



EUROPE AND ME

FILM DISCUSSION GUIDE



INTRODUCTION





The film has been created by the Delegation of the European Union to Georgia in close cooperation with the film director Giorgi Kvelidze for Europe Day 2022. The film is titled “Europe and Me” with four short documentary stories based in the four focal regions of EU cooperation with Georgia: Kakheti, Imereti, Guria and Racha-Leckhumi.

Europe Day marks the creation of the European Union, its history and its goal to make war in Europe impossible from ever occurring again. It also provides the opportunity to highlight the close relationship between the European Union and Georgia. The film portrays the values of diversity, equality, freedom and democracy, which are central to the European Union, its Member States and to Georgia.

In Udabno village, Kakheti, shepherd and cook Irakli shows how a diverse society can enrich our lives. In Racha, Tengiz, through his radio collection speaks of the importance of communication across borders and is a great example of always striving for freedom when it has not always been easy. In Imereti, we centre on active citizens Akaki and Leonor who work with youth to make our society greener for a better future. In Guria, we follow Lanchkhuti Football club who qualified for the European Champions League for the first time in Georgian history, breaking all stereotypes. From them, we learn leadership, dedication and decision making as a team. All together, these stories reflect the values shared and promoted by both the European Union, and Georgia.

You are showing the film to a group and may wish to facilitate a group discussion. These questions can be used to help facilitate or lead a discussion.

To stay connected and for more information, please see:

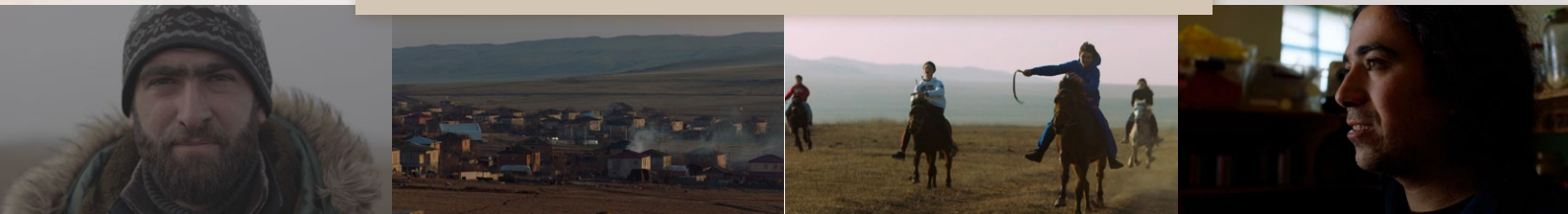
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GENERAL QUESTIONS

- Did you enjoy the film?
- Which was your favourite and why?
- Is there anything you didn't understand/would like clarification on?
- If you were to pick one of the "heroes" of the stories, who do you relate to the most and why?
- What do you think about the idea of shared values between the European Union and Georgia?

KAKHETI: DIVERSITY IN THE DESERT



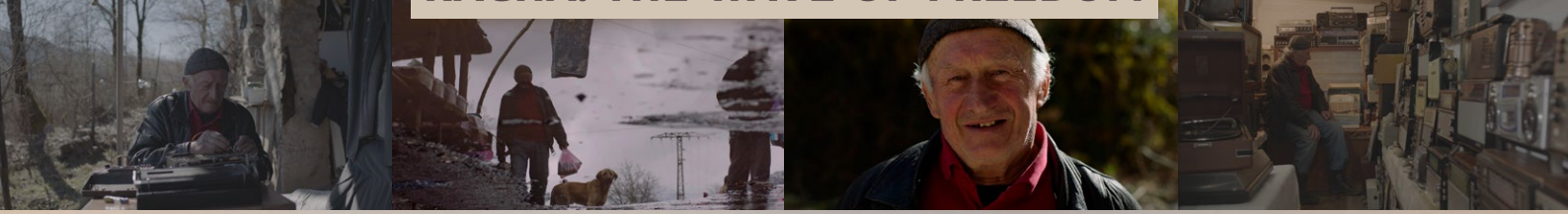
Udabno village in Kakheti is rich in diversity with people from all over Georgia as well as Europeans settling in the desert. It is a place where people live together in harmony, learning from each other and working together as a community. We meet the main character, Irakli the shepherd. We follow him in his day-to-day life minding his sheep and hanging out with friends. We also meet some other inhabitants of Udabno. Overall, diversity is the value portrayed in this film. The diversity of people, landscape, languages, opinions and how all the different types of diversity come together to build a strong, connected and interesting community.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What is the main message of this story?
- What are the different types of diversity we see?
- Irakli and his friend the shepherd share a meal together in nature. What do you think about their conversation?
- How do you perceive the friendship between Irakli and Mossi? What are they learning from each other, besides recipes?



RACHA: THE WAVE OF FREEDOM

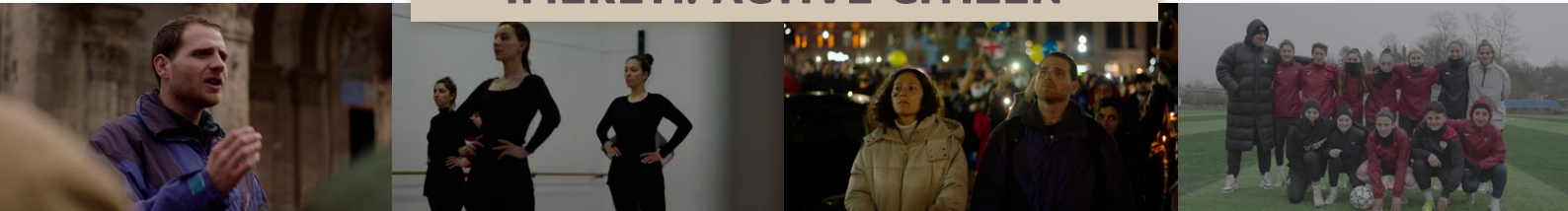


In Racha, we are with Tengiz, a radiophile. Through his radio collection, he kept the connection to the outside world which during Soviet times was not so easy. He tells us about his love of radio, fixing and looking after his collection. This film speaks of the importance of communication across borders and is a great example of always striving for freedom. A connection can also be made to different forms and sources of communication, radio, print and news.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Why is communication important?
What are the different ways we can communicate and receive information?
- “Radio was definitely a window, not only to Europe but to the whole world”.
How did radio connect Tengiz to Europe and the rest of the world?
- During the film, Tengiz mentions that “sooner or later, lies come to light”.
Would you agree with that?
- The story ends with a quote of Vazha Pshavela “Freedom is an action.
Freedom and happiness are the same”. What do you take away from this?

IMERETI: ACTIVE CITIZEN



In Imereti, we centre on active citizens Akaki and Leonor who are working to make our society greener for a better future. They want to impart knowledge on how to recycle and why it is important to properly manage waste. As Akaki says, once you throw it away, “it doesn’t just disappear”. Akaki has also developed a mobile app to educate youth on the history of Kutaisi. Leonore is Portuguese, lives in Kutaisi, speaks Georgian and loves Georgian dance, because she can sense a connection between Georgia and Europe through dancing.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Who are the main characters? What are their differences and similarities?
- What does it mean to be an active citizen? In what different ways can we be active citizens?
- How does it make you feel to see a woman from Portugal speak Georgian and learn Georgian dance?
- You watched Akaki, Leonore and others clean up the forest around Kutaisi.
Can you think of environmental issues in your surroundings that may need attention?
- The film ends with a quote of Montesquieu: “The tyranny of a prince in an oligarchy is not so dangerous to the public welfare as the apathy of a citizen in a democracy” and a quote of Vazha Pshavela: “Every true patriot is a cosmopolitan and every reasonable cosmopolitan is patriot”.
What is the link to the film and why do you think it has been included?

GURIA: CHAMPIONS



In Guria, we follow Lanchkhuti Football club who qualified for the European Champions League for the first time in Georgian history and with it, breaking all stereotypes. They are the female team but this is not the main focus of this story. From them, we learn friendship, leadership, decision making as a team and that gender has no place in sport. Great things take time, practice and dedication. The girls had to overcome barriers like financial difficulties and logistical challenges to train together but they managed and made it to trainings in good and bad weather alike. With this effort, they made it to the Champions League, making it to the top 32 teams. They made it to the grand stage and so, they can make it anywhere.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Is there a scene that you found particularly moving or emotional? If yes, which one and why?
- Have you experienced similar emotions to those of the football players?
- If you were to pick your favourite quality from one of the players, what would it be and why?
- How do you perceive the community of the Gurian football team?
- When the team's coach talks about how girls were not really supposed to play football in earlier times, how does that make you feel?

TAKEAWAYS

- Now that we have seen and discussed the film, what are your key takeaways?
- Did you learn something new?
- Did you see something in the film that you disagree with?
- Will this spark a conversation with friends or family?

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