

# Frame You[th]

A journey among the media experiences of youth





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*This publication is based on the personal experiences of youth participating in the 18 month long Video Volunteers project locally and internationally. They took part in media exchanges, trainings, peer educator meetings, focus group interviews, flash mobs and other media and social activist programs. The content represents their views, observations and results. Its realization was coached and mentored by media educators and peer coaches.*

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# Chapter 1

The creator is me

I am...



...not a Broccoli!

## "I thought it will never happen to me..."



My name is **Veronika** Schweighoferová. I'm 19 years old and this year I'm graduating from my secondary grammar school. I like spaghetti, travelling, good ideas, working with and taking care of children, the colour green and music composed by Yann Tiersen.



I am **Szabina** Kun from the capital of Hungary. I have just become 20 and I am a Media Freak.

I am finishing my high school year in Budapest. My hobbies are photography, film-making, running and cycling. My future plans are big and I really wish my dreams will come true, such as studying in Denmark, having my own flat and working in a TV or film studio.

I'm **Sara**. I have a degree in Social Sciences and now I'm working in Milan; I work in Focus Coop and I deal with CriticalCity, a real-life urban transformation game.



My name is **Orfeas** Gemenetzidhs, I come from Greece and I am 16 years old. I am still a secondary school student and I mostly enjoy playing football.





My name is Emese Muri. My nickname is **Em** and I am a 22 year old girl from Hungary. I spend most of my time with studying. I graduated in Pedagogy from the University of Miskolc. Besides studying I train youngsters to improve their skills in debate culture. I am also the leader of the Imre Sinkovits Drama Team

from Sajólád, Hungary since 2009. This group is made of talented people from elementary school kids to youngsters and even adults from the local area of Sajólád. Video Volunteers has motivated me to express interest in video making which has now become a very important part of my life. I appreciate and keep in mind the following things: giving value, lifelong learning, and getting knowledge in a practical way. I do everything to achieve my goals; therefore I have a maximalist perspective and endurance.



I started to feel like a broccoli.

"Don't be..." <http://vimeo.com/36337582>

My name is **María** Gómez. I left the university 5 months ago to take a breathe so I'm working as an aupair in Sweden now. I'm 18 years old.

I enjoy doing whatever I want to do in each moment. I love to feel free and happy (as a child). I like to travel as much it possible, meet new people, juggle, swim in the sea, see the stars, get lost...just have fun!



My name is **Tamas** Mahner. I was studying youth work and now I'm working in Egyesek as project coordinator. I'm 25 years old. The most I enjoy traveling and going to festivals, snowboarding in the mountains.

...I had to activize myself!"

# Me DIA



Sharing is scary

## "The trainers say Sharing is Caring..."



I have always been interested about how media can "manipulate" our minds (as standards of beauty and fashion or what we have to do or not). What I mean is if something is really good the people start to follow, and if most of the people are doing the

same thing, then those who are not doing it seem wrong. So I'm interested to show there are other alternative options and it isn't a bad thing. Also I would like to make the people think about significant issues: health, antidiscrimination, recycling, life-style...

Well I don't take a part in a lot of productions because I started to participate in media during and after ViVo. I took part in some videos and photo groups with ViVo. Also I appeared in a local TV channel and newspaper talking about volunteer experience.

I have a blog about my experience living as an aupair in Malmö, where I explain why I am an aupair, why I left university and what I do.

### **Get ready to Robodance:**

<http://vimeo.com/31334993>

### **Balls connect people:**

<http://vimeo.com/27099498>



In my opinion media is a great tool to express myself. Via videos I can show my feelings, emotions, I can easily document every single moment of my life and I enjoy doing this. I have a micro blog that I refresh almost every day, and a twitter account, which is getting more and more **popular** nowadays.

We are living in the age of social media, and it is a useful way of keeping up with the things that are happening all around us.

### **My blog :**

<http://imszabcsii.tumblr.com/>

### **My videos are available on ViVo Vimeo Channel:**

<https://vimeo.com/videovolunteers>

I use media for communicating and sharing information, photos, news and videos with people for my and their enjoyment. Five years ago I created a YouTube account to share some of my videos about my friends, my experiences, my ideas and my jokes. I created about 40 videos; the one I like the most is Fiat Duna Remake. I appreciate this video because it is the first one I edited and it was good despite the fact I didn't have the competence. I also like Ampie Strette Torino because it is the last one I made and it demonstrates that I **improved myself** in editing videos.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/videodellavita/videos>



In my opinion using media is a great way you can present yourself. Presenting doesn't mean only shooting an autobiography, but also the way in which we can put ideas or feelings into concrete form. In this way, you can learn more about that person. I think a very good tool for expressing ourselves is the camera. It is a **magical box**

which connects all we see and all we hear and at the same time it records it! Wow! :-)

I have shot a short documentary during the One World Documentary Film School, some short funny videos with friends, one activist video for the project New Media Change the Community and now I help with our ViVo focus group production.



I use media mostly for **pleasure** but I also use them to be up to date.

I was part of a lot of videos, but I created just a few. (<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=1733022567185>)



I use media in daily life for **orientation** purposes, to improve my video and photography knowledge and of course to have fun and relax.

My favourite Hungarian media piece: **Szalontudo** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eBk9vxffjxw>

My favourite foreign media piece: **Spin** [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP59tQf\\_njc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP59tQf_njc) Since the engineers created digital cameras and shared them with the public, I took the role of photographer in the family when we went out on trips. Since 2008 I am a journalist and a photographer in the local newspaper, the Ládi Körkép.

The Video Volunteers project encouraged us to assemble a team of youngsters who are interested in media. We have started to work with unique people in unique productions. The result was 2 music videos with trailers. My responsibilities included shooting the scenes with the camera, providing actors and participants for the videos and training the singer on editing methods.

**Visible-Invisible** <http://vimeo.com/23691516>

**Dwoja – Elégia Official Videoclip**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R5VFSmSStuo>

**Dwoja – Átvészselem Official Videoclip**

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?src\\_vid=vRkNmfvU7Tk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?src_vid=vRkNmfvU7Tk)

**Simple** <http://vimeo.com/38722981>



The short films “Visible-Invisible” and “Simple” were made during international trainings. The short film “Visible” was shot and edited in Greece in an intercultural group. We did everything **together** - everyone had the possibility to shoot with the camera, everyone contributed to the writing process of the script, etc. The video “Simple” was made in the Netherlands in which I took a part in idea sharing and video editing (I have to emphasize that we had about 30 minutes to create, shoot and edit the whole video...).



I am proud of all the productions in different ways. The common things in them are the **willingness**, the work and the admiration. When I think of any of them, I find moments which are touching to me. The challenge in the production of international film is the language barrier, that you have to discuss all production related things in a common language (for example English). Through my art I like to create emotions and **evoke** them from the audience. I am proud of the Dwoja videos because they have massive teamwork behind them.



Personally this is the way I can express my creativity. This is the **artistic part** of my being.

I have some videos about our projects that you can check out on the link below. The most loved one is about the International Voluntary Camp which was also shown in a non-profit film festival called Faces of Volunteering in Hungary.

<https://vimeo.com/user3454455>



*"...but it takes courage to work with others and share your story."*



# Chapter 2

Boiling

# Mirror Reflection



Tell me, what do you see?

## "At the beginning I saw nothing..."

For me the biggest challenge was establishing communication with people who might not understand or hardly spoke the training's common language, English. We got used to the **technical language of the film**, although it wasn't easy either at the start.



For me the time I have spent in Hungary during my ViVo training in summer 2011 was very enriching. The biggest challenge to me was probably the **teamwork**. Not just to put across my own opinion, my point of view, but to listen to others and to do **compromises**. If you want to create a good team, don't forget: sharing is caring!



I gained a lot of skills while working with other people not just about media but cooperation, understanding and active involvement of others. When you do creative work and you are focused to create something which contains **value** it takes a lot of time. Lack of time was the biggest challenge for me because I always want to do better and better and I could make videos endlessly. ☺





The first challenge is the language because it's not easy to express everything you want in a different language. When we started everybody was shy to show they don't speak PERFECT English but when we later felt confident and safe the atmosphere was nice. We also started to use the hands, body language and other communication methods so nobody can feel discriminated.

For example: I had to shoot a video with a guy who doesn't speak English and he was the director. I think he was the **best director** I could have because we could understand him just seeing his movements and gestures.

Another hard challenge was to choose a "buddy" because he/she has to support you, help you, talk about your feelings, problems...it means trusting in someone you don't know during all the exchange. Personally, my buddy was so great and that made me feel comfortable and confident. In my opinion, the most difficult challenge was personal workshops, finding and expressing yourself and your opinion. I've never thought about me so finding it was difficult and after that we had to show the entire group our piece of art, our drawings, and 3 minutes doing a personal performance... These activities were really good to get a nice ambient and a closer relationship with each other.

*...till I saw myself, through the camera."*

Hola, Hi, Geia sou, Ciao, Szia, Ahoj



Do you see the difference?

## Communication, time, ideas, cooperation...

When you are working with an international team it is always more fun and there are more learning opportunities since you do not just create media but meet other personalities, ideas, cultures and working styles. It takes time to adapt but it is worth it because it has an effect on your story as well, it becomes more colourful.



In Hungary when we were working on a media workshop with orphans we were more focused **on their development** not on ours. In this way we could contribute what we have learnt during the project. When the kids see a camera they are so enthusiastic to touch it and media can be a tool which is working with disadvantaged youngsters to educate them.



During the ViVo experience the greatest challenge was to be able to explain my own ideas because **I can't speak English** very well. I had a lot of ideas but it was very difficult to explain them to other people.



Well, the language barrier might be a difficulty during working with people from abroad. And mostly we are limited by **time** as well; I mean we have a certain deadline when the work should be done. You can manage the time with local people better. But on the other hand, working with people from different countries is so interesting, because you learn a lot.





The first difference was previous knowledge. In general the participants had some experiences concerning media (photography, film, etc.). My Hungarian group only had knowledge of hobby activities which they had to extend. The second main difference is the language. I believe it's much easier to communicate in our native languages. Most of the participants have English as their „consciously” learned language; therefore I had difficulties talking to them. **Misunderstandings were a common thing** in the training, whereas at home they didn't cause any kind of problem.



*...is all the same no matter where you are!"*

# We call ourselves...



Humans!

"BUT..."



I have learned I'm pretty **impatient** :-)) and when I worked in a team, I confirmed my belief that everybody is a unique personality, hiding inside a big firework! :-))

When I'm working I enjoy it more than working alone. Getting **feedback** and **sharing** ideas are improving my point of view and creativity as well.



I'm an easy going person so I try to accept other people's choices, and for me almost everything is ok but if don't like something I say it. This is good when you don't have to choose just help and give ideas. When I worked as a director it was difficult because deciding which idea is better than the other, trying to do it right, keep order and take decisions; it wasn't easy for me. I learnt if you explain everything clearly and well you shouldn't have problems. Everybody must feel useful and comfortable so the teamwork would be nice. You must respect everyone all the time, even when you are in a critical situation (**editing at midnight**) and you feel stressed and angry because the people on your team are feeling the same.





Working in a team I learned that sometimes I follow only my project and ideas, so I had to listen to other people and make **compromises** about the ideas. I learned that other people defend their ideas, but I have to argue my choices if my ideas are good.

In my opinion teamwork is based on empathy and tolerance. We have to accept the other people, respect each one's ideas and thoughts. To know ourselves and the others is a hard, but **beautiful task**. One has to maintain patience and understanding with the other team members. This is a noble gesture, which shows humanity and helpfulness. It's important that in teamwork the individual performance is irrelevant compared to communication and cooperation.



*...sometimes we forget about it!*

# InterMission

# My way...



by Szabina





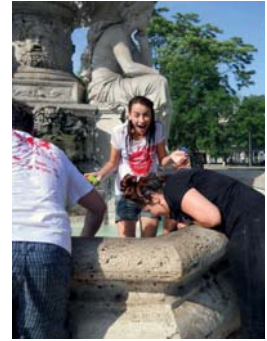
I have participated in all the Video Volunteers' trainings, which I all found quite interesting, useful and instructive. First of all, I had the opportunity to go to Greece and visit a

tiny village in a national park area called Laimos. I got lots of experience and expanded my knowledge in connection with video-making. The working method is based on 'learning by doing' which means there are no boring lecturer speeches, only practical things. We went out into nature with a camera and a tripod and started to shoot. Everyone was lucky, because we all were in an international group. I was with a Slovak guy called Thomas, and Theresa, who is Polish, but lives in Italy. This was our very first project and memorable, we had to discover the town, and we invented a fictional story. I spent 10 wonderful days in Greece, and I made lots of new friends from several countries of Europe, such as Spain, Italy, Slovakia and Greece. At the end we had a final product, which is a promo about this lovely area.

<https://vimeo.com/27092329>



After returning home I had to digest all the things that had happened. I started to organize a flashmob in my city. We wanted to show to the passers-by that life is fun and how water changes everything. This was much more fun that I had ever expected, I collected all my friends and went to Deak Square, which is a common meeting place among Hungarian teenagers.



You can see the video below:  
<https://vimeo.com/27097811>





The second training was in my home country, but not in the capital. This time the location was Hollókő, which is an ethnographic village in Hungary and part of the world

heritage. We got lots of motivation here; this rural area is really amazing. I was living with my best friend; we created several videos, played soap opera, visited children in camps and also prisoners at Balassagyarmat. If I need to pick one interesting thing, I would say visiting the prisoners was a very unique and memorable moment. We showed them the videos we had created so far. In the beginning I was afraid a bit and speculated a lot. Walking through the prison and the security gates was terribly depressing. After 20 minutes walking we reached the prison's chapel, where the projection took place. It was amazing to see that all the prisoners were interested



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in our films and they were asking questions. Spain is the most beautiful country I have ever visited. A peer-to-peer meeting took place there. Most of the former participants were there but also newcomers. Malaga is situated on the seaside of Andalusia. The aim of the meeting was to recall what we have achieved and plan the future program. We practiced focus group, which is a form of research. Slowly ViVo became part of my life, I got a lot and was faced with challenges. I really appreciate that I could work in a large international team, I could improve my English and video skills, I made new friends, and have beautiful memories that I will always remember. I am pleased to be involved, and I do not want this to end. I could make a long list about what I have learned so far. I learned the basis of using adobe, how to shoot, how to direct the group, organize events, tolerance and understanding.

Thanks for everything. Köszönöm! I'm grateful to meet with you all, I love the trainers, all the programmes.





# Chapter 3

Transformers

Once upon a time...



Are you listening?

## “Every storyteller...



The greatest moment was...after 72 hours working on a video you finished it (for me it was the first time I shot and edited a video) and you have the opportunity to show it to different groups of people, it's amazing. We had the opportunity to share

it in a jail and a summer camp. The feelings you feel when you are **sitting in a jail** with prisoners; in that moment they are not prisoners, they are your audience and they will give you their feedback; the minutes before you show your work are indescribable. You feel nervous, excited, proud, happy, a little bit scared... When the audience was giving us the feedback, you realize they are just people with opinions, ideas, questions and they seem happy to stay with young people and do something different.

The summer camp was a totally different experience. The children were excited and really interested in us. Their energy made us want to share with them everything so we sang FIREWORK, danced tunak tunak and we also watched the videos. Our language, culture, country didn't matter, just that we wanted to have fun.





I was very surprised about other guys' competences. And I liked very much to **discover** that other people have similar thoughts to mine about music in videos and have fun editing videos and so on.



At the end, as we were in the biggest prison in Hungary to present our short movies, it was such a strong experience. The feedback we got and this kind of **gratefulness** towards us that we were there...





I was pretty much amazed how powerful a tool the camera can be. When we brought some to gypsy kids they just couldn't stop asking for it and **playing** with it. In the future we will use media to improve their creativity and personality.

Even today I clearly remember the kindness and optimism of the Greek people from the village. In the interviews we talked to open-hearted people one by one. It was a touching moment when Eszter (a girl from the Czech Republic) talked to an old lady in her native language. It had been found out that the sister of the lady lives in the Czech Republic, but they hadn't had the opportunity to contact each other for a long time. The lady went back to her home and came back with **tearful eyes** and a postcard with an address on it. Eszter promised that she will deliver the message to the recipient.



*...needs an audience."*

Wow...



Believe it or do it...

“Ooooooh....”

When I first projected the video about our Voluntary Camp, at the end the audience remained silent and started to **clap** by themselves. After three weeks of hard work it was a very uplifting moment.



I had a lot of wow moments when my friend showed me some **tricks and tips** connected to editing :-). And I was surprised, how open the people were (and are!) :-), there was always somebody I could ask for help with anything.



It was the moment when I learned that particular objects have to be captured at their **“own eye level”**. My favourite example is a capture of a bug. The camera was on the ground and the bug crawled right into focus.





I was very shocked by my capacity of **sleeping so little!** I won't lose a minute of the ViVo experience. And I liked feeling comfortable with people I didn't know so well.



When we were in the summer camp (Hungarian children) I had to entertain them alone just for a while and I was so scared because I don't speak Hungarian. I didn't know **what to do** and I just started to juggle and after we played with the balls. I felt so great because they understood me and I didn't use words.

On the other hand I was surprised to see that I was braver than I thought. When we were in jail I had to sit with the prisoners while all my mates were together on the other side. Also walking over a rope just trusting in your partner, it was amazing.



...aaaah!"



# Chapter 4

An endless story...

# Discovery



...not like the channel!

## "24 hours a day, 7 days a week..."



I have found a new hobby, friends, challenges, experiences, trust and a working opportunity. When I wrote this article I was near the end of another international training, "Dreams DO come true", where I took the responsibility to film and document the whole event. Kriszta Zsiday offered me this job, who I met in the Video Volunteers training in Greece. I thank her for the trust and the opportunity. I have discovered how to **look at the world** in a different way with the help of a recording and/or photographic device.



Everything: methods, work, organization, **adventures**, surprise, team work, hard work, experience, friends.





I set out to improve my skills making storyboards, to talk with people, be creative and to share ideas.

I discovered that I like to edit videos, create experiences, spend time with people, develop projects and especially to actually realise all those ideas.

There's a lot of knowledge and experience in creating media. It's a new tool in my job and an improved **artistic skill** which was missing in my life before.

I discovered that visual media always creates a bigger impact than text. With media you can reach more people and you can deliver your message in a way that everybody can understand. It is not just self-expression but a tool for creating learning opportunities for people on a personal and professional level as well.



It kind of increases your personal confidence that making video and creating media is **available for everyone**, that there are no restrictions for one's creativity and I have learned that everybody has a big firework inside!



*...discovery is a never-ending story."*

# Futura



*"It was great..."*

My dream is it to create a movie series on **ordinary people**, who have to surmount various problems and "extra" difficulties in their life, but never give up.



I wish to continue to make videos, to be creative and to **enjoy myself** while I do these things. I would like to do this as work or for a long time.



I'm planning a lot of videos about the projects I'm working in. Also I want to continue providing media learning for youngsters with **multiple challenges** and create a methodology which can enable them to be active and responsible for their lives and for the lives of their communities.





All I know about videos I learned during ViVo, so I will use it to **create new projects** and work but I don't have ideas right now.



I am thinking about starting to work with movie making as a second job. For this goal I have obtained lots of experience and positive feedback during the Video Volunteers project. Since then I was asked to create music and promo videos. I have the Video Volunteers project to thank for all of this, because if it wouldn't have been created, then I would not have thought of **grabbing a video camera** with serious purposes.



*...and now what???"*





# The Unknown

## “Quoted...”



“I have learned a lot about **leadership**. Now I can take responsibility much more easily than before.”

“I learnt a lot about media, cameras, acting... also I learned to trust in myself, express my emotions and that you can **communicate without words**.”

“I would like to continue shooting videos with a **social message** in my country.”

“They (the trainers) were good at chasing us to reach our **limits**. At the same time they were always there as a safety net in case of real emergency.”

“I learned a new way to cooperate with other associations and create **synergy**. I learned how to manage a focus group, and I like very much the social purpose and the idea of doing research through video, and the idea of making videos with disadvantaged people.”



“I learned how to listen other people. I **killed my fear of the camera**.”

“I have tried as much as possible to be a **functional** and working member of team, and I have enjoyed it very much. With kindness, patience, ideas, humor.”

“I was into the process, ready to **digest** everything and everyone, present here giving feedback to others.”





"I am going to do recording at school for children who are mentally handi-capped."

.....  
"What did I learn? Where the bar is. Seriously? **SHARING IS CARING!**"

.....  
"I could be a leader, someone who **inspires others** by being an example myself."

.....  
"We should not be shy to ask for help. We should not be shy to **lead others** if it is possible. We should be more **sensitive** to all the things around us."

.....  
"They (the trainers) were very helpful and not like "school teachers"; they were here when we needed them, but they allowed us to decide and **do our best**. So... thanks for this experience."

... as **HEARD**"

The Unknown [ 49 ]



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'Youth in Action' Programme