

Dear colleagues and friends,

If you dig in my hometown of Ljubljana, you have a lot of chances to find Roman traces. That is why when they were digging around National theatre, we could observe with our kids from our living room the Roman *system of heating*.

When you dig here, you find bombs, both from the first as from the second world war. So, when you want to create the *European platform for the interpretation of century*, you are confronted with the *system of killing*.

I am not telling you this in order to apologize for our infrastructure delay that pushed even you in the underground. No, I am telling you this to illustrate how radical and incredible is to talk about *open borders* in a region where so many bombs were thrown and so many lives were lost.

Even more, you research and debate open borders under the umbrella of even more utopian slogan – which is our European capital of culture's slogan *GO! Borderless!*

You know how are we confronting with our history only in last two-three weeks?

- By premiering Anja Medved's documentary *Don't you forget about me* with touching testimonials of kids of the WW II, today seniors of 90 plus;
- By organizing international scientific conference of ICOM – International Council of Museums, under the title *Redefining Museum Narratives and Inclusivity*;
- By hosting you, and your “decentralised analysis of recent European history” and this incredibly sex-pistols title of yours - *Never Mind the Borders*;
- By inviting popular cross-border festival *e-Storia* to come also to our EPIC with lectures such as *From a place name to myth*
- And yes, also in less than an hour, with a fifth episode of Tomi Janežič's *Dodecalogy* – this time as a stadium performance.

All these five ways of confronting with our past and our history in only two-three weeks! So, you can imagine why do we need an entire warehouse for European platform for the interpretation of the 20th century.

I'm tempted to add also key figures of our official programme such as filmmaker Pier Paolo Pasolini, painter Zoran Mušič, architect Edvard Ravnikar and psychiatrist Franco Basaglia – not only because these giants help us understand the past century better. They allow us to see *our own time* in much more complex and radical way – which is the only way to understand it and try to change it for the better – as they all did in their own times: one by building the walls, the other by destroying them; one by drawing fragile sketches of the most horrible torturing his eyes have seen, the other by filming the practices of torture our eyes can not even bear to watch.

So, here is my message to you from the *under-ground*: if we want to *under-stand* the world, we should not *stand it* as it is anymore! So, *Never mind the borders!*

Thank you!

Stojan Pelko, Programski vodja EPK 2025

Spoštovani kolegi, dragi prijatelji,

če zakopljete pod zemljo v moji domači Ljubljani, je veliko možnosti, da najdete rimske sledi. Zato smo med kopanjem okrog Drame lahko z otroki iz dnevne sobe gledali rimski *sistem ogrevanja*.

Ko zakopljete tukaj, najdete bombe, tako iz prve kot iz druge svetovne vojne. Ko torej želite ustvariti *Evropsko platformo za interpretacijo stoletja*, gledate *sistem ubijanja*.

Tega vam ne govorim, da bi opravičil našo infrastrukturno zamudo, ki je celo vas potisnila v podzemlje. Ne, to vam govorim, da ponazorim, kako radikalno je v resnici govoriti o *odprtih mejah* v regiji, kjer je bilo vrženih toliko bomb in pogubljenih toliko življenj.

Še več, raziskujete in razpravljate o odprtih mejah pod okriljem še bolj utopičnega slogana – ki je slogan naše evropske prestolnice kulture *GO! Borderless, Gremo brezmejno!*

Naj vam povem, kako se soočamo z našo zgodovino samo v zadnjih dveh ali treh tednih:

1. S premiero dokumentarnega filma Anje Medved *Ne pozabi me* z ganljivimi pričevanji otrok iz časov druge svetovne vojne, danes starejših od 90 let;
2. Z organizacijo mednarodne znanstvene konference ICOM – Mednarodnega sveta muzejev z naslovom *Redefining Museum Narratives and Inclusivity*;
3. Z gostovanjem vas in vaše "decentralizirane analize novejšje evropske zgodovine" s tem vašim neverjetno seksi(pištrole)-naslovom - *Never Mind the Borders*;
4. S povabilom popularnemu čezmejnemu festivalu *e-Storia*, da pride v naš EPIC s predavanji, kot je denimo *Od imena kraja do mita*
5. In ja, tudi v manj kot eni uri, s peto epizodo *Dodekalogije* Tomija Janežiča – tokrat kot stadionsko predstavo.

Vseh teh pet načinov soočanja z našo preteklostjo in zgodovino v samo dveh ali treh tednih! Lahko si torej predstavljate, zakaj potrebujemo eno celo skladišče za *Evropsko platformo za interpretacijo 20. stoletja*.

Mika me, da bi dodal še ključne osebe našega uradnega programa, kot so filmski režiser Pier Paolo Pasolini, slikar Zoran Mušič, arhitekt Edvard Ravnikar in psihiater Franco Basaglia. In to ne samo zato, ker nam ti velikani pomagajo bolje razumeti preteklo stoletje. Omogočajo nam tudi, da *naš čas* ugledamo na veliko bolj zapleten in radikalen način – kar je edini način, da ga razumemo in ga poskušamo spremeniti na bolje – kot so to oni počeli v svojem času: eden z gradnjo zidov, drugi z njihovim podiranjem; eden s krhkimi risbami najstrašnejšega mučenja, kar so ga videle njegove oči, drugi s snemanjem praks mučenja, ki jih naše oči celo še danes ne zmorejo gledati.

To je torej moje sporočilo iz *podzemlja*: če želimo *raz*-umeti svet, ga ne smemo več *le prenašati* takšnega, kot je, temveč ga moramo *raz*-nesti! In pri tem nas prav *malo briga za meje!* Hvala!

Stojan Pelko, Programski vodja EPK 2025