

## Membership Meeting 2021

EUROPEAN KOLPING YOUTH MEETS AGAIN AFTER TWO YEARS OF CORONA  
BREAK IN LUDBREG, CROATIA



**INSIDE MORE ABOUT:**

**KYE DIGITAL OFFERS**

- \* Kolping Talk
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**KYE MEETS NEW  
GENERAL PRAESES**

**ANNUAL REPORT  
2020/2021**

**AND OTHER KYE  
ACTIVITIES**

# LIST OF GOALS FOR 2022

First of all, it is good to be thankful for what you already achieve, then close your eyes, calm down, take a deep breath, and continue breathing consciously. Then visualize every little detail and feel which goals you are going to have, when you want to achieve them, and what you want in the near/far future of 2022 towards :

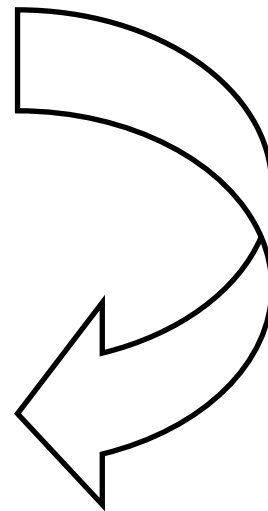
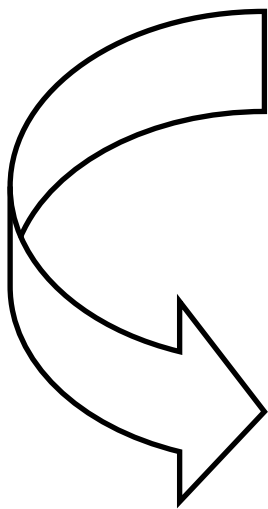
NATURE



OTHERS



YOURSELF



# RF 2022



Dear Readers,

not too long ago, we celebrated another 940 millions kilometers around the sun. Am I right, or is it something different what we celebrated? Another year passed, 12 months, 365 days, 8765 hours ... is it that humanity magnificently celebrates all over the world just when another time unit has passed? I do not think so and if somebody celebrates only for these simple reasons, I am sorry for them.

I would be glad to hear what YOU celebrate behind that moment, but now I'll tell you what I see.

For me, it is a new beginning, a hard reset, a chance to change, time to be thankful, to evaluate and to set up new goals. It's good that we as humankind celebrate that moment together. It makes it special. Everybody needs from time to time, or better regularly, to stop in their life/matrix, evaluate and tune themselves. During the regular daily life we are in a lot of situations automated. It is just how our brain works. New Year's eve is the best moment to look back and review if that autopilot behavior is who we really are and what we truly want.

For what we want, I found the best technique (described on page no.2) to visualize and feel our ambitions as if they are already achieved. If you are not prepared for the emotions which your goal will bring to you, or even if you do not truly believe that one day your wish becomes true, it is very unlikely that you will be successful.

It is a good custom to wish to the others all the best for the New Year. In Czechoslovakia region we use on postcards a shortcut PF standing for the French words "pour féliciter" which means "to congratulate". Strange? Maybe yes, but more strange is that after 2 years we are still experiencing difficult pandemic times which nobody expected. It brought separation and deprivation to our lives with a fading hope for a near end of this situation. As A. Kolping said: *"The human life cannot exist without joy, without fun, least of all during youth"* ... I know it is hard times but as A. Kolping also said *"The signs of the times will teach you what to do."* ... therefore I wish you as a Kolping Youth to be an example and source of JOY and FUN connected with HOPE and LOVE to the others.



*Dominik Presul*

*board member of KYE*



NEWSLETTER



Kolping Youth Europe

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING 2021 IN LUDBREG, CROATIA

From the 1st to 3rd of October, the annual Membership Meeting of Kolping Youth Europe was held in the very center of the world, Ludbreg. It was the first gathering after two years of only online meetings, and looking back on it we only can say that we would like to turn back time and enjoy it again.

Eighteen young people from nine European countries (Albania, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Switzerland) experienced pleasant memories together, learned about interesting topics and made new friends. A part of the group came earlier on the 30th of September, and the rest arrived on the 1st of October. Our program was very diverse and thanks to our great hosts from Croatia, Viktorija and Marko, we visited many places in the city of Varaždin. The whole group enjoyed time together, and between the coffee and lunch breaks we visited the main landmarks of the city, and made wonderful photos in the "City of Angels". Additionally, Mons. Antun Perčić, priest of the Kolping Society of the Varaždin Diocese, welcomed the participants in the Cathedral and congratulated them on their dedication and work, especially in these



challenging times.

On the 2nd of October, the President of Kolping Youth Europe, Sven Messing, together with Vice-President Heinz Strässle, presented the work of the organization in the previous year. Members were informed about the activities of Kolping Youth Europe in 2020/21, current developments regarding the organization's statute, and the financial situation. In addition to innovative online educational lectures and friendly gatherings conducted at the European level, there were various interesting activities at national level held





inspiring and detailed presentation, we split into three different groups and worked on three different topics – the organization of an international youth event, an international online event, and the development of an international campaign. The different teams worked on these topics and presented the fascinating results to the whole group afterwards. As young people are full of new ideas, the results of this workshop will be an important basis for the work of Kolping Youth

in person that were presented by representatives of each country. After lunch, we had a tour through Ludbreg, the “center of the world”, visited the new museum in this very cute town and heard stories from the Middle Ages. During a walk, we visited the Church of the Holy Trinity in Ludbreg in which a miracle happened (wine became blood). After this amazing tour, we continued with a workshop about international youth work led by Heinz Strässle. After an





Europe during 2022.

In the evenings, an intercultural program took place. We heard interesting facts from each country, learned traditional dances and tasted traditional food. The evenings were full of great energy, music from all over Europe, dancing, karaoke shows and a lot of fun among participants. And then... Sunday came like in a blink of an eye. We were supposed to slowly pack our bags and prepare for leaving the Ludbreg. The participants had the opportunity to spend some more time in Ludbreg together, while the board had their meeting and did some work that will hopefully provide us the opportunity to also meet in this kind of heartwarming events in the future.

*Katarina Jeremić, Serbia*



## Annual Report 2020/2021 published



Full report can be seen  
on or downloaded  
from our website!

[www.kolpingyouth europe.com](http://www.kolpingyouth europe.com)

The board of Kolping Youth Europe published its annual report 2020/2021, providing an overview about the activities in the last 12 months. The key content of the report was presented at the Membership Meeting 2021 of Kolping Youth Europe and, in a shortened version, at Kolping Europe's Continental Assembly 2021. Positive feedback from the delegates of both events encouraged the board in their efforts for an active youth work at European level.

The report includes information on digital events of Kolping Youth Europe during the pandemic, public relation activities and improvements regarding the internal organization of the organization. Another section describes the cooperation of Kolping Youth Europe within Kolping (Kolping International, Kolping Europe and national Kolping Societies) and with other organizations and initiatives such as the COMECE Youth Platform and The Economy of Francesco.

*Sven Messing, Germany*

# DIALOGUE WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION



„On the 25<sup>th</sup> of November, two delegates of Kolping Youth Europe participated in a dialogue session on the European Green Deal with Frans Timmermans, Vice President of the European Commission. The dialogue session was initiated by the COMECE Youth Platform – an organization closely cooperating with Kolping Youth Europe – as part of an interfaith youth initiative.

The digital meeting started with a video statement from Robberta Metsola, Vice President of the European Parliament, in which she highlighted the need for CO<sub>2</sub> reduction and committed to keep listening to young people. In another statement, Imam Ajmal Masroor presented a broad range of Islamic proposals for sustainable behaviour such as not being

wasteful, increasing walking and cycling, and reducing car use.

In advance of the dialogue session, interfaith working groups prepared concrete proposals on five thematic areas related to the European Green Deal. These proposals were presented to Vice President Frans Timmermans who commented on these ideas especially with regards to their feasibility. This resulted

in an interactive discussion on climate neutral and social housing, the implementation of an eco-label on the carbon footprint of products, the development of a European corporate social responsibility framework, and partnerships with faith-based organizations on environmental education.

“The dialogue session with Vice President Frans Timmermans focused on topics that are highly relevant for Kolping and will be an inspiration for our future work”, concluded Larissa Florysiak, Kolping Youth Germany’s advisor on youth policy, who participated in the meeting together with Kolping Youth Europe’s president Sven Messing. A recording of the meeting is available [online](#).

**Sven Messing, Germany**



## KOLPING TALKS:



## 3rd Kolping Talk: Kolping Youth Community Services

On the 27th of May, Kolping Youth Europe hosted the third Kolping Talk, the online event where members of Kolping societies worldwide have a chance to listen about different topics and expand their Kolping community network. This time we talked about the Kolping Youth Community Services with our special guest Annette Fuchs, head of this organization.

You can learn more about these programs at <https://www.kolping-jgd.de/> and read the whole article online on our [website](#).



## 4th Kolping Talk: Digital Youth Work

On the 24th of June, Kolping Youth Europe hosted the fourth Kolping Talk. Two young youth workers from Novi Sad (Serbia), Mladen Ilic and Stefan Strbac, presented their work in this field and shared their experiences regarding youth work and volunteering during the pandemic. You can find whole article on our [website](#)



## KOLPING X-MAS VIRTUAL APERÓ



Kolping Youth of Europe had its final event for 2021 on 13<sup>th</sup> of December 2021! The members met at the Christmas Apéro and spent a joint evening with some workshops. Heinz Strässle, Vice President of Kolping Youth Europe, prepared two different type of cookies. Board member Grlica Golusin held an Origami workshop and all members learned together with her how to make a Christmas tree and a start out of paper! Even it was only online, we spent this Monday night happily together while laughing and dreaming about future meetings in person.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS:



### 2022

#### KOLPING PEACE WALK



Kolping Youth Slovenia warmly invites youngsters from whole Europe to join the Peace Walk 2022 that takes place in Maribor from 19.05.-21.05.2022 (22nd is optional). The Peace Walk is the biggest annual event of the Kolping Society of Europe and takes place for the 52<sup>nd</sup> time.

As the regular participation fee of the Peace Walk is quite high for youngsters, Kolping Slovenia offers to join the event as a volunteer. For up to 20 volunteers, the organizers offer to take care of the accommodation, meals and promotion material such as t-shirts and backpacks. As a volunteer, you are also welcomed to arrive one day before the event starts. This offer aims to give youngsters the opportunity to join the Peace Walk, to meet Kolping members from many European countries and to get to know Slovenia.

More information and applications will be published at the end of January/February. Here is a link to the event website:

<http://friedenswanderung2020.kolping-zdruzenje.si/>

If you need additional information please write to [mladi.kolping@gmail.com](mailto:mladi.kolping@gmail.com)

#### KOLPING YOUTH WEEK



## #KOLPINGoesgreen – join in

Are you motivated to raise awareness for climate action or would you like to protect your local environment? This might not only be a good New Year's resolution but could also result in an initiative of your Kolping Youth group. Kolping Youth Europe aims to collect inspiring examples of youth groups from all over the continent as a source of inspiration. If you would like to join, please send us a photo and a short explanation (3-5 sentences) to [contact@kolpingyouthurope.com](mailto:contact@kolpingyouthurope.com).



The initiatives from Kolping Youth groups in Europe will be published on our social media channels throughout the year 2022, connected via the hashtag #KOLPINGoesgreen. Examples for initiatives could be local rubbish collection, the promotion of active mobility, workshops on environmental topics, or awareness-raising campaigns. However, the diversity of potentially interesting initiatives is unlimited, and we are looking forward to receiving your input.

#KOLPINGoesgreen will be linked to Kolping International's campaign #KOLPINGworks that shows how our members make a concrete contribution for making this world a better place, true to our role model Adolph Kolping.



REDUCE



REUSE

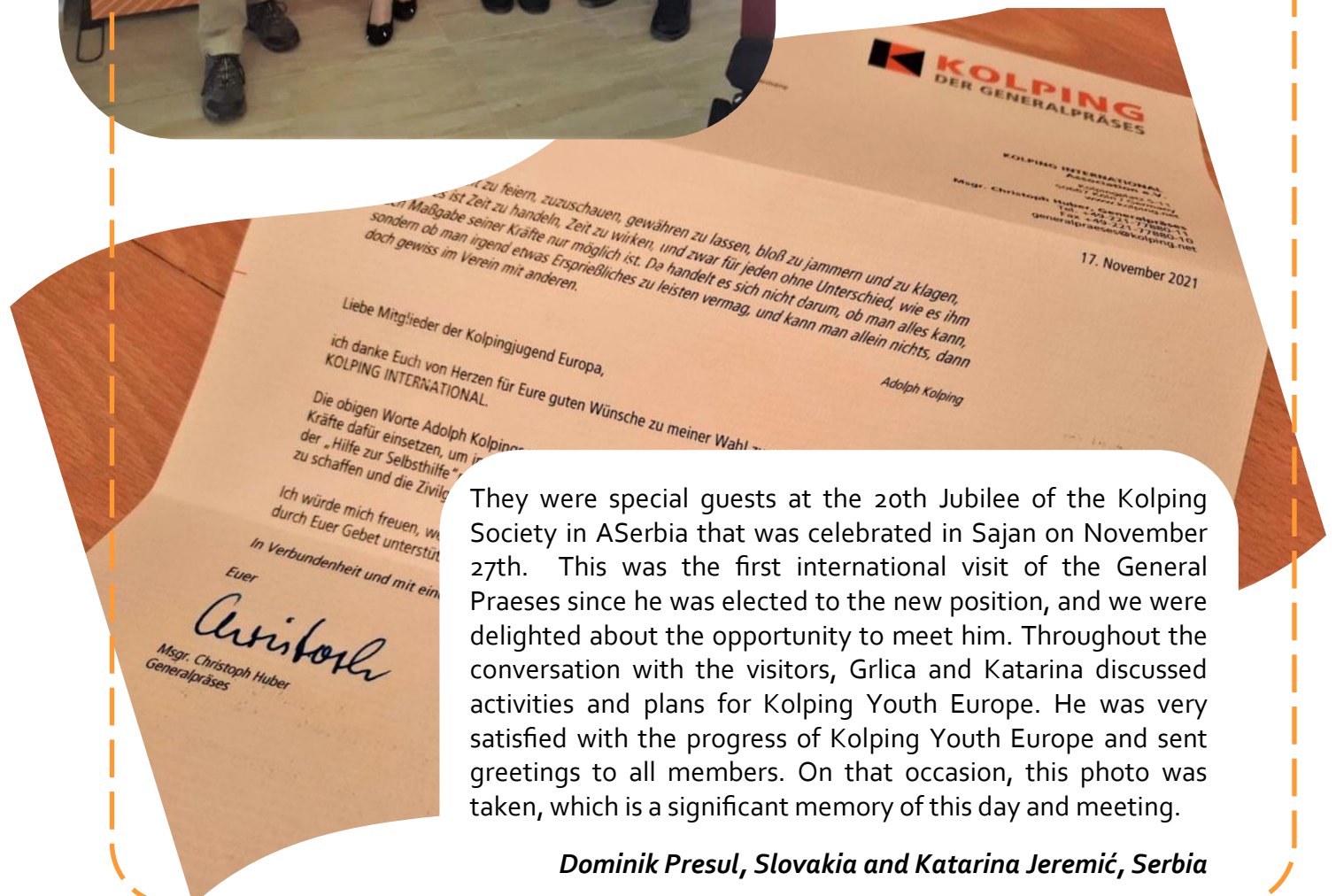


RECYCLE

## Meeting with the General Praeses of Kolping International



We are very happy that Kolping International has officially appointed Msgr. Christoph Huber as a new General Praeses on 4th of December, and we are honored for a supportive letter from him as a response to our congratulations regarding his election. In the same breath, we would like to thank from our hearts to the previous General Praeses Msgr. Ottmar Dillenburg for the past service and all the spiritual support. Two of our members, Grlica Golušin, (board member of Kolping Youth Europe) and Katarina Jeremić (youth advisor) were honored to meet Msgr. Christoph Huber and Gregor Federhen, Kolping International's coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe, personally.



They were special guests at the 20th Jubilee of the Kolping Society in ASerbia that was celebrated in Sajan on November 27th. This was the first international visit of the General Praeses since he was elected to the new position, and we were delighted about the opportunity to meet him. Throughout the conversation with the visitors, Grlica and Katarina discussed activities and plans for Kolping Youth Europe. He was very satisfied with the progress of Kolping Youth Europe and sent greetings to all members. On that occasion, this photo was taken, which is a significant memory of this day and meeting.

**Dominik Presul, Slovakia and Katarina Jeremić, Serbia**

## Congratulations to the new board of Kolping Europe

At the end of October, Kolping Europa had its postponed Continental Assembly as a digital conference. The most important task for participants was to elect a new board for the next executive period.

On behalf of Kolping Youth Europe, we want to congratulate the new members of the board of Kolping Europa, especially the new chairman Vasyl Savka (Ukraine) who is connected with Kolping Youth since many years, not just in Ukraine but



also across Europe. Renate Draskovits (Austria) will be his deputy. Pastor Istvan Gödri (Romania) was elected as European Praeses, Erich Reischmann (Switzerland) as European Secretary and Anton Salesny as European Commissioner. Other members of the board include Klaudia Rudersdorf (Germany), Martina Messner (South Tyrol) and Patrycja Kwapiak (Poland) who had worked for many years as a youth advisor for Kolping Youth Europe and is still a big support for us. In addition, we would like to thank the previous board members whose term of office ended for their commitment.

We wish the new board all the best, energy,, enthusiasm, a lot of active members and gatherings, an early end of the pandemic and a lot of A. Kolping's blessings. Together we are looking forward for the future cooperation.

**Dominik Presul,  
Slovakia and the  
board of Kolping Youth  
Europe**



## Charity Event in Hungary

At the end of October, the Hungarian Kolping Youth has taken part in a social charity event that was organized by a Hungarian Kolping family in the beautiful city of Szeged.



This event is very special and it is organized every year. The neighbouring countries of Hungary are having a Hungarian minority, whose orphan children are living under bad circumstances, however a Hungarian franziskaner monk knows the formula to help them. His name is Csaba Bőjte and his solution to this problem is that he

builds and manages orphanages all over the neighbouring countries. He and his team have raised thousands of Hungarian children and helped them to

get a better and normal life. This is a hard mission, so they need help of course. Everybody can help them in different ways. You can go to one of these orphanages to do voluntary work, or you can do what we did and support

fundraising.

The fundraising took part in the city of Szeged on the 30th of October. The organizers of the event were Ferenc Ótott and Judit Tóth, who are the leaders of the Kolping Family of



Szeged. They live very close to the nature and they have a big place that has a small pub, a boathouse and a small theatre (outdoor stage), too. We arrived in the middle of the day and the program started. At first, we could listen to some classical orchestra in the outdoor stage, then the main guest arrived. He was Csaba Bőjte, the



franziskaner monk who lead the orphanages. He made a mass for all the guests and gave a speech that was really heartwarming and calm. He talked about what they actually do. In my opinion, he is a really kind, smiley, calm, confident and affectionate person.

After the mass, the program continued with a charity dinner. There was a small cooking competition that was started earlier the day and they finished the food right when the mass was over. There was so much food, but participants ate all of it. To get food, you had to pay an arbitrary amount of money. All of this money was collected and the organizers gave it to Csaba Bőjte to do some ordinary work at the



orphanages.

At the end of the event we had a good party at the place of the event. We had fun together with other Kolping members and we had special guests. They were orphan youngsters, who are living in one of those orphanages. It was really good to meet them and we had so much fun together.

To sum up, it was all beautiful. I think I'm not alone with this, so I can honestly say that: this event was one of my biggest charity experience and I hope that we will be able to go there next year again.

*Kovács Iván, Hungary*

## SUMMER PHOTO COMPETITION

Our traditional summer photo competition is over. Thanks for the participants who shared their moments with us and now we are sharing them with you. The most popular photos on our social media received a postcard from hometowns of our board members as a small reward.

On this photo you can see Sven, from Kolping Germany, and his friend Florian on a cycling tour which started last year at the source of the Danube and this year in Passau at the Bavarian-Austrian border. All in all, they cycled more than 1.300 km along the Danube until they reached the parliament in Budapest!



This photo was taken in Slovenia, and on it, you can see Milena together with two members from Kolping Austria, Lukas, and Daniel, after the traditional meeting of Kolping families from Austria and Kolping families from Slovenia in Maribor.



In this photo, you can see members from Serbia - Katarina, Katarina, Timea, Nikola, and Nikolina after a delicious lunch at the cooking festival organized by the Kolping family in Sajan!





## KOLPING YOUTH SERBIA

17

This autumn, on the International Healthy Food Day, Kolping Youth Serbia made healthy cakes together - Raffaello balls according to a healthy recipe. On the same day, we listened to a lecture by a nutritionist on healthy eating, along with senior members of the Kolping family at a club for the elderly. After the lecture, we all sweetened up with healthy Raffaello balls that were liked by both younger and older members of Kolping. We are always happy when we have the opportunity for intergenerational socializing and cooperation.

*Katarina Jeremić, Serbia*



*Yummy!*

**follow us on  
SOCIAL MEDIA**

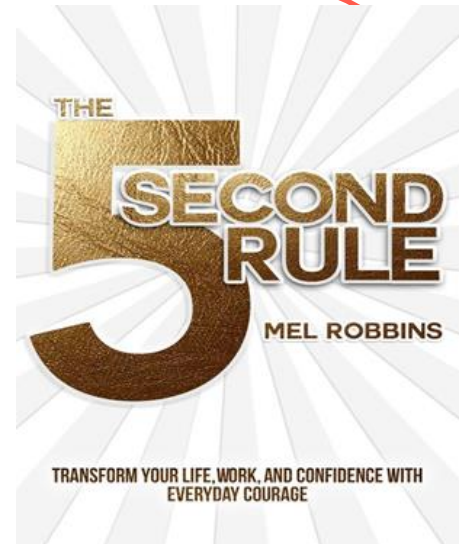


## FIVE BOOKS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YOUR WINTER READING LIST BY KATARINA JEREMIĆ



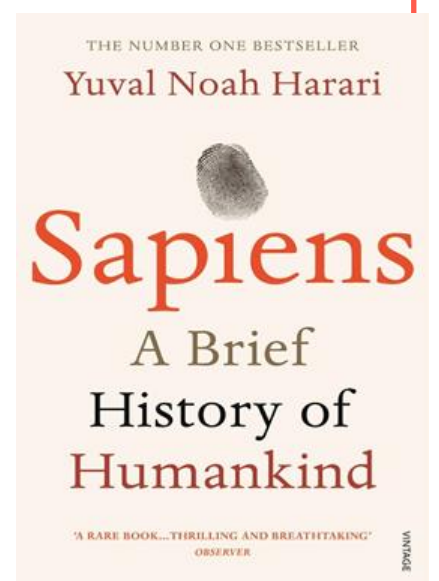
### 5 Second Rule by Mel Robbins

5 Second Rule is a book that can be highly useful for our life. The book is about a very simple and productive rule that we can use to stop procrastination. Counting down to five every time we want to do something can help us to be faster and to have control over our behaviour. In this book, we can read more examples from people all over the world who succeed by using this simple rule to finish what they started long before, or to start what they are delaying for a long time. Action is priceless, and this rule will help you to learn how to take them even if it is hard to.

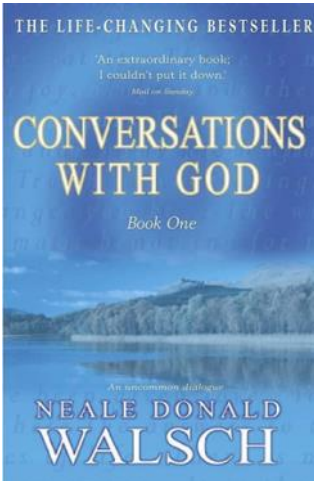


### Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Noah Harari

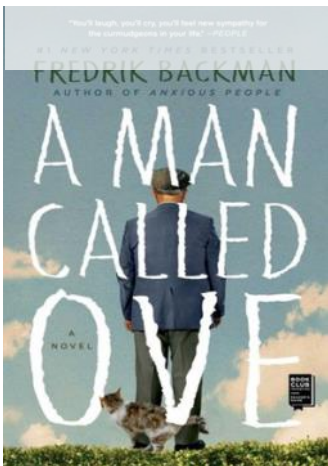
This book summarizes the entire history of the planet in nearly 500 pages. It gives us the answer to the question: what was the life of our distant ancestors like? What kind of periods did it take for us to live this way today? The Cognitive Revolution, the Agro-Cultural Revolution, and the Industrial Revolution are just a few of the very interesting ones described in this book. If we want to better understand the present moment, we must dig deeper into history, and for the curious this is the perfect literature to see the past (and therefore the future) completely differently.



### Conversation with God by Neale Donald Walsch



This unusual dialogue takes place in 4 books. I recommend that you go in order, because we can gain a lot by reading this kind of literature. Beliefs about God, religion, spirituality, but also oneself can completely change if we accept some of the ideas of the book. We begin to think as if we are completely connected to everyone around us - regardless of our national religion or race. Using simple language, the author conveys to us the truths that everyone carries with them and talks about the possibility of a better world if everyone connects with the divine in themselves.



### A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman

Backman portrays an old man named Ove, who completely leaves his usual routine when a young family moves into his neighborhood. In this book, Fredrik Backman shows what different generations look like, how older people think and spend their days, and what they most often complain about. Although he is cold-blooded at first glance, this man hides warmth and tenderness that will become fully visible through numerous adventures by the end of the book.



### Big Magic by Elizabeth Gilbert

Have you ever tried to understand where the creativity comes from? Where the writers, painters or composers find their inspiration? This book might give you an answer to that question. Big Magic is talking about the path of creativity that all creative people need to walk mostly alone in order to create something meaningful and lasting. Elizabeth Gilbert's "Big Magic" will make you more connected to your inner inspiration.



KOLPING  
YOUTH  
EUROPE



We wish you comfy relaxation with a book in your hand and winter outside. Feel free to print and use our bookmark. 🤗👉

## ALBANIA – a country you don't want to leave!



Despite that Albania is known for its incredible nature, a rich tradition, delicious food and its hospitality, the country is suffering from an exodus of its population. More Albanians live abroad than in their own country, and according to recent surveys up to 83% of the remaining population wants to leave the country. Reasons for this are, among others, low wages, insecurity, corruption and a lack of meritocracy. However, Kolping Youth in Albania believes that there is an added value for young people to stay in the country and to engage for a more just society. We received the following statements from young Kolping members that are full of hope and confidence.



„I personally think about my life here in Albania. Here I want to live and work. Our Albania is so beautiful, with mountains and fields, seas, rivers and lakes. Everything beautiful has been given to it by nature. I currently work and got to know many tourists. All the time, I am dealing with foreigners who are fascinated by our country, with people who compare this country to paradise, with people who, if given the opportunity to come here and other times, would never say no. We have this opportunity, we live here. Why don't we do our best to improve this place? Why should we kick it and abandon it? Is it the fault of some who have been put on top and made us lose hope? We should kick those who are in charge today and not this wonderful place. We should all try to make this place.“

**Ergi Manuka 24 years old**

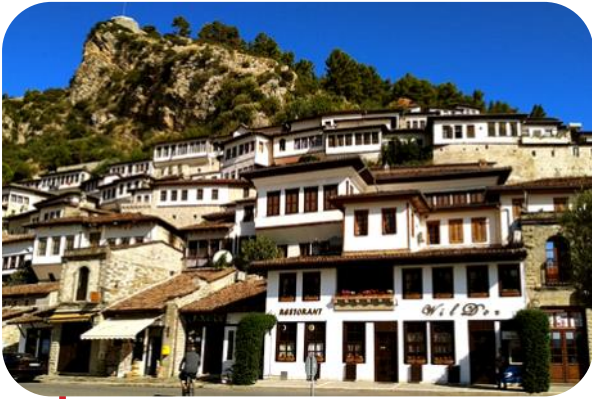


„I am a girl who has decided not to leave her country, the warmth to forgive you except the homeland and the people you know from a lifetime, who speak your language, your culture and where you feel at home. Today at the age of 23, I do a good job. I have a satisfactory salary. I

think that in Albania there are foreign investors and companies that provide valuable internships, and numerous job opportunities. A little positivity is enough.“

**Ivana Nikaj 23 years old**





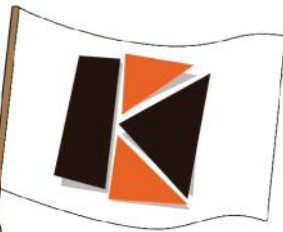
„I am also one of those people who have decided to stay in Albania. I applied for the American Lottery simply out of inertia of society and prayed every day not to come out to me, but to someone who really loved me. There I realized that I want to stay in my Albania, with my family, with my people. I want to work and fight in a place where I know where I am and

when I look around, I am not alone. If you work hard in Albania, live well, breathe freely and above all you are not alone, I do not want the money of the world when I will not have anyone to spend it with. Life is beautiful if you fight for what you love and with those you love. Albania is beautiful.“

**Emanuela Pali 19 years old**



ALBANIA



„I am one of those people who do not want to leave Albania. I have invested a lot for myself to work here, not elsewhere, to do the job I have a passion for, to hang out with my people I have known for a lifetime. Most promote the security that is outside the Albanian state, but even here if you apply the basic principles of life, nothing will happen. If you look to improve your life, yourself, if you have coffee for 10 minutes and not for two hours, if you work to increase well-being, why not become one? It is very easy to become pessimistic and want to leave because it is the easiest thing, but the job is why not try not to leave. And who said that beautiful things and happiness come fast? At least I have learned that you have to try to win in life. There is no victory without pain. I would like to take an example: If you talk to different people about how it is better: to rent or repay a loan for your home, almost 90% choose to repay a loan for your home. And why? Because you know that in the end that house will be yours. Why not address the issue of staying in Albania or abroad in this perspective? Stay here because you are trying. But you are working, you are trying for your home. And in the end your bones will stay in your house, they will not burn you somewhere, where neither your name nor your mark will remain.“

**Egli Memçaj 23 years old**



If you are interested in more background information on Albania and its history of emigration, please send a message to [contact@kolpingyoutheuropa.com](mailto:contact@kolpingyoutheuropa.com) and we can provide. ;)

# Kolping Youth Europe



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Kolping Youth Europe

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