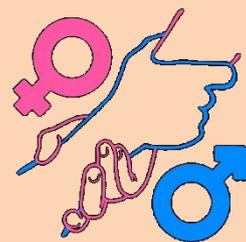


The Rakičaner

Gender Journal



The Erasmus + Youth in

Action programme aims to inspire active citizenship, solidarity and tolerance and involve young people in shaping the future of the European Union.

This programme also promotes mobility, non-formal learning, intercultural dialogue and inclusion, primarily among people aged 17-30 and also supports youth workers and civil society organizations through training and networking.



Erasmus+ Youth in Action Exchange

Gender equality project

The current socio-economic challenges in Europe have had a multiple effect on the young generations. High rates of unemployment, uncompleted education and marginalization of a large number of young people is an acute problem faced to a different extent by all European countries.

Our Youth Exchange is funded by the European Union, within Erasmus + Youth in Action programme. It has taken place in Rakičan, Slovenia, from the 25th of August until the 2nd of September.

The accommodation is in the Rakičan Mansion. The suburban settlement of Rakičan is surrounded by well-cultivated fields owned by private farmers or the High School of Agriculture. Rakičan is home to a general hospital, secondary school and retirement home. One of the town's main attractions is the 16-th century mansion surrounded by a magnificent park filled with diverse exotic trees, which dates more than 200 years back to the past. An oval-shaped neo-Gothic Chapel is found right next to the Castle. The mansion is also home to the equestrian club offering riding lessons, carriage rides and pony rides. The nearby airfield offers panoramic flights with airplanes and hot-air balloons. Right next to the town there is an artificial lake called Kamesnica or Lake Sobosko jezero, which became increasingly popular with cyclists and hikers.

The participants come from 5 European countries, specifically Slovenia, Spain, Romania, Hungary and Italy. The topic of the project is Gender Equality and the main purpose is that everyone becomes aware of how important it is to implement equality among people, no matter either the gender or any other personal reasons.



In spite of the advanced changes during the recent history, Gender Equality is still a major issue nowadays. Few decades ago women were supposed to be housewives and take care of the household and children. They did not have the right to express their opinion, they could not vote and they were not independent. On contrast, men were the bread-earners and the bosses of the household. Now, men and women have equal rights (both can vote, express their opinions, women can apply for the same job as men...). However, in practise it is not always the way it seems in theory.

The participants will research the position of women and men in their countries, including the position in the field of employment. To achieve this, they will take part in different workshops as well as team building activities with the aim to cooperate in sustainable partnerships in order to implement innovative practices leading to increased equality and constitutional reformation.

The meetings between young people and decision-makers in the field of youth, experts and public authorities in the frame of the structured dialogue and the European Union Youth Strategy, aim to foster discussions in order to achieve useful results for youth policy-making.

What does it take to do an exchange project?

We interviewed the main leader of the project, Mark Blue Lenarcic, from Slovenia . He is a tourism student ay the university and has worked with youth exchanges for almost 5 years.

Q:Why does the organization choose the Rakičan Mansion for this exchange? **A:*The host organization chosed the mansion because it is located in the mansion. They are owners together with the Town municipality of Murska Sobota.***

Q:What's the main reason why you decided to lead this project? **A:*I decided to lead this project because I also helped with preparing it and I also wrote some of the workshops. The main reason was to promote gender equality in our country and in the participating countries. Also to raise awareness again discrimination for women.***

Q:How difficult it is for you to be in charge of the group? **A:*It's not that easy how it looks.You have 40 youngsters from 5 different cultures and 5 different countries. Everyone needs something all the time and you always have to be available. Also during the night.***

Q: What's the best and the worst of being the main leader? **A:*The best thing is to meet a lot of new and make new friends and new connections. There is no worst thing in being the main leader, only sometimes you are to tired to be more with the participants***



On the left side- Marko

Now what about activities?!

As the name „Erasmus+ Youth in Action" suggests, „GenderEquality" exchange included in the schedule a lot of activities in its course. Each day was filled with with emotions shared both in outdoor and indoor environments. All the participants were equally involved and took serious attitude while needed and joyful mood at team building activities.

Icebreakers before sessions were the best way to get the attention of participants after siestas.

Nowadays people are so stressed and always in a hurry, forgetting that sometimes words are not even needed to express the taughts. „The sound of silence" was an original way to spend half an hour cutting magazines in multicultural groups on certain topics. Laughing, gesturing, that's how they communicated and managed to do the task in time.



International dinner was one of the most expected events during the exchange. Each country represented it's cuisine. Spanish made their traditional „Tortilla de Patata"- omlete with potatoes, Italians prepared „Pasta al tonno"- pasta with tuna and also without (for vegetarians) and the warm surprise was Pakistanian Curry, which was an extra dish made with love and dexterity by our Master-Chef Ali, from Hungarian team. Beside all these warm courses, apl the countries brought some sweets, for exemple Romanians has almost all the sweets with rum flavour, some cheeses and meat could also be found on tables and beverages were drunk with a great pleasure. All „happy faces" of participants moved to amazing backyard where slovenian band, Miso Kontrec in Gipsy Pop, were playing music with fire in the eyes. „ Everything we do is really hard: we work hard, we party hard!" said one of participants,who luckily did not break his leg.



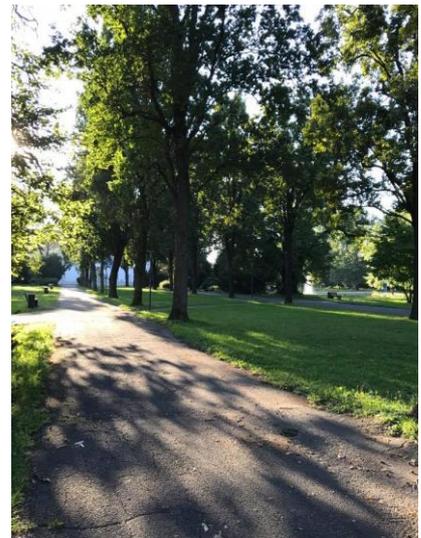
It was not about having just fun, with challenging punishments for being late, but participants had also sessions on the topic. Some of them were about heroes and heroines who fought against gender discrimination, history of gender equality in each participant country (Slovenia, Spain, Romania, Italy and Hungary). It is not that easy to analyse this topic from political, social, educational and other fields. Working in teams facilitated a deeper and wider understanding of all these gender equality issues on European level.



City run in Murska Sobota

The sun was not the highest in the afternoon sky over Rakičan on day 5 of the Erasmus+ Youth in action Gender Equality project, yet the warm air and bright light were more than optimal for the challenge that was about to be presented to the young participants. Despite some defection for injuries, health and nationality reason (slovenian participants would have made the activity much easier, and probably boring) 29 boys and girls from every country took part in the city run in Murska Sobota, a little more than 1 kilometer away from Mansion Rakičan. The large group was splitted by random selection in six smaller groups, each one with members from diverse nationality, as it has been done during most of the activities of the exchange. This has been done in order to prevent the use of the native language in favour of the common english and to promote a more wide cooperation among people from different cultures and countries.

After a quick briefing in the common room, the game began. Each group received an envelope with items in it to be used during the city run: a map of the city, a pen, a brochure of Murska Sobota and a pencil whose purpose was described in the paper that listed the tasks to be done during the run. A few minutes were enough for everybody to read the long list of tasks and develop a strategy to fulfill the requirements in the shortest time possible, and off we went walking through the park outside the mansion in the direction of the east part of the city. Among those tasks, the main ones were to take pictures of different places such as, for example, the mansion itself, the fields surrounding the area and certain part of the city (Culture Square, the castle of Murska Sobota) but also pictures with particular objects (Muza Erato statue and duck crossing street sign near the city park) or people whose description lead to unexpected reactions and fun moments (who can be elected as "the most beautiful person"? Or how to unanimously define the perception of a woman who "...you think is successful"?). In order to find some of these places and objects the information given by the map and brochure were not sufficient; there was the need to communicate with the ones with knowledge: the citizens who were casually roaming the streets. But this was not the only reason to get in contact with the locals. One of the task assigned was to make actual interviews (and record them after having received the consent) about the topic of gender equality in the country of Slovenia and the EU in general and about stereotypes and behaviour when faced to authority held by women. Some of the answers to those questions are included in this very journal.



The easiest task of them all was probably the one to create a flag of a country (different for each of the six groups) from random objects found during the run. Some groups opted for using materials found in the open, some for products present in the local supermarket and one group even used the shirts of the members themselves in combination with the colour of grass where they were lying during a short break.

What about the pencil that was mentioned some paragraph ago? It had a particular fate, since it had to be given by the young participants to the local citizens in exchange for something else. That object would then have to be exchanged again and again until all the group members would agree on the final result. Somebody managed to obtain a bottle opener, while others managed to earn a big and delicious chocolate tablet to enjoy with their companions.

The last task that the youngsters had to fulfill was to make a short one minute video to



promote Slovenia or the Prekmurje region and the exchange supported by Erasmus+, making sure to use a certain set of words such as Slovenia's slogan "I feel SLOVEnia" and "Erasmus+: Youth in Action". After such an experience, that has certainly not been a big problem for any of the participants, who then uploaded all the videos to the Facebook group of the exchange.

Finally, after having fulfilled every task (more or less) the six groups headed back to Mansion Rakičan. Somebody was faster than others, while someone decided not to stress in a run on the long way back from Murska Sobota. However it was a full and exciting afternoon that will be remembered for a long time by (almost) everyone of the participants.

- *"All genders are equal"*
- *"I don't believe a women has to dress half naked to have more chances to get a job"*
- *"I am verry happy that we are among the top countries when it comes to gender gap diferences between men and women wages"*

The history of gender equality

ROMANIA- As we are going to talk about Romania in the first place, it is an opportunity to us for explaining a brief history of gender equality among Europe during the first centuries of our history where there were no many differences between the countries in the medieval Europe in the V to XV centuries.

During the Middle Ages in Romania as in the whole Europe women was part of the properties of a man. Women had no right to take part in the public life and were excluded from all the centers of power. The “owner „of the women was the father until she gets married, when she became a part of the husband properties. if the father dies before a women could get married the brother or uncle, or other man of the family would take care of her and decides everything about her future. Women had no rights in any kind of aspect, and suffer punishments as being killed in case of adultery.

After the middle age, during the XVI to the XIX centuries, the situation of women and gender equality in Romania has begun to change. Women started to be more free, receive education and obtain different rights, depending of factors as their economic status, the region, or if they lived in a city or a village. Women in Romania voted for fist time the 30 February 1938 during the vote of the constitution of the same year. Anyways, even with the right to for women, the gender equality situation was not good. in the 1950’s in some rural areas, at the dinner table men and children had priority. If women did not find a place, they did not eat at the table.

Although today the situation is much better, still there are in Romania many things to do relate with gender equality. Every 30 seconds a woman gets beaten. Domestic violence is considered a private affair, surrounded by shaming from neighbors and relatives, and there is an income gap of 7% (2016 data).

HUNGARY- in Hungary the debate about women rights and gender equality is not something new. Hugonnai Vilma, who was born in 1847, was the first female doctor and she wrote a paper called “women’s movement in Hungary”. Some years later in 1871 the National Assembly debates the modocsany pals petition that fights for the vote for women. Unfortunately we have to wait almost 50 years until in 1919 women vote for fist time. Hungary is the country that recognize this right to women the first among the five countries that takes part in this project. After the vote, the rights that women fight for and achieve to get were increasing. In the year 1946 they were allowed to become police officers, even only 18 got the training. Despite all this the opportunities for women were very limited. Fortunately in the 2000’s omen are considered more educated.

As part of the workshops, the teams had to write about the history of gender equality in their countries.



ITALY- As in the other countries we are talking about, in 1861 women was a private property and belongs to man. The right to vote for women was recognized in Italy in 1946 . Five years later, in 1950 it was forbidden by law to fire a women cause of maternity and in 1963, it was forbidden marriage dismissal. in the same year women were allowed to access to public charges, more concrete to judiciary word. In the year 1970 it passed the divorce law.

As we can see the number of rights that were recognize has been increasing during the last years of the 20 century, as the abortion law in 1978 and the illegality of honor crimes and repairing marriage in the year 1981. the new century also brought more rights this time also for men with the paternal leave and new laws that support equal opportunities in work field and women quotas in companies. The last conquer of the equality of gender in Italy was in 2013 when it was approved the law against violence on women.



SLOVENIA- As the team from Slovenia told us years ago the women were allowed

just to work, to be silent, take care of children and prays in the church. Fortunately things are much different now in this country that we love. Since 1945 women are allowed to vote, not just in Slovenia but in the whole Yugoslavia. At the year 1991 with the independence of the Slovenia and the Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia, equal human rights for everybody were declared. Later, at the beginning of the 1990's Republic of Slovenia and United Nations forbid all kind of discrimination against women. Since 1996 the politics started to focus on gender equality issues.

But the main achievement for gender equality arrives in 2013 when the first female became prime minister. Alenka Bratušek rules the country since 2013 until 2014, the same year when the paternal leave was increased.

SPAIN- Spain has become one of the first countries in gender equality rights. The most important historic event related with gender equality arrives in 1931 when the second republic began. The women already going to school since 1856, but since 1931 the right to divorce, the civil marriage and the non punishment of adultery arrives. Three years later the women vote for first time in the first democratic elections of the Spanish history. Unfortunately in 1939 with Franco's dictatorship, Spain came back to the XIX century. we have to wait until the dictator dies to recover all the rights that were lost and even more during the 1990 and 2000's.

Dario: “Andrea was in the building and saved me”



After being locked for second time Dario’s situation was desperate. He told us that he felt horrible. But he found an anonymous hero, his savior, his rescuer, the person he owns his life now: Andrea, from Italy. In declarations to this journal Andrea said “I didn’t save him. I just heard him screaming and crying” How modest a hero could be? Andrea is a good example of that. Fast as the light, he run for find some help, and in this moment our heroine Gaia appeared.

We cannot find her while writing this article; she does not want the media attention after the miraculous rescue of Dario. She found the tool that was needed for this incredible risky task: the key of the door.

We are happy to say that after this shocking episode Dario is recovering well, he makes his normal life and still can go inside rooms with doors without fear. We hope this horrible situation would not happen again; maybe we would not be so lucky that time, maybe our heroes Andrea and Gaia would not be there to rescue us...

Jesus: “Maybe a person locked the door”

A similar incident occurred in the previous day when Jesus, the Spanish team leader, woke up and getting ready for breakfast only to find out that the door from his room was closed. “I had to talk with the Spanish team so they could come in time to rescue me so I can avoid the punishment from being late at the activities”.



Pablo the savior took his time in saving Jesus and finished his breakfast first: “breakfast is the most important meal of the day and I couldn’t missed it; if so I wouldn’t had the strength to unlock the door” – Pablo said.

Until now Jesus still doesn’t know who was the person who locked the door, or even if it was a person or something beyond our understanding but he thinks it was a good experience. Despite that he doesn’t reccomand it because the punishments for being late are waiting their next victim.

Important questions

What room will be locked next?

Who would be the next prisoner in Raki Castle?

Who or what locked Jesus?

The Rakičan Castle Tower and the lost keys

A clear sky and the warm temperature had to be the perfect conditions for a night in Rakičan but for some persons this wasn't the case.

On the 3rd day of the project, at 2 a.m. a group of girls were going in their rooms but they didn't imagined what was about to follow.

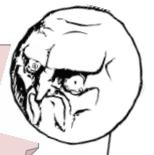
"We were just walking to the tower were we have the rooms when we heard a suspicious sound"- Gaia said; "on that point we were a little bit scared but we had to continue". When they arrived in front of the tower door the girls couldn't believe what they saw and heard. The sound was coming from another group of girls who were already there: "We were just laughing; we couldn't do anything else because no one had the key to unlock the door from the tower"- Barbala said.

"We were sitting there thinking about a solution when finally we decided to call Marko, he wasn't happy about this but he came." Fortunately for the girls Marko wasn't sleeping yet and he was waiting for that call "everynight I have to lock the doors but in every room a person has a key; I cannot lie, I wasn't surprised when the girls called. I was like waiting for it. I unlocked the door and went to sleep"- Marko, coordinator and savior.

The boys were sad when they heard the story, but sadder when they thought that if Marko wouldn't have saved the situation the girls would have had to sleep in their part of the castle.

The doors are getting locked and the keys are disappearing, but we think that is the Rakičan's way of saying "Stay more"!

Thank you Marko!!! –
the boys



How to become a flamingo in Rakičan



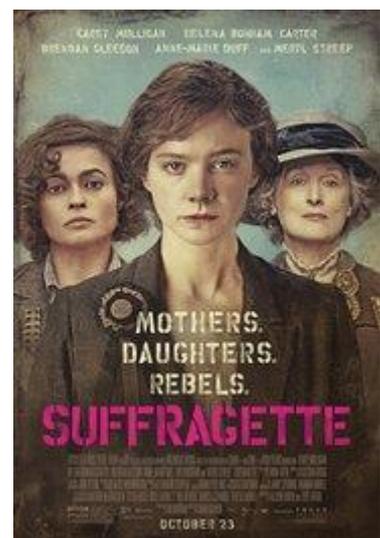
Alessandra's life changed the second night of the Gender equality project, a terrible event has occurred during the party. "I was dancing and someone pushed me." The face of Alessandra while talking about her horrible accident shows the fear that she still feels. "When I was pushed I felt on my leg. My life changed after that". Someone tried to end with the life of our Italian friend. ..and it was really close. "A broken bone, a visit to the hospital, and a new life. Now I can look through another perspective ", Alessandro confess that.



Even with all the pain and the bad luck, she still wanted to have a full feeling enjoying despite her handicap. " I want to have as much fun as the others participants ". Alessandra life is safe now said the doctors and she didn't lose her leg . Her friends had to help her and carry her almost everywhere. The Rakichannel has began a collect to buy a wooden leg for Alessandra, just in case.

Suffragettes - the key to gain equal rights

Another important activity from this project was watching a representative movie for the topic that we needed to comprehend the most - Gender Equality. Gathered in the Blue Saloon of the Rakican Castle ,on Monday, we were preparing for a travel in history and drama with remarkable female actors: Helena Bonham Carter, Carey Malligan and Meryl Streep . In the antebelic period of a changing London, we see the obvious inequality of men and women in the most active part of the country - the industrial areas. The movies center on a new and potential movement gaining more discipoles in women who are revolted by the treatment of the men - suffragettes. Featuring real life characters like Sylvia Pankhurst , one of the representative leader, the movie is a story of self questioning, of realising things that happened for hundred of years in the society but the women weren't aware of them. This is the case for the main character, Maud Watts, a worker at a laundry facility, who had a traditional mindset of the gender roles . Working from a really young age she has been paid with a small amount of money compared to her hardworking. We see another historical fact from that period - that the boss of a big factory could abuse the women sexually and he couldn't be caught. Maud complex development is starting when she see others women vandalise the shops from a street as a symbol of oppression.



I wanted to know others' opinions about the cultural and historical context and why did women revolt only after 1900, so I asked Gaia, from the Italian team what she thinks about it: "It was not possible until that period to split the cultural mindset with what women were educated from the beginning with the real situation. I think it all began when women realised that they receive less respect as human beings". Yes, and because of the degrading condition of how they were treated, the only choice to fight against it was violence, so they started a campaign of destroying governmental institutions. Eduardo, from the Spain team thinks that violence was a "way of getting attention from the government", but if we try to understand the characters and their motives, it's justified. Lidia from Spain was impressed about the main's character evolution, from "how at the first she was oppressed and then she opened her eyes and sacrifice even her children for the cause. When I asked her if she has a female model, she said something that worths its lines:" When I was in Paris, at the Pantheon, I saw a lot of graves. But do you know what amazed me the most? In All that men's coffins, I saw only a woman's one: Marie Curie's."

The final of the movies is predictable, because every fight has an end. Wanting to get authorities' global attention, because the prime minister refused to give them the rights, they tried to pin a "Votes for woman" on the king's horse, but it led to a tragic incident- Emily Davidson died from the impact with the running horse. Comparing to other major historical events, only one life was needed for the emancipation of the woman. But how many women were beaten before that? How many suffered from the patriarchy leading and influences? It's helping us to know the real numbers, because we can prevent something bigger, and maybe we can create a better world, but maybe- because we're humans after all.

Interview

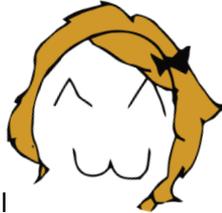
The participants answered on: What would be the best and the worst thing about being a girl/boy to you?

Girls:

If I were a boy...

Boys are able to do hard physical work

People in general think that boys cannot cook, or in fact, they really cannot cook.



Boys have more opportunities on the labour market.

However, they are not allowed to express their feelings because of stereotypes.

If I were a boy, people would pay less attention to my look.

... but they would have higher expectations of me.

I think to me, the worst thing would be the fear of conquering a girl, and I would probably be more nervous in situations regarding sex and dating in general.

On the plus side, society would not stigmatise me for my relationships with the other gender, I would not be judged for that.

If I were a boy, I would not have to worry about getting pregnant, or for example carry out a 9 months pregnancy.

As a negativity, people would see me primarily as a physical force, and not see me my intellectual side.

If I were a boy, I would not have a period, so I could do sports whenever I wanted to. :)

But if I expressed my feelings, people would see me as fragile, so as a consequence, I would not be able to speak freely about my emotions.

I could protect myself because I would be strong.

The worst would be the feeling of being refused by a girl.

I would probably be taller as a boy.

I would not have to suffer situations of gender discrimination.

I could walk the streets at night, without having to be afraid of being raped.

I would have to carry a lot of weight, and I would have to meet higher expectations in sports.

If I were boy, I would not have to give birth, which is really painful.

I would not be able to deal with my emotions, which is already difficult as a girl.

I think the world is made for boys, life is arranged in a way that it benefits them mainly. So it would be easier to find a job, and earn money.

Boys can lose touch with reality, and become arrogant. I do not like that.

Boys:*If I were a girl...*

I would be a feminist kind of girl, ambitious like I am now. I would



not let men get in my way, or perceive me weak because I am a woman.

The worst would be having a period, and all the difficulties related to pregnancy, the physical suffering. Also, I would be exposed when walking alone the streets at night.

I think guys have dirty minds, so if I were a girl, I could use that to my advantage, and play with their heads by directing their attention towards me, and have power over them.

The worst would be that as a teenage girl, people would look at me as if I were a toy, and could take advantage of me.

I could have a better understanding of what women go through in terms of their bodies, during childbirth, and experience the mother-daughter bond.

As a mother for example, I would have to take care of the children, do housework, a lot of things. Men are not really involved in that. That would be hard.

I could give birth to a baby, it is a magical process.

Having period every month seems the worst to me.

Best: menopause**Worst: period**

On the positive side, I think the relationships between girls, and in girl groups is better, easier in a way. They are more sensitive an

communicative, so it would be easy to make friends.

The lack of gender equality, and also the attention directed to my body would be bad.

I would get a lot of free drinks, free entrance when going out.

The worst would be the backpain caused by the weight of my breasts, the period, wearing high heels, and always having to pay attention to my looks.

I think it goes both ways. For example as a girl, I could benefit from certain practices which positively discriminate women.

On the other hand, the lack of gender equality in general would affect me as well. Also, pretty girls can get better grades, but at the same time, they get less credit in other aspects, and are less considered for what they do.

Girls are better in terms of group dynamic. Men can be really rude. It would be easier to have a friend, because you can show your feelings to others.

The period.

As a girl, I would have a better understanding of the feelings of others.

Girls are exposed all the time. If a girl is beautiful, men invade her privacy by staring.

As a girl, I would have a stronger position to fight for gender equality.

The worst would be to be affected by gender discrimination, like being cat-called on the streets etc.



Thank you Rakičan!

Youth in Action Gender Equality

Journalism team

GENDER EQUALITY



Erasmus+



Youth in Action

RAKICAN, SLOVENIA
25.08-02.09.2017



SLOVENIA



SERGEJ MUHIC



MASA MEOLIC



STEFANIJA BUJDO



TAMARA FLUJS



SIMON RUBIN



NIKA MERTUK



BENJAMIN KOUTER



MIHA DOMJAN



ROK HORVAT



TILEN SERUGA



ITALY



ROMANIA



SPAIN



HUNGARY



ZSOFIA BELA



MA GUOHUI



LOLITA NOZAK



REKA SIMON



BONIFACI VARGA



BARBALA VARGA



LISA MARIA RUKÉ



ALI WAZIR



DARIO ACQUISTA



MARCO AIELLO



DOINA STRULEA



ALESSANDRA ANZALONE



ANDREA BARBA



GAIA DI SALVO



BOGDAN PATRASCU



SVETLANA PETROVICI



ELENA UNGUREANU



MARIA CIOCAN



RALUCA MANDAE



ANCA-DRAGANA BABUSCOV



MARIA BEICA



ALEXANDRU FOITOS



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PAULA ROMAGUERA

