

Review on IDM “Kulturführer Mitteleuropa”, *IDM “Cultural Guide on Central Europe”*

The publication series “Info Europa” of the Institute for the Danube Region and Central Europe (IDM) Vienna serves to address current issues and to discuss the similarities and differences among developments in the region. The authors comprised not only of scientists and cultural workers, but also of representatives of politics, education and administration, consistently look beyond national borders and offer solutions. Since the creation of the publication in July 2000 and its first issue in early 2001 (then still under the title “Focus Europe”), the series has developed into a unique chronicle of European history without losing sight of the country-specific features — a publication which is based in Vienna, but finds its home in all of Europe. Currently the IDM publication, which boasts a total circulation of approx. 51,000 copies, can be found three times a year enclosed within the daily newspaper “Die Presse”. The upcoming issue will deal with the Rule of Law in Central Europe and will be issued on 1st of October 2020.

Review on Kulturführer Mitteleuropa 2020 “Cultural Guide on Central Europe 2020”

The subject of this issue is — to be honest — not an easy one. The present 24 pages of the *Cultural Guide on Central Europe 2020* deliver certainly more questions than answers: Are we living in a post-heroic age? Is the (super)hero just a relic of a closed chapter of European history?

At least since the political propaganda of the NS-era and the cult of the “Führer” during 20th century, worshipping heroes has been avoided in many places. It seems that the hero only lives on in comic books, computer games, movies and in sports. We think it is time to ask ourselves in Central Europe

how a future might look like and what role yesterday's heroes will play in it. Who do we want to remember – and how?

While in the cityscape of Lviv the contours of nostalgia and commerce blur, the streets of Vienna and Budapest tell stories on creating orientation by naming them after heroes. In the Balkans as well as in Hungary or Poland the cult of heroes faces a revival and in Ukraine a new national heroic myth polarizes the society. In Austria we take the anniversary of EU accession as an occasion to encourage cultural managers and artists to take stock on 25 years of crossing borders and overcoming old and new barriers. Furthermore, we wonder why the group picture of heroes so often misses females.

We invite you to join us on this journey of discovery along the many gaps of European memory processes. Get to know people and their projects, who are working on a common remembrance culture!

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*The ePaper (German) of the thematic issue can be accessed free of charge:
<https://joom.ag/guWC>*