

ASSOCIATION “INSTITUTE PERSPECTIVES” 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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INTRODUCTION

2016 will remain in the history of the Institute Perspectives, as the year in which we implemented our long planned four goals. This year we finally formed three fundamental principles (initiative, work in multicultural environment and strive to expand the youth scope) through which we have been able to develop our organization in the difficult financial and economic situation in Bulgaria and Europe in the 20th years of the XXI century.

In 2016, through various activities at the local, national and European level, Institute Perspectives contributes to implement the aims of the National Youth Strategy (2012 - 2020) and particularly to promote methods of non-formal education and expanding access to the program "Youth in Action" of young people, especially those living in small towns and rural areas.

Through our activities, we contribute to the objectives of the EU Strategy 'Youth – Investing and Empowering', by providing and supporting youth volunteering, and developing more voluntary opportunities for them. It will help those young people making it easier to volunteer by removing barriers, raising awareness of the value of volunteering, recognizing it as an important way of non-formal education.

Under the recommendation of the EU Council in 2012 for the validation of non-formal and informal learning, our activities are oriented in implementing methods of non-formal education.

Our initiatives support the objectives of the strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth - Europe 2020 - aimed at promoting the recognition of non-formal learning. It will lead to the acquisition and recognition of competences required for further education and successful realization on the labour market for young people.

Through our activities, we work to achieve the target set in the National Strategy for Lifelong Learning (2014 - 2020) to increase the share of the population aged 25-64 participating in non-formal education from 24.4% in 2011 to 38.0% by 2020.

Institute Perspectives carries out activities supporting the objectives of the Strategy for Educational Integration of Children and students from ethnic minorities (2015-2020) and in particular Strategic goals №1 'Guaranteeing the right for equal access to quality education for the children and students from ethnic minorities' and Strategic goal №3 'Creating preconditions for a successful socialization of the children and young people from ethnic minorities'.

While working directly with young people, representatives of the Institute Perspectives are always lead by the principles of equal access to participation by

everyone, comply the horizontal EU policies of non-discrimination and gender equality. During all activities in 2016, our representatives clearly distinguish the political parties and they undoubtedly emphasised dedication to activities to support young people for their personal and professional growth. In 2016, our members and volunteers in all our activities are opposed to hate speech and inciting religious hatred between individuals. Last year, the leadership of the organization with the support of all the volunteers and members managed to coordinate the implementation of dozens of events at local, regional, national and European level. In 2016 aroused the interest of hundreds of young people for their participation in peaceful initiatives favouring social development.

Ahmed Kuytov
Chairman of the Board
Mandate 2015 - 2019

FOUR PROJECTS WITH STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO CONSOLIDATE ASSOCIATION “INSTITUTE PERSPECTIVES” AS PERSISTENT YOUTH ORGANIZATION IN THE TOWN OF SVISHTOV IN 2016



- YOUTH EXCHANGE IN SVISHTOV IN KEY ACTION №1, SECTOR 'YOUTH' OF 'ERASMUS +' PROGRAMME ON TOPIC 'YOUNG PEOPLE FROM UNEMPLOYMENT TO EMPLOYMENT' CONTRACT № 2015-3-BG01-KA105-022627

As a coordinating organisation, the Association “Institute Perspectives” in active partnership with six partner organisations implemented the project within ERASMUS+ programme Youth Exchange “Young people from unemployment to employment”. The Exchange took place from 6th to 14th April 2016 in Svishtov, located in the region Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria.

The profile of respondents: seven countries joined the project (Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Poland, Italy, Turkey, and Lithuania) and a total of 42 young people and 7 leaders. The respondents were young people, aged 18-29 years, with 12 of them being young people with economic difficulties and/or geographical constraints.

The main goal of the project was to ensure the development of the knowledge and skills as the main key was to ensure the youth employment and youth entrepreneurship development by applying techniques and methods of the non-formal education. They learned about the best practices, by meeting with local institutions and local leaders working on the problem, by conducting an event that was significant for the community, in the context of promoting tolerance and providing the respondents self-awareness of their European identity. For attaining the objective, the following activities were implemented: preparation, motivation, organisation, implementation, evaluation and self-reflection. A distinct result of the carried-out project was the publishing of a Handbook on methodology, best practices and advices.

The main objective was awareness on the topic at a local, national and international level. The overall activity on the project: preparation, implementation and evaluation, was done by various methods and techniques of the non-formal education.

Achieved results: implementing of the project had a direct impact on youth respondents. They developed their skills and knowledge in the field of the employability, youth employment, youth entrepreneurship and there was a possibility for self-fulfilment on the labour market. The young respondents became multipliers with the mission to meet all of the members in the sixth organisations involved in the project, using the new information and knowledge.

The effect on the Association “Institute Perspectives”: By implementing of the current project, the administrative capacity of the Association was improved in development cooperation at an international level. During the project, some

members and volunteers of the Association took the first steps in the international activity. The organisation increased its authority among the local community by the successful implementation of its first project under ERASMUS+ programme in Svishtov municipality. By preparation and publishing of the Handbook, the Association defended its authority once again.

The effect on the partner organisations: by their active partnership, the six partner organisations in the project received some direct benefits as follows:

- Their administrative capacity for participation in international youth projects was increased;
- They improved their valuable experience being participants in Erasmus+ project;
- Their impact on the local community was increased;
- They built further potential partnerships under Erasmus+ programme;
- They had their team multiplied, that spread their knowledge on the youth employment and entrepreneurship among their countrymen and women;
- They distributed the Handbook among volunteers and among other young people, who are interested in the topic.

The methodology: The methodology of the project was based on the techniques and methods of the non-formal education.

ONLINE VERSION OF HANDBOOK:

https://issuu.com/vtuphilosophyclub/docs/young_people_from_unemployment_t_o_e

- THE FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE: 'BULGARIA IN THE 20TH YEARS OF THE XXI CENTURY. ASPECTS OF STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT'

On 22nd and 23rd April 2016 in Veliko Tarnovo, in cooperation with the Youth Center - Veliko Tarnovo we held a National Conference 'Bulgaria in the 20th years of the XXI century. Aspects of strategic development' on which 16 persons presented their work with a clear vision for the development of Bulgaria. The conference was attended by students and public figures from the old capital of Bulgaria, which with interest discussed each of the reports with the corresponding author.

The main reason "Institute Prospects" decided to organize a national conference is the fact that we live in times of many challenges. The happenings in neighbouring countries and the countries close to Bulgaria that have a strong geopolitical repercussion. The reports were presented by the authors, representatives of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - Sofia, "D. A. Tsenov" Academy of Economics - Svishtov, South-West University "Neofit Rilski" - Blagoevgrad, "University of Economics" - Varna, "New Bulgarian University" - Sofia, "St. Cyril and St. Methodius" University - Veliko Tarnovo and 'University of National and World Economy' - Sofia

Special guest of the conference was Deputy Governor of Veliko Tarnovo region Mr. Nikolai Petrov, he commented that the event is unique for the city because the whole conference was organized and led by young scientists, assistants, PhD students and students. For the first time, such a high scientific forum was held in Veliko Tarnovo without being connected to the Veliko Tarnovo University, "Vasil Levski" National Military University or any of the colleges in the city.

- SUMMER ACADEMY ‘PERSPECTIVES’

The summer academy 'Perspectives' was a project of our organization without external financing in partnership with PSHSE "Dimitar Hadjivasilev" - Svishtov. Through this project, we set the task to develop the competencies of young people in Svishtov to participate in EU projects of the organization. The project activities were realized in the period of 1st July to 30th September 2016. Our main goals were:

- to inform young people about the opportunities that the EU provides to young people until 2020;
- to develop participants' skills for future inclusion in projects and programs financed by the European Social Fund.

The methods used were based on non-formal learning. The participants developed the following competences: learning how to learn; communication skills; comprehension and expression of ideas, facts and feelings; rhetorical skills for public speaking; skills to work in international teams; social and civic competences for active involvement in public life. Every week we held three events with an average duration of 150 minutes. An important principle in the implementation of the academy was constant feedback from the participants about the organized activities and used methods.

Facilitators of the Summer Academy were four 'Erasmus +' interns who have adopted our organisation. The interns were:

- **Tien Dat Trieu**, Erasmus Mundus Master program of QEM, Pantheon-Sorbonne University, Paris, France;
- **Magdalena Hrabia**, Master program – Finance and Accounting of Cracow University of Economics, Cracow, Poland;
- **Ali Abdullah Ali Alshami**, Bachelor program – Computer Engineering - Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, Muğla, Turkey;
- **-Camila Alejandra Guarín Ossa**, Bachelor program – Business Administration, University of La Rioja, Logroño, Spain.

The Academy was attended by over 40 young people from Svishtov, which subsequently became volunteers in our organization. Some of them took part in our national and international projects by the end of 2016.

- PROJECT 'THE FUTURE IS TOLERANCE'

Together with PSHSE "Dimitar Hadjivasilev" - Svishtov we won a project with the title: "The future is tolerance" funded by 33.15-2016 of Centre for Educational Integration of Children and Students from Ethnic Minorities (CEICSEM) Contact№ BC - 33.15-1-022/28.09.2016. Project will be implemented in the period 01.10.2016 – 09.30.2017.

The main goal of the project is to achieve complete socialization of students and young people from ethnic minorities in the municipality of Svishtov. The specific goals of the project that is coherent and relevant to the main goal are:

- To overcome negative stereotypes and discriminatory attitudes towards different ethnic groups;
- To achieve dialogue between minorities and the majority in the municipality of Svishtov.
- To raise awareness among young people of the minority and the majority of the essence of tolerance and intercultural dialogue.
- To acquire the competencies of students to work in a real multicultural environment.
- To inform parents of the children and students from ethnic minorities about the opportunities for social development of their children.
- To identify the challenges facing the social integration of students and young people from ethnic minorities.
- To develop the competencies of youth workers, teachers and parents to work in a multicultural environment.
- To increase the proportion of students and young people from minority groups in the municipality of Svishtov, who are active citizens.
- To minimize existing social barriers based on prejudice and discrimination that lead to poor realization within the labour market and in social realization of representatives of ethnic minorities.
- To increase the proportion of pupils from ethnic minorities of the municipality of Svishtov, who continue to study at universities.
- To establish a municipal plan - a strategy with set activities for gradual desegregation of schools and to overcome the secondary segregated ones.

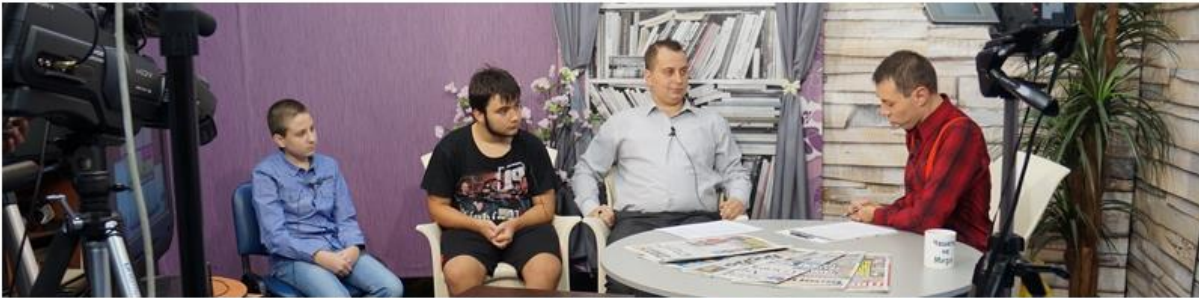
The management team of the current project has developed an innovative methodology that contains elements of formal education, non-formal education and practical activities. In the methodology, each action stems from previous ones and correspond with the upcoming activities of the project.

At the beginning of the project, we started with a series of discussions and interviews with parents. Along this we carried out work in groups and formed a volunteer corps "Activators". The final step of this activity is students to share what they have learned in a multicultural environment.

The next step is monitoring and an analysis of the results and the creation of an interim report containing recommendations on the challenges and progress of the project activities. Then, in the educational part, it aimed at developing the competence of parents, teachers, students and young people to work in a multicultural environment.

The following step is working in groups through interactive games and simulations to reinforce the civic and social skills of young people and students from ethnic minorities. The newly acquired knowledge through lectures and shared learning will be shared by youths and students to parents, thus multiply the knowledge of the participants in the previous activities. Finally, young people and minority students who are socialized will visit higher education institutions to continue their full integration into society through continuing education.

REALISED INITIATIVES AT NATIONAL LEVEL



29.01.2016

Together with Youth Center - Veliko Tarnovo we realized an Info Day "Sport and Youth policies - Perspectives.". It included the following modules: "Sport", "Youth policies and activities", "Erasmus +" as a tool for making youth policies at local level. As well as the National Youth Programme 2016-2020. The event was attended by people of municipalities of Veliko Tarnovo, Lyaskovets, Pavlikeni, Svishtov and Gorna Oryahovitsa and also participants from NGOs and active youth people.

30.01.2016

In the City of Varna, we realized training on topic "Introduction to the development of European projects.". The purpose of training is to familiarize young participants with the functioning of European programs, as well as the essential link between policies - Programs - EU projects. The training helped to develop practical skills for preparation of project proposals of 15 young people aged 18-29. The training was introductory and laid the foundation for the further deepening of knowledge and skills in the development of European projects. The training was carried out through the methods of non-formal education.

09.05.2016

By an invitation of head of PSHSE "Dimitar Hadjivasilev" – Svishtov Mrs. Romyana Ivanova the Chairman of our organisation Mr. Ahmed Kuytov delivered a public lecture to students from 8 to 11 class on topic - "Europe as an opportunity to develop youth potential."

At the beginning of his presentation Mr. Kuytov congratulated students on the occasion of the feast day. He expressed the view that today Europe is facing difficult times and only youth guarantee the positive development of any challenge to the European Union.

The second part of his lecture was devoted to the "Erasmus +" and opportunities provided to young people. During the lecture, he presented the upcoming youth exchanges in various countries of Europe led by the organization. Then he said that although the organization is headquartered in Svishtov, citizens of Svishtov rarely decide to participate in such projects, but he hopes in the foreseeable future to change this.

As final he announced the upcoming summer academies of Institute Prospects in which lecturers and trainers will be youth workers from different European countries and Bulgaria. Their aim is young Europeans to pass on their

experience related to non-formal education and the development of European educational projects of Svishtov's youths. The upcoming initiative of the organization will be in partnership with the Academy of Economics "D.A. Tsenov" and the schools in the region. Students and the head Mrs. Ivanova expressed a desire to participate in summer academies, so which Mr. Kuytov said that it is a clear sign of the meaningfulness of the initiative.

11.05.2016

At the Academy of Economics "D. A. Tsenov" we held a public lecture devoted to opportunities for doctoral mobility through KA1 sector "Youth" program "Erasmus +". The lecture was attended by over 40 students and professors from the university.

19-20.07.2016

In hall 30 of the Youth Center - Veliko Tarnovo we held a training - How to touch European values. Special speakers were Magdalena Hrabal, master student of the Economic University in Krakow and Dat Chio, master's student of the Pantheon - Sorbonne, Paris. The aim of the training was to inform young people and individuals who are interested in current opportunities for education and development within the European Union and Bulgaria. Upon successful completion of the course participants got the opportunity to be included in current international educational exchanges and other programs for professional and personal development of young European citizens. During the training, Miroslav Dimitrov and Elena Nikolova, students from the Language School "Professor Dr. Zlatarov " - Veliko Tarnovo provided their newly acquired knowledge and skills by participation in youth exchange program" Erasmus + " several weeks earlier.

Through this training, which is part of a wider initiative of the Institute Perspectives we aim to raise awareness and activity of young Bulgarians in the European integration process. Because, according to a survey of UNESCO from 2015 in our country there are 167,670 youth aged 15-24 who do nothing - do not learn, do not work or training. Because of this, our country ranks first in the EU with the highest percentage of young people who are not in educational, social and labour system. The fact that we couldn't use their potential lead to losses of 1.3 billion per year for the country.

01.12.2016

We organised a special public lecture with topics: "Why to be active citizens?" by lecturer Mr. Nikolay Mihaylov /Chairman of the Union of Young Lawyers in Bulgaria/ and "Entrepreneurship in the IT sector as an opportunity for young!" By lecturer Mr. Boyan Kasarov /entrepreneur in the IT sector/.

The event was aimed primarily at young people who wish to continue their professional development in the areas of entrepreneurship, computer technology and public affairs. During the event were presented opportunities for the development of youth skills through participation in international educational projects of the Institute Perspectives.

14.12.2016

Informational meeting on topic "Youth work and the challenges of the refugee crisis in Europe" was held in Hall 1 of Svishtov Municipality as post activity of an international Erasmus+ project with Contact № 2016-1-BGE04-KA105-001800 and topic "Migrants: A Youth Work Perspective", which took place in the City of Brussels, Belgium in the period 04.12.2016 - 10.12.2016. Five of our representatives participated in activities in the City of Brussels during which created non-formal methods for working with migrants. They discussed the challenges associated with youth work and discussed the possible future decisions and activities.

On this information meeting the participants in the project delivered two lectures to the people of Svishtov on topics:

1. The essence of youth work, non-formal education and their interaction with formal education in Europe.
2. Practical results from the project in the City of Brussels, Belgium.

12-22.12.2016

We organised 15 workshops on topic "We want to ...?" in Action 1 of the project "New horizons for the youth of Svishtov" Contact№ 25-00-25 / 15.12.2016, funded by the National Youth Programme 2016-2020, subprogram 2: "National youth initiatives and campaigns". In the workshops attended by 260 youth people aged 16-25, who are students in schools and university in the municipality of Svishtov, including villages. The purpose of the meetings is through methods of non-formal education to explore and identify the needs and interests of young people of Svishtov Municipality.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS SIGNED IN 2016

Lead by the desire to develop youth community, to promote European values, to promote social cooperation, to develop culture and stimulate economic growth in the Republic of Bulgaria and to consider efficient and sustainable interaction between professional schools and universities and NGOs, we signed partnership agreements with the following educational institutions in Bulgaria and Italy:

- Economic University - Varna from 01.04.2016 for a period of 3 years and is automatically extended for the same period unless cancelled.
- Academy of Economics "D.A. Tsenov" - Svishtov from 14.04.2016 for a period of 3 years and is automatically extended for the same period unless cancelled.
- PSHSE "Dimitar Hadjivasilev" - Svishtov from 09.05.2016g. for a period of 4 years.
- Ca`Foscari University of Venice from 16.06.2016g. for a period of 3 years and is automatically extended for the same period unless cancelled.

ISSUED BOOKS IN 2016.



Young people from unemployment to employment. HANDBOOK WITH GOOD PRACTICES AND SOLUTIONS

https://issuu.com/vtuphilosophyclub/docs/young_people_from_unemployment_to_e

All books published by our organization are available here:

<http://www.institute-perspectives.com/resursi>