

## TALKING LANGUAGES

In Sleepyville, Italy, there is a political conversation going on. The Slovenian minority of the city proposed, that lessons of Slovenian language should be obligatory for all secondary schools in the city. Many parties were against this proposal, since only 20% of the population are Slovenians.

Parties proposed many different solutions. For example Italian Pirate party was putting its hopes for the future and proposing that everyone should learn Esperanto. They also suggested that we should form a council of children. The Liberal Economical party wanted us to think about the young people, whom council decision will most clearly affect. Feminist party was mainly happy to see so many female faces in the council and especially the gender of the mayor made them really happy. Italian Nationalists party thought, that if Italian kids would learn Slovenian, it would be easier for criminal Slovenian kids to sell them drugs.

Meanwhile, the Workers party was again preparing for the revolution. During their speech, the mayor felt a bit insecure and the security was called. Twice the party members were told to back up from the mayor's table. This seemed to confuse her so much, that she dozed off in some points of the conversation. Someone also told the Workers party members to smoke less weed.

During the coffee brake an interesting suspicion was raised. The member of the APP, Oldrich Justa had been seen talking to the mayor before the council meeting. Some suggested corruption, but when asked about personal relationship between Justa and the mayor, the smile on his face couldn't have been wider.

### **The results**

To get back to the point, the main options that the different parties proposed were: obligatory Slovenian language, optional Slovenian language, and no Slovenian studies for Italians at all. German parties wanted people of Sleepyville to also learn German, since a big part of the city's tax-income comes from the German population.

After many beautiful speeches and different opinions, the council finally got to vote.

"It is important to know where you come from and what is your origin. It is important to know that your roots go deep into the ground", said the member of Slovenian traditionalists party. Even though their speech was touching, their law-proposal did not pass. Thus, there will be no obligatory Slovenian language for Sleepyville this time.

### **Questioning the politics**

In middle of all this hectic political talk and arguments, one can only wonder, what is

really happening and how does it affect individuals.

Can we really have any impact on political decisions, or are council meetings just a huge, dangerous playground for adults? Do people on the top of the pyramid really care, or are they so deep in their values and ideas, that they have forgotten about real life, that we live every day? What about those, who are still too young to vote?

These are the questions that raised in my head. When asked, how the mayor and the parties considered the young people who were affected by this decision, but can't vote yet, only the mayor was able to answer. She had visited schools and listened to the voice of the young people. Conveniently, she is the only one, who couldn't vote.

*By Noora Isomäki*