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Project Proposal Version 2

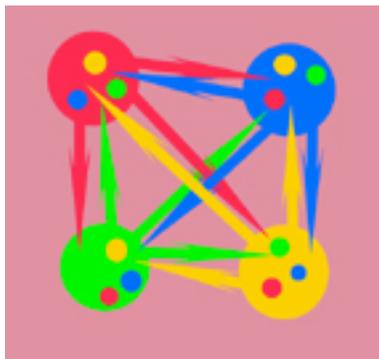
Lets Switch Places: Religion (Working title)

Theme. Through the theme of religion, I would like to reflect the political/historical heritage of the South Tyrol in the prospective of a multicultural European society of today and tomorrow. My project is a symbolical exchange between four religious communities. My starting point for this project was the Italian-German bipolarity with the still existing territorial divisions in the region, as well as a wish to challenge this division. My other starting point was relevance of religious believes in everyday individual existence as well as relevance of the institution of church in contemporary society. Having in mind that in today's world, religious wars are continuous reality, the theme of religion seems to be extremely relevant in any discussion about social and humanistic improvement. The relevance of the theme, as related to the European slogan "unity in diversity", or as related to the idea of pluralism and, therefore, a special attention given to the minorities, might be expressed through an unquestionable and very pragmatic necessity to learn about "the other". I would like to create a project where knowledge and feelings are being exchanged, a project that could play a role in communication between religions on local level, a project through which one learn about the others and about oneself.

Individual reflection of "the other".

Each community is represented as seen through the eyes of "the other".

In collaboration with one Italian and one German church community, as well as Jewish community in Merano and Muslim community in Bolzano several individuals of different age switch their places for one day. During that time, as they are hosted in another community, they make notes and photos of the things that they have noticed and learned about the community which hosts them. After that, the video interview/statement is recorded. Ideally, there are 12 individuals taking part in the project, and the exchange takes place in all directions.



Structure of the exchange between the four communities.

The photos that participants make, their notes transformed into painting-like handwritings, recorded video statements as well as video documentation of the process of "switching places", all these artifacts together will be part of a multimedia installation in the Eurac exhibition space.

The installation will consist of four similar parts where four communities are represented. Each of the communities is represented through information, remarks, reflections, photos, created by the individuals who are members of the other three communities. That way, each community is represented as seen through the eyes of the others. It is a symbolical gesture. Video statements are partly statements and partly interviews, partly "reports" on the community in question, and partly interviews giving an insight in what the individuals think about different issues. Here I see again the place for collaboration with my scientific partner in establishing the list of relevant issues and questions for the interviews.



Sketch for the installation in the exhibition space.

B. A gathering of project participants and their friends. An event in public space.

If the production resources will allow, a linear video version of the installation can be made. That means a video documentary of 45-60 minutes. In that case, a public screening can be organized and a small celebration with project participants, their family and friends. Or, a shortened version of the interviews can be screened in the Eurac cinema hall.

An important note. This project needs very professional and official approach from the side of the EURAC towards the four communities. It needs that the highest official invitation for collaboration is send by the EURAC to the communities. I have experiences in similar situations, and pretty much know what strategy should be taken, and that, in order to succeed, we also need a person from EURAC appointed for PR /communication with the

communities, to be officially always available for these contacts. I will work with people in situ, but I need an institutional backing. I am sure that with a proper approach, we can win the four communities not only to participate but to make most of the project.