

TRANSKRYPCJA NAGRAŃ

Zadanie 4.

Lapland is a magical place where the sun does not set in the summertime and dancing lights appear in the skies during winter. With much of Lapland lying above the Arctic Circle, it is also a region of extremes. In winter there's extreme stillness and darkness, and in the summer extreme daylight... but all year round, Lapland is a place of extreme natural beauty.

A sea of green covers much of Lapland in the form of endless forests of pine and evergreen trees, particularly abundant in the southern part of the region. In northern Lapland, trees are scarcer and up in the mountains the land is completely barren and empty. The massive size of this barely populated region means that humans rarely set foot on much of the woodland areas, or paddle on lakes and rivers for most of the year.

The forests of Lapland are places of numerous living creatures, but unfortunately no polar bears can be spotted. Some of the animals that you can find in the northern region include brown bears, wolves, deer and moose, all of which are strictly protected under nature preservation act. It means you are not likely to come across hunters looking for their prey.

The wildlife most associated with Lapland is reindeer. There are roughly 200.000 reindeer roaming around the forests of Lapland, which serve as their grazing grounds. It is not uncommon to see them grazing on the side of the roads when driving along the vast distances of Lapland in the summertime. Once considered wild creatures, over the centuries, they have become semi-domesticated and nowadays the entire population is controlled and administered by local herders.

A common occurrence in Lapland that appears almost every night during the winter time are northern lights. Aurora borealis, polar fires, dancing spirits – whatever the natives call it, they all correspond to this special night phenomena visible in the Circumpolar North. However, whether people can see them or not depends on the cloud cover and how strong the lights are compared to the surrounding city light.

Adapted from "A magical place", the University of Lapland promotional brochure

Zadanie 5.

We asked several Britons whether voting should be compulsory in the UK.

Speaker One:

We're comfortable with being forced to things in other areas of our civic lives, such as the requirement to educate our children or to wear seat belts. Surely our democracy is valuable enough to deserve similar support. There are many countries where democracy is violated and people don't get a chance to express their views. The fact that we have a democracy means we have to use it and be thankful for the opportunity we have.

Speaker Two:

A great many British people feel that there is something totalitarian about being forced to vote; that it's the kind of law resorted to in states with a weak democratic culture or fragile national identity. It may be regarded as a moral duty to vote, but I consider making it a legal obligation to be a violation of democratic foundations. If the politicians and political parties were truly interested in democratic participation, they would do everything they could to show that they were open to ordinary voters' needs.

Speaker Three:

The freedom of choice in a democracy must include the freedom not to choose. Rejecting the opportunity to vote is essential for this political system. It is my right to express when I do not want to support any of the available candidates. We should not be trying to hide exactly how unpopular they are. We need to avoid the arrogant assumption that whatever the political parties offer to the electorate is good enough for them to make a choice: sometimes, for some of them, it will not be.

Speaker Four:

Compulsory voting is not just an artificial increase in voter turnout but it has the potential to refresh our democracy. Young people and members of disadvantaged communities rarely go to the polls. And these are the people who have the most to gain from political decisions. We need to bring politicians and their parties closer to these people and show them the power of their civic rights. In some states it's been proven that compulsory voting reconnects those who are distant from its country's issues or even on the margins of their communities.

Speaker Five:

Well..., enforced participation is artificial and may be worse than no participation at all. What's more, it doesn't show real choices at all. But it's also true that after each election we hear that not even two-thirds of the people turn out. And the ones who didn't show up at the polls complain the most bitterly about the politicians and their parties. So I think it is not entirely unacceptable to transform the right to vote into a duty to vote. After all, going to the polls can also mean crossing the whole list and not choosing any candidate.

Adapted from "Speakeasy" XXXI 1/2008

Zadanie 6.

Our guest today is doctor Lena Johnson, a sociologist at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Johnson, your recent publication treats about tendencies in the contemporary job market. Could you brief us on your latest observations and conclusions?

I have been investigating the tendencies on the global job market for many years. But for the first time, the main concern of my latest research is the situation of today's youth in relation to their job perspectives. The future belongs to the young, but it's hard to predict in what way. I won't give you any accurate forecast for the coming months or years and I'm not able to come up with any sensible advice. What I found in my studies is that unemployment rates decrease with age. Youth unemployment in the EU, which is facing quite a severe crisis now, has climbed to 20 per cent on balance, with only few member states noting percentages lower than this average.

What is to blame for this situation? Are there any common European tendencies? And do employers take advantage of that?

The reasons for youth unemployment are the same in different EU countries: inadequate work supply and enormous demand for it do not match up and though young people's education is more than sufficient, it is not reinforced by adequate job experience that employers value most. My survey shows employers hardly take advantage of the young seeking employment. In fact, most businesses have been investing in their recruits' professional development, especially those who graduate from universities and colleges.

Would you say, Dr Johnson, that across the EU there is a similar strategy to tackle the problem?

The response to youth unemployment has taken lots of different forms across the whole EU. In England, the government has distributed funding for organizations that will enable them to

create jobs for young people. In Hungary educational policy has been modified to better reflect the needs of the job market. But Finland exceeded them with new forms of subsidized employment. It means that the Finnish government gave additional money to those employers who decided to hire young workers. However, most of the governments' reactions to the problem of youth unemployment have been rather insignificant. Of course, the governments in all member states produced reports, conducted studies, recommended measures but, regrettably, few of them have been put into practice. Overall, my research shows, most of the EU states are yet to introduce changes that would produce desirable effects.

Is high youth unemployment rate a problem exclusive to Europe? Did you investigate any other, perhaps more exotic job markets?

In fact, yes. Among the other countries struggling with youth unemployment are the Arab states. The studies I conducted show that the situation there stems from demographic structure that has been relatively steady for a long time and which differs radically from that in Europe. The proportion of young people in Arab societies is very large and on the other hand, life expectancy is lower. The number of unemployed young Arab men is very high and it is them who are soon most likely to start more revolutions or even get involved in terrorist activities. For instance, the recent political disturbance that erupted in Tunisia had been prompted by youth unemployment. Ironically, I can say that while a lack of work has led to exclusion and apathy in Europe, the consequences in the Arab countries have been exactly the opposite – involvement.

Thank you, Dr Johnson for being with us.

Adapted from "Latitude" 2011