

# A EUROPEAN ON THE ROAD

STORY  
JOANNA  
SANECKA

ART  
DENNIS  
WOJDA



STEFAN  
**BATORY**  
FOUNDATION

  
**VISA-FREE**  
**EUROPE**

[WWW.VISA-FREE-EUROPE.EU](http://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?

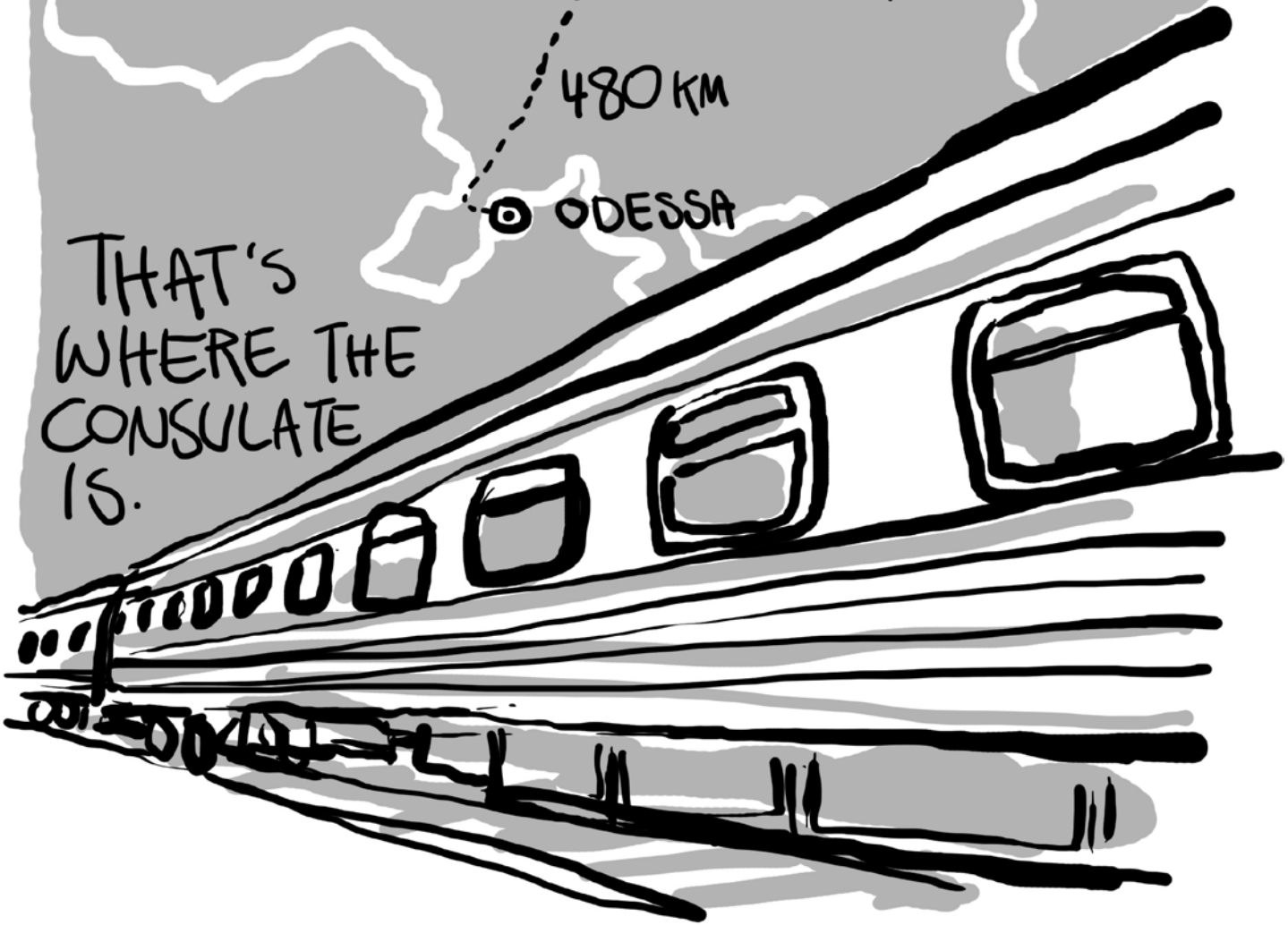


THE NEXT DAY I WENT TO VARIOUS STATE OFFICES TO GET ALL THE DOCUMENTS.

I GOT ON  
THE NIGHT  
TRAIN TO  
KYIV.



THAT'S  
WHERE THE  
CONSULATE  
IS.



11 HOURS LATER I WAS THERE.

WHEN DO  
THEY CLOSE?

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








DAMN.

THAT'S IT FOR TODAY.




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.

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.



KASIA, I DON'T  
KNOW IF I CAN  
MAKE IT TO  
THE FESTIVAL.

I WAS RUNNING  
OUT OF TIME.



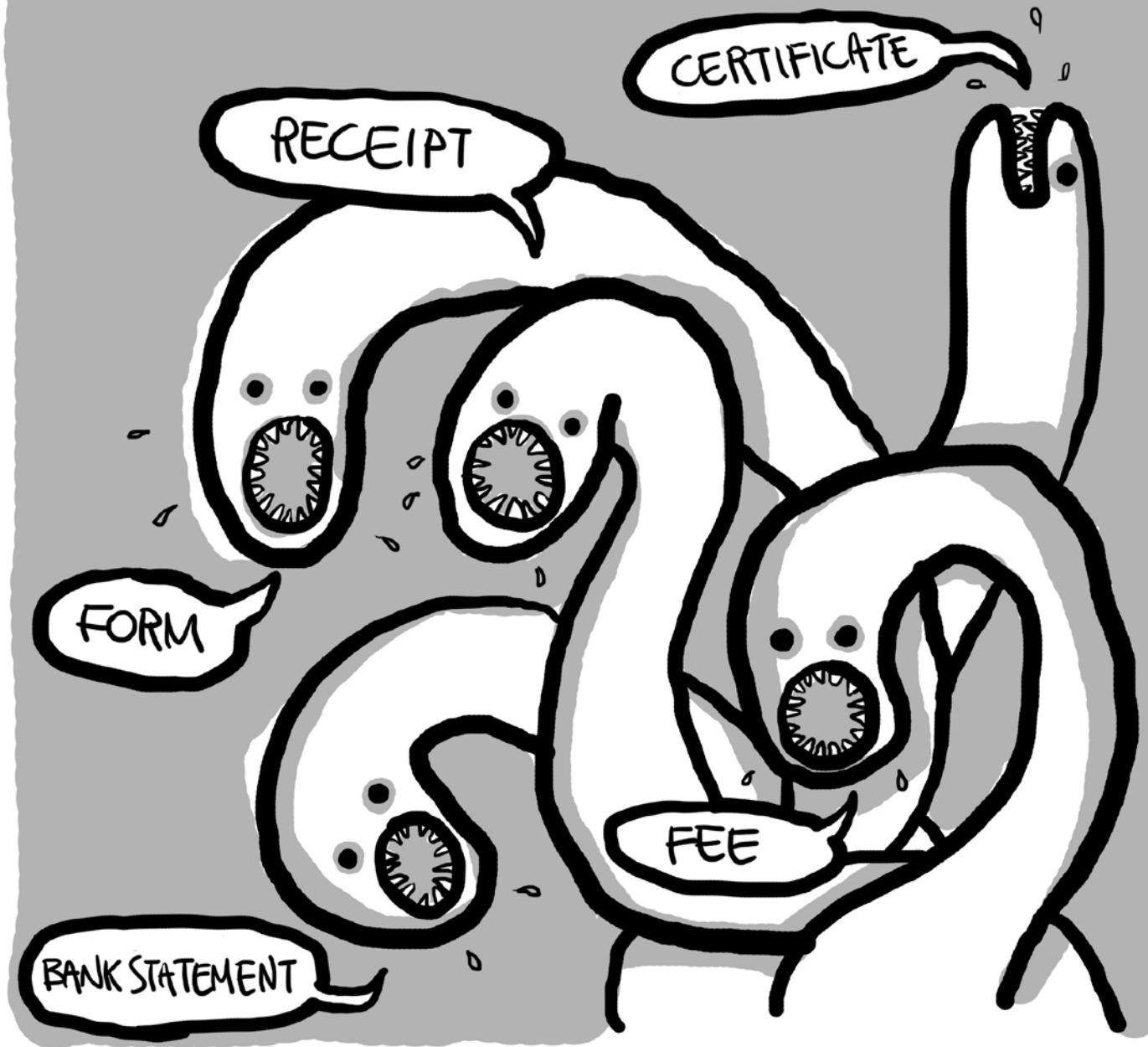
I'M GOING TO  
THE CONSULATE  
TOMORROW.  
WE'LL SEE  
WHAT THEY SAY.

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.






TEA?  
IT'S  
FREEZING  
OUT HERE!

REC S

DOG

A




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 document with a pen. On the right, a man is sitting in a chair, facing away from the viewer. A large speech bubble above the man contains his question. A smaller speech bubble below the woman contains her answer.

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 FES

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!



VISA-FREE

EUROPE

VISA BARRIER

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