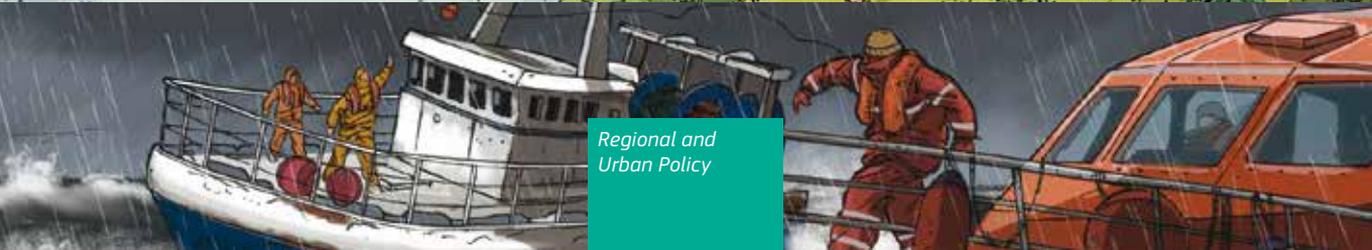




European  
Commission

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# PARTNERS



Regional and  
Urban Policy



# PARTNERS

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# THE REGIONS BRING US CLOSER TOGETHER

**T**he regions are the wealth of Europe: a mosaic of cultures, languages and diversity. An exceptional framework where our lives together change day after day. However, it is clear that the European regions do not all boast the same assets.

There are many – sometimes considerable – differences between the regions, for example in terms of job creation, economic growth, quality of life and sustainable development.

The task of regional and urban policymakers is to strengthen the economic, social and territorial cohesion of the European Union by reducing differences in standards of living through the transfer of know-how, by fostering human capital and promoting trans-border cooperation etc.

The least prosperous regions of the European Union benefit from valuable investments through projects relating to infrastructure, research and innovation and energy efficiency. The funds invested in these least-developed regions are powerful solidarity instruments. Moreover, they are beneficial to companies in countries with more advanced economies, which can export their know-how or merchandise to these less-developed regions.

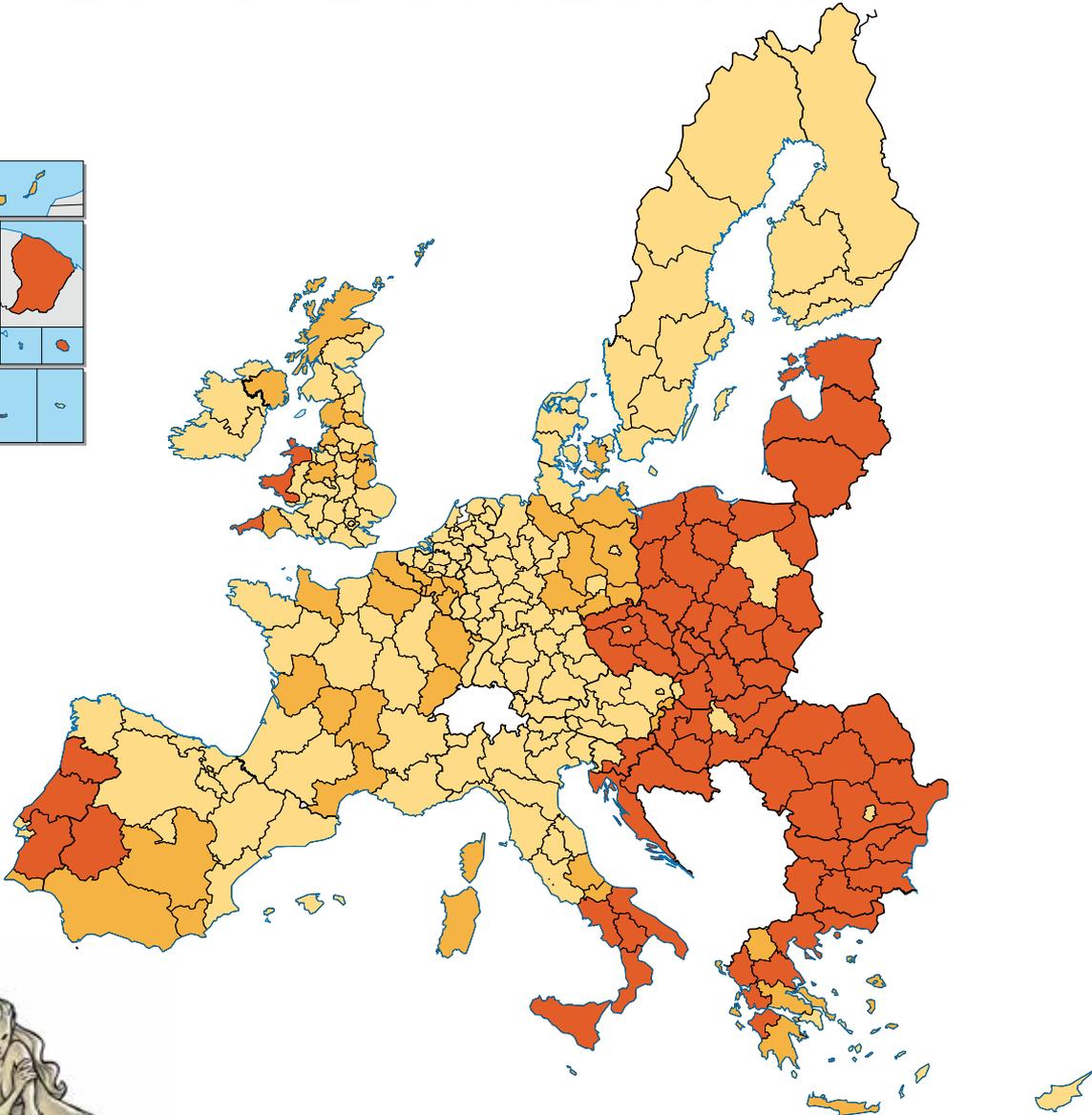
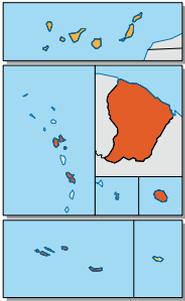
The goal of this policy is anything but abstract, namely to invest in the regions in order to improve the living and working conditions of citizens.

The six stories in this album illustrate the aim of regional and urban policy.

These titbits of life and stories of men and women were inspired by real, specific projects that contributed to improving the quality of life of countless European citizens.

Day in, day out these projects directly or indirectly benefit each and every one of us.

# BENEFITS FOR ALL EUROPEAN REGIONS



- least developed regions
- transition regions
- most developed regions

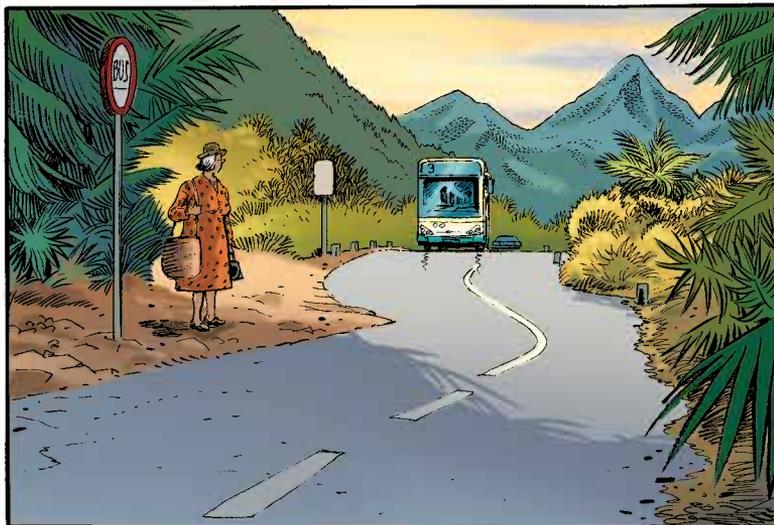
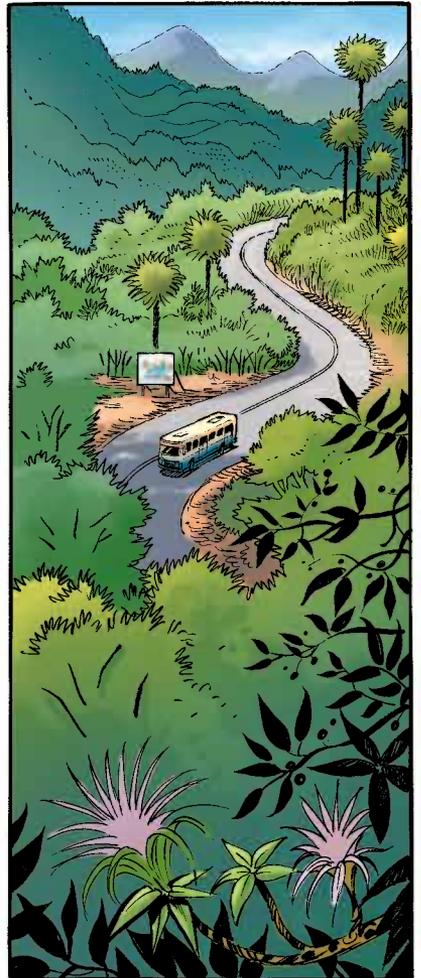
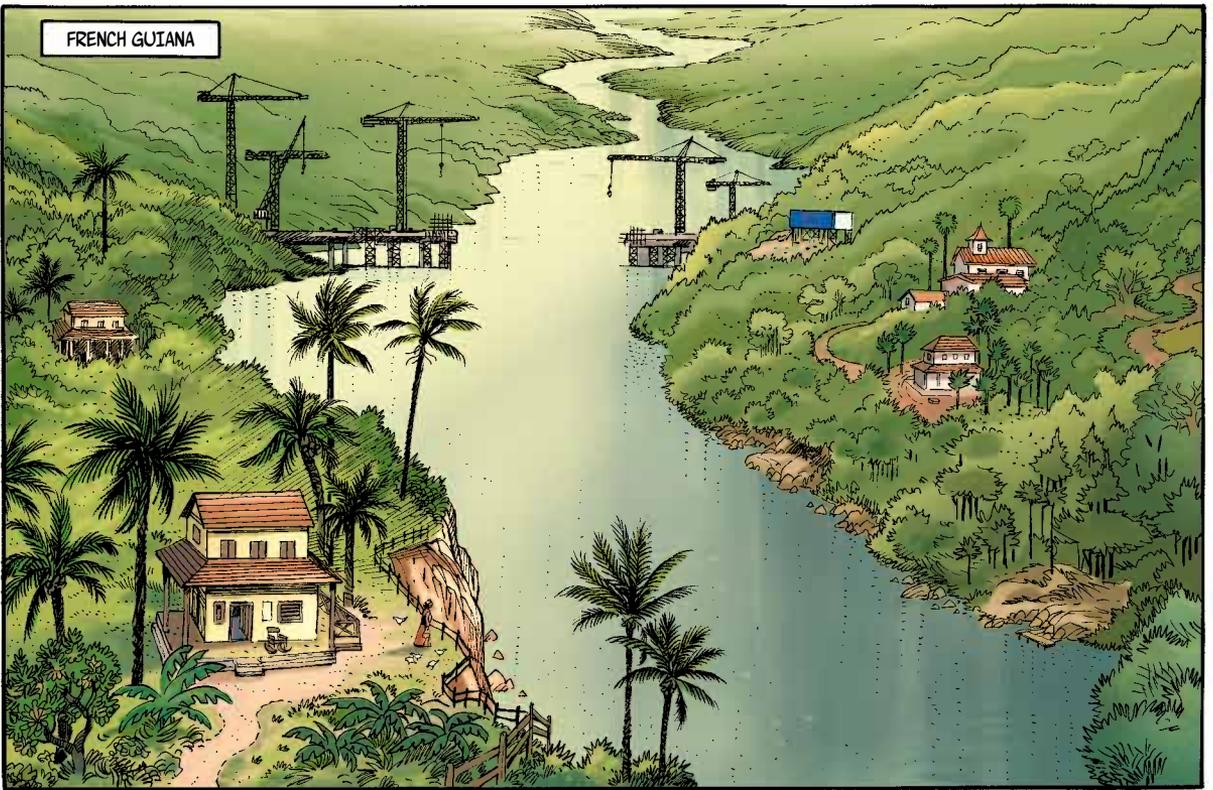


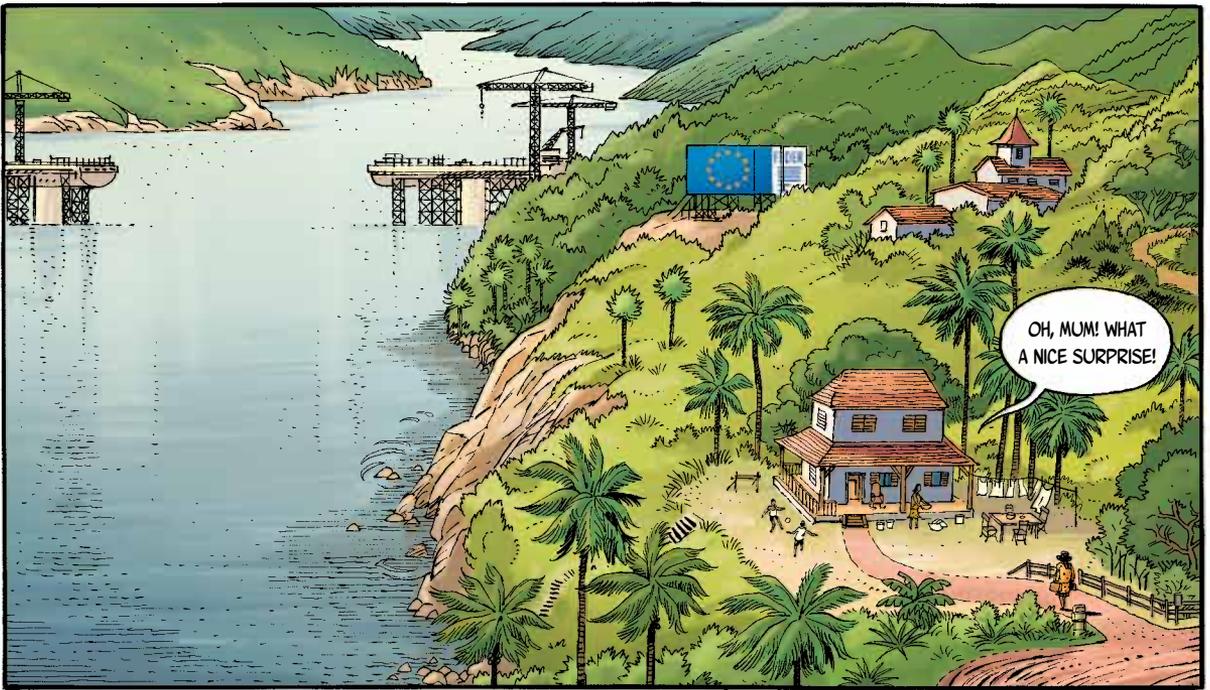
# REUNITED AGAIN

DRAWINGS: OLIVIER GRENSON









OH, MUM! WHAT A NICE SURPRISE!



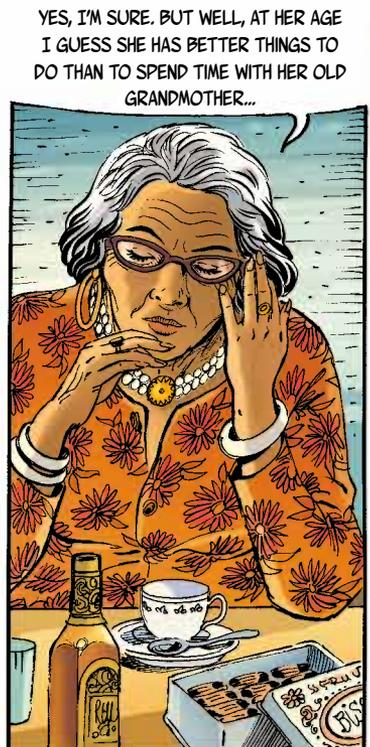
I HOPE THE TRIP WASN'T TOO LONG. IT'S QUITE AN ORDEAL COMING HERE...

THREE HOURS BY BUS. AND WE LIVE FIVE HUNDRED METRES FROM EACH OTHER... CRAZY ISN'T IT?!



I CAME TO VISIT CLÉMENTINE. WE TALKED ON THE PHONE...

WHAT A PITY, SHE'S NOT HOME! ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T GET THE DAY WRONG?

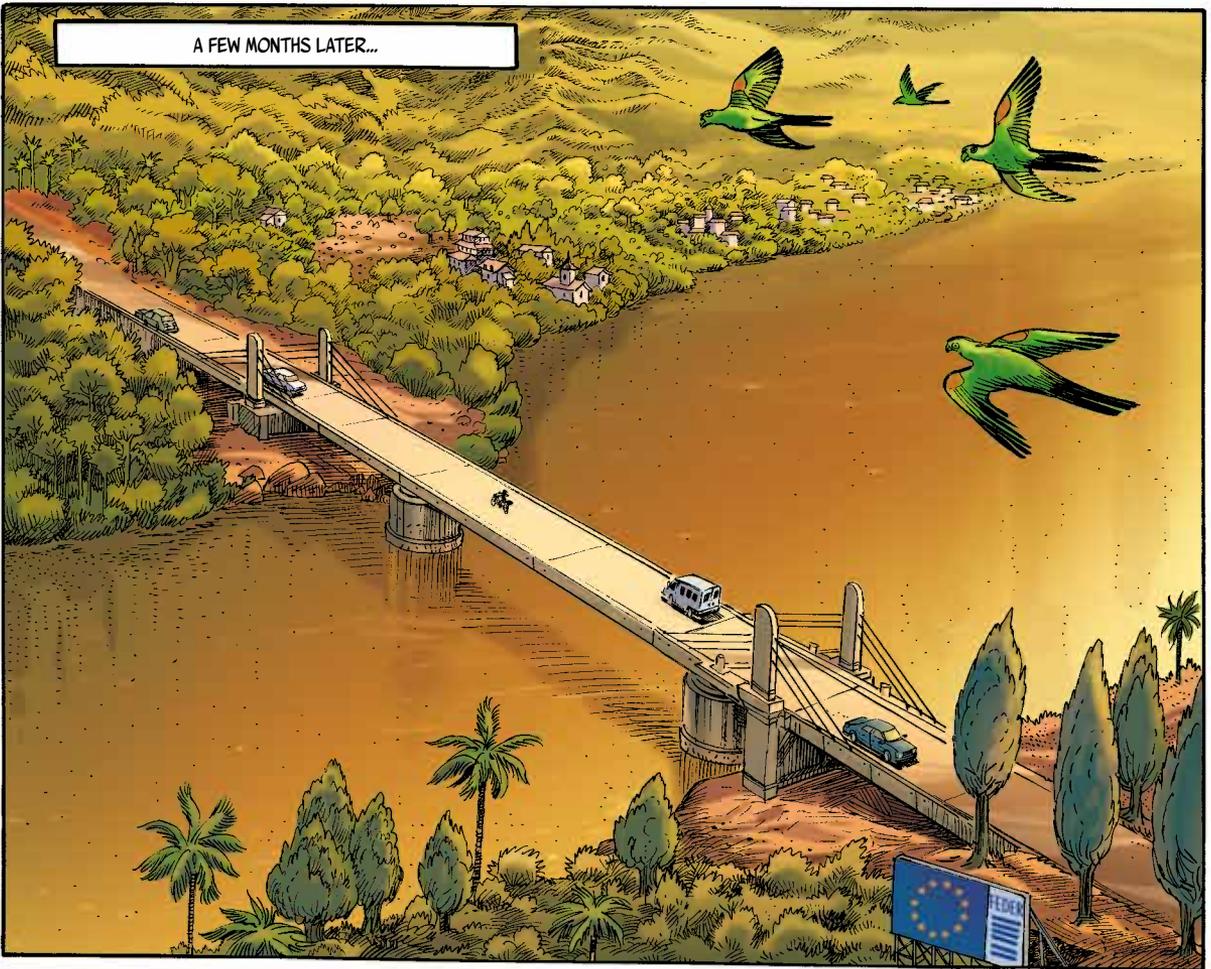


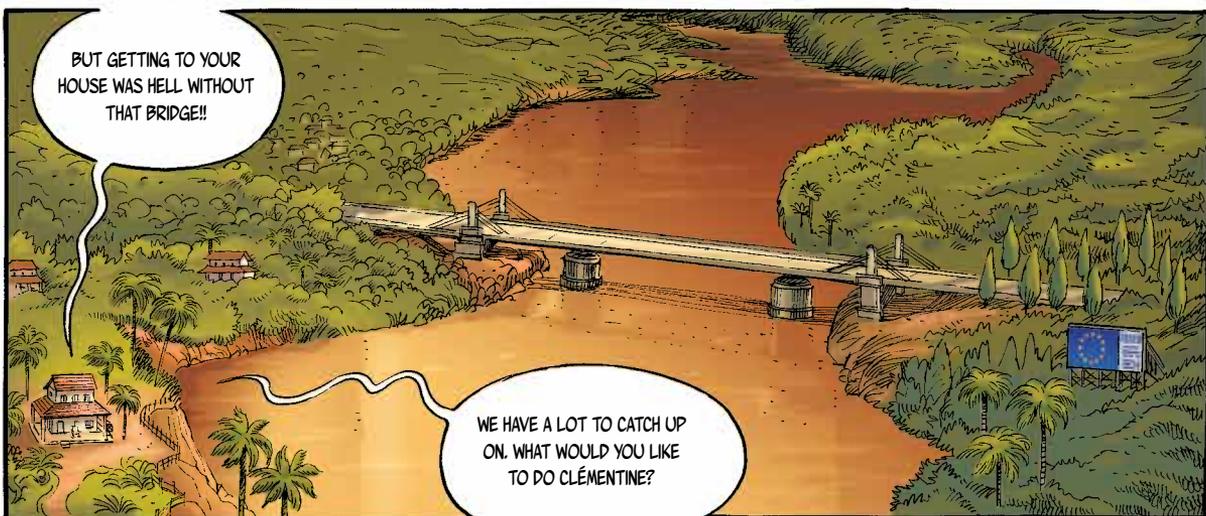
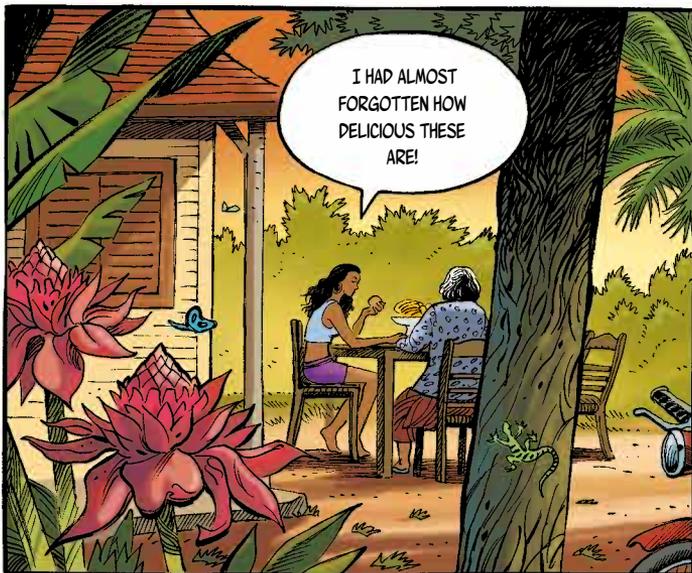
YES, I'M SURE. BUT WELL, AT HER AGE I GUESS SHE HAS BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN TO SPEND TIME WITH HER OLD GRANDMOTHER...

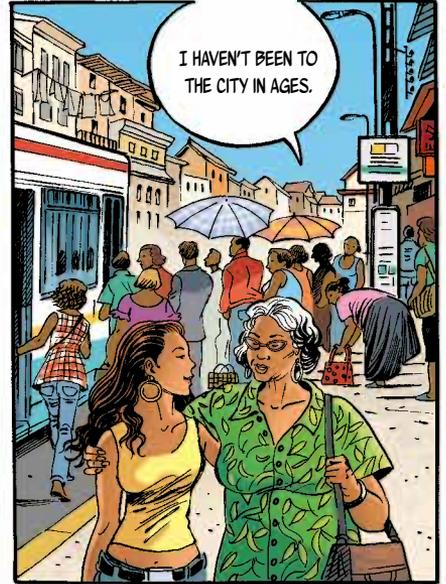
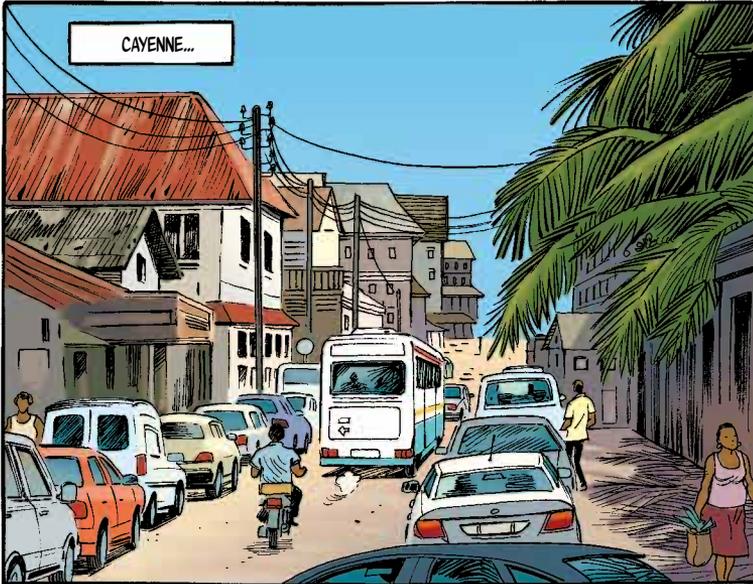


DON'T BE SILLY. SHE ADORES YOU AND YOU KNOW THAT! ANYWAY, SOON, WHEN THEY OPEN THE BRIDGE AND THE NEW ROAD, SEEING EACH OTHER WILL BECOME MUCH EASIER...

A FEW MONTHS LATER...









I'M SURE YOU'D LOOK GREAT IN THAT DRESS

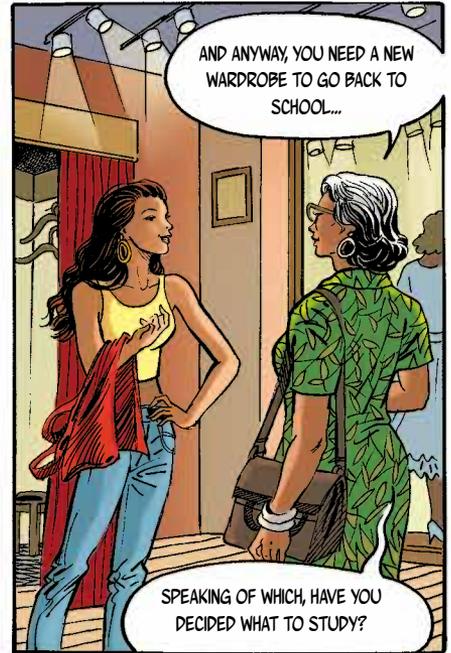


YOU LOOK GORGEOUS!

LET'S TAKE IT!

GRANDMA, YOU'RE INSANE!

MAYBE. BUT AT MY AGE IT'S TOO LATE TO CHANGE MY WAYS!...



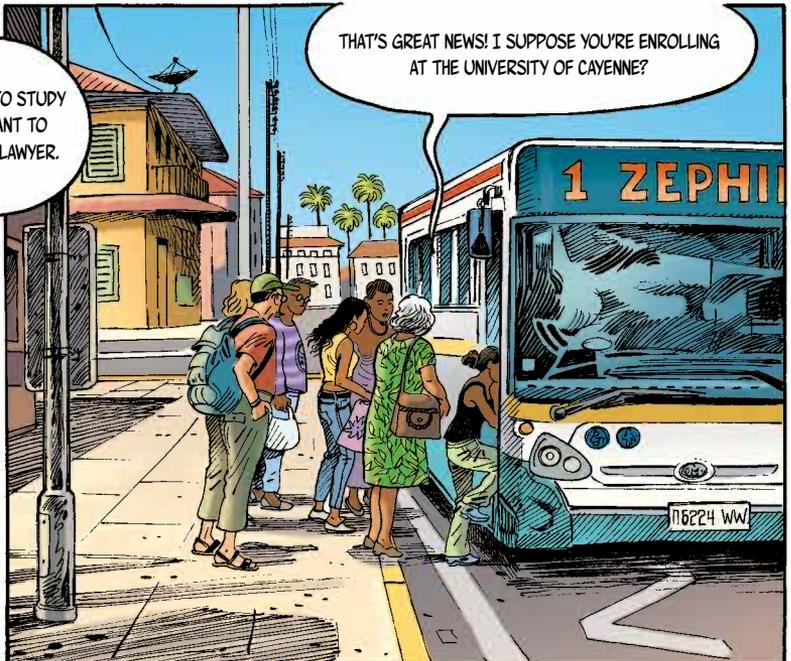
AND ANYWAY, YOU NEED A NEW WARDROBE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL...

SPEAKING OF WHICH, HAVE YOU DECIDED WHAT TO STUDY?



YES

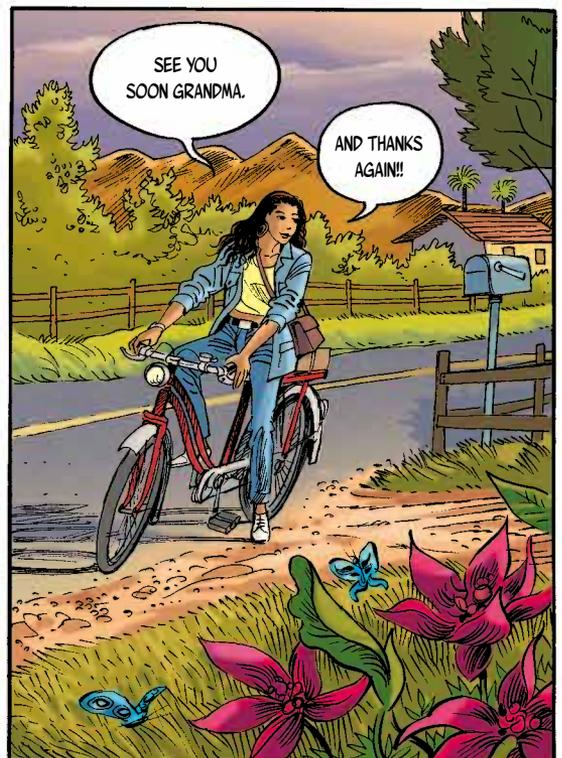
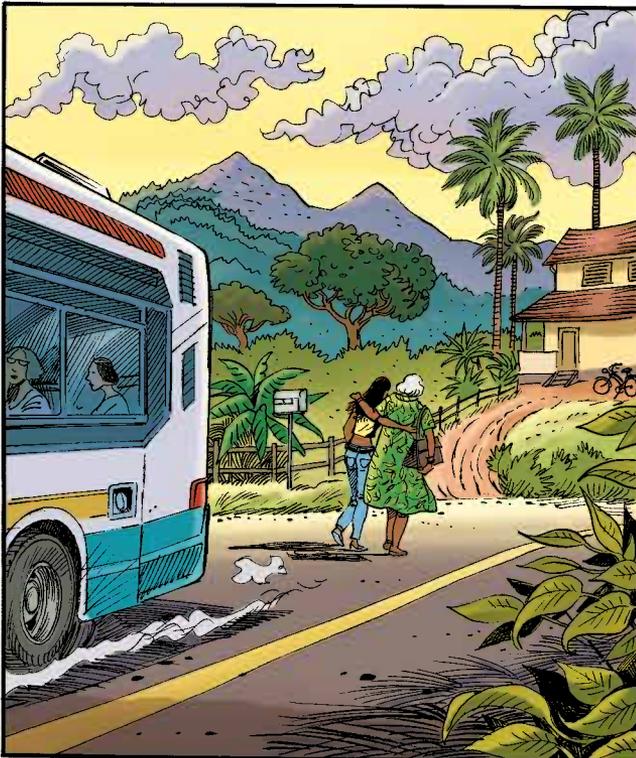
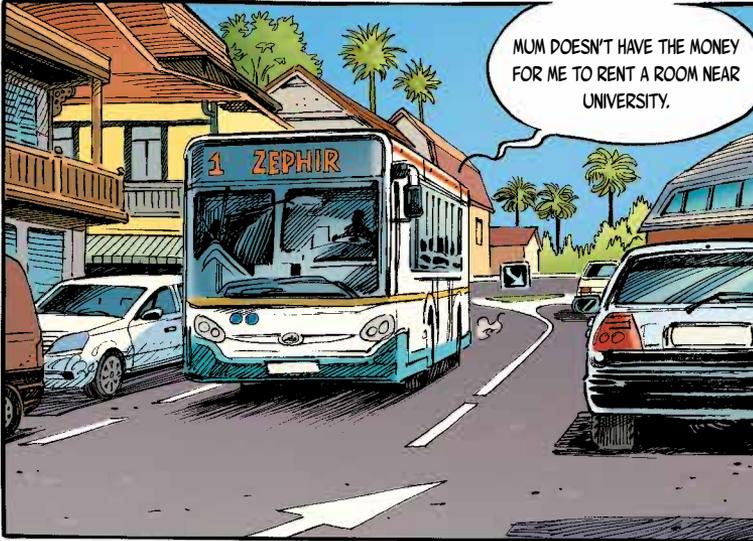
I'M GOING TO STUDY LAW! I WANT TO BECOME A LAWYER.

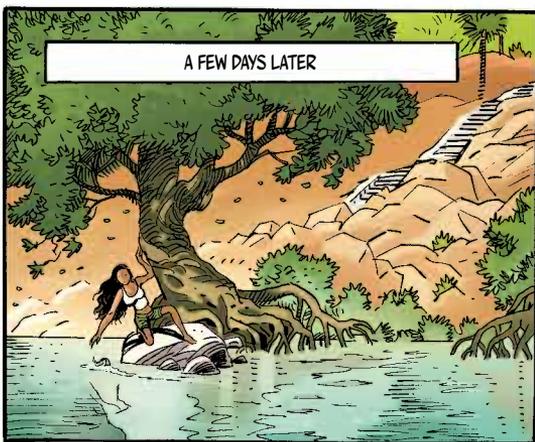


THAT'S GREAT NEWS! I SUPPOSE YOU'RE ENROLLING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAYENNE?

1 ZEPHII

116224 WW





A FEW DAYS LATER



I'M GOING TO PUT MY HOUSE UP FOR SALE AND MOVE TO CAYENNE. I HAVE SOME FRIENDS IN THE CITY AND THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING TO DO THERE.



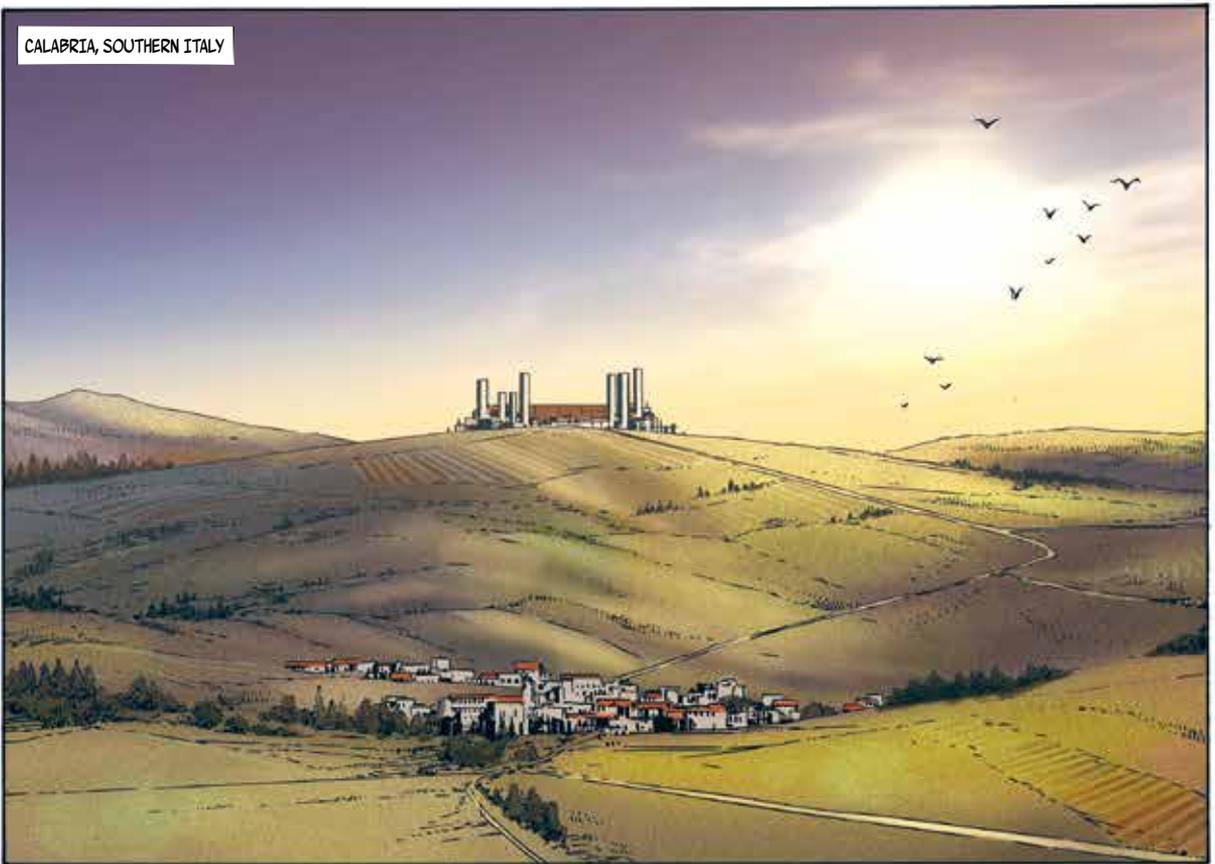
GRENSON 2013

# LOCAL NETWORKS

DRAWINGS: STEFANO RAFFAELE







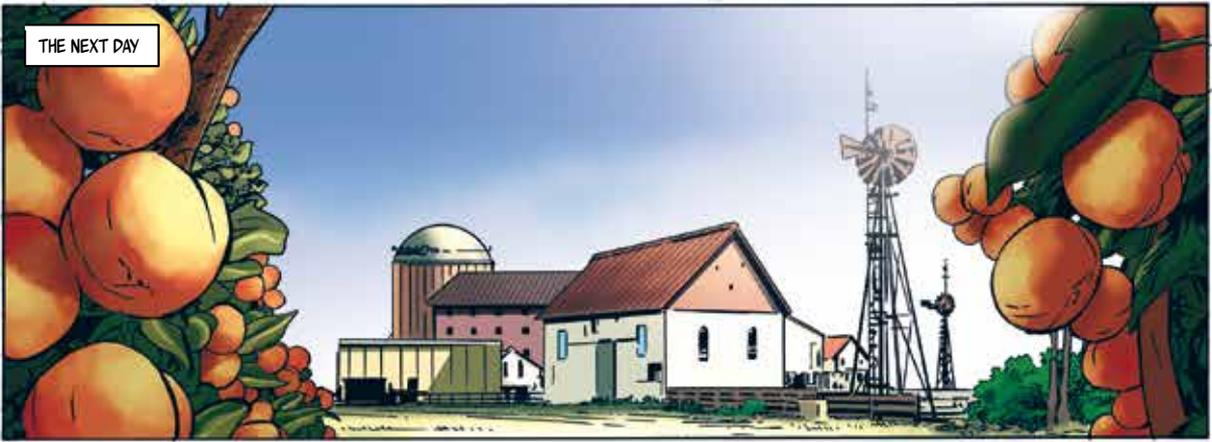
IT'S AN HONOUR FOR ME TO OPEN FARE IMPRESA. IN THE THIRTIES THIS FACTORY WAS THE BEATING HEART OF THE REGION'S ECONOMY.



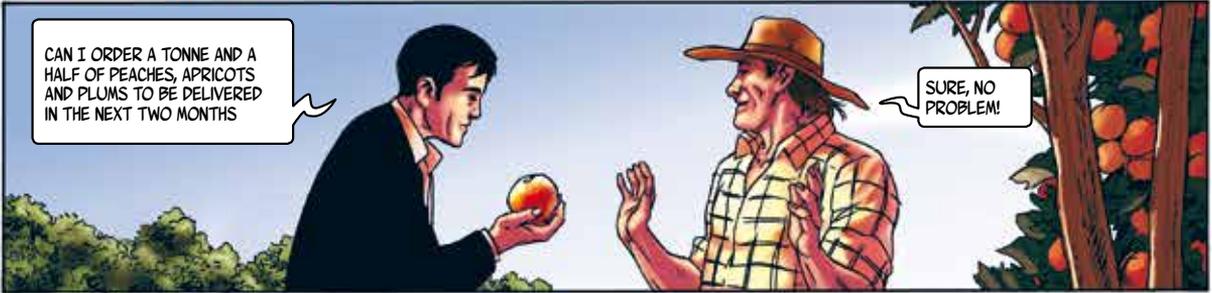
IT WAS ABANDONED FOR FOUR DECADES, PARTIALLY DESTROYED BY AN EARTHQUAKE AND THEN REBUILT THANKS TO THE EUROPEAN UNION'S SOLIDARITY FUND. NOW WE CAN WRITE A NEW CHAPTER IN ITS HISTORY.



WELCOME TO THIS 'INCUBATOR FOR INNOVATIVE ENTERPRISES', YOUR BUSINESS CENTRE SUPPORTED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION. GOOD LUCK TO YOU ALL!

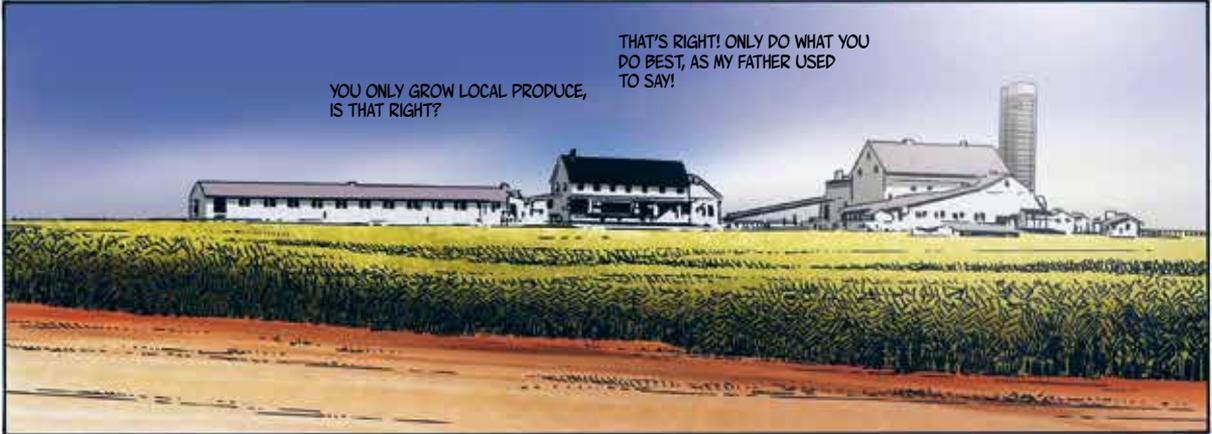


THE NEXT DAY



CAN I ORDER A TONNE AND A HALF OF PEACHES, APRICOTS AND PLUMS TO BE DELIVERED IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS

SURE, NO PROBLEM!



YOU ONLY GROW LOCAL PRODUCE, IS THAT RIGHT?

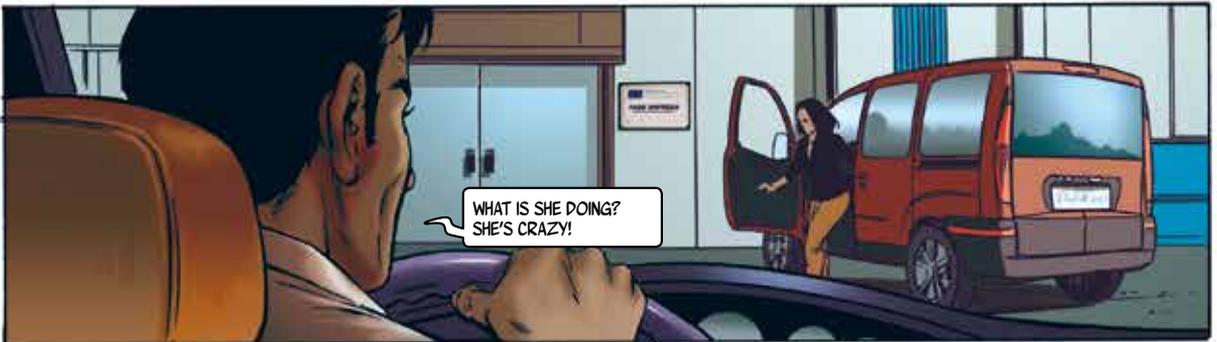
THAT'S RIGHT! ONLY DO WHAT YOU DO BEST, AS MY FATHER USED TO SAY!

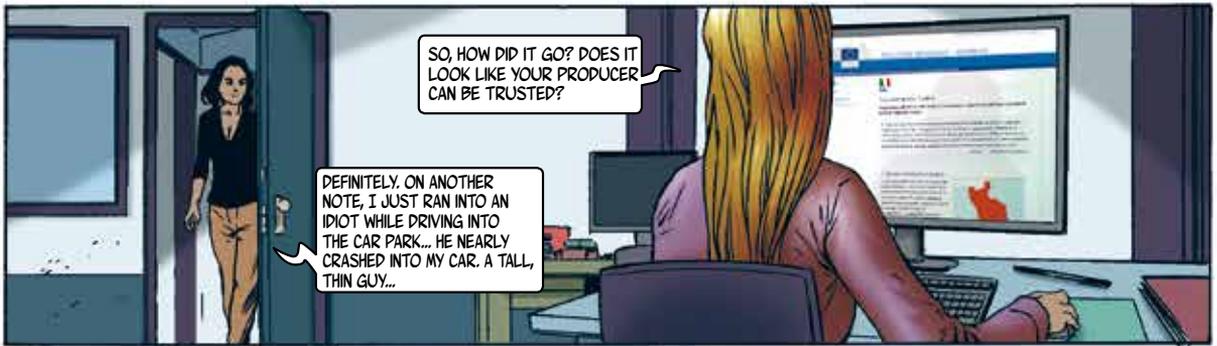


YES, AND WE'RE AUDITED BY AN INDEPENDENT BODY.

YOUR ASPARAGUS IS DELICIOUS! ARE ALL YOUR PRODUCTS CERTIFIED AS ORGANIC?







SO, HOW DID IT GO? DOES IT LOOK LIKE YOUR PRODUCER CAN BE TRUSTED?

DEFINITELY. ON ANOTHER NOTE, I JUST RAN INTO AN IDIOT WHILE DRIVING INTO THE CAR PARK... HE NEARLY CRASHED INTO MY CAR. A TALL, THIN GUY...



I SEE... AND QUITE GOOD-LOOKING TOO?... HE'S IN OUR FIELD: HE SELLS LOCAL FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ONLINE.



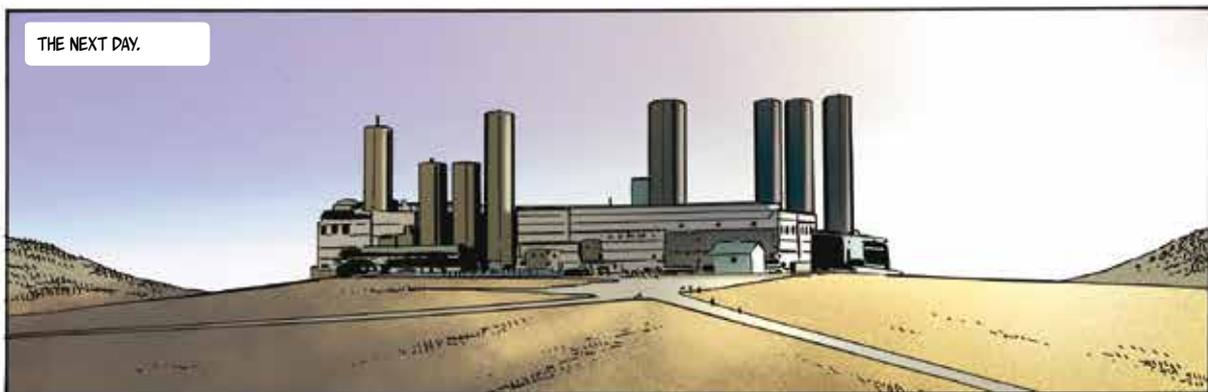
HE'D BETTER NOT STEP ON OUR TOES, THAT ONE! I'M WATCHING HIM!

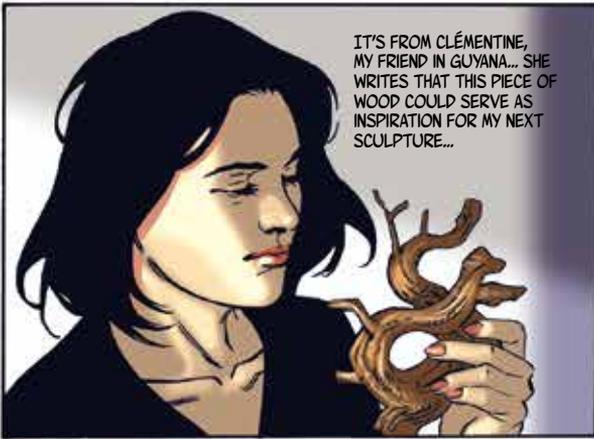


THAT CRAZY DRIVER DOES HAVE A NICE WEBSITE THOUGH

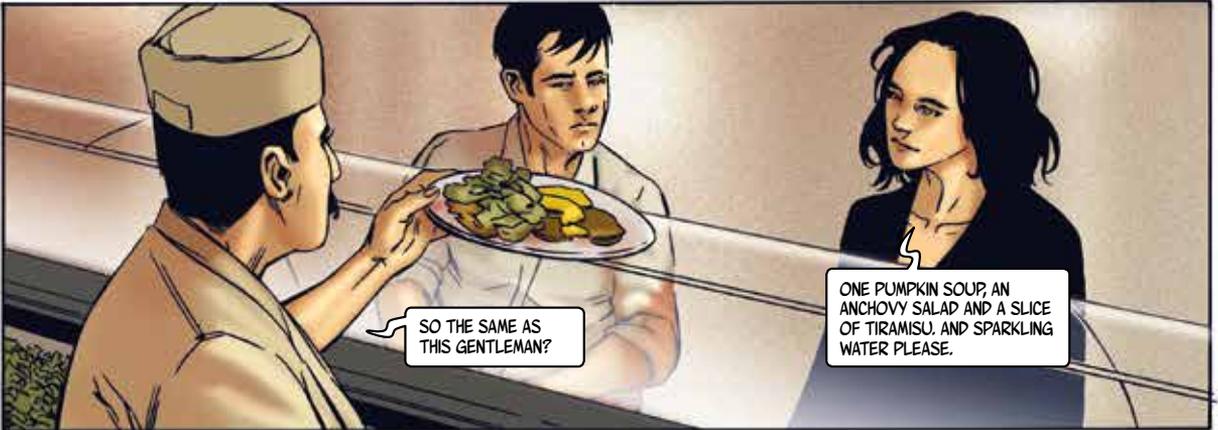


THE NEXT DAY.





IT'S FROM CLÉMENTINE, MY FRIEND IN GUYANA... SHE WRITES THAT THIS PIECE OF WOOD COULD SERVE AS INSPIRATION FOR MY NEXT SCULPTURE...



SO THE SAME AS THIS GENTLEMAN?

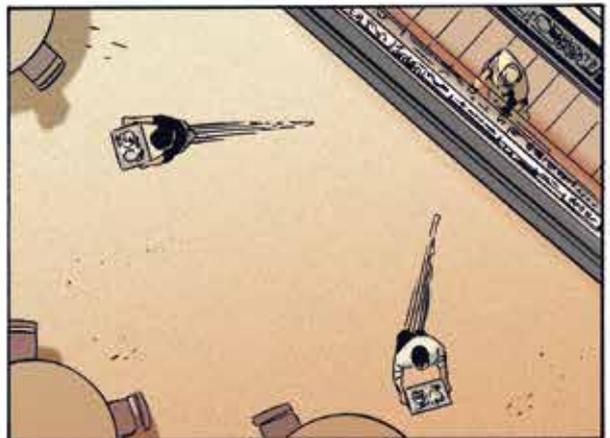
ONE PUMPKIN SOUP, AN ANCHOVY SALAD AND A SLICE OF TIRAMISU. AND SPARKLING WATER PLEASE.



HMMM... APPARENTLY, YES.



BUON APPETITO, SIGNORINA!





I SEE WE'RE DEALING WITH THE SAME PRODUCERS... HAVING CAR TROUBLE MISS? NEED A HAND?



SAME HERE. I WAS A BIT HESITANT TO TAKE THE PLUNGE. BUT WORKING WITH OTHER YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS CREATES SOME HEALTHY COMPETITION. SO I DECIDED TO GO FOR IT!

MY FIRST PROJECT WASN'T MUCH OF A SUCCESS. BUT I'VE LEARNT FROM MY MISTAKES. FARE IMPRESA IS A GREAT NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR ME.



IN SOME WAYS YES... BUT YOU'RE MORE INTO 'EACH MAN FOR HIMSELF', NO? IF YOUR CAR HADN'T BROKEN DOWN, YOU'D STILL BE GIVING ME THE SILENT TREATMENT...



I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT... I'M NOT THAT EASY-GOING AFTER ALL, BUT WE'RE COMPETITORS, AREN'T WE?

NOT ENTIRELY... I HAD A LOOK AT YOUR WEBSITE...



OUR PROJECTS COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER WELL. WE SHOULDN'T BE COMPETING...

LET'S MAKE A TOAST, AS BUSINESS MANAGERS, TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR RESPECTIVE PROJECTS!



WHY DON'T WE JOIN FORCES INSTEAD OF SIMPLY WORKING SIDE BY SIDE? I LOOKED INTO THE EUROPEAN FUNDS WE COULD BENEFIT FROM, AND THE ERDF SEEMS LIKE A SAFE BET...



FRUIT AND VEGETABLES ARE QUITE COMPATIBLE INDEED... AND TAKING PART IN ERASMUS+ FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS HAS PUSHED ME INTO TRYING OUT NEW IDEAS...

LET'S SHAKE ON IT



WHAT ARE YOU SCULPTING?

A SMALL MERMAID... A FRIEND SENT ME A PIECE OF WOOD FROM FRENCH GUIANA...

# PROMISES

DRAWINGS: YOU







POMORSKIE REGION, NORTHERN POLAND. UNIVERSITY CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE.



I MUST FIND THE SOLUTION TO THIS!



I'M STARVING TOO, PUSZEK! I KNOW I PROMISED TO COME HOME AT MORE DECENT HOURS...



I NEED TO GET ROUND TO DOING SOME FOOD SHOPPING. AND I SHOULD LEARN TO COOK TOO.



THE NEXT MORNING.



GOOD MORNING, ANIESSA!



HERE'S YOUR MAIL, CECYLIA.

I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT WITH PROFESSOR VALDESA. I'M DAWID LIBERSKI. I'M A REPRESENTATIVE OF NANOMO.



LET ME CALL HIM.

HE'S READY TO SEE YOU.



LET ME SHOW YOU TO HIS OFFICE. I'M GOING THAT WAY.

WHAT DO YOU DO?



I'M A RESEARCHER. I STUDIED MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY THAT FOUNDED OUR CENTRE. THANKS TO THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH NETWORK I WAS ABLE TO GAIN EXPERIENCE ABROAD. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

MY STORY IS SIMILAR TO YOURS. FIRST I WORKED IN GERMANY, THEN A LOCAL PRIVATE LAB, NANOMO, RECRUITED ME. LIKE YOU, WE CONDUCT CANCER RESEARCH.

OUR EMPLOYERS WOULD LIKE TO JOIN FORCES.  
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE.

THAT'S GOOD NEWS. SOMETIMES WE FEEL A LITTLE  
LONELY IN THE LAB, OUR IVORY TOWER...



WE RECEIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THE  
EUROPEAN UNION - THROUGH OUR  
REGION - TO DEVELOP OUR  
RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

THAT'S HOW WE MANAGED TO GET SEVERAL  
INTERESTING EUROPEAN PATENTS FOR CANCER  
RESEARCH.

OUR WORK IS CLEARLY COMPLEMENTARY. WE COULD WORK TOGETHER  
TO PUT THOSE PATENTS TO GOOD USE...



UNIVERSITY CANCER RESEARCH CENTRE.

HOW'S IT GOING, CECYLIA?

FINE, THANKS. WAS IT A FRUITFUL MEETING?

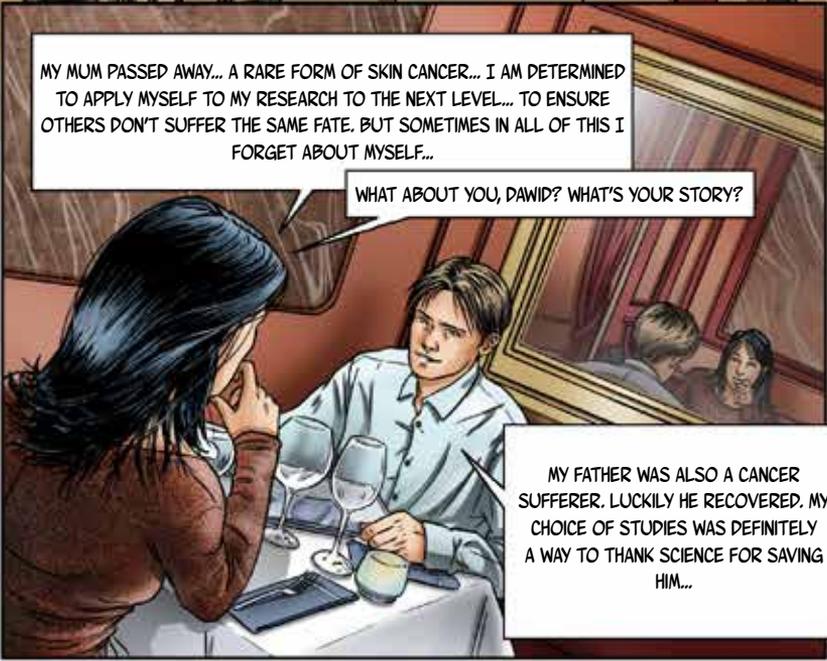
YES, IT WAS. WE'RE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS COLLABORATION.

ARE YOU GOING STRAIGHT HOME? I FOUND A LITTLE RESTAURANT NEAR HERE... CARE TO JOIN ME?

SOME MORE WINE?

SOUNDS TEMPTING! ESPECIALLY CONSIDERING MY EMPTY FRIDGE... AND I'M NO KITCHEN GODDESS EITHER.

JUST A LITTLE, THANKS...



MY MUM PASSED AWAY... A RARE FORM OF SKIN CANCER... I AM DETERMINED TO APPLY MYSELF TO MY RESEARCH TO THE NEXT LEVEL... TO ENSURE OTHERS DON'T SUFFER THE SAME FATE. BUT SOMETIMES IN ALL OF THIS I FORGET ABOUT MYSELF...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, DAWID? WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

MY FATHER WAS ALSO A CANCER SUFFERER. LUCKILY HE RECOVERED. MY CHOICE OF STUDIES WAS DEFINITELY A WAY TO THANK SCIENCE FOR SAVING HIM...

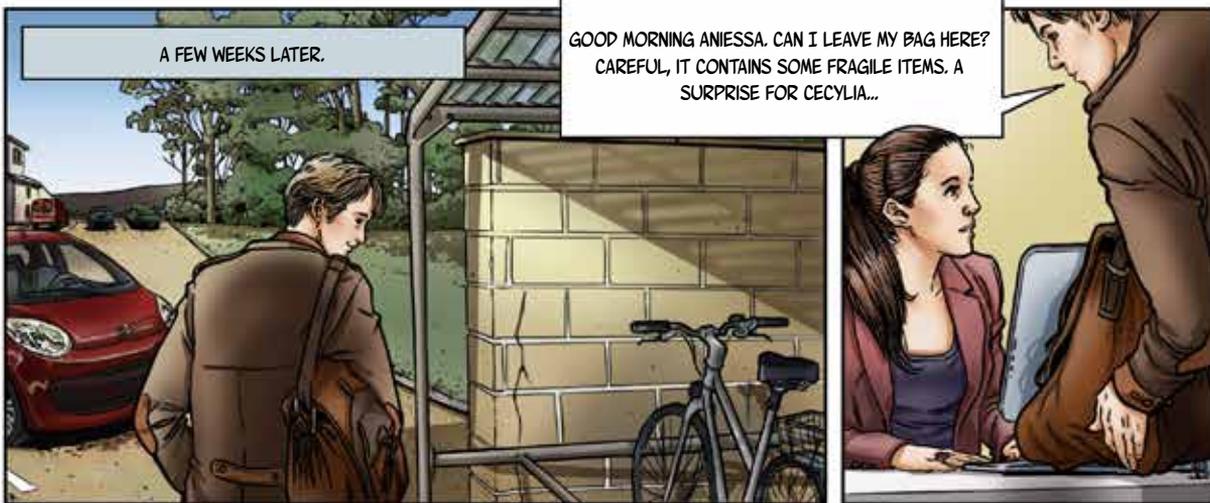


AS FOR HOBBIES, I LOVE TO COOK AND TRY OUT NEW FLAVOUR COMBINATIONS ...

WOW... I HAVE A FEELING YOU'RE GOING TO SHOW ME UP... UNLESS YOU'RE WILLING TO SHARE SOME OF YOUR CHEF'S SECRETS WITH ME?

A FEW WEEKS LATER.

GOOD MORNING ANIESSA. CAN I LEAVE MY BAG HERE?  
CAREFUL, IT CONTAINS SOME FRAGILE ITEMS. A  
SURPRISE FOR CECYLIA...

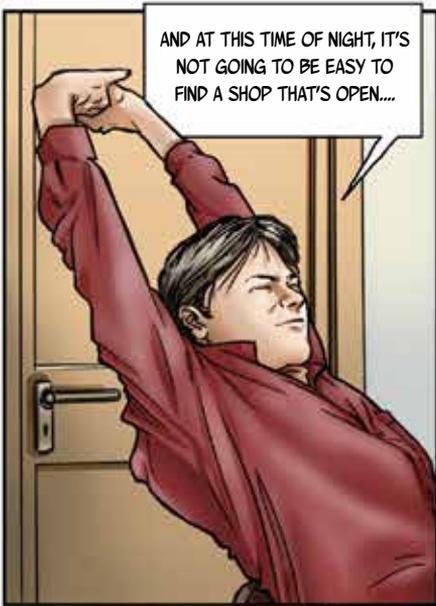


YOU'RE AN EARLY BIRD...

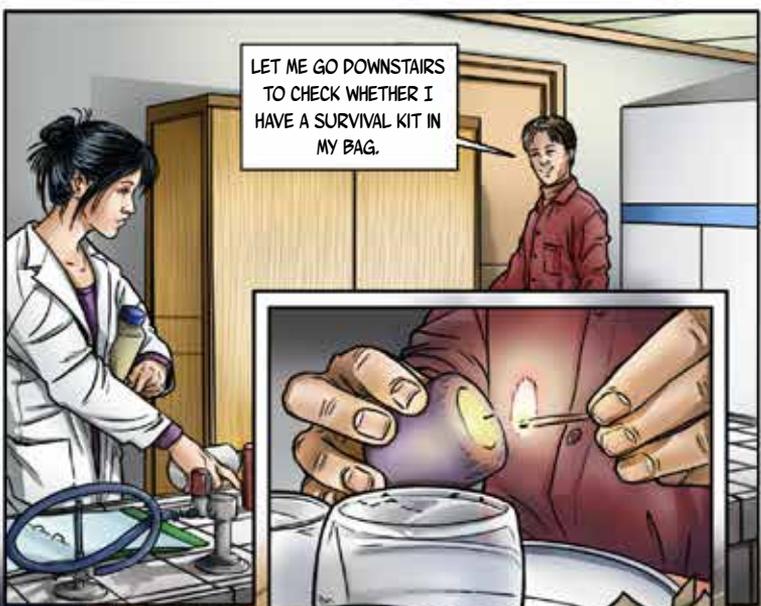
HAAAA! GOING OUT IS CLEARLY MY THING...  
IT MOTIVATES ME TO GET BACK TO WORK!  
HAVE A SEAT, DAWID. I NEED TO RESOLVE AN  
ISSUE I'VE BEEN PONDERING FOR A WHILE.



PFFF... I'M WRECKED... AND STARVING! I TOTALLY LOST  
TRACK OF TIME.



AND AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT, IT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY TO FIND A SHOP THAT'S OPEN....



LET ME GO DOWNSTAIRS TO CHECK WHETHER I HAVE A SURVIVAL KIT IN MY BAG.



CLOSE YOUR EYES, CECYLIA! AND COME IN...



SO TELL ME, ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT A MAGICIAN?? THIS IS A FIRST FOR ME!

SO YOU HAD ALL OF THIS PLANNED SINCE YESTERDAY EVENING THEN?



I'M JUST PASSIONATE ABOUT CHEMISTRY AND RESEARCH, EVEN IN THE KITCHEN... READY TO HAVE A TASTE OF MY MOLECULAR CUISINE?

ON THE WAY HOME.



DID YOU SLEEP WELL, CECYLIA?

NOT ENOUGH, BUT I'M ALL HYPED UP THIS MORNING!! YOU BLEW ME AWAY WITH YOUR COOKING. IT WAS DIVINE!

I LOVE TEAM WORK...



YESTERDAY, WHEN I SAW YOU MEASURE THE DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS, I GOT AN IDEA... I HAD TOLD YOU WHAT WORRIED ME ABOUT THE RESULTS OF MY LATEST ANALYSES ...

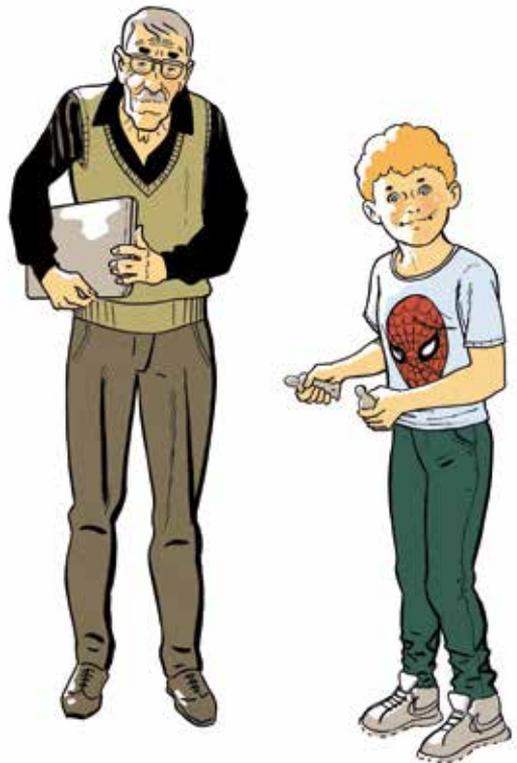
YES. DON'T TELL ME YESTERDAY'S LITTLE SHOW INSPIRED YOU TO FIND A SOLUTION...

YES, IT DID. NOW I'VE GOT NEW AREAS OF RESEARCH TO FOCUS ON!



# FIGURES

DRAWINGS: FRANCK BIANCARELLI





NORTHERN IRELAND

HI EVERYONE. I'M HOME!

SO, HOW WAS  
POLAND?

AND YOUR CONFERENCE ABOUT THE  
BALTIC SEA?

VERY INTERESTING.  
AND WHAT A BEAUTIFUL  
REGION

BUT WE HAD ONE  
MEETING AFTER  
ANOTHER.

I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH TIME TO VISIT PLACES...

DO WE HAVE NEW  
NEIGHBOURS?

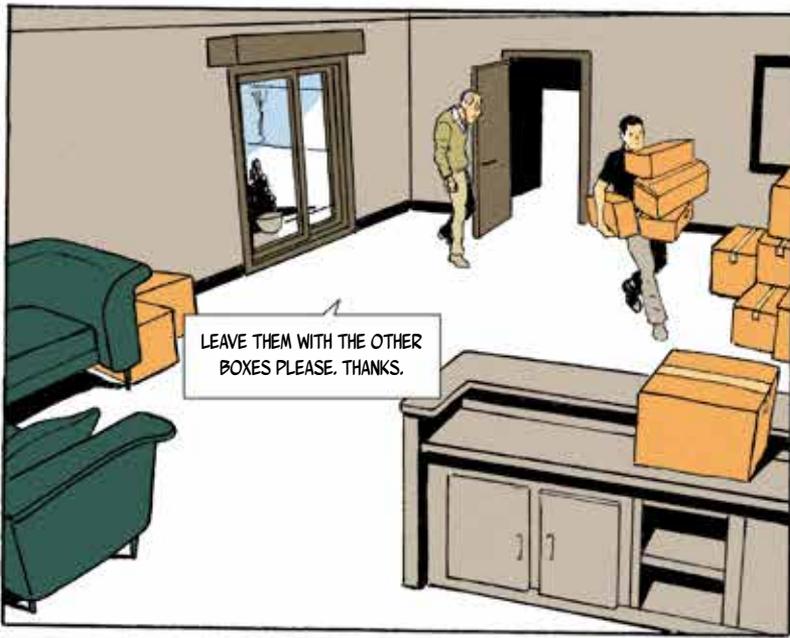
YES. A MAN. HE TOLD ME HE'S MOVING HERE

... FOR A FEW MONTHS.

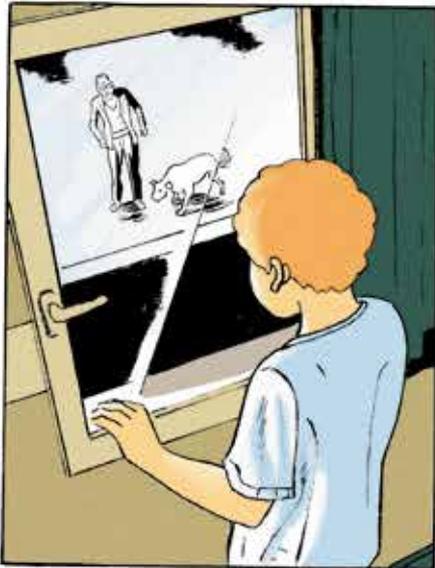
JUST FOR A FEW MONTHS?

HE'S HERE FOR SOME  
MEDICAL TESTS.

HE LIVES IN THE COUNTRYSIDE.

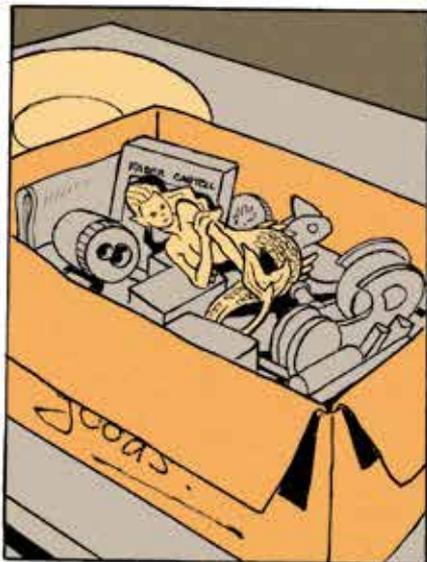


LEAVE THEM WITH THE OTHER BOXES PLEASE. THANKS.



WE SHOULD INVITE HIM FOR DINNER. HE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW ANYONE IN TOWN.

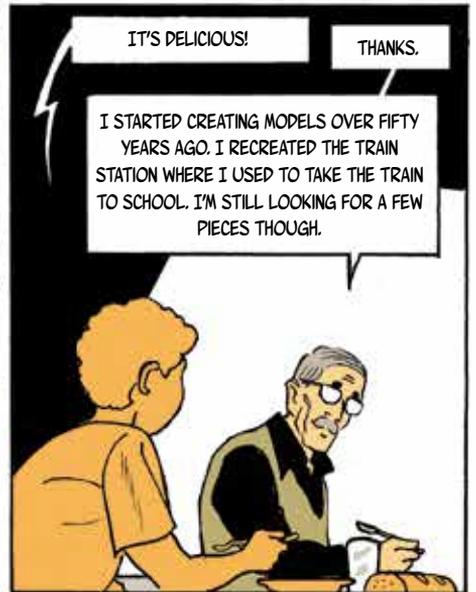
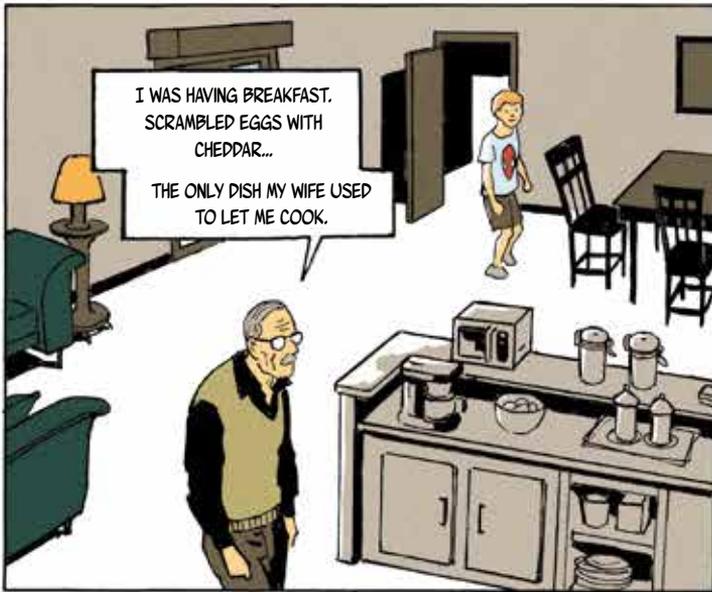
GOOD IDEA HONEY!





NICE TO MEET YOU COLIN. I'M GARY. I ALSO COLLECT FIGURINES. TRAINS ACTUALLY.







I PROMISED HIM I WOULD HELP HIM FIND THE MISSING FIGURES ONLINE.

WHY DON'T YOU INVITE HIM OVER FOR DINNER? HOW ABOUT TOMORROW?



AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH ON THE IRISH POET?

JOHN DARCY IS HIS NAME, RIGHT?



YES, IT IS. I'M STILL LOOKING FOR SOME DOCUMENTS.



THE NEXT EVENING

THIS IS DELICIOUS, MRS MCCLUSKY.

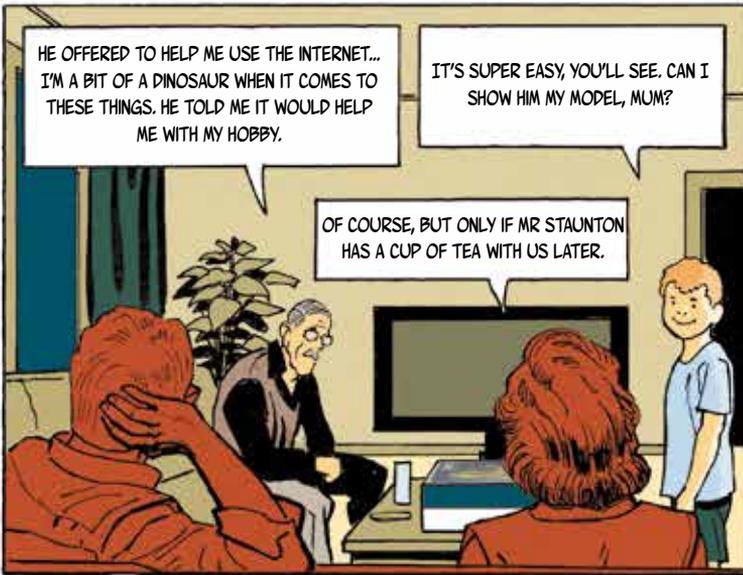
WE'RE REALLY HAPPY TO HAVE YOU, GARY. COLIN TOLD US HE WAS IMPRESSED WITH YOUR RAILWAY MODEL.



HE OFFERED TO HELP ME USE THE INTERNET... I'M A BIT OF A DINOSAUR WHEN IT COMES TO THESE THINGS. HE TOLD ME IT WOULD HELP ME WITH MY HOBBY.

IT'S SUPER EASY, YOU'LL SEE. CAN I SHOW HIM MY MODEL, MUM?

OF COURSE, BUT ONLY IF MR STAUNTON HAS A CUP OF TEA WITH US LATER.

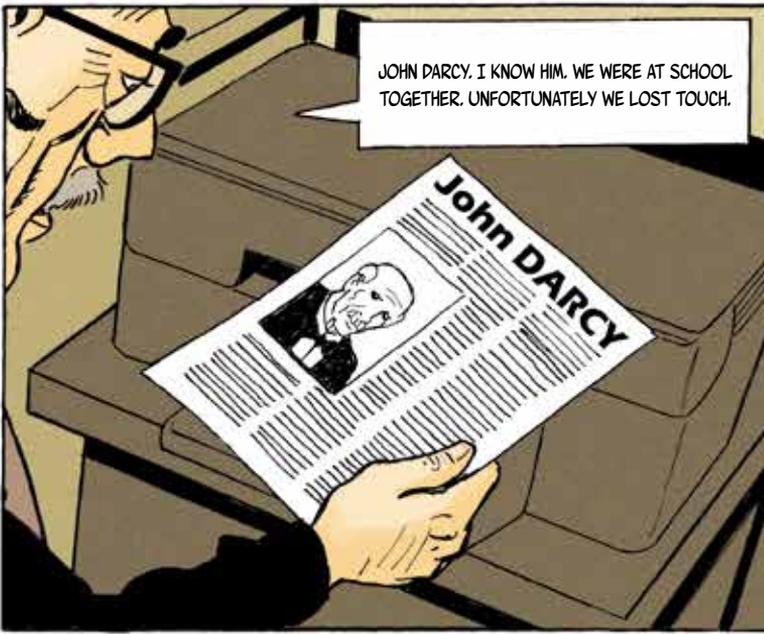


AS SOON AS COLIN AND I ARE DONE, I'D LOVE TO.



IMPRESSIVE!!

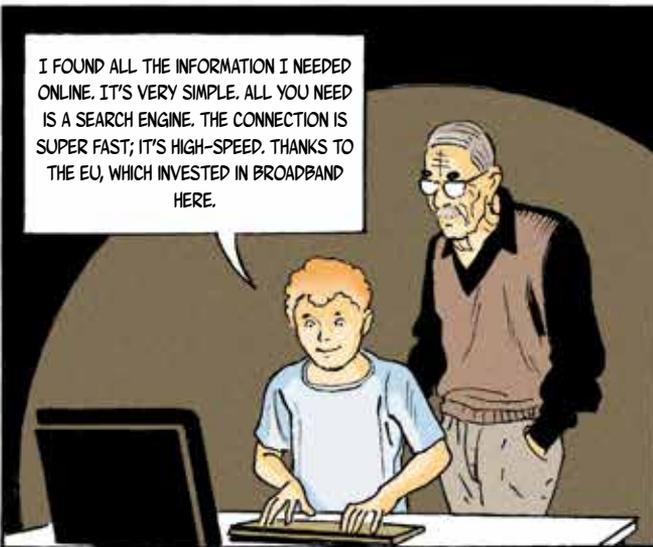
I TRIED TO RECREATE THE MOST WELL-KNOWN BUILDINGS OF OUR TOWN...



JOHN DARCY. I KNOW HIM. WE WERE AT SCHOOL TOGETHER. UNFORTUNATELY WE LOST TOUCH.



HE'S A FAMOUS IRISH POET. I'M WORKING ON A PRESENTATION ABOUT HIM. IT'S AMAZING THAT YOU KNOW HIM!



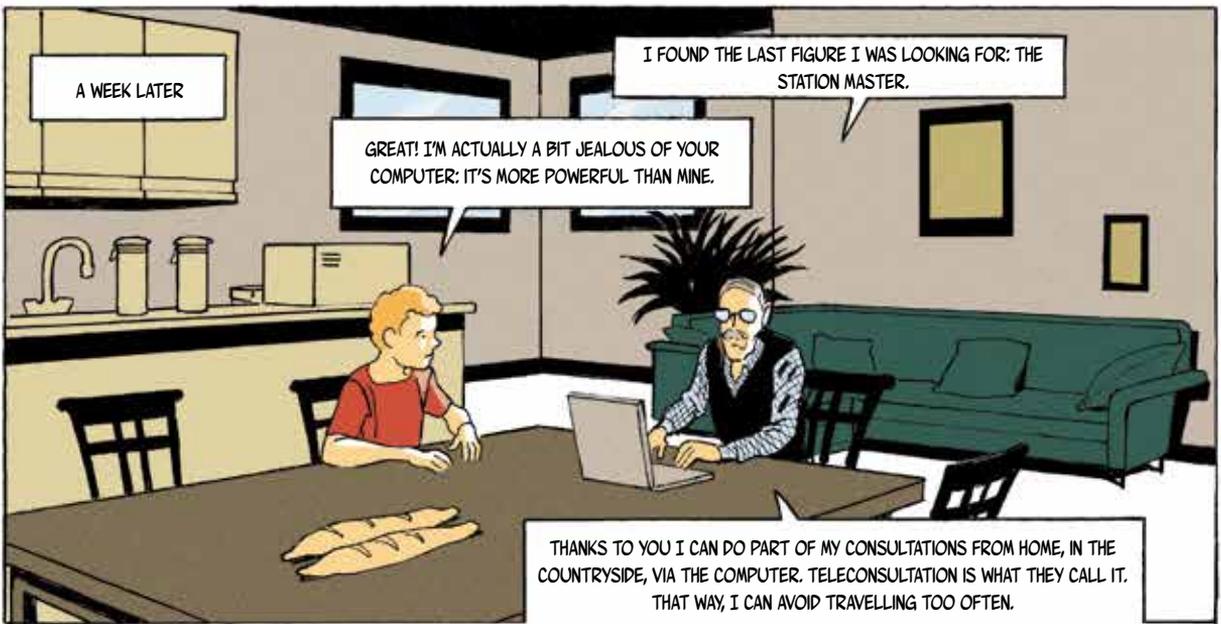
I FOUND ALL THE INFORMATION I NEEDED ONLINE. IT'S VERY SIMPLE. ALL YOU NEED IS A SEARCH ENGINE. THE CONNECTION IS SUPER FAST; IT'S HIGH-SPEED. THANKS TO THE EU, WHICH INVESTED IN BROADBAND HERE.

I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER THAT THE EUROPEAN UNION CO-FINANCED THE REGIONAL NETWORK.



WHAT FIGURINES ARE YOU STILL LOOKING FOR?





A WEEK LATER

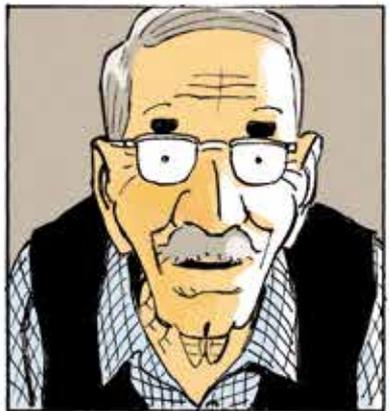
I FOUND THE LAST FIGURE I WAS LOOKING FOR: THE STATION MASTER.

GREAT! I'M ACTUALLY A BIT JEALOUS OF YOUR COMPUTER: IT'S MORE POWERFUL THAN MINE.

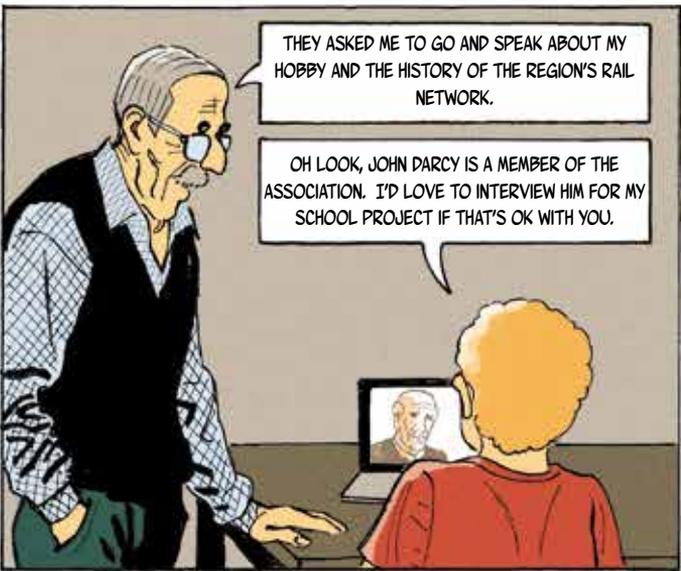
THANKS TO YOU I CAN DO PART OF MY CONSULTATIONS FROM HOME, IN THE COUNTRYSIDE, VIA THE COMPUTER. TELECONSULTATION IS WHAT THEY CALL IT. THAT WAY, I CAN AVOID TRAVELLING TOO OFTEN.



I ALSO RECONNECTED WITH SOME CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.

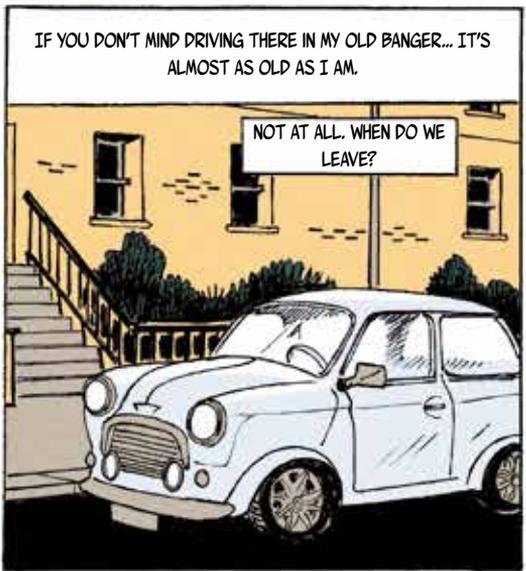


THEY'VE CREATED A CROSS-COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CALLED 'LOCAL STORIES' WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION. THEY ORGANISE PRESENTATIONS ON LOCAL HISTORY WHILE COOKING THEIR GARDEN PRODUCE.



THEY ASKED ME TO GO AND SPEAK ABOUT MY HOBBY AND THE HISTORY OF THE REGION'S RAIL NETWORK.

OH LOOK, JOHN DARCY IS A MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATION. I'D LOVE TO INTERVIEW HIM FOR MY SCHOOL PROJECT IF THAT'S OK WITH YOU.



IF YOU DON'T MIND DRIVING THERE IN MY OLD BANGER... IT'S ALMOST AS OLD AS I AM.

NOT AT ALL. WHEN DO WE LEAVE?

# MUSIC, MAESTRO!

DRAWINGS: PAUL TENG



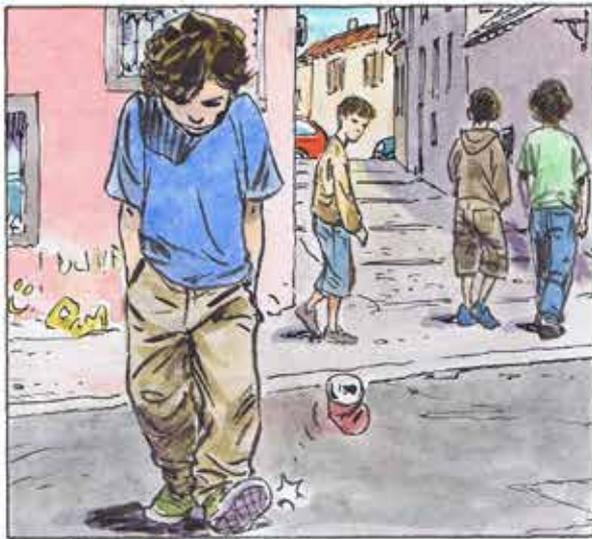
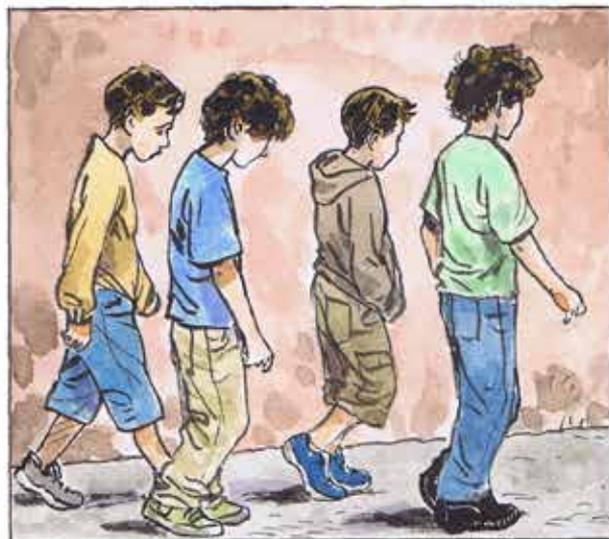


LISBON, PORTUGAL.



SHOULD I STAY OR SHOULD I GO NOW...

TAKE YOUR RACKET ELSEWHERE, CARLOS! I CAN'T GET ANY SLEEP WITH YOU AROUND!



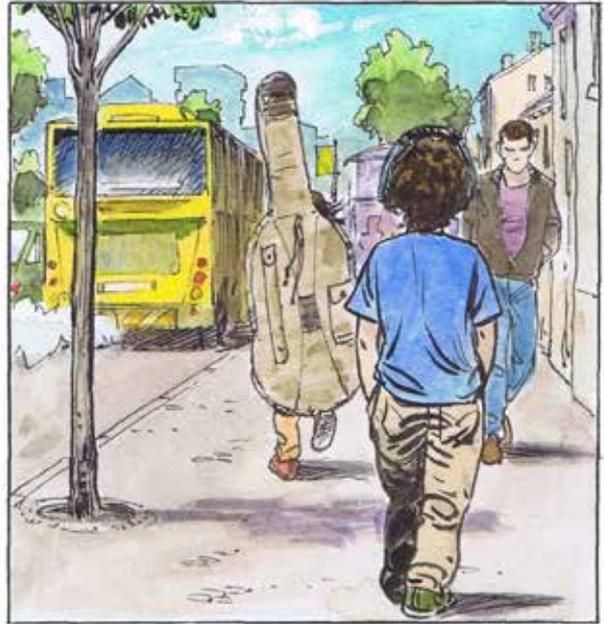
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS STUPID NEIGHBOURHOOD. YOU CAN'T EVEN PLAY QUIETLY WITH YOUR FRIENDS WITHOUT GETTING SHOUTED AT!

BE PATIENT, CARLOS. SOON THE SQUARE WILL BE COMPLETELY REFURBISHED.

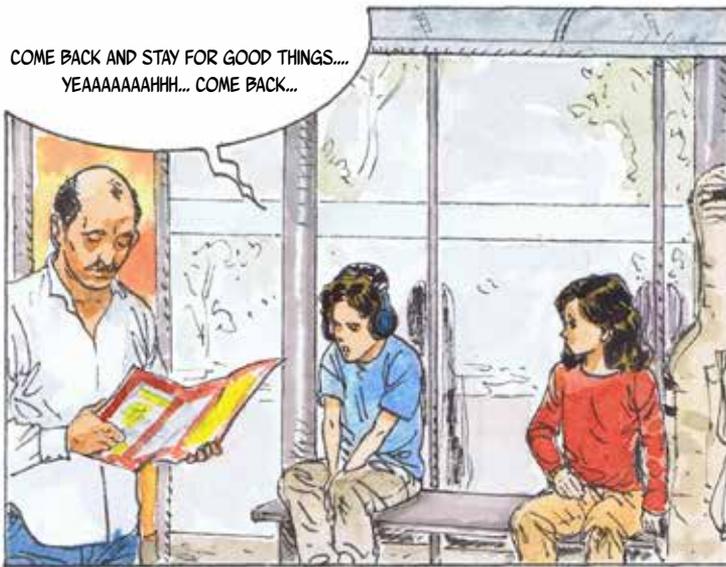
YES, BUT THERE STILL WON'T BE MUCH TO DO ANYWAY. WE'RE BORED OUT OF OUR SKULLS HERE!



I'M GOING FOR A WALK IN THE CENTRE!



COME BACK AND STAY FOR GOOD THINGS...  
YEAAAAAAHHH... COME BACK...



HAHAHAHAHA



HMM... WHAT'S SO FUNNY? ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME??

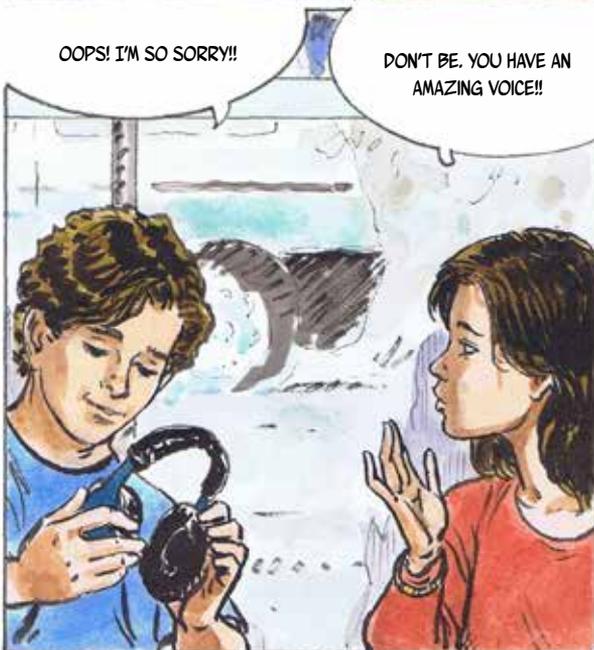


YES!! HAHAHAHA

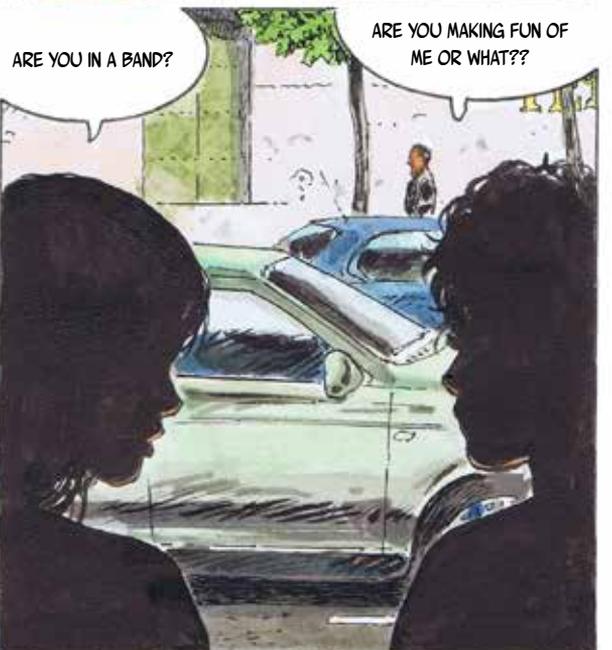
BECAUSE WITH YOUR HEADPHONES ON YOU DIDN'T REALISE  
YOU WERE SINGING REALLY LOUD...



OOPS! I'M SO SORRY!!



DON'T BE. YOU HAVE AN  
AMAZING VOICE!!



ARE YOU IN A BAND?

ARE YOU MAKING FUN OF  
ME OR WHAT??

NO, I SWEAR! YOU SHOULD MEET OUR MUSIC TEACHER.  
I'M MEETING THE BAND TO REHEARSE.

WHAT INSTRUMENT DO  
YOU PLAY?



DOUBLE BASS.



IMPRESSIVE.

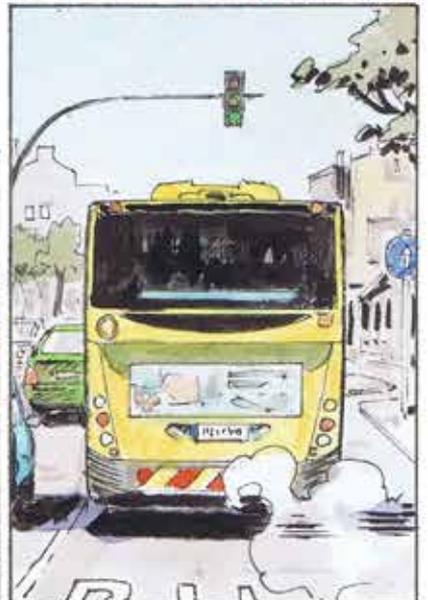
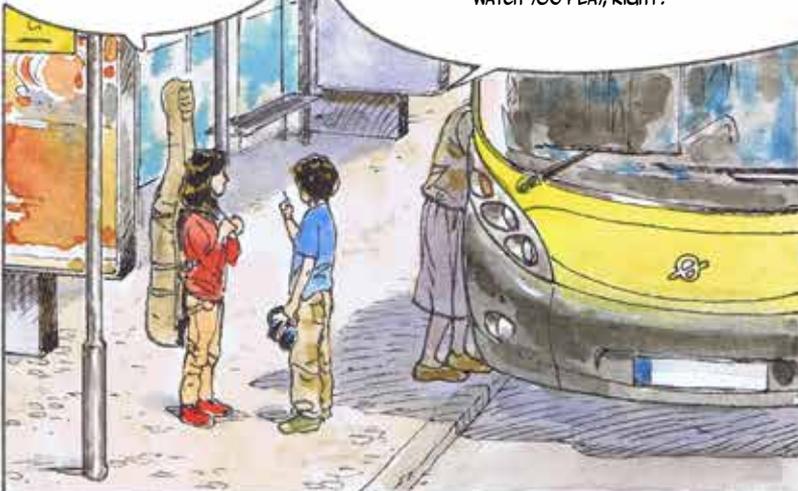


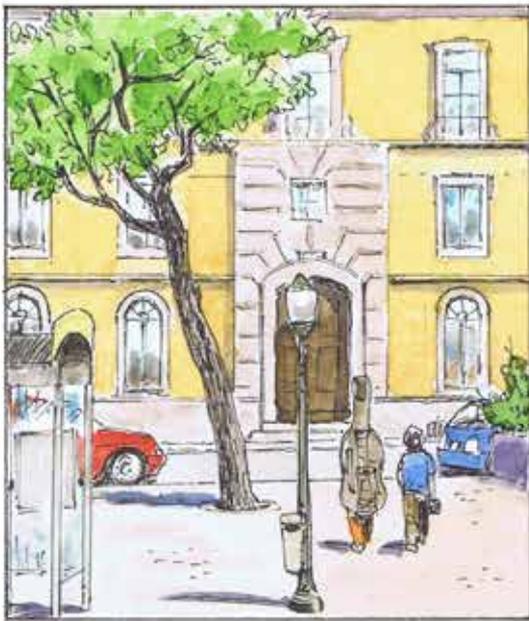
YOU KNOW, I'VE ONLY JUST  
STARTED. NONE OF THE OTHER  
MEMBERS OF THE BAND HAD EVEN  
TOUCHED AN INSTRUMENT A FEW  
MONTHS AGO. WE KNEW NOTHING  
ABOUT CLASSICAL MUSIC.



THERE'S THE BUS... WOULD YOU  
LIKE TO JOIN ME? MY NAME IS  
ADRIANA, BY THE WAY.

I'M CARLOS! SURE, I'LL COME WITH YOU... I DIDN'T HAVE  
ANY PLANS FOR THIS AFTERNOON ANYWAY... BUT JUST TO  
WATCH YOU PLAY, RIGHT?





HI ADRIANA. DID YOU BRING AN ADMIRER?

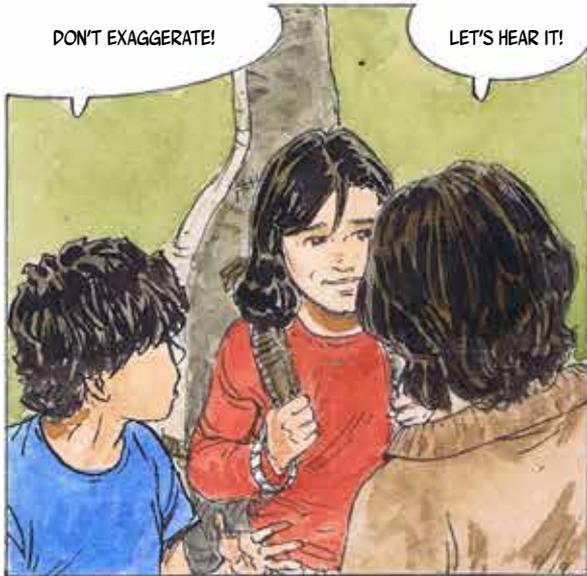
ACTUALLY I'M THE ADMIRER HERE. I LOVE HIS VOICE, CARMINDA.



DON'T EXAGGERATE!

LET'S HEAR IT!

HMMM... I DIDN'T COME HERE TO SING. TELL THEM, ADRIANA! I ONLY CAME TO WATCH YOU REHEARSE.



AND MAYBE LISTEN A LITTLE TOO, RIGHT?! ANYWAY, TIME FOR OUR REHEARSAL. AND AFTER THAT, YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE AUDITIONING!



TWO HOURS LATER.

SEE, SHE AGREED WITH ME. YOUR VOICE IS AMAZING! I'M HAPPY SHE CONVINCED YOU TO JOIN OUR BAND.

YOU LEFT ME NO CHOICE. BUT I'M REALLY HAPPY. I DON'T MIND TELLING YOU NOW THAT I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO SING IN A BAND.



LET'S MEET TOMORROW, OK?

DEAL!



AHA, FINALLY. I WAS STARTING TO WORRY!

THE MOST AMAZING THING HAPPENED. A CLASSICAL MUSIC BAND ASKED ME TO JOIN THEM AS A SINGER.



ARE YOU JOKING?? AND HOW MUCH WILL THAT COST ME? YOU KNOW I HAVEN'T GOT A PENNY TO SPARE.

NOTHING, DON'T WORRY. IT'S A PROJECT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE FROM OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD FINANCED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION.

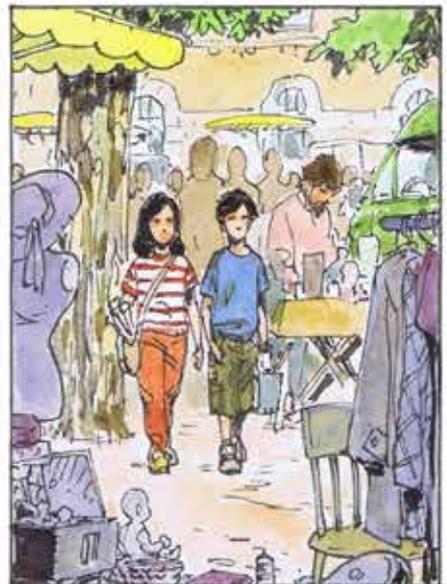


A FEW DAYS LATER



THEY'RE OPENING THE NEW SQUARE IN TWO WEEKS... WHY DON'T WE CELEBRATE WITH A SMALL OUTDOOR CONCERT?

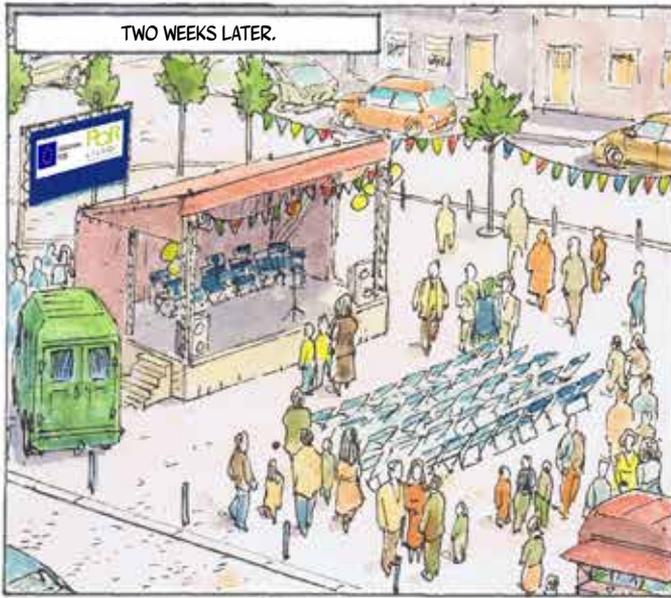
GREAT IDEA! ESPECIALLY SINCE OUR PROJECT IS LINKED TO THE REVITALISATION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. THE CITY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION FINANCED EVERYTHING. CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF THE POSTERS?



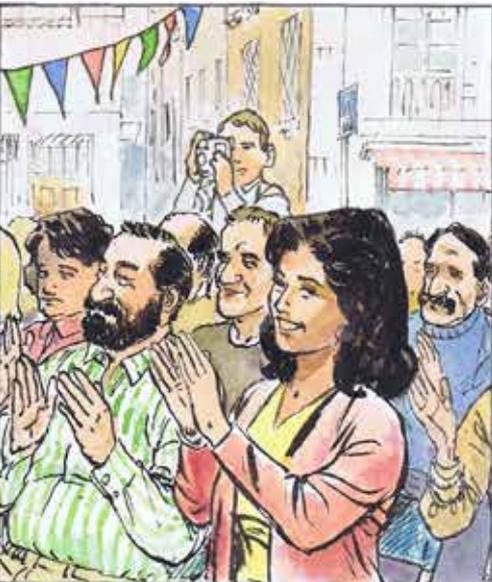
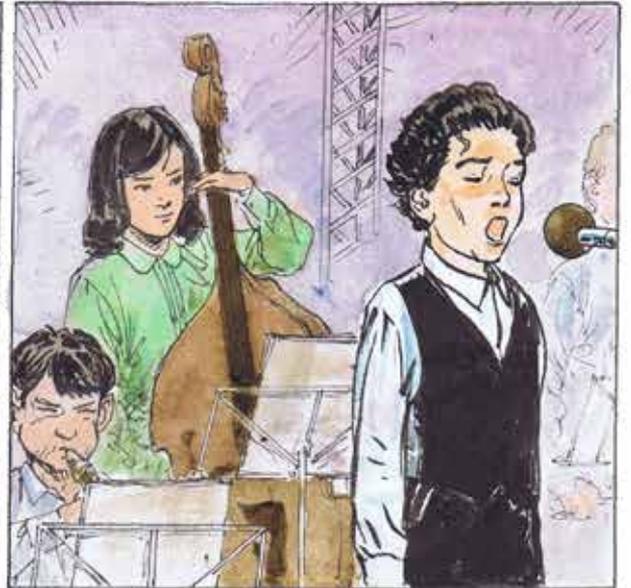
I LIKE THIS LITTLE MERMAID... BUT IT'S A BIT EXPENSIVE. OH WELL...



TWO WEEKS LATER.



DON'T EMBARRASS ME OK?? MAKE SURE YOU STRAIGHTEN YOUR COLLAR!



WE'LL BE PLAYING IN BRUSSELS ON THE 9TH OF MAY FOR EUROPE DAY. IT'S A SURPRISE THOUGH. THE KIDS DON'T KNOW YET.



# SOS

DRAWINGS: OLIVIER SPELTENS

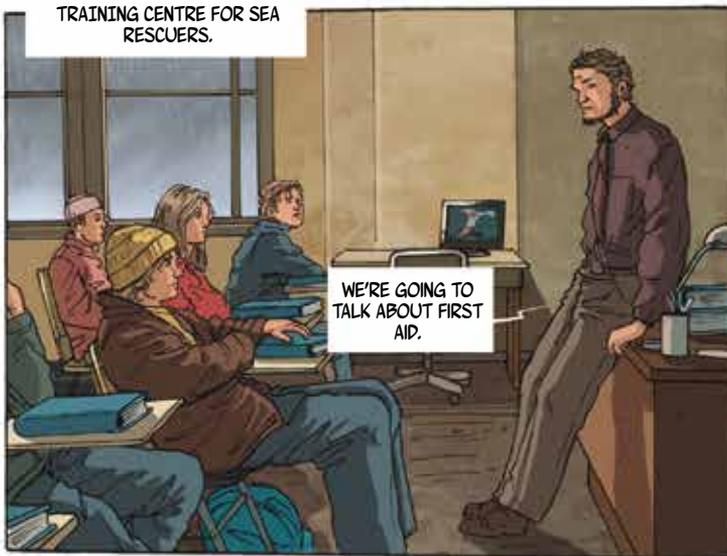




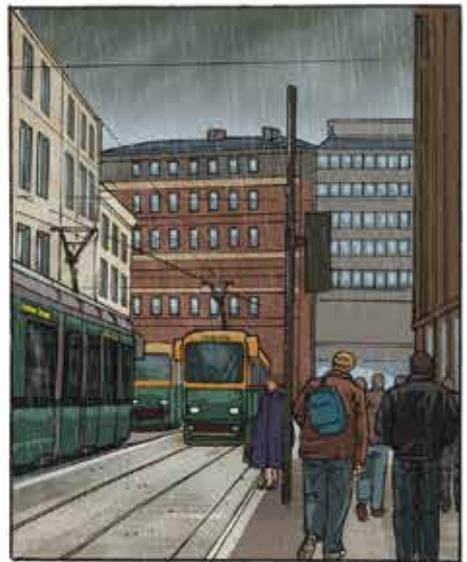


...TOMORROW  
WE'LL CONTINUE.

TRAINING CENTRE FOR SEA  
RESCUERS.



WE'RE GOING TO  
TALK ABOUT FIRST  
AID.



BIP...

BIP...

YES... YES.  
ON MY WAY.





HI THERE, ISAK. WE'VE RECEIVED A DISTRESS CALL. THIS WILL BE YOUR BAPTISM OF FIRE.



A FISHING BOAT. THE ENGINE HAS STALLED. AND THERE'S A STORM ON THE WAY.



I'M EXCITED TO FINALLY PUT THEORY INTO PRACTICE!



SO, YOU'RE BRINGING MY DAD BACK, RIGHT ?!

WHAT'S YOUR NAME, YOUNG MAN?



TIMO!



HI, TIMO. I'M ISAK. IS YOUR DAD A FISHERMAN? IS HE ON THE BOAT THAT SENT US THE SOS?



YES, AND HE PROMISED ME HE WOULD BE BACK FOR THE FINAL MATCH OF MY HOCKEY TEAM. I PLAY ON THE RIGHT WING.



TIMO, I'LL DO ALL I CAN TO BRING YOUR DAD BACK SAFE AND SOUND. IT'S OUR JOB. WE WORK WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE BEST SEA RESCUERS IN ESTONIA AND FINLAND. WE'VE JOINED FORCES TO BECOME EVEN STRONGER.



WE'RE ALL SET TO GO, IISAK!

THANK YOU. I TRUST YOU.



THIS IS A GOOD-LUCK CHARM. MY DAD BOUGHT IT FOR ME AT A FLEA MARKET IN LISBON. PLEASE TELL HIM I GAVE IT TO HIM.

OK, I WILL!





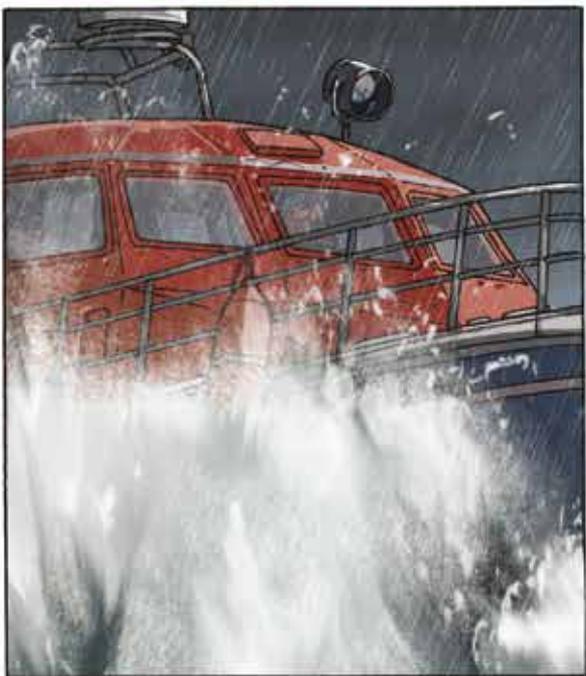
QUITE SHAKY, RIGHT!?

HOLD ON, MY FRIEND.  
YOU'VE SEEN NOTHING  
YET!!



THIS IS THE CAPTAIN OF  
VIKING, FISHING BOAT  
SWORDFISH, DO YOU  
READ ME?

HELLO? HELLO? THIS  
IS THE CAPTAIN OF  
VIKING.

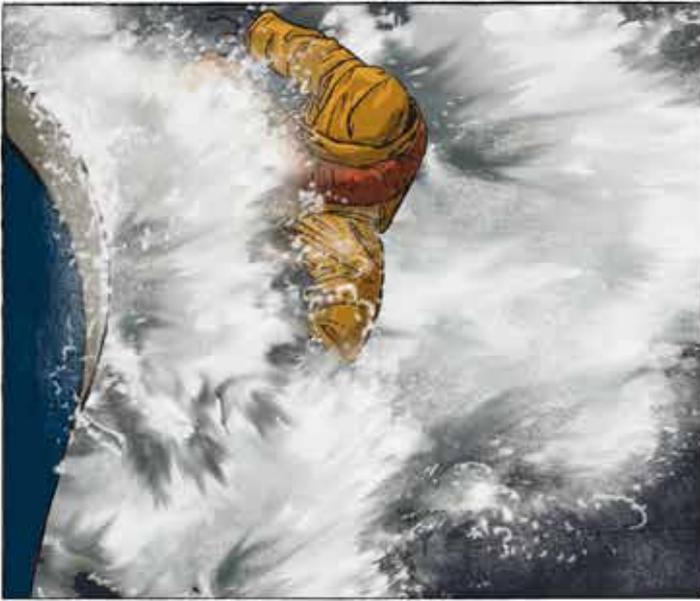


WE CAN'T REACH  
THEM BY RADIO...

THANKFULLY I CAN STILL SEE  
HIM ON OUR RADAR. WE'RE  
GETTING CLOSER.











# PROJECTS THAT BRING US TOGETHER



## TO IMPROVE THE ENVIRONMENT

In the story 'SOS', the rescue boat aboard which Lisak works in the Baltic Sea sails past a wind farm.

The use of renewable energies, which are more environmentally friendly, is one of the priorities of regional policy to fulfil the European Union's environmental goals.

The environment can generate economic growth by encouraging the development of innovative clean technologies, by promoting rational energy usage, by stimulating eco-tourism and by increasing the attraction of certain areas by protecting their natural habitats<sup>(1)</sup>.



## TO BOOST RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

The two characters in the story 'Promises', researchers Cecylia and Dawid, are passionate about their job.

However, in this field sometimes passion is not enough. Generally, the investments required in medicine are very high.

The sustainability of economic growth is increasingly dependent on the capacity of regional economies to change and innovate. This means that more efforts are needed to create an environment that fosters research and development (R&D), as well as innovation<sup>(2)</sup>.



## TO SUPPORT SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED ENTERPRISES

Small and medium-sized enterprises drive the European economy.

These dynamic businesses are essential to economic development and job creation. However, when transforming a good idea into a profitable and sustainable concept, major difficulties sometimes throw a spanner in the works: lack of financing, infrastructure problems etc.

Through their support to business incubators, regional policymakers help entrepreneurs like Alessandra and Aniello in the story 'Local networks' transform good ideas into successful businesses<sup>(3)</sup>.



## TO FOSTER URBAN DEVELOPMENT

More than two-thirds of the EU population lives in urban areas, and this trend continues to grow. That's why urban development (economic, social and environmental) was put at the heart of the European Union's regional policy.

A healthy environment is a source of well-being for all citizens. However, some urban areas are neglected, like the neighbourhood where Carlos and Adriana live in the story 'Music, maestro!', which leads to the social exclusion of their inhabitants.

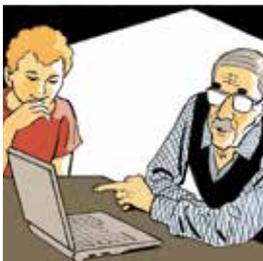
Regional policymakers help the national authorities invest in the renovation of these neighbourhoods and the set-up of facilities for all their inhabitants<sup>(4)</sup>.

1 [www.generationawake.eu](http://www.generationawake.eu)

2 [http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/era-chairs\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/research/era/era-chairs_en.html)

3 [www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](http://www.erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)

4, 5, 7 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/activity/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/activity/index_en.cfm)



## TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION

One of the European Union's fundamental goals is to promote the social inclusion of all its citizens, particularly those who are marginalised by society.

Several projects financed by regional policy aim to contribute to this<sup>(5)</sup>. In 'Figures' Gary learns about the European Union's support and integration measures for underprivileged groups through the participation of elderly people in local social support networks.

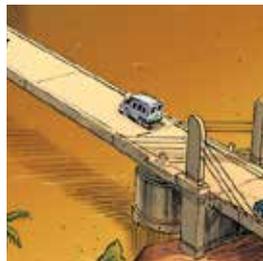


## TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION

Regional policy aims to bring together all the relevant brainstorming efforts as well as resources, skills and solutions.

The collaboration between Finnish and Estonian rescuers in the story 'SOS' illustrates the added value of common approaches and actions.

Neighbouring cross-border regions are confronted with the same problems and tackling them together strengthens them both<sup>(6)</sup>.



## TO IMPROVE TRANSPORT LINKS

The lack of efficient public transport links and infrastructure seriously hampers the development of isolated regions and territories.

In the story 'Reunited again' Clémentine and her grandmother need to spend hours on the bus to meet up or to go to the city.

A bridge linking the two river banks or a new road would improve daily life for all the inhabitants of the area.

Transport infrastructure is one of the most tangible examples of the support that the European Union's regional policy can provide<sup>(7)</sup>.



## TO MANAGE NATURAL DISASTERS

No region is immune from large-scale natural disasters such as floods, forest fires, earthquakes, storms and drought. To assist regions affected by natural disasters, like Calabria in the story 'Local networks', the European Union set up the Solidarity Fund in 2002.

This Fund helps the affected country recover the expenses made to take all the necessary urgency measures: the restoration of infrastructure and equipment, temporary accommodation for displaced persons, deployment of emergency services etc.

6 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/cooperate/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperate/index_en.cfm)

8 [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/the\\_funds/solidarity/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/the_funds/solidarity/index_en.cfm)

# FROM BUDGETS



1) The budget of the European Union's regional policy is decided upon jointly by the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament on the basis of a proposal by the European Commission. All Member States contribute\* to the EU budget, a third of which goes to finance cohesion policy. All regions receive funds based on their level of wealth.



2) The regional policy principles and priorities are established jointly by the European Parliament, the European Commission and the 28 Member States. The regional and local authorities, as well as organisations representing employers, employees and civil society, are also consulted.

- *The European Union's regional policy is an investment policy which contributes to the development of the regions through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and the Cohesion Fund (CF).*
- *Regional policy is jointly managed by the European Commission, the Member States and the regions.*



8) The programme officials closely monitor the progress of the actions and the financed projects, and draw up regular reports for the European Commission. The Commission monitors the implementation and gradually transfers the European funds. It also encourages the exchange of experiences through multiple networks.



7) A project may only be financed by the European Union if it also receives public funds from the Member States and/or funds from private investors.

# TO PROJECTS



3) Each Member State draws up a draft partnership agreement describing the priorities in terms of development. This document includes a list of action programmes aimed at the entire country or a specific region. There are also cooperation programmes aimed at cross-border regions.



4) The European Commission and the national authorities decide upon the priorities of each programme.

- ◆ *The Member States and their regions choose the projects that will be co-financed by the European Union, under programmes scheduled in advance with the European Commission.*
- ◆ *The European funds are always topped up with national (private and/or public) funds.*



6) The Member States and the regions are responsible for the management and implementation of the programmes. This involves selecting, following-up and evaluating hundreds of thousands of project proposals made by small and medium-sized enterprises, public bodies, universities, associations, Non-governmental organisations and volunteer organisations.



5) The Commission adopts the partnership agreement and the programmes to be launched on the field. The Commission then provides the Member States with an advance on the funds to enable them to launch the envisaged projects.

# FIND OUT MORE

## WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUNDS?



The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by correcting imbalances in economic development between its regions.



The Cohesion Fund (CF) helps Member States whose gross national product (GNP) per capita is below 90% of the EU average in the promotion of sustainable development, particularly in the areas of transport and environmental protection.



The European Social Fund (ESF) invests in people in order to improve access to the labour market and training opportunities in the Member States.



The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) aims to improve the competitiveness of agriculture and forestry, and the quality of life in rural areas, preserve the environment, and encourage diversity in the economic activities of rural areas.



The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) aims to help fishermen in the transition to sustainable fishing, support coastal communities in diversifying their economies, finance projects that create new jobs, improve the quality of life and make it easier to access financing.

These five funds\* have one common goal, namely to jointly support the Europe 2020 objectives by generating sustainable growth and quality jobs, by combatting climate change and energy dependency, and by reducing poverty and social exclusion.

## WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES OF THESE FUNDS?

The beneficiaries of these five funds may be public bodies, certain private-sector organisations (particularly small and medium-sized enterprises), universities, associations, NGOs and volunteer organisations.

## IN THE EVENT OF A NATURAL DISASTER

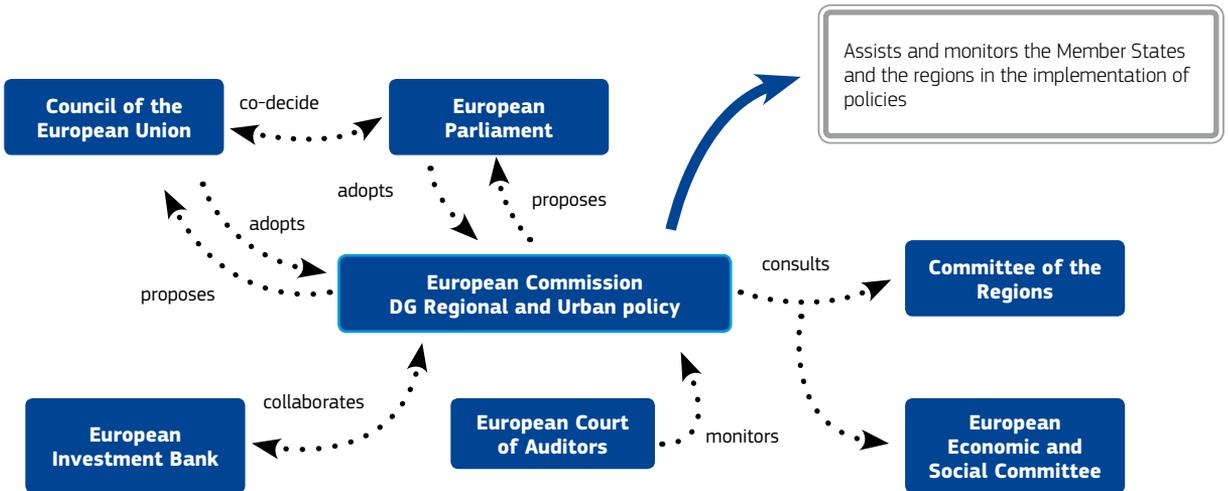


The European Union Solidarity Fund (EUSF) was set up to respond to major natural disasters and express European solidarity to disaster-stricken regions within Europe.

\* [http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/thefunds/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/thefunds/index_en.cfm)

# REGIONAL POLICY IN THE EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK

## LINKS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN INSTITUTIONS





### THE TREATY OF LISBON

The Treaty of Lisbon, signed on 13 December 2007, gives the European Union modern institutions and more effective working methods so that it can properly respond to the challenges of today's world, which is constantly evolving. In this framework, Europeans look to the EU to address issues such as globalisation, climatic and demographic changes, security and energy. The Treaty of Lisbon strengthens democracy in the European Union and its capacity to promote the interests of its citizens on a day-to-day basis.

## EUROPE: FACTS & FIGURES

**505.7**

million inhabitants on  
1 January 2013

**28**

countries

**24**

official languages

**274**

regions (NUTS II)

# THE AUTHORS

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## DRAWINGS

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### FRANCK BIANCARELLI

Franck Biancarelli was born in Marseille (France) in 1967. This self-taught artist, who has great admiration for the legendary American comics artists, took his first steps into the world of comics working with Christian Rossi. His bestseller *Le livre des destins* (5 volumes), in collaboration with scriptwriter Serge Letendre, was published by Soleil. In 2012 he started working on the adaptation of the novel *Dunk* by Denis Robert (Juillard) for Dargaud.



### OLIVIER GRENSON

Olivier Grenson was born in Charleroi (Belgium) in 1962. He studied at ERG and attended Eddy Paepé's comics workshop. His first series, *Carland Cross* (script by Michel Oleffe), was adapted for TV (26 cartoons). In 1999 he launched the series *Niklos Koda* (*Le Lombard*) with scriptwriter Jean Dufaux. Olivier Grenson also provided the drawings for *La femme accident* (Dupuis) together with Lapière, and published his solo book *La douceur de l'enfer* (*Le Lombard*).



### STEFANO RAFFAELE

Stefano Raffaele was born in Milan (Italy) in 1970. After trying his hand at American comics (*Batman*, *Conan*, *X-Men* and others) he returned to his home country, where he launched several successful series. Together with scriptwriter Christophe Bec he published *Pandemonium*, *Sarah*, *Under* and *Prométhée*. Together with Bec he is currently working on a new series for Soleil, *Deepwater Prison*.



### OLIVIER SPELTENS

Olivier Speltens was born in Brussels (Belgium) in 1971. He studied Comics at the famous Saint-Luc Institute, where he was taught, among others, by Olivier Grenson. Olivier is passionate about science-fiction and an expert in everything WWII. He launched the series *M99* (with scriptwriter Pascal Laye) and subsequently published his solo book *L'armée de l'ombre* (Paquet), the second volume of which hit the shelves in January 2014.



### PAUL TENG

Paul Teng was born in Rotterdam (the Netherlands) in 1955. He cut short his Cultural Anthropology studies to dedicate himself to comics. He drew the series *Shane*, published by Lombard (script by Di Giorgio) and five volumes of *L'ordre impair* (*Le Lombard*). The latter was published as a whole in 2009, with scripts by Cristina Cuadra and Rudi Miel. Moreover, Paul Teng worked with Jean Van Hamme on an album for Casterman, *Le Télescope*.



### YOU

You was born in Pusang (South Korea) in 1978. Following her studies in Computer Graphics, this self-taught cartoonist illustrated several children's books for Auzou. Her first comics album was published as part of the series *Sorcières* by Dupuis (script by Alexine). You also worked on the collective album *Jump Start* for the European Social Fund (script by Rudi Miel).

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## SCRIPT

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### RUDI MIEL

Rudi Miel was born in Tournai (Belgium) in 1965 and has a degree in Journalism. He works as a Communication Consultant and comics artist, and has co-authored the album *Troubled Waters* (European Parliament), which won the Best Use of Comics Books in Advertising Award (Prix Alph-Art de la Communication) at Angoulême in 2003. Rudi Miel won the Award for Best Foreign Comic Book (*Sobreda*, 2001) for *L'arbre des deux printemps*, which he co-authored with Will (*Le Lombard*). He is also co-author of *L'ordre impair* (*Le Lombard*).

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## HOW TO OBTAIN EU PUBLICATIONS

### **Free publications:**

- one copy:  
via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>);
- more than one copy or posters/maps:  
from the European Union's representations ([http://ec.europa.eu/represent\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/represent_en.htm));  
from the delegations in non-EU countries ([http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/index_en.htm));  
by contacting the Europe Direct service ([http://europa.eu/europedirect/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/europedirect/index_en.htm)) or  
calling 00 800 6 7 8 9 10 11 (freephone number from anywhere in the EU) (\*).

(\* The information given is free, as are most calls (though some operators, phone boxes or hotels may charge you).

### **Priced publications:**

- via EU Bookshop (<http://bookshop.europa.eu>).

### **Priced subscriptions:**

- via one of the sales agents of the Publications Office of the European Union ([http://publications.europa.eu/others/agents/index\\_en.htm](http://publications.europa.eu/others/agents/index_en.htm)).



# THE EUROPEAN UNION INVESTS IN OUR REGIONS

Regional and urban policymakers have countless and varied tasks to encourage innovation, reduce carbon emissions, support small and medium-sized enterprises, optimise urban development, promote social inclusion and cooperation, improve transport, manage natural disasters...

One of their key priorities is to promote economic development and to bring regions and citizens closer together. Because after all, solidarity makes for a stronger Union!

The six stories in this album, based on real projects, illustrate the European Union's role in reducing differences in standards of living and supporting the regions in their development.

## Interested in regional and urban policy?

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