

Rona Roka

What does the EU mean to me?

“How are we supposed to join EU, if you (fill in the blank) ? This question has been asked a lot of times by adults, especially my teachers whenever my friends or I did something wrong. If we didn’t study enough, behaved badly, showed no support for our country and so on, this certain question would be made in order to bring us to our senses and make us think beyond the borders of ‘today’. They try to teach us that we should work hard to become a great country and so become a part of the European Union. Becoming a part of EU is a dream shared by all the citizens of Kosovo because it represents an efficient, safe and economically stable union which offers welfare and better living.

Kosovo is a relatively new country and it is facing many obstacles and hard times. Poverty, corruption and illiteracy are the main issues that we, as a country must overcome in order to create stability; however, it is very hard to do so. The European Union has been a great aid to my country by willing to assist in the overall development. EULEX mission provides support for the field of law, while many organizations donate money to help small businesses, build schools, libraries and so on. In my town, for example, the European Union gave funds to reconstruct the main city sport’s hall with UEFA standards. With the bad economic situation, sport is one of the fields that hasn’t been invested in enough, but, with donations from different organizations an improvement has started to happen. Now different sport clubs like ‘Vllaznimi Juniors’, ‘KB Vllaznimi’ etc, practice in the newly reconstructed hall or host different games. Sometimes my friends and I go to different matches and cheer for our team and it is a really good feeling when we participate in such events.

Living in Kosovo feels like living in a small island separated from most of the world. Without the liberalization of Visas our freedom is quietly suppressed. If we think of visiting a European country we must think first about obtaining a Visa. We don’t have the freedom and opportunity to travel or work in another country like the citizens of EU do. Having our Visas liberalized would lead to better economy and education. As a twelve grader, soon I will continue my higher education and pursue my dreams. I have noticed the difficulties that appear when I search for universities abroad. Sometimes my country isn’t even recognized as one, let alone the credibility of the schools. Kosovo isn’t a part of ERASMUS so the tuition fees for non-EU students are up to five times more expensive and there are not many bursaries. As a young female I dream of being able to study in a good university abroad so I can not only learn about my college’s specific subjects but also learn about new cultures. I hope that in the future we will become a stable, developed country and why not become a member of the European Union. I know that with hard work and with the aid of other

decent nations, step by step Kosovo will become a young but contemporary country that supports human rights, safety and democracy.