

The Entropa Game – a TICKLE Tool



Entropa – David Cernys provocation in Brussels

***Entropa*** is a [sculpture](#) created by [Czech](#) artist [David Černý](#) under the commission of the [Czech Republic](#) to mark the occasion of its [presidency of the Council of the European Union](#). The sculpture was supposed to have been created jointly by 27 artists and artist groups from all member countries of the EU; but in a hoax, Černý and his three assistants created the [satirical](#) and controversial work depicting pointed stereotypes of European nations and fake artist profiles complete with invented descriptions of their supposed contributions. The piece was unveiled on 12 January 2009. [Moving](#) and [multimedia](#) components were activated on the formal "launch date" of 15 January 2009. It is on display in the [Justus Lipsius building](#) in [Brussels](#). The [Council of the EU](#) has a rotary presidency system, whereby the governments of member countries exchange leadership every six months. It is customary for the presiding country to place an exhibit in the Justus Lipsius building, which are normally uncontroversial.



David Cerny presenting his installation, January 2009



## Description of the process

1. The pictures of the parts of the national descriptions in the Entropa sculpture are shown without naming the countries. The task is to match the Entropa parts to the described European countries- in a kind of a riddle, which country is which after David Cerny?
2. The "real" meanings of the country descriptions are shown in a second powerpoint presentation
3. A discussion follows, where the given or not given stereotypes of the shown countries emerged from.
4. A group work of 4-5 persons follows via Internet research, how the provocation of David Cerny was solved inside the EU.



**Entropa** – The [Netherlands](#) has disappeared under the sea with only several [minarets](#) still visible; the piece is supposed to emit the singing of [muezzins](#)



Entropa – France on permanent strike



Entropa – [Luxembourg](#) is displayed as a gold nugget with "For Sale"



[Estonia](#) is presented with a [hammer and sickle](#)-styled power tools, the country has considered a ban on [Communist](#) symbols





[Hungary](#) features an [Atomium](#) made of its common agricultural products [watermelons](#) and [Hungarian sausages](#), based on a floor of [peppers](#)



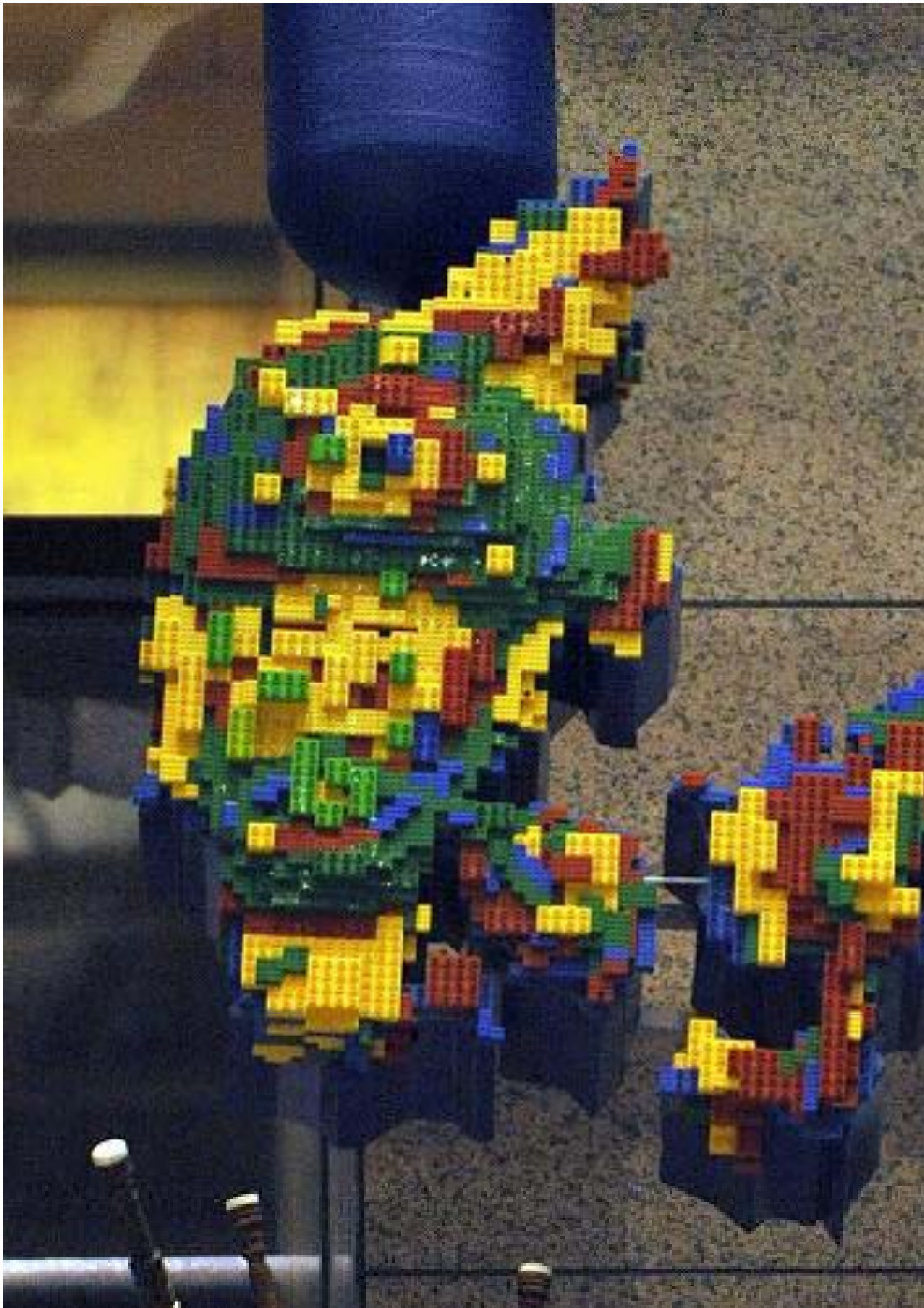
Entropa –Italy is depicted as a football pitch with several players who appear to be masturbating with the footballs they each hold.



Entropa – [Poland](#) has a piece with priests erecting the [rainbow flag](#) of the [Gay rights](#) movement on a field of potatoes (Poland's main agricultural product), in the style of the U.S. Marines [raising](#) the [Stars and Stripes](#) at [Iwo Jima](#).



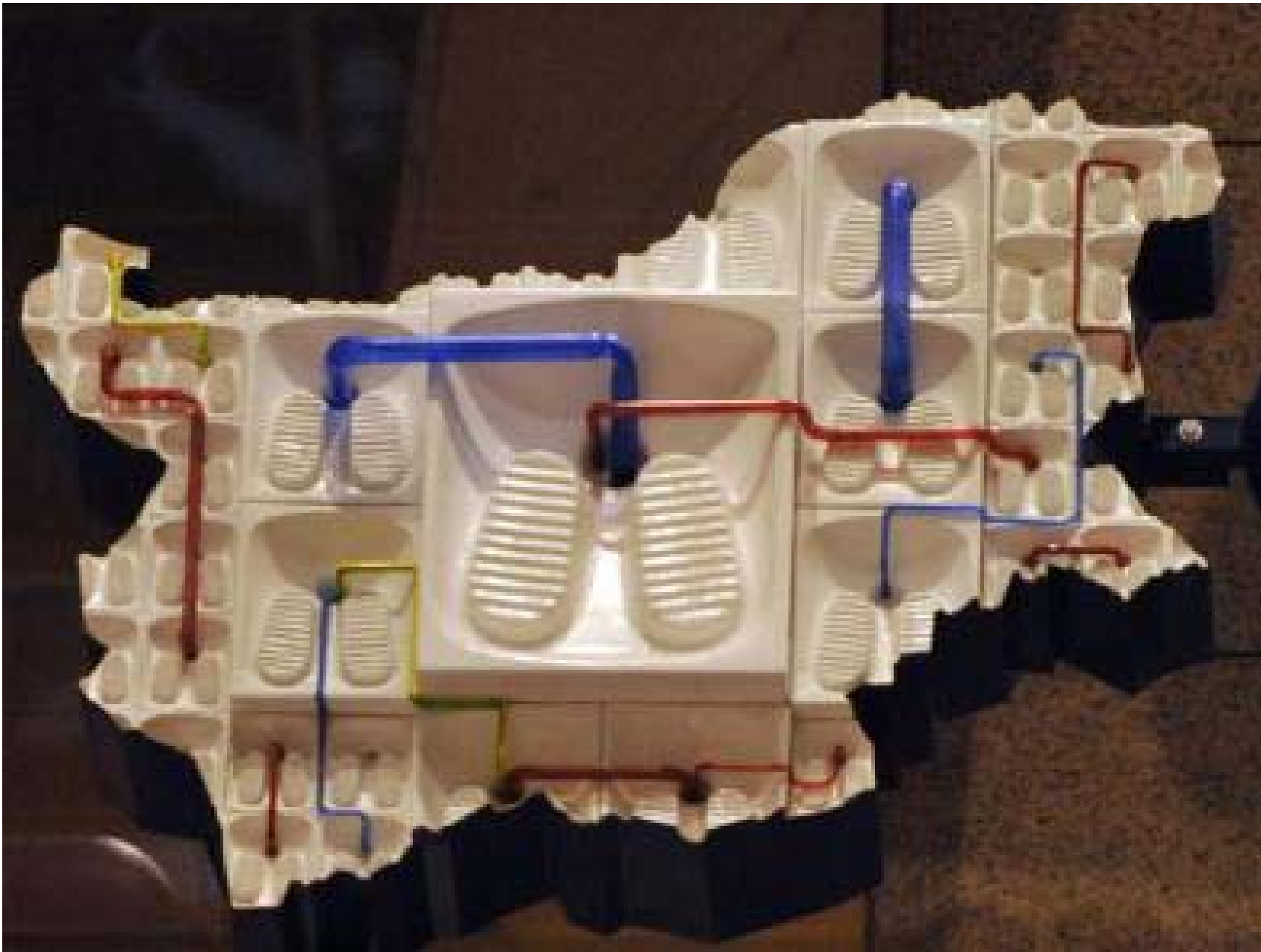
**Entropa – Romania** is a Dracula-style theme park, which is set up to blink and emit ghostly sounds at intervals.



**Entropa** – **Denmark** is built of **Lego** bricks, and some claim to see in the depiction a face reminiscent of the **cartoon controversy**, though any resemblance has been denied by the artist



Entropa – [Ireland](#) is depicted as a brown bog with [bagpipes](#) protruding from [Northern Ireland](#); the bagpipes play music every five minutes



Entropa – Bulgaria is depicted by a series of connected "Turkish" squat toilets; neon-like lights connect and illuminate them (later hidden with fabric)



Entropa – **Spain** is covered entirely in [concrete](#),<sup>[20]</sup> with a [concrete mixer](#) situated in the northeast





Entropa – [Austria](#), a known opponent of atomic energy, is a green field dominated by nuclear power plant [cooling towers](#); vapour comes out of them at intervals



Entropa – Germany – motorways  
(forming a swastika?)



→ Finland: Exotic animals on wood

→ Sweden: IKEA

→ Switzerland: a golden border line

→ United Kingdom: an empty space

→ Slovakia is depicted as a Hungarian sausage (or a human body wrapped in Hungarian tricolor)

→ Belgium is presented as a half-full box of half-eaten Praline chocolates

Watch video and the reactions of the visitors  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2SKLSM1cw4>

#### Political controversy



#### The sculpture of Bulgaria

The sculpture of Bulgaria had to be covered by black fabric - the day after the exhibit was informally unveiled—[Bulgaria's](#) ambassador to the EU registered the country's protest with the [European Commission](#), and sent a formal protest note to the Czech government. Bulgaria's depiction in the sculpture, as a series of [squat toilets](#), is one of the most provocative, and after the informal unveiling of Entropa the Bulgarian government demanded that the sculpture be taken down before its official launching.

The removal started on May 11. Černý himself was however not present, although he had earlier suggested the contrary. A crew he had sent there dismantled the sculpture and on Thursday, May 14 loaded its parts into three trucks, which had to come one by one because of limitations of the Justus Lipsius building. Afterwards, the pieces, protected against damage due to shaking, were transported by road to Prague. The sculpture was set up again in the Centre of Contemporary Art DOX in Prague-[Holešovice](#) and inaugurated on 11 June 2009, in presence of guests including the former Czech president [Václav Havel](#).<sup>[45]</sup>