACTS AND EPILOGUE

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Abstract

I LOVE YOU, EUROPE! is an educational stage play in two acts and epilogue – a didactic tool - theater performance, to be implemented at secondary schools.



SCRIPT

Actors:

Vladko – student in 11a

Radko – his classmate and friend from the same class

Ina – student in 11b

Ms. Vasileva – teacher

Ms. Radoykova – teacher

Mr. Simeonov – headmaster

FIRST ACT

Radko's room – a typical boy's room, messy with items, books all over the place and a guitar. A map of Europe hangs on the wall. Radko is sitting on the floor with an opened laptop in front of him, notebooks and textbooks scattered around him. Radko is concentrated in his studying. The bell of the door rings. Radko stands up to open – he seems a little annoyed that someone interrupts him while studying.

Vladko enters the room, visibly excited and agitated.

VLADKO: Hey, Rad!

RADKO: Hello, Vlad! Come on in! Where have you been, don't you have to study for "civil"?

VLADKO: I can't bro, I am so sick.

RADKO: */visibly anxious/* What is wrong with you? Are you ill?

VLADKO: It is worse, Rad! I think I am in love!

RADKO: */laughing mockingly/* Are you crazy? When did you fall in love? Right now? We have a test in "civil" tomorrow. It will be probably hard – the lessons for the EU.

VLADKO: That is exactly the problem – I can't study. I am constantly thinking about her.

RADKO: Who is your Dulcinea Tobosca, Don Quixote?

VLADKO: That is the thing, I don't know her name. That's why I am here. Are you really a friend of mine?

RADKO: My friend? */the high-five/* But what can I do exactly?

VLADKO: Listen – you know I was at the European Parliament in Brussels, right. Well, that's where I saw her. I just looked at her and that was it – I just fell.

RADKO: Alright, did you get to know her? Why didn't you ask her for her name? If you got her phone number, you could send her an SMS, or better yet, a GIF with hearts, and that's it.

VLADKO: If it was that simple, I wouldn't come to you. Rad, we need to find her, do you understand?

RADKO: You don't know her name, her number. Do you know anything at all about this lady of your heart?

VLADKO: I only know that she is extremely beautiful, with long hair, and what eyes she has! Like a gun she shot me.

RADKO: That doesn't help. Do you know anything else? Did you manage to understand where she comes from?

VLADKO: We played a role game in the European Parliament – we played Euro MPs. You know, they're divided by party, not by nationality. I was in the Socialists and Democrats, and she was in the European People's Party. I don't know what country she is from, but I know she is an European citizen.

RADKO: Do you know how many citizens the EU has? – more than 450 million in 27 countries. It's like looking for a needle in a haystack. Just forget about it! No!

VLADKO: I can't, bro! She is an amazing girl! She chaired the meeting of our parliamentary committee. We discussed something about the Green Deal, the ecology, in a word – the climate. When she stood and opened her mouth – I have no words! She began in English, then in French and at the end – German. Can you imagine? Young Ursula von der Leyen.

RADKO: Who is she?

VLADKO: The president of the European Commission, haven't you seen her on TV?

RADKO: Alright than, but how does that help us to find her? It doesn't. Even if you knew her mother language, we still couldn't find her. In the EU they are 24. The same thing - a needle in a haystack

VLADKO: You know what, I just remembered! She told a small group, which gathered around her during the brake, that she doesn't come from the founding countries of the European Union.

RADKO: And what were you doing at that time? Why didn't you join as well? And now – in love!

VLADKO: You better help me – you know I am a little shy. And she is so calm while speaking, so smart. */dreamy/* The real young Angela Merkel.

RADKO: Come on! Angela Merkel now? Alright then, let's do it by the process of elimination. */they move closer to the map of Europe/* Which ones were the founders? – France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxemburg. So, what – 21 more remain! Forget her, we won't find her.

VLADKO: Wait, wait! I think she mentioned something about the latest expansion.

RADKO: Which were the ones from the latest expansion? Oh, Vladko, if you weren't my best friend, I wouldn't waste my time with this hopeless case. Let's find the ones from the last enlargement. */leafing through the textbook and reading/* May 1, 2004-Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, January 1, 2007-Bulgaria and Romania, July 1, 2013 – Croatia. So what? Again, nothing - it's only 13 states. That's why they call it the "big extension" "Give me a hint! You don't know anything else about her?" Except that she's both Ursula and Angel! */laughs and gives him a friendly hug/*

VLADKO: Let me thin! She said that her country is not in the Eurozone yet.

RADKO: The Eurozone now! How many countries are in the Eurozone? Do you remember? Vladko shrugs. Let me google it. */looks at the phone/* 2021 they are 19. Vlad, give up, brother! */Vladko looks at him entreatingly/* Okay, let's continue. These 19 are France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, Austria, Ireland, Finland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Cyprus, Malta, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Spain, Greece, Portugal. But here we'll need some math. From these we must derive the founding countries-we already know them - in order to also derive the countries from the following enlargement Ireland, Spain, Greece, Portugal. From the countries of the last enlargement, we must withdraw those who are already in the Eurozone.

VLADKO: */interrupts him impatiently/* Hurry up! It is too complicated! As if you were a math lady!

RADKO: Noww! Here – Romania, Bulgaria, Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia.

VLADKO: Still nothing! They are 6 countries. */sits desperate on the floor/*

RADKO: I told you from the beginning that we wouldn't find her, so you wouldn't have any false hopes. Let's study for the test - the time flies, and you know her Vassileva, how strict she is! Who knows what unpleasant questions she came up with.

They both sit on the floor and concentrate on their textbooks.

Radko's phone rings

RADKO: Who is it now? */annoyed/* Hello. */suddenly he cheers up, smiles and continues politely.* Of course, Ina, come! What am I doing? My friend and I are studying for civil. You know these things. */hangs up/* Come on Vlad, let's fix that mess, Ina is coming.

They both start tidying up.

VLADKO: Who is Ina? */smiles conspiratorially/*

RADKO: She lives on the third floor, she is from our school, in 11 B. She is cool! Now you will see! We call her Europe, as she is a huge fan of the EU, she knows everything, whatever you ask her, she answers immediately. She is going to study European studies at the Sofia University.

The door rings. Radko goes to open it.

RADKO: */pretentiously/* Hellooo, miss Europe, please come in!

Ina enters. She is wearing a blue T-shirt with the 12 stars – smiling, with self-confidence. When she enters Vladko opens widely his eyes and freezes. He doesn't speak, doesn't move as if he was stroked by a lightning.

Ina and Radko move forward to talk. Ina looks at Vladko, then at Radko with a dubious look.

RADKO: */to Ina/* Leave him alone, he gets really nervous when he sees a girl.

INA: */Ina shrugs/* I think I've seen him before. Radko, we are arranging the program for the 9 of May. I came to sign you up for the volunteer group. You know, May 9 is Europe's Day. */begins to explain as a teacher/* That is when Robert Schumann makes a statement, with the help of which he proposes to establish a European coal and steel community in order to make war materially impossible. And then ...

RADKO: */interrupts her/* And then the European Economic Community and the European Atomic Energy Community are created, and on their basis the European Union is created. Well, Miss Europe, we know something about the European Union as well!

INA: That's why I came to you! You are like Charles Michel, or if you prefer David Sassoli

RADKO: What is wrong with you today? Who are these?

INA: */glad she caught him on the narrow/* How? You don't know? Charles Michel is the President of the European Council, and Sassoli is the President of the European Parliament.

RADKO: I didn't know these two, but I know about the President of the European Commission – Ursula....oh, how was it?

INA: von der Leyen

RADKO: Right, that was it

INA: Radi, I am writing you down but please be serious. We don't have many boys on the team. You know, in the European Union, the balance between women and men is valued. And to remind you that there will be a competition. Team 11a vs. team 11b. The one who wins, will go to Strasbourg on the "Euroscola". It's very cool there! Young people from all over the European Union will gather. We are already training with Mrs. Radojkova. She's cool! We won the project for the program for the school ambassadors of the European Parliament. This is the second year that we have been junior ambassadors of the European Parliament. Be ready for battle!

RADKO: Well, I know you're very good, but we'll do our best too! Like in sports! We train with Mrs. Vassileva. She's strict, but she's also very cool, she made a European club. Big party! But racing is like racing!

INA: Come on, come on, just don't be like some athletes who do their best and fall from five to zero! */laughs/* Get to know the names, the institutions.... you know! And please find at least one more boy for the volunteer team.

RADKO: That is hard, but I will talk someone into it. */points with the head to Vladko, who is still in the statue pose/* I'll text you when I find someone.

INA: You are the best! Bye! */she leaves/*

Radko walks her out to the door as they talk quietly. As soon as the door closes, Radko turns and sees Vladko, who suddenly starts jumping.

VLADKO: That is her! That is her! I found her! */falls into a great euphoria/*

RADKO: What did you find man? What's going on with you? This Ursu Angela has driven you mad.

VLADKO: That is her, bro! Don't you get it?! That is the girl from Brussels! She is amazing, isn't she!? And I couldn't guess that she is from Bulgaria!

RADKO: */mockingly/* And besides, she's from our school, and even more - she lives in our house. Why did we have to try to search for her all over the EU? */he pats him condescendingly on the shoulder/* The main thing is that she was found! After all, the European Union is here, where we are. */angry/* You're to be killed! How could you stand like a street statue without moving?

VLADKO: Told you Rad that when I see her, I freeze. I am shy! What can I do?

RADKO: What? You could get down on your knees and give her a Romeo monologue */gets down on his knees in front of Vladko - artistically/* "it's very cute to be true. It is Night, I must be dreaming! "

VLADKO: Come on! Stop making fun! */sits desperate/*

RADKO: Now what! We found your Ursula, Angela and so on...

VLADKO: Yes, but how would she pay any attention to me?

RADKO: In any case, not by standing like a tree or a statue, and silent as a stump! Why didn't you at least move so that I could introduce you? Okay, that's enough! */starts thinking/* Look, we need a plan. Fortresses are captured with a preliminary strategy.

VLADKO: What fortresses. We are talking about a girl – an amazing girl

RADKO: Look, let's leave the kneeling and Romeo's monologue for later. I have a great idea! Listen to me! She is into....

VLADKO: */jumps as stung by a bee/* Into whom?

RADKO: Chill! I told you she is into the EU. */laughs/* What did you think?

VLADKO: */he breathes a sigh of relief/* Okay if she is into the EU.

RADKO: Now listen to me carefully. You will conquer her with the European Union!

VLADKO: Rad, please stop with this nonsense. How can a girl be conquered with the European Union? It's not poetry, it's not drama, it's not tragedy, it's not a movie...

RADKO: Here's my plan - you sit down and learn all about the European Union - history, how the three European communities were created in the 50s, the seven institutions, and how decisions, legislation, and so on are made ... That's it!!

VLADKO: You're not okay, Rad! This can't be learned - you know that the legislation alone is more than 100,000 pages long - rules, directives... And the contracts - we just studied about them - Paris, Rome, Amsterdam, Nice, Lisbon ... they have no end!

RADKO: You missed the one from Maastricht -the European Union is created with it! Listen - first, no one tells you that you must know the law by heart, and second, if you want to win her, you must sacrifice yourself! Think of what Don Quixote did for Dulcinea Toboschi?! Men went to a duel for the sake of their loved ones! They died for them! Read the literature, brother!

Recites artistically

"But the coming day is in the clouds,
because until now the world did not know
Love purer and fate more miserable.
from the ones of Romeo and Juliet!"

And all you have to do is get to know the EU! Easy peasy lemon squeezy!

VLADKO: Alright then! You convinced me! But even when I learn it from needle to thread, this European Union, what will happen? Nothing again!

RADKO: You turn on your computer and start - you go to the official website of the European Union- Europa.eu. You know, there's a lot of fake news and nonsense about the European Union on the Internet. You'll learn something wrong, and then the whole plan will fail. There are several other sites. */he sits next to him and clicks on the computer/* Here is the website of the European Parliament, the Museum of European History. And here is another one for the EU in school - "Resource Center of Europe" - with a lot of cool materials. Well, good luck! Then we'll figure out the next step to Miss Europe! Or fate could help! */ laughs playfully and sings "fate knocks at the door" of Beethoven's Fifth Symphony/*

The end of act 1

SECOND ACT

A classroom or another school hall. On a long table sits the jury of the race between 11a and 11b-in the middle Mr. Simeonov-the headmaster, on both sides Ms. Vasilyeva and Ms. Radoikova. Radko, Vladko and Ina are sitting in the audience.

Mr. SIMEONOV: */stands up/* Dear students, this morning the written test on the European dimension of civic education was conducted, in which the teams of class 11a and 11b took place. Mrs. Vasileva and Mrs. Radojkova participated in the commission for testing the tests. They will tell you the results.

Ms. VASILEVA: Students, you did well on the test, but you still have gaps. You're distracted, I don't know what you're thinking!

RANDOM VOICE FROM THE CLASS: For party! */everyone laughs/*

ANOTHER VOICE: For the game! */again laughing/*

Ms. VASILEVA: Please be serious! We have important work to do because we are in a tough situation. Now my colleague Radoikov will explain to you.

Ms. RADOYKOVA: I greet you as well for the scores on the test, but there is a problem that we need to solve today. Both teams have an equal number of points, and we must determine the winner. After discussion with our colleagues, we decided that each team will broadcast its own representative. We will ask questions to both of them-let's call them captains, and their answers will determine which team will win in Euroscole. Does anyone want to be a "captain"?" */Ina raises he hand/* Who will be the bravest of team 11a? */a moment of silence/*

Radko's voice is heard from the audience: VLADKO! VLADKO!

Ms. VASILEVA: */encouraging him/* Come on, Vladko! Show them what you are capable of! Just like in the Euroclub!

Vladko goes on the stage with some reluctance and stands next to Ina.

Mr. SIMEONOV: I will ask the first question to Ina - when did Bulgaria become a member of the European Union?

INA: */with confidence/-* Bulgaria signed the EU Membership Treaty on 25 April 2005 and became a full member of the EU on 1 January 2007.

Mr. SIMEONOV: Full answer! 5 points for 11b

Ms. RADOYKOVA: Vladi, what are the main values on which the European Union is based?

VLADI: */gathers himself and answers quickly/* The Union is based on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, peace, democracy, equality, the rule of law, as well as respect for human rights, including the rights of people belonging to minorities. These values are shared by Member States in a society characterized by pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men. They are formulated in the article of the second Treaty on the European Union

Voice from the audience - RADKO: Amazing! Go, Vlad!

Ms. VASILEVA: Excellent, Vladi! Five point to team 11a. Next question to Ina. Which are the main institutions of the EU?

INA: There are seven institutions of the European Union: the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the European Commission, the European Court of Justice, the European Central Bank and the Court of Accounts.

Voice from the audience: bravo, Europe!

Ms. VASILEVA: Correct, Ina! 5 points to 11b

Ms. RADOYKOVA: Vladi, what are the four freedoms of movement in the European Union's single market?

VLADI: In the European Union, there is free movement of people, goods, services and capital.

Ms. RADOYKOVA: That is right, Vladi! 5 points to 11a

Mr. Simeonov intervenes, and during Vladi's response, he goes to the end of the stage and talks on the phone. He returns after Vladi responded and addressed the jury.

Mr. SIMEONOV: Colleagues, I think we can continue until tonight in that way. Obviously, both captains are well prepared, and the choice is difficult, even impossible. Both teams have an equal number of points. But I have a solution to this dilemma! I have just spoken to the head of the European Parliament Office in Sofia-you know that

the European Parliament has information desks in every capital of the European Union. I got carried away too! Pedagogical syndrome! We found a solution. Both teams go to Euroscola in Strasbourg! Congratulations! */shakes hands with the teachers/*

Ina and Vladko react happily to the message. Shouts from the audience: Bulgarians, heroes!

INA: */hugs him/* Vladi, you are amazing! Why didn't I know you before, Mr. Europe?

VLADKO: You are also amazing, miss Europe!

INA: That is why I am really into....

ВЛАДИ: I am into as well */both are looking in anticipation/*

BOTH SIMULTANEOUSLY: the European Union */laughing/*

Audience applause

EPILOGUE

A street in Sofia, the building of the Sofia University is projected at the bottom of a screen. Ina and Vladko are coming. On the other side comes Radko.

RADKO: */brings the documents for admission to the university/* Oh, mister and miss Europe? How do you do? Did you sign up?

VLADKO: */he pulls a student's book out of his pocket and says solemnly/* Rad, you are speaking with a student, first year, European Studies!

INA: We signed up! We have two faculties in a row. */looks gently at Vladko/* The race continues.

RADKO: */rousingly/* Who will be the future commissar? */to the audience/* The fate knows its work, and so does the European Union, but if it wasn't for me to come up with a strategy, Vlad would still be frozen like a statue. */stands in the statue pose/* Come on, bye, or I'll be late. */walks away/*

INA: We didn't ask him where he signed up...

VLADKO: Literature – he is really into Shakespeare. He will probably become an author. He has ideas and imagination. Sometimes he comes up with strange suggestions, but he's a great friend. */turns to Ina falling on his knees/*

INA: */astonished/* What are you doing, Vlad!

VLADKO: I love you, Europe! */Vladi gets up. They hug/*

In the distance, the figure of Radko, who is applauding, is seen.

