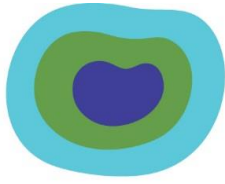


EUROPEAN MULTIPLE CHOICE  
IDENTITY PROJECT

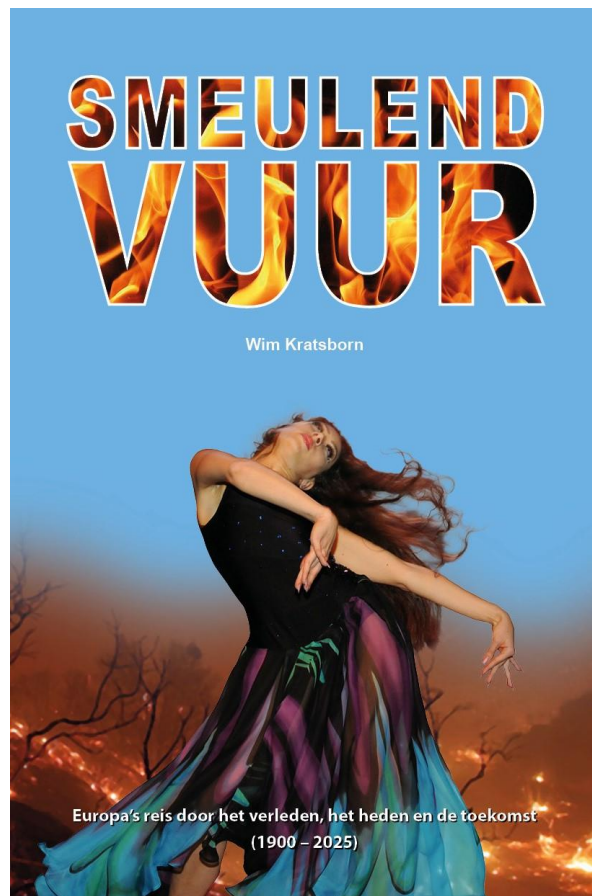


TO·GATHER

**HOT NEWS!**



**The novel 'Smeulend vuur' / 'Smoldering fire' by Wim Kratsborn is for sale here for only € 14.90. A sparkling and intense story with lots of music about the dancer Europe and 9 young people going on a journey from city to city, from 1900 to the present! Including a special story, starring Bettine Vriesekoop, about 'The Table for Two' and the song 'Groene stad'.**



**Wim Kratsborn is project leader of the international educational citizenship project To-Gather, historian, philosopher, teacher, writer, film director, designer, presenter of workshops, composer, musician and player and workshoppresenter of table tennis. The past, the present and the future of Europe run like a thread through his work. In 2017 he wrote the book 'Multiple Choice Identity' and he made the film 'L'Europe c'est moi' and several songs.**

During my travels through Europe and Syria, I met many young people and their teachers and got to know Europe better. I have incorporated my and their experiences into my new novel **'Smoldering Fire' (2023)**. It has become both a thriller and a love story, and there is a lot of music in it because 'music makes sense'. The story takes place between fact and fiction, hate and love, heaven and hell, drama and humor: *'Feel and therefore you learn'*, said Mary Helen Immordino to me, when I presented my work in Harvard.



Django: jihadist from London  
Battle and Drillrap



Irina: aesthetical/ empathic young woman from Rome  
Gothic, Grunge and Ambient



Monique: hedonistic/ narcissistic girl from Amsterdam  
Disco, Dance and RnB



CHillak: alternative young woman from Ljubljana  
Postpunk and Avant Garde



Thomas : neo-nazi from Berlin  
Heavy metal and Trash



Sandis: avatar and Putinist from Riga  
Techno



Iqbal: liberal moslima from Damascus  
Hip-hop and Islamic music



Hakan: activist from Istanbul  
Heavy metal



Christine: critical student from Oslo  
Dance, Trance and Postpunk

The story is told and experienced by 9 young people and the dancer Europe. Their quest is also depicted in the accompanying film 'L'Europe c'est moi' ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjFoSbtpHMM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjFoSbtpHMM)) including a voice-over by Europe and expressed in songs such as 'Passenger in time', 'My Green City', 'Faiza sometimes' and 'May I be free' (see [www.to-gather.org](http://www.to-gather.org)).

***'And I said hey hey hey hey hey hey what's going on'***

Like the young people and me, the reader is a passenger in time, a democratic citizen with a multiple choice identity. The ultimate goal is to understand all kinds of contradictions and disagreements in Europe and to make the right choices in the 'Crisis'. Try to understand and mix with the other or, as Jim Morrison sang, *'break on through the other side!'*

*'With a little help from my friends'* I can look at the past, the present and the future from different perspectives and sources as knowledge, images, stories and music. Music is both a sense-opener, a source of knowledge, a means of communication, a problem solver and a means of action, creation and reflection. Along the way, the reader can come up with solutions for himself and then apply them in the present and future 'clusterfuck' that we are confronted with.

Reality is often unpredictable, unimaginable and invisible due to fake news, lies and evil intentions. I disagree with Rutger Bregman, that most people are good, because a minority of people are bad.

The target group consists of young people, adults and the elderly in the Netherlands, Belgium and Europe. During the 'To-Gather Tour 2023' presentations will be done in Harkstede, Hoogezand, Groningen, Drachten, Zwolle, Nijmegen, Utrecht en Amsterdam and in Riga, Liverpool, Kortrijk, Presov, Krakow and Madrid.

Together with the young people and Europe, the reader ends up at all places like a trench, a concentration camp, a revolution or a liberation. He is taken on the waves of music from city to city, from event to event, from 1900 to the present. There is much past that is not yet history and the future is not what it used to be. Many problems of the past are not solved and remain underground like smoldering fire and can ignite at unexpected moments. Think of the clash between nation states in WWI, between fascism and democracy in WWII, the arms race between East and West during the Cold War and furthermore migration, 9/11, inequality and climate change in the present.

The story of Europe begins in Paris during 'La Belle Epoque', where she falls in love with Mata Hari and they dance together to 'Ballo excelsior' by Romualdo Marenco. But Kandinsky's flood became real and in 1917 Europe and the young people ended up in a trench in Passchendael, where countries fought each other for the holy fire of God and country with national anthems and folk songs. Nationalism turned out to be the poisonous apple in paradise!

The Germans sang 'Der Kaiser hütet Euch' and 'Es war einmal ein treuer Husar' sung, and the English 'Your King and Country needs you' and 'It's a long way to Tipperary' (also by the Germans). Sometimes there was a turntable in the English trench, where the latest hits from Paris were listened. It went wrong and the youngsters barely survived a poison gas attack. But the worst was yet to come.

Traumatized, they went to Berlin, but there the fascists were already marching through the streets. By the film 'Triumph des Willens' by Leni Riefenstahl and music by Bruckner and Wagner and songs such as 'Die SS marschieren' and 'Erika', the Germans were preparing the war. During a party day in Nuremberg, Europe was raped. She escaped to Amsterdam, but ended up in Auschwitz via Westerbork. There she had to dance at a party of the SS, but she miraculously managed to escape.

'More dead than alive' she found herself in the Cold War, where the smoldering fire had turned into a nuclear threat. Europe and the young were now divided in two, but the threatening atmosphere was faded away by rock 'n roll in 1955, because it was finally possible to dance to songs such as 'Great balls of fire'. However, the real 'Big Bang' were The Beatles in 1962. Europe and young people experienced a performance by The Beatles at the Cavern Club in Liverpool. In the sixties, Western youth were no longer alone during the revolution in Paris in 1968 and demonstrations against the war in Vietnam and inequality. 'Blowing in the wind' and 'Who'll stop the rain' (over napalm) and 'Street fighting men' were their battle hymns.

After the Flower Power in Amsterdam and the Punk in London, they ended up in Berlin as 'another brick in the wall' and became 'heroes, just for one day'. The Wall falls in 1989 and together with Kurt Cobain of Nirvana they experienced 'the roaring nineties' and ended up in the turbulent 21st century with 9/11, the crisis of 2008. '*Here we are now, entertain us*', '*Happiness is just around the corner*' and '*Killing in the name of*' were the energizers for young people. But it was getting hotter underfoot due to the smoldering and sometimes high-blazing fire. '*Now you do what they told you*' became a slogan.

Eventually, Europe and the young people ended up in To-Gatherland, where the 6 hot items of the 'Crisis' such as protest, ill-health, modern slavery, 'no-future kids', 'to be is to buy' and climate change, should be tackled. Together they played table tennis at the Table for Two, but corona and Bombs Putin did

let the smoldering fire flare up again. Did we let others take the hot coals out of the fire like in the lignite village Lützerath or was it a matter of 'keeping it cool'?

During the mythical ending of the story, Europe finally discovered heaven on top of the Forum in Groningen and was reborn as a butterfly through 'the butterfly dance'. She gave birth to small butterflies, which carried her above the city. What's up? 'It's education stupid' and then young people go through the smoldering fire for Mother Earth. But the reader can also participate and tackle the current hot items with his AI without burning his fingers. He is free to color the wings of his own butterfly and fly away freely.



*'When the four corners of this cocoon coll. You'll slip through the cracks hopin' that you'll survive Gather your wit, take a deep look inside. are you really who they idolize? To pimp a butterfly' (Kendrick Lamar)*



**Margarita Kamjaka performs 'The Butterfly-dance'**

**The novel 'Smeulend vuur'/'Smoldering fire' and the book 'Multiple Choice Identity' are for sale during presentations for € 14.90. Otherwise they can be ordered for € 18.90 to € 26.90 on [www.to-gather.org](http://www.to-gather.org) on PayPal via [w.kratsborn@planet.nl](mailto:w.kratsborn@planet.nl) stating the name and address (including VAT and shipping costs)**