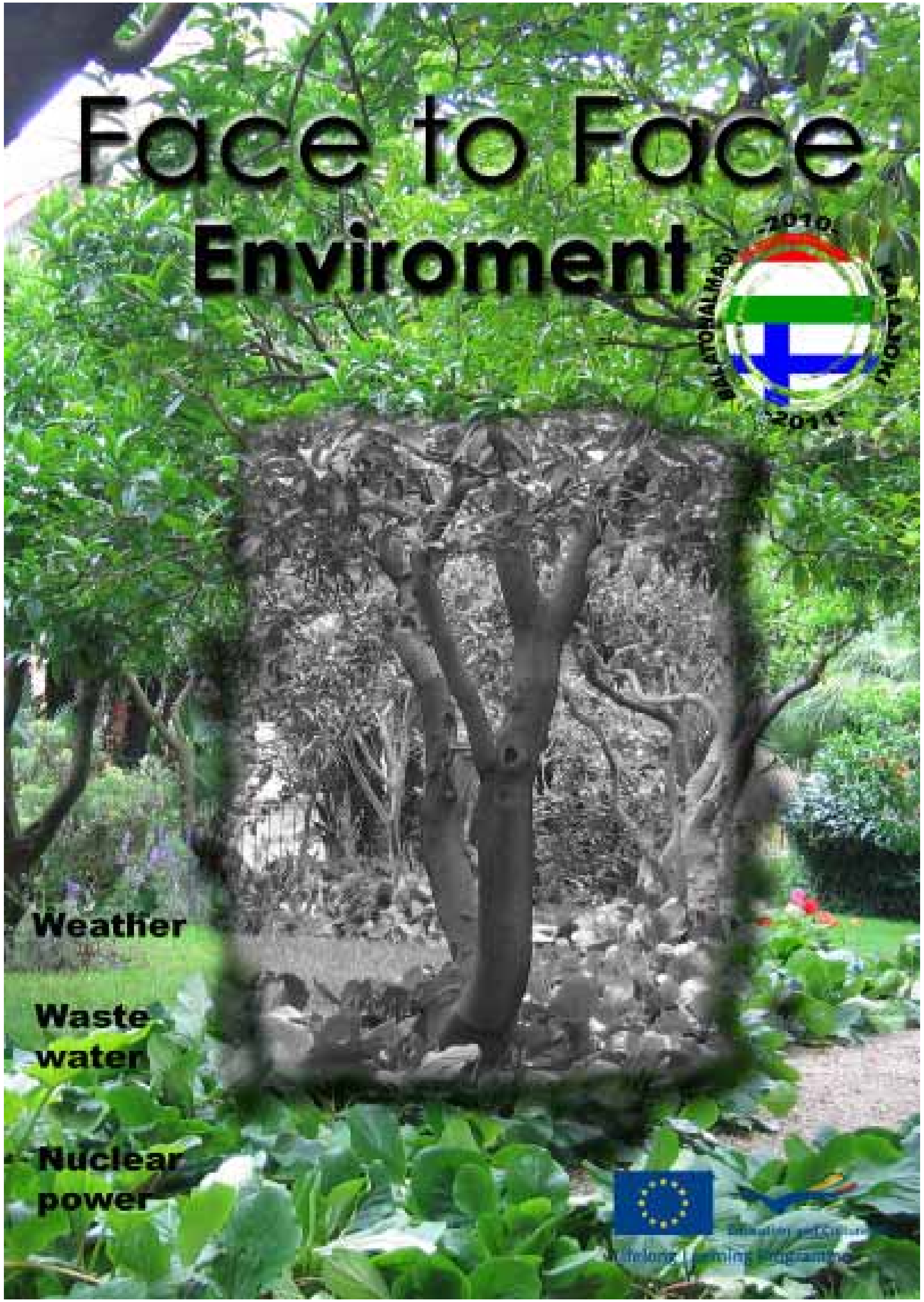
Face to Face

Enviroment

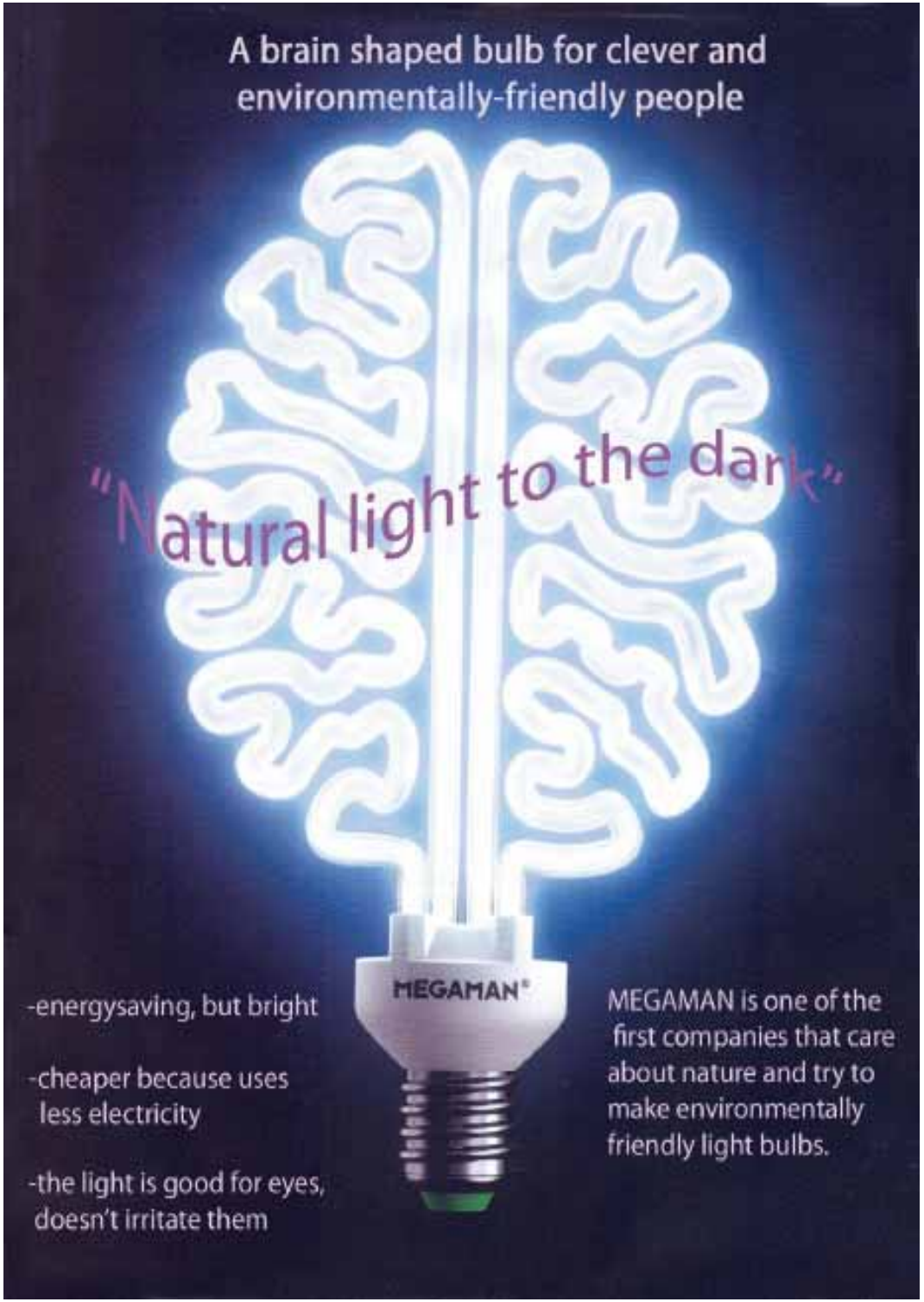


Weather

Waste water

Nuclear power

Education and Culture
Lifelong Learning Programme



Comenius project

Due to the Comenius project we have been given an opportunity to make magazines. This is the first one of the three magazines we are going to make. It is about environmental problems, the second is about the effects of media and the third one is about racism.

The Comenius project is supported by the European Union and it is important because we can learn about other cultures, practise our English and become more international. Our main goal is to pay attention to the above mentioned topics because they are the problems of the whole world, not only of one country.

This project lasts for two years and it is between Kalajoki Upper Secondary School in Finland and the Bilingual Secondary Grammar School in Balatonalmádi in Hungary.

Kalajoki is a town situated on the west coast of Finland, near the Baltic Sea and in the summer it attracts lots of tourists. Kalajoki has 13 000 inhabitants and about 250 students attend the Upper Secondary School. There is a wide range of additional subjects for students to choose from, for example arts, different sports and international studies.

Balatonalmádi is located by the biggest lake in Central Europe, Balaton. It is a little town with 9 000 inhabitants and there are about 350 students in the Bilingual Secondary Grammar School. The students are from all over the country. What makes the school special is that the students learn some subjects in English like Biology, History, British and American Culture and Civilisation and Mathematics. It is considered one of the best schools in Hungary.

The first topic is environment. There are plenty of different problems, which are very serious. One of the most discussed issues is nuclear power. We held interviews and collected lots of pictures to emphasize the possible damages caused by it. Another big environmental problem nowadays is climate change and it has a huge effect on our weather. We present the different weather conditions of our countries and pictures showing the beauty of them.

The second topic is media. We will write about the different effects of television, newspapers and computers on people in general in both countries. We will try to analyse how the same facts appear in different media products in different countries. We will produce this magazine in another way because we will not visit each other during the work, we will only communicate through the Internet.

The third topic is racism. During this part of the project Finnish students will visit Hungary. Racism becomes more and more serious in the whole world and to find a solution seems to be an urgent priority. We plan to examine the questions connected to immigration and minorities in both countries.

We hope that the way we approach and present these issues will contribute to the better understanding of how these affect our everyday life. It is not only about writing a magazine but it is a magnificent experience for us because we can work in international field which could be useful for our future job.

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Waste water
Liina Hautakoski, Taru Ruhkala, Viktoria Patkó, Gréta Kerülö, Seppo Ruotsalo

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Marche Blumenberg

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11th of February


19th of February


25th of February


12th of March


30th of March

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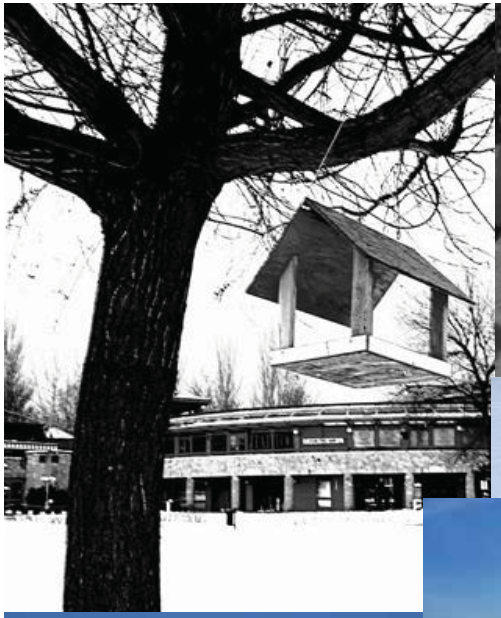
8th of April

”They said it changes
when the sun goes down
over the river
going out of town”
-Arctic Monkeys



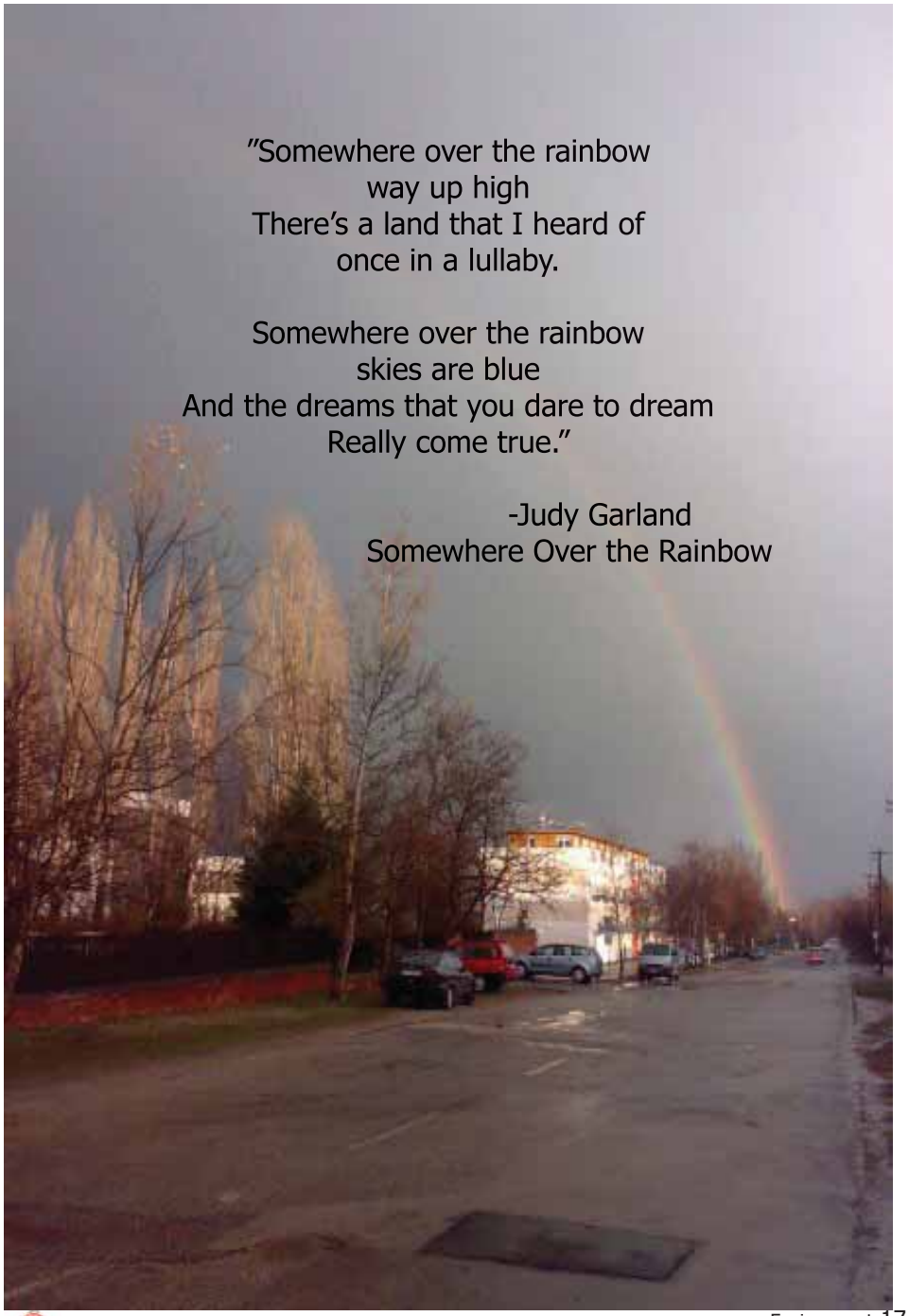






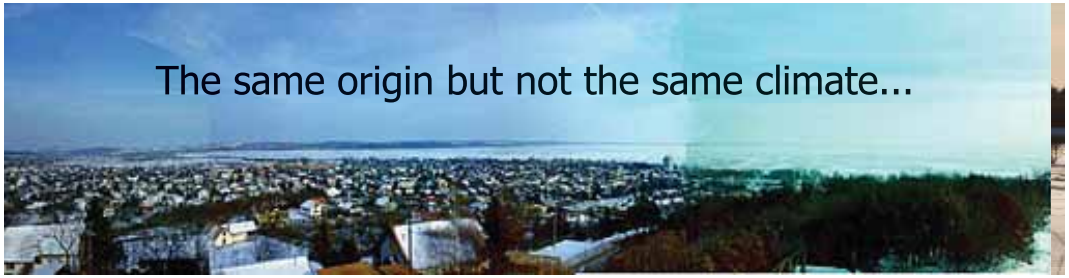






"Somewhere over the rainbow
way up high
There's a land that I heard of
once in a lullaby.

Somewhere over the rainbow
skies are blue
And the dreams that you dare to dream
Really come true."

-Judy Garland
Somewhere Over the Rainbow



The same origin but not the same climate...

Climate and weather in Hungary

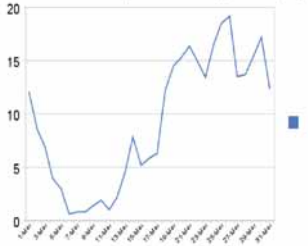
Hungary has a temperate continental climate that is influenced by three main factors: the Eastern-European continental, the Western-European oceanic and the Mediterranean influence.
There are substantial differences among the average temperatures of the four seasons. Usually January is the coldest, while the hottest months are July and August in Hungary .
The daily temperature fluctuation is quite high. The annual average temperature is about 12 °C , the maximum is 38 °C , the minimum is around -10 °C .
Spring starts in early May and is accompanied by lots of showers. The summers are dry and warm. Autumns are cool, foggy and rainy. Winters are relatively short, moderately cold and usually dry, but sometimes brilliantly sunny.
The yearly rainfall is about 415 mm that consist of two stronger (early summer and autumn) and two drier periods (middle of winter and early autumn).
Sunny hours/year are 2015.
The annual average wind speed is 2.4 m/sec.

Climate and weather in Finland

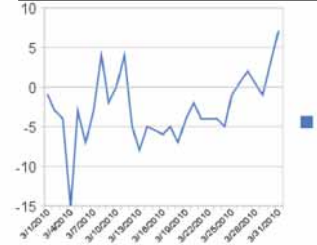
Finland has 4 seasons and they show up very clearly. The climate is Baltic. The summer lasts usually from May to early September, and the temperature can reach up to +30 but it is quite unusual.
The autumn is very rainy and the nature is full of colours. It lasts from September to November and the temperature is about 0–10°C.
In winter the temperature might drop under -30 degrees. It is the darkest time in Finland, but the white snow reflects light. You can also see the Northern lights on the sky. The winter lasts from December to March.
In the spring there is still snow but it starts to melt slowly. It is usual to have floods in this time. After the long winter nature blooms and sun starts to shine. The degrees of temperature change between (-10) - (+10). Nights are cold but temperature rises at the day time.

The warm Gulf Stream has an effect on Finland's climate. Without it Finland would be even colder than now.

March average temperature in Hungary



March average temperature in Finland



...but clothes are similar

In Hungary most children`s favourite season is winter because they can go snow sliding and make snowmen as well. Because the winter is usually cold in Hungary, they have to wear warm clothes, for example fur coats, jumpers, waterproof boots, gloves, caps and thick scarfs.

These photos show the spring in Hungary. When winter turns into spring, people have to change their clothes because the weather becomes warmer. At this time they wear windbreakers, jeans, sport shoes, T-shirts, thinner jumpers and waistcoats. Hungarians like this season because the cold season finally ends.

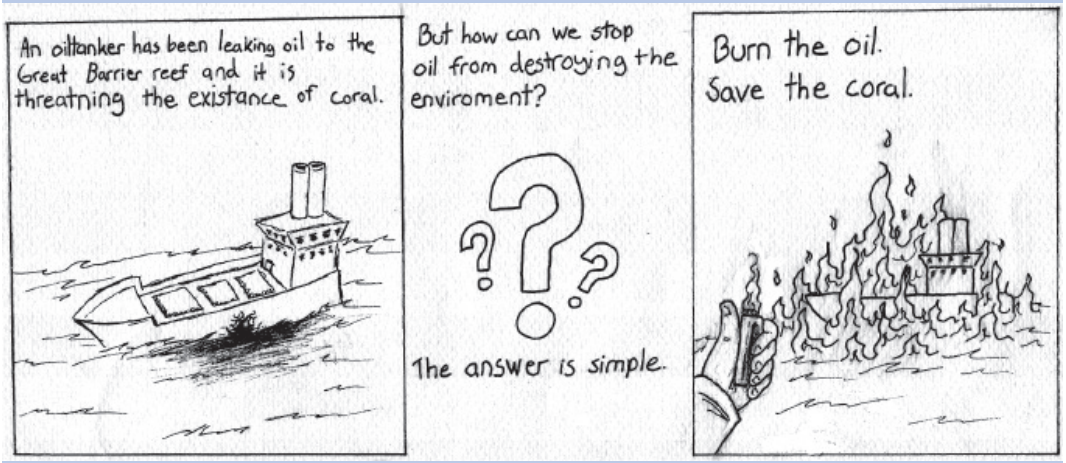
Snowmobiling is a common winter sport in Finland. Clothes have to be warm and windproof. This picture is from Kalajoki Hiekkasärkät.

Snow sliding is one of Finnish children's favourite winter activities. Children wear quilted overalls.

After a long winter people want to wear lighter clothes.

Summer is very short in Finland, so women want to start wearing skirts early spring. This picture is from Helsinki, the capital of Finland.

WASTE WATER



The Baltic Sea

International Maritime Organization is making progress at limiting the waste water of ships in to the Baltic. Finland has been organizing this limitation, which could prohibit ships from letting their waste water into the Baltic Sea. IMO confesses that the Baltic Sea is sensitive.

IMO has sustained the preposition which is made by every seaside administration. The proposition was also sustained by Australia and Canada. The final decision is postponed to October.

The countries of the Baltic Sea decided on the act of prohibition last year in chaotic circumstances, because the proposition failed as Russia was against it. On the other hand, Russia changed its perspective later.

Now there is support from all over the world, especially from Cyprus.

Picture published by MTV3
http://www.mtv3.fi/uutiset/kotimaa.shtml/arkistot/kotimaa/2008/08/692882

An airport that was never built

In 2010 a new airport was to be built in Szentkirályszabadja, which is only 10 km away from Balatonalmádi. Many people didn't agree with building the international airport. They claimed that it would be unnecessary. The consequences would have an impact on the environment as well as on the citizens. For example, it causes air pollution, the contamination of the water of Lake Balaton, noise, a decrease in biodiversity and the disappearance of flora and fauna.

Aeroplanes burn kerosene thus poisonous gases are released into the air. However, according to the airport constructors it does not affect the quality of the air.

The primary problem is water pollution. 80% of the citizens living around the lake get their running water from Lake Balaton. 1 kg kerosene can contaminate 100 million m^3 water and it cannot be cleaned. Furthermore, it has an unpredictable effect on the flora and fauna of the water. The needs of the species living around the airport would change, thus the biodiversity would decrease.

It is thought that in the 21st century it cannot be a question whether Lake Balaton should be let intact or not because of its ecosystem, as Balaton is our national treasure. Moreover its development is the most important issue.

All in all, the authorities have not accepted the plans for building the airport, however, the investor has been taking legal steps.

http://www.felsoors.hu/web/file/repter%20dr%20somogyi.pdf

Shipping nowadays and in the old days in Kalajoki

Two interviews about the old and the new harbour of Kalajoki. The old harbour is located in Plassi and the new harbour is in Rahja.

Project manager Sari Alajoki told us about the history of the old harbour in Kalajoki. In the old times tar was a very important product; it was used for protecting the ships. This area was the most important exporter of tar and all the tar was sold to Stockholm. In winter the trade had to be stopped because of ice.

The last ship arrived in 1937. The harbour had to be moved because of two reasons: the water was not deep enough due to the rising of the land. Another reason was that the power plants and other factories needed more and more water.

They are now building the same kind of ship that was in Plassi 110 years ago. The only difference is that they will install an engine to make it safer. We met Sakari Vihelä, one of the builders, and he told us about building the ship. Builders are working voluntarily and the EU finances half of the project. It takes four years to build the ship. When it is ready, it will attract tourists and there will be 18 beds on board.

In the new harbour Pekka Hintsala, security manager, told us about shipping nowadays. The harbour, which is owned by the town of Kalajoki, had to change its name from the harbour of Rahja to the harbour of Kalajoki because of some misunderstandings.The harbour receives hundreds of ships a year and this number increases every year. There are new storages built there every year.

The emphasis is on export which is mainly wood. They export 400 000 m3 wood per year. They import fodder and magnesium sulphate to make paper whiter. They ship mainly to France, Israel, Egypt and England. Two highways make it easier to approach the harbour. In winter the number of official harbours is limited by the state. Kalajoki is allowed to ship, although it is not one of the official winter harbours.

The icebreaker was invented in the USA, and came to the Finland in the late 19th century. There are limitations in winter when only ships bigger than 4000 tons can come in and they have to be classified for ice conditions. The sea is usually frozen from December to April. The work of the icebreakers is well organized between two Swedish and four Finnish icebreakers and they co-operate with each other. The frequent controlling strengthens the efficient work. Recently they also cleared a new route to the north. They can track down the ships via the Internet.

All in all, shipping has been important to Kalajoki for many years and it is still important. The harbour is becoming bigger and bigger all the time and it was one the harbours that made profit last year.

Waste water disposal

Some of the students visited a sewage plant in Ylivieska where they asked one of the managers how the plant works.

Kari Haapakoski, production manager in the Ylivieska plant, operates the processes from Haapajärvi to Kalajoki. The centre of the units is situated in Nivala. This system takes care of 6 towns and municipalities. The sewage is taken care by this system but every town is responsible for its own clear water. In every unit there is a sewage plant which takes care of the waste water of the whole municipality.

The amount of usage

The amount of water which is cleaned is 600,000 m3 /year in Ylivieska without the addition of melting snow. 1.3 million m^3 has to be cleaned in this area per year but with the melting snow added it is 3 million m^3. Government authorities define how clear the water must be and every month water samples are analysed in a laboratory. They use different kinds of chemicals to clean the waste water and there's also a biological process with oxygen. We were told that only 10 people work for the company but Mr Haapakoski added that all the processes are automated.

Project

By 2014-2015 there will be a central sewage plant in Kalajoki and in 2020 all the other smaller plants in this area will be closed, thus all the waste water should be directed to Kalajoki from the municipalities. The new sewage plant which will be built in Kalajoki is close to the eastern side of the main road. The closest population centre is 1.8 km from the plant. They have discovered that there is also a flying squirrel habitat, which is an endangered species. There might be conflicting interests if the plant is going to affect the squirrels' life.

ADS & NEWS

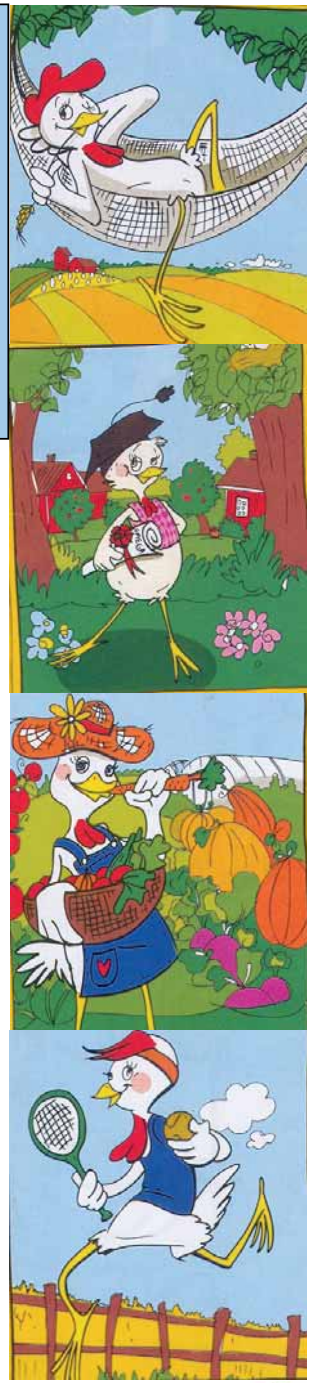
The promises of advertisements

We prepared this project in advance by collecting advertisements. We chose some of them and wrote analyses and articles about them. Finally, as our own project we made an advertisement, too. These are all about protecting the environment.

News pictures from Finland and abroad

Our task was to analyse news images about weather, nuclear power and waste water.
We found only a couple of nuclear power pictures and they were from abroad. We didn't find pictures of waste water at all. Pictures about weather were both from abroad and Finland. The photos from Finland were mostly of snow and the pictures abroad were from different catastrophes.

An egg is more than an egg



Not so long ago I saw an attractive advertisement in a magazine. It was colourful, eye-catching and interesting for everybody.

There were four types of eggs because of different lifestyles of hens. Eggs were the best when hens were raised free in henhouses and they ate organic food.
The second possibility, which was a little bit worse than the first one, was when they lived in big henhouses where they could lay eggs and had activities.

The third type of lifestyle of hens was when they were also free and they could move around the henhouse. It made hens peaceful and happy and of course very loud.

In the fourth one the hens also lived in henhouses but they couldn't go outside. They got some special food which was very good and healthy for hens.
In our opinion, hens should be free because happier hens lay bigger eggs.

Lexus advertising in the National Geographic

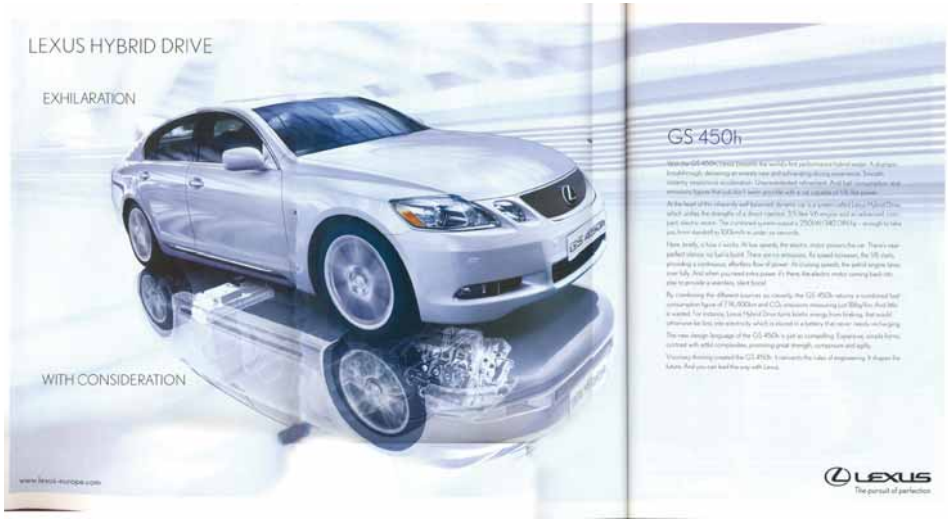
We have found these advertisements in a National Geographic Magazine, June 2006, on page 17-18.

In the commercial, the Lexus is in a modern and white environment, which makes us think that the car is perfectly clean and non-polluting. The car itself is pure white, amplifying the purity of it. From the ground, the car is semi-reflected and the two engines are outlined. The picture is taken from a side frontal view. The motto exhilaration with consideration indicates that you will enjoy your drive, but your conscience can be clean because you use an environmentally friendly car.

In the hybrid cars the advantages of an electric engine and of an internal combustion are combined together. In urban areas the electric one is more effective, but in extra-urban circumstances the internal combustion is better.

In this way, it consumes less gas, which makes it more environmentally friendly. If we use a normal car, it emits CO2 and other dangerous fumes, which pollute the air. On the other hand, driving this type of Lexus, we can protect nature more effectively from these polluting materials. The electricity supply isn't a problem, it can be charged while running on fuel or simply at home.

Lexus targets the upper classes, which are ready to take action for the environment protection. The arguments represented by the advertisements convince lots of people to buy this sort of vehicle.

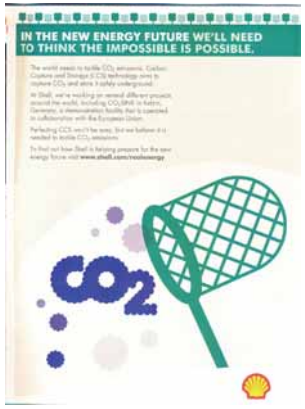


Shell advertising in the National Geographic

We have found these series of commercials in four separate National Geographic Magazines from 2009.

In this series of advertisements, Shell takes actions for the environment protection by sponsoring carbon capture and storage (CCS) technology and the use of biofuel. For example, it organised the Shell Eco-Marathon by supporting teams from all over the world. The challenge was to make the most efficient car, which can run on one liter fuel the most kilometres. Shell encourages us to act for the New Energy Future, which is the main motto of the commercials and appears in all of it.

The drawings are not so detailed; they are rather simple, thus easy to understand. The bright and sharp colours make it more striking. The symbols are funny and original, depicting a calculator with which we can add more energy and subtract carbon dioxide, a key of course to the future, a tiny oil can and a fishnet with which we can catch CO2.



A small step to happiness

Nowadays it is important to protect our environment. Different kinds of fossil fuels are going to be rare, so we need to find another solution. Scientists found a new technology, which is good for environment and people, too. The idea is that we should use the heat of our Earth. It is possible if we deploy pipes underground. In these pipes there is a special liquid going down and it is warmer when coming up. It is possible because pipes are deep underground, and we can use its geothermic energy. Thanks to this technology, people in many houses can enjoy the advantages of hydraulic heating.

This advertisement is effective, because of its happiness. Clean and healthy environment symbolises the importance of nature and the new, modern house means that this new technology is good for people. These are in the background and people and cheerful families are in the front of the picture. The smiles on their faces are like sunshine, they can live simply and happily.

Everything in this picture is colourful, which means that it is non-polluting, so maybe people can create a healthy world without complications.

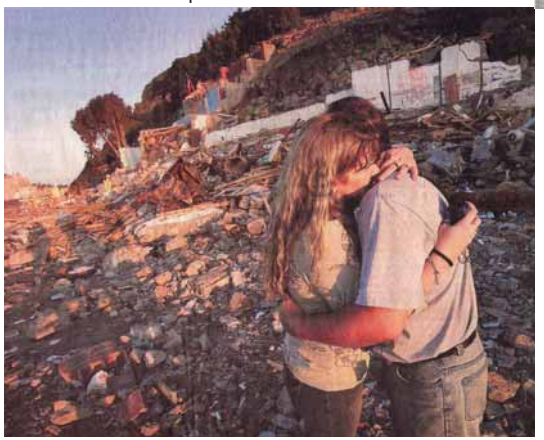
Fortunately, our world is so perfect and precious that this kind of energy is only one of the many alternative solutions that we can use to live in peace.

The weather pictures from abroad are mostly about catastrophes

The photo from France (Keskipohjanmaa, 2nd March 2010) is about a storm. In the picture there are people standing and watching how the storm has damaged the harbour of Saint Martin de Ren.

The layout of the picture is neutral. In the shot people are staring at a boat, which has been thrown to the platform. After the water had gone away, the boat stayed on the platform many meters above the waterline.

The meaning of the picture is to show the damages the storm has caused. Maybe the photographer wanted to entertain the readers, after all it's kind of funny to see a boat hanging on the platform.



This image is from Chile (Helsingin Sanomat 5th March 2010) and it's about a couple in the middle of a disaster after the earthquake.

Without the caption you might misunderstand the meaning of the picture, because the couple doesn't seem to be sad or desperate.

The layout of the picture is neutral. The couple in the image is comforting each other. The photo seems to be a bit staged, because the couple really looks like just pretending to be down in the dumps. The lighting in the photo is too romantic, and the couple is hugging each other passively, just like they were told to do so.

The intention of the shot is probably to show how there is hope in the middle of the disaster. On the other hand you can also see the destruction that the earthquake has caused.

The picture from Haiti (Helsingin Sanomat 29th March 2010) is about the huge earthquake that caused massive damage to the country.

The layout of the photo is neutral. In the picture there is a woman walking away from the photographer in the middle of the ruins. The view is hopeless; the sky is grey and it is going to rain. On the streets there are water and pieces of the buildings, which have been crushed by the earthquake.

The meaning of the image is mainly to show collapsed buildings, the chaos and the despair in Haiti.

The picture of deer was published on 15th of March in the Maaseudun tulevaisuus newspaper.

There are deer sinking in the snow. The snow is too weak to carry their weight. The layout of the image is neutral. The deer are the main thing in the picture and there is only forest behind them.

The caption tells about the deer. People should leave them alone and the deer won't spend too much energy on walking in the snow.

The shot from Pietarsaari was published on 11th of March in the Keskipohjanmaa newspaper. There is a lot of snow and workers are trying to make a place for new piles of snow.

The angle of the view is neutral. The size shows everything; there is lots of snow and a couple of diggers in the middle . The diggers are kind of small compared to the pile of snow.

The meaning of the picture is to send information about this difficult situation.

The photo from melting snow was published on 3rd of March in the Keskipohjanmaa newspaper. The melting snow makes it difficult to move on the streets.

Melting snow turns into water and slush. Drains should take all water off the street but there is just too much water. In the image, there are two bikers who are trying to make their way through the wet snow and water.

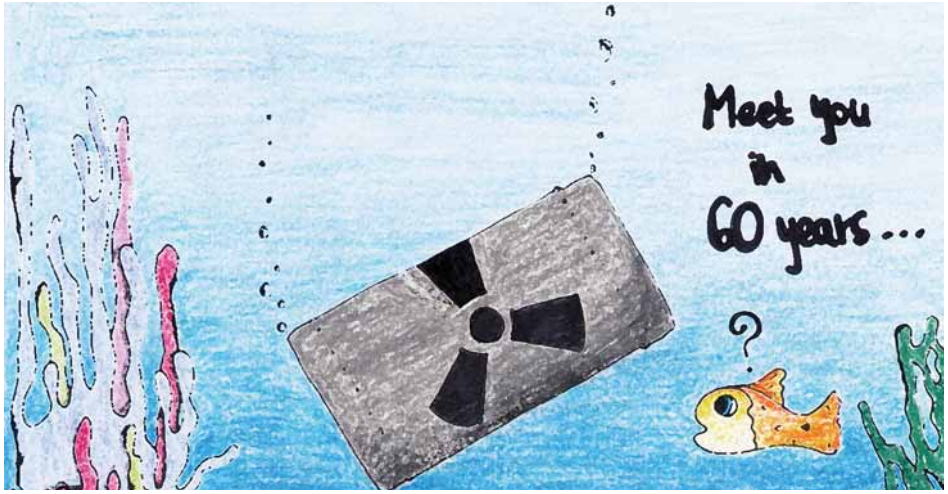
The intention of the picture is to make people realize how big a problem the huge amount of snow is in the cities.

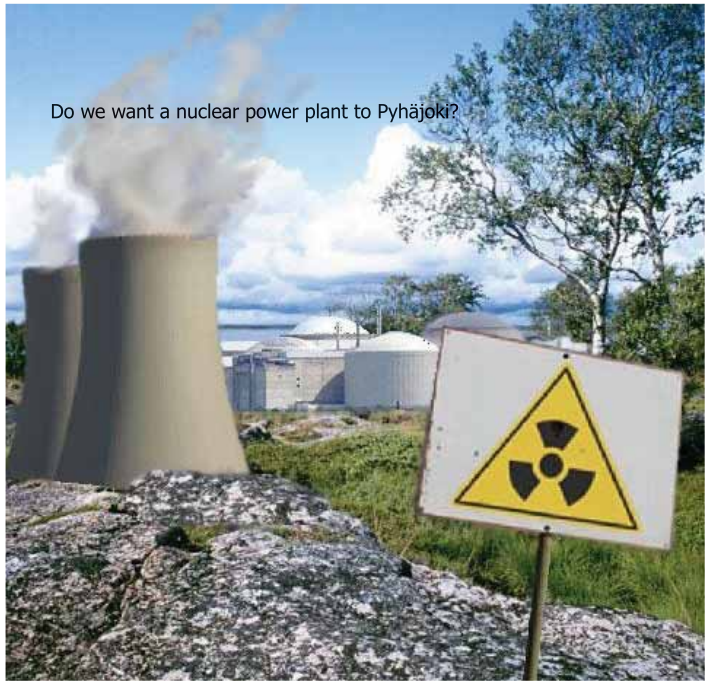
The shot from Kokkola was published on 30th of March in the Keskipohjanmaa newspaper. It's about the difficulties of snow.

In the image there is a man cleaning snow from the street in order to get his car parked. In the foreground there is a car totally covered on snow. In the city areas snow is troubling the everyday life, because many people have to use cars.

Every article was about how snow is troubling traffic and moving from a place to another. In winter time cities need to spend a huge amount of money to keep the streets clean.

NUCLEAR POWER





Nuclear or unclear power?

Nuclear power has both advantages and disadvantages as well. It could be a promise for a better tomorrow, or a cause of a catastrophic environmental disaster.

At first, we would like to mention the positive things of it. It does not depend on fossil fuels. Coal and natural gas power plants emit carbon-dioxide into the atmosphere and contributing to climate change. With nuclear power plants, carbon-dioxide emissions are minimal. In fact, a properly functioning nuclear power plant actually releases fewer radioactive elements into the atmosphere than coal-fired power plants. Also, by not depending on fossil fuels, the cost of nuclear power is not affected by fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

On the other hand it has some very serious effects as well. Though nuclear fuel may not produce carbon-dioxide, it deals with uranium, which needs to be mined and purified, which is a very dangerous process. Furthermore transporting nuclear fuel to and from plants poses contamination risk. Once the fuel is spent, you cannot just throw it in the city dump, as it is still radioactive and potentially deadly. On average, a nuclear power plant annually generates 20 metric tons of used nuclear fuel, classified as high-level radioactive waste. When you take into account every nuclear plant on Earth, the combined total climbs to roughly 2,000 metric tons yearly. Eventually nuclear fuel will decay to safe radioactive levels, but it takes tens of thousands of years. The nuclear industry lets waste cool for years before mixing it with glass and storing in massive, cooled, concrete structures. In the future most of the trash will be transported deep underground, which is also a threatening problem. In the meantime, however, this waste has to be maintained, looked after and guarded to prevent the materials from falling into the wrong hands. All of these services and added materials and constructions cost money.

When something goes wrong, the situation can turn catastrophic. The Chernobyl disaster is a recent example. In 1986, the Ukrainian nuclear reactor exploded, releasing 50 tons of radioactive material into the surrounding area, contaminating millions of acres of forests. The disaster forced the evacuation of at least 30,000 people, and eventually caused thousands to die of cancer and other illnesses.

Needless to say, the disadvantages are more serious, so we have to be careful with these nuclear plants.

Possible sites for new nuclear power plants in Finland

Situation in Finland

In Finland we have four nuclear reactors in action and one is under construction. Right now several companies are planning to build three new nuclear plants and they are waiting for the government's permission. One of these companies, Fennovoima, is planning to build a plant near Kalajoki, in a town called Pyhäjoki. Other possible options are Simo in the north and Olkiluoto in the south.

Over fifty percent of Finnish people are against nuclear power, but most of the people who live in Pyhäjoki have a positive attitude towards it, because the new plant would create jobs for the locals. According to a recent survey, over sixty percent of the people polled in Pyhäjoki are for the nuclear plant.

Still, not everybody likes this idea. We interviewed Hanna Halmeenpää, a member of an activist group called Pro Hanhikivi, which works against the plant. She thinks that these numbers don't tell the truth.

"Media plays with numbers. Many people think it's cheap and that's why they're for it. But the truth is that nuclear power has many different charges, for instance transporting uranium from other countries is very expensive and bad for the environment. The nuclear power plant itself produces clear energy but the waste is very dangerous: who can guarantee that it's still safe after 10 000 years?" People think that the plant will employ them, but it might employ foreigners from abroad.

We also interviewed Heli Haikola, Fennovoima's PR-woman who works in Pyhäjoki as a coordinator. We asked her about the nuclear trash and where they are going to put it.

"In Finland there's a place where the nuclear plants that already are active put their waste. We believe we can put our trash there also. We don't own the place, but the government has promised to help us."

But according to Halmeenpää this is not the reality. She said she had met one of the owners of the nuclear waste tunnel.
"Their answer was a no and there are other problems too."

Haikola explains that everything about the plant is well organized and planned.

"We have thought about different species of animals and plants, the waste water disposal and safety are guaranteed. Some people are afraid of radiation, but the truth is that the percentage of a nuclear power radiation in one year is much smaller than for example the amount of radon. Many people are against nuclear power because they don't know enough. They're afraid of accidents, like an explosion, but the possibility is less than one in a billion."

Halmeenpää agrees, but in a different way. According to her, people's information is very much based on what they read in newspapers. She thinks some magazines have their own, critical opinion, which is shown in their articles. In her opinion, magazines should be more neutral and tell about both good and bad sides.

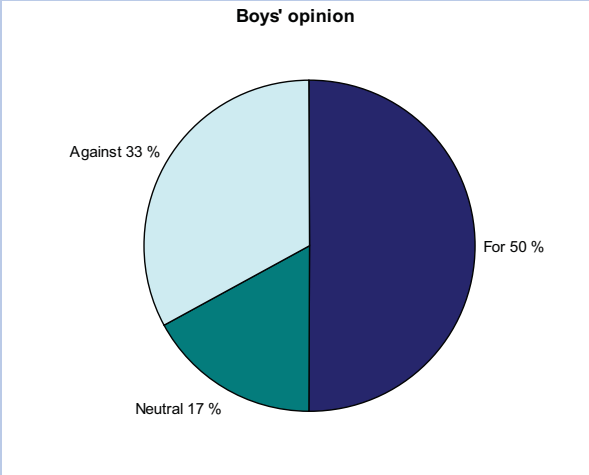
Situation in Hungary

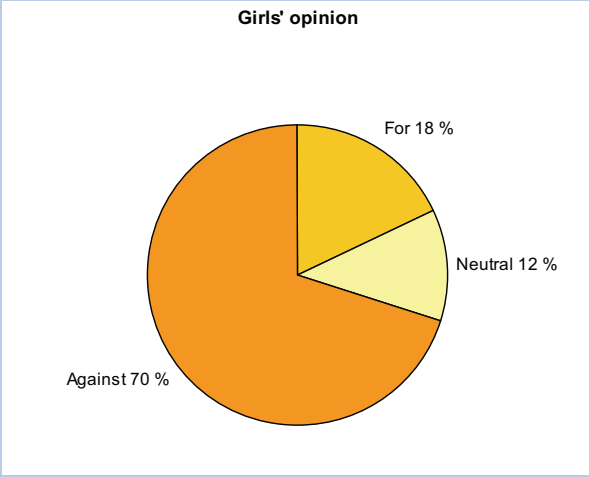
In Hungary there's only one place, where we have a nuclear power plant. Paks, which is located on the right bank of river Danube in the middle of the country, has 4 reactors, which produce about 35% of the electricity of Hungary.

The comparison of the two countries

In Hungary the population is roughly 10 million people, and the reactors supply about 35% of the electricity, while in Finland, where the population is about 5,5 million people, there are altogether 4 reactors as well, producing almost 20% of the energy.

Opinions about nuclear power by students of Kalajoki Upper Secondary School and Lower Secondary School





Gallup

What do you think about nuclear power? Are you for or against?

Clara Siracusa, 17

I have never really thought about it. When I think about nuclear power, only bad things come to my mind.

Dorottya Somogyi, 17

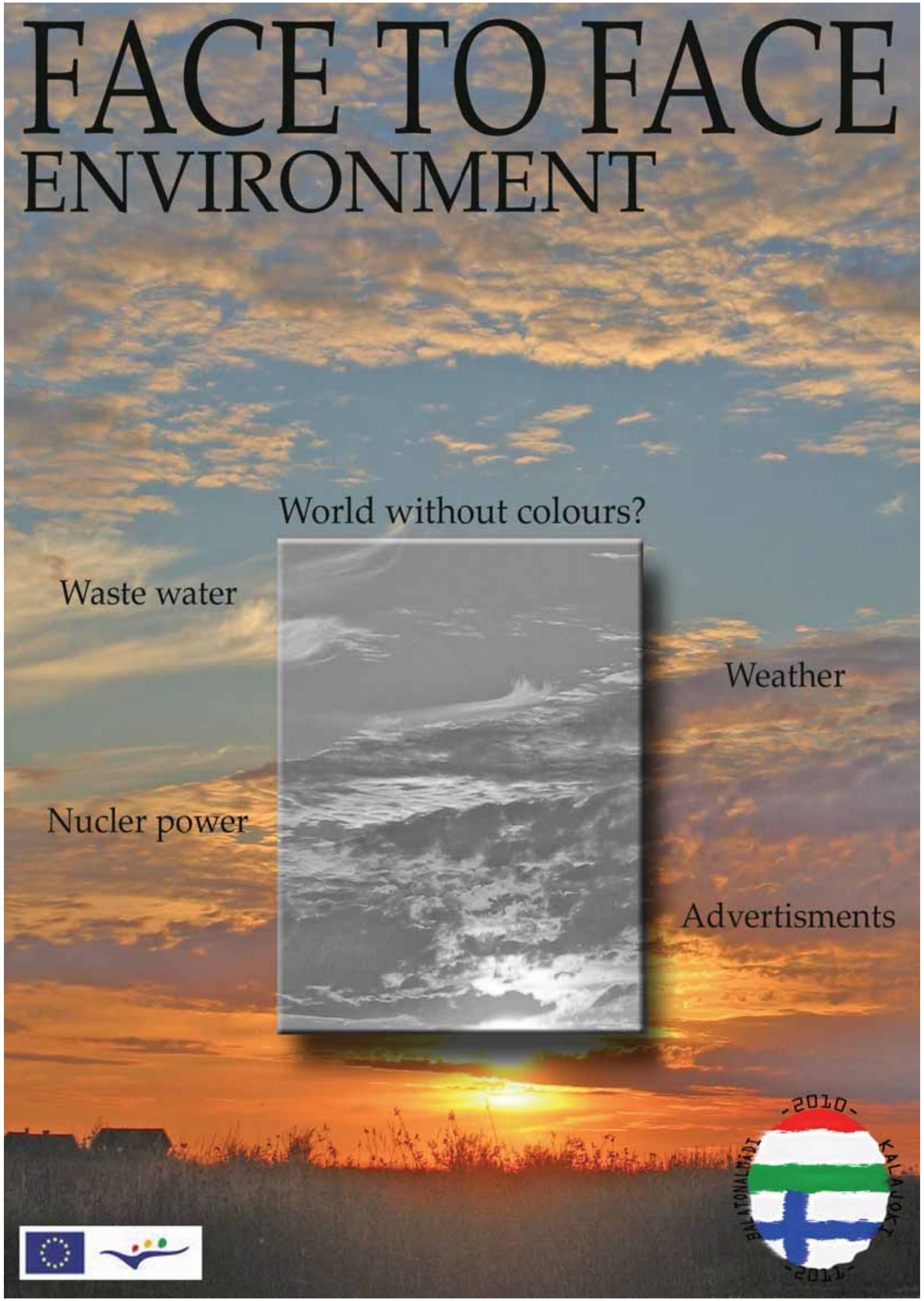
I'm against, because I think that it's not good for the environment and nuclear power waste is dangerous. It has some good points, but the negative things are more serious.

Jussi Manninen, 17

I'm for. It's a cheap and clean energy source; it doesn't make any carbon dioxide emissions.

Péter Nagy, 17

It can be avoided with renewable resources, like wind or water energy. There's only one nuclear plant in Hungary, and it produces about 35% of Hungary's electricity.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