

# Different but Equal

## INFOPACK

PAZARDJIK / BULGARIA  
16.05.2018 / 23.05.2018



BULGARIA



CROATIA



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Erasmus+



Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union

## Dear partners,

We kindly want to invite you to take part in our training course project which has been approved by the Bulgarian National Agency and it will take place in Pazardjik, Bulgaria from **16th to 23th of May 2018**. At this stage we need to find the participants for the project quickly and you, as sending partners, should support the participants to buy their tickets AFTER receiving our approval of the potential participants.

Here below you will find more specific information on the contents of the training. After reviewing ALL the information, please have your potential participants fill in the questionnaire that you will find in the attachment and send back to [equalbg@gmail.com](mailto:equalbg@gmail.com) at the **latest by March 10th, 2018**. We will review the questionnaires and will give you approval to buy the tickets.

## PROJECT SUMMARY:

The project "Different but Equal" is a Training Course that will be implemented in Pazardzhik (Bulgaria) between **May 16th and May 23th 2018** by Association "FOCUS", hosting participants from sending organizations based in Italy, Portugal, Spain, Czech Republic, Romania, Poland, Croatia, Turkey and Bulgaria (30 participants from nine countries in total). Participants will have training on the themes of disabilities and the project will increase the skills and competence of youth workers supporting people with disabilities. Very important part of the participants are people with fewer opportunities / disabilities.

All of the participants should have previous volunteering experience in a non-formal learning setting and want to become future social workers/trainers/facilitators/ youth leaders for their peers after the training.

## MAIN OBJECTIVE

The objectives of the training are:

- to exchange of experience, skills and knowledge related to the work with people with mental & physical disabilities in the process of integration into society;
- learning methods and techniques to be able to work with people with disabilities;
- to enforce the active European citizenship of the participants;
- to build deeper understanding about different disabilities and their characteristics;
- to increase the knowledge of non-formal learning and to give skills to prepare, implement and evaluate non-formal learning processes of other young people;
- to inform about Erasmus+ and other European project opportunities and to plan new project ideas.

## WORKING METHODOLOGY

The main activities planned for the training course are:

- Interactive games
  - Participation in different workshops
  - Debates
  - Musical games to express themselves
  - Creative activities to acquire new knowledge and skills in the arts for the application in practice and in the professional sphere of work with disadvantaged people
  - Presentation of different methods of integration and socialization of disabled people
  - Presentation of different methods of inclusion in different initiative and activities of disabled people
- Non-formal learning methods and informal activities will be used during the training and the training will base itself on participants' past voluntary experiences.

## PARTICIPANTS PROFILE:

**You should select participants who:**

- are young people with fewer opportunities / disabilities; or do not have disabilities but are interested in working with people with disabilities after the project or are friends, partners, relatives of people with disabilities;
- have experience in working with people with disabilities or will have in the future;
- would like to take on responsibilities during the project as well (proposing energisers, sharing their experiences, helping in organising the evening programs etc.);
- will participate in ALL sessions of the training;
- will continue working in the field after this project.

From each association half of the participants will be young people with fewer opportunities /disabilities and the other half will be young people without disabilities. We will make a selection from the questionnaires you will send us, based on physical capacity of the hosting place and the general compatibility of profiles of all participants.

**PLEASE DO NOT BUY ANY TICKETS  
BEFORE RECEIVING OUR APPROVAL.**

Number of participants per organisation:

**3 participants**

### **ACCOMMODATION AND TC VENUE**

The hosting place is Hotel Trakia in Pazardjik, Bulgaria

**HOTEL TRAKIA** - [www.hotel-trakia.domino.bg](http://www.hotel-trakia.domino.bg), which is a hotel that hosts tourists and some guests of the city. The rooms will be for 2 people. Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be served in the same structure.

### **WHAT SHOULD YOU BRING WITH YOU?**

**Here is a list of important things that you should bring with yourself on the TC module:**

- Travel tickets: We can only refund your travelling costs, if you have the tickets, receipts of the trip, invoices.
- Medicines: for preventive reasons we recommend for those who have health problems to bring their own medicine.
- Some traditional snacks, drinks or food: In order to learn as much as possible from each other's culture, we will organize an intercultural evening, where you are supposed to share some of your local specialties with the other participants.
- Representative materials of your sending organization: (brochures, CD's, etc.) and also photos from your local community.



## DIFFERENT BUT EQUAL team



**Ivaylo Ivanov**  
Trainer



**Valentina Trivigno**  
Project Coordinator



**Petko Petkov**  
Technical support

## FINANCIAL ASPECTS

The training course will take place in Pazardjik, Bulgaria from **16 until 23 May (16 May arrival day and 23 May departure day)**. Financial support will be provided by the Bulgarian National Agency for the “Erasmus +” Program (Key Action 1). Focus NGO will be able to offer the following financial conditions:

- The travel costs from home town of the participants to the venue will be covered according to the new rules of the Erasmus+ program based on distance calculator.
- Accommodation, food, local transports and all materials of the training course will be covered by the hosting NGO.
- No participants fee

**Below you can see the official table for the reimbursement:**

| COUNTRY        | NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS | TRAVEL COST IN € PER ONE PARTICIPANT |
|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Croatia        | 3                      | 275 €                                |
| Czech Republic | 3                      | 275 €                                |
| Portugal       | 3                      | 360 €                                |
| Spain          | 3                      | 275 €                                |
| Italy          | 3                      | 275 €                                |
| Poland         | 3                      | 275 €                                |
| Romania        | 3                      | 180 €                                |
| Turkey         | 3                      | 275 €                                |

## CONTACT WITH US

**Focus - European Center for Development**

**Address:**

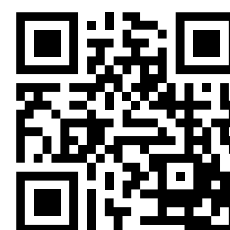
street “Svoboda” №5, fl.6, ap.24,  
4400 Pazardjik, Bulgaria

**phone:** 00359 899 08 19 09

**url:** [www.foccen.org](http://www.foccen.org)

**e-mail:** [equalbg@gmail.com](mailto:equalbg@gmail.com)

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Different but equal TC  
at Facebook**





## ABOUT BULGARIA

Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria, is a country located in Southeastern Europe. It is bordered by Romania on the north, Serbia and Macedonia on the west, Greece and Turkey on the south and the Black Sea on the east. With a territory of 110,994 square kilometres, Bulgaria is Europe's 14th-largest country. Its location has made it a historical crossroad for various civilisations and it is the home of some of the earliest metalworking, religious and other cultural artifacts in the world. The population of 7.36 million people is predominantly urban and mainly concentrated in the administrative centres of its 28 provinces. Most commercial and cultural activities are concentrated in the capital Sofia. The strongest sectors of the economy are heavy industry, power engineering and agriculture, all relying on local natural resources.

**Official languages:** Bulgarian

**Official script:** Cyrillic

**Bulgaria Weather:** summer +40 C°; winter -1 C°

## HISTORY

In 680 Bulgar tribes, under the leadership of Asparukh moved south across the Danube and settled in the area between the lower Danube and the Balkan, establishing their capital at Pliska. A peace treaty with Byzantium in 681 marked the beginning of the First Bulgarian Empire. The Bulgars gradually mixed up with the local population, adopting a common language on the basis of the local Slavic dialect.

Succeeding rulers strengthened the Bulgarian state throughout the 8th and 9th centuries. Krum doubled the country's territory, killed Byzantine emperor Nicephorus I in the Battle of Pliska, and introduced the first written code of law. Paganism was abolished in favour of Eastern Orthodox Christianity under Boris I in 864. This conversion was followed by a Byzantine recognition of the Bulgarian church and the adoption of the Cyrillic alphabet developed at Preslav which strengthened central authority and helped fuse the Slavs and Bulgars into a unified people. A subsequent cultural golden age began during the 34-year rule of Simeon the Great, who also achieved the largest territorial expansion of the state.

Wars with Magyars and Pechenegs and the spread of the Bogomil heresy weakened Bulgaria after Simeon's death. Consecutive Rus' and Byzantine invasions resulted in the seizure of the capital Preslav by the Byzantine army in 971. Under Samuil, Bulgaria briefly recovered from these attacks, but this rise ended when Byzantine emperor Basil II defeated the Bulgarian army at Klyuch in 1014. Samuil died shortly after the battle, and by 1018 the Byzantines had ended the First Bulgarian Empire.





Map of Bulgaria

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З  
И Й К Л М Н О  
П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц  
Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ю Я  
а б в г д е ж з и  
й к л м н о п р  
с т у ф х ц ч  
ш щ ъ ь ю я

#### **Bulgarian cyrillic alphabet**

In AD 886, the Bulgarian Empire introduced the Glagolitic alphabet, devised by Saints Cyril and Methodius in the 850s. The Glagolitic alphabet was gradually superseded in later centuries by the Cyrillic script, developed around the Preslav Literary School, Bulgaria at the beginning of the 10th century. Several Cyrillic alphabets with 28 to 44 letters were used in the early and middle 19th century during the efforts[clarification needed] on the codification of Modern Bulgarian until an alphabet with 32 letters, proposed by Marin Drinov, gained prominence in the 1870s: it was used until the orthographic reform of 1945, when the letters Ъ, ъ (called ят "yat" or двойно е/е-двойно "double e") and Ъ, ѣ (called Голям юс "big yus", голяма носовка "big nasal sign", ъ кръстато "crossed ъ" or широко ъ "wide ъ"), were removed from the alphabet, reducing the number of letters to 30.

#### **The Bulgarian alphabet**

With the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union on 1 January 2007, the Cyrillic script became the third official script of the European Union, following the Latin and Greek scripts.

## GEORGRAPHY

Bulgaria occupies a portion of the eastern Balkan peninsula, bordering five countries—Greece and Turkey to the south, Macedonia and Serbia to the west, and Romania to the north. The land borders have a total length of 1,808 kilometres (1,123 mi), and the coastline has a length of 354 kilometres (220 mi). Its total area of 110,994 square kilometres (42,855 sq mi) ranks it as the world's 105th-largest country. Bulgaria's geographic coordinates are 43° N 25° E

The most notable topographical features are the Danubian Plain, the Balkan Mountains, the Thracian Plain, and the Rhodope Mountains.[93] The southern edge of the Danubian Plain slopes upward into the foothills of the Balkans, while the Danube defines the border with Romania. The Thracian Plain is roughly triangular, beginning southeast of Sofia and broadening as it reaches the Black Sea coast.

The Balkan mountains run laterally through the middle of the country. The mountainous southwest of the country has two alpine ranges—Rila and Pirin, which border the lower but more extensive Rhodope Mountains to the east. Bulgaria is home to the highest point of the Balkan peninsula, Musala, at 2,925 metres (9,596 ft) and its lowest point is sea level. Plains occupy about one-third of the territory, while plateaus and hills occupy 41 per cent. The country has a dense network of about 540 rivers, most of which are relatively small and with low water levels. The longest river located solely in Bulgarian territory, the Iskar, has a length of 368 kilometres (229 mi). Other major rivers include the Struma and the Maritsa in the south.

Bulgaria has a dynamic climate, which results from its being positioned at the meeting point of Mediterranean and continental air masses and the barrier effect of its mountains. Northern Bulgaria averages 1 °C (1.8 °F) cooler and registers 200 millimetres (7.9 in) more precipitation annually than the regions south of the Balkan mountains. Temperature amplitudes vary significantly in different areas. The lowest recorded temperature is −38.3 °C (−36.9 °F), while the highest is 45.2 °C (113.4 °F). Precipitation averages about 630 millimetres (24.8 in) per year, and varies from 500 millimetres (19.7 in) in Dobrudja to more than 2,500 millimetres (98.4 in) in the mountains. Continental air masses bring significant amounts of snowfall during winter.



## VIDEOS ABOUT BULGARIA





## CITY OF PAZARDZHIK

Pazardzhik is a city situated along the banks of the Maritsa river, Southern Bulgaria. It is the capital of Pazardzhik Province and centre for the homonymous Pazardzhik Municipality.

For more information on Pazardzhik, visit:

[www.PzHistory.info](http://www.PzHistory.info)

### Weather in Pazardjik

The weather in Bulgaria in May is from 20 to 25 and more degrees. You can check more info before coming to Pazardjik at [www.sinoptik.bg](http://www.sinoptik.bg)

### Our currency and prices

Bulgarian's official currency is the LEV (BGN). One Euro is approximately 1,955 Bulgarian leva. For other exchange rates, check the following website:

[www.xe.com](http://www.xe.com)

You can change currency at exchange office in your hotel, or get LEVA right out of the ATM in several places in the town, banks and exchange offices.

## NOTE!

You should change or withdraw money when you arrive in Bulgaria, in order to buy a bus tickets only in Bulgarian leva (BGN).

### Here are some examples of local prices:

One coffee at a coffee shop costs 0,50 €.

One beer in a pub costs 1 €.

One cake in a patisserie costs 1 €.

One bread in a bakery costs 0,45 €.





## HISTORY

Pazardzhik was founded by Tatars from what is today Bilhorod-Dnistrovskyi in 1485 on the left bank of the river Maritsa, near the market of the region, an important crossroad at the middle of this productive region, and named Tatar Pazardzhik meaning “small Tatar market”. Thanks to this favourable location, the settlement quickly developed. While it was very small at the beginning of the 19th century, it became the administrative centre for the region at the end of the century and remained so until the dissolution of Ottoman Empire.

During the following centuries the town continued to grow and strengthened its position. Trade in iron, leather and rice prospered. The town impressed visitors with its beautiful houses and clean streets. In 1718 Gerard Kornelius Drish visited Pazardzhik and wrote “the buildings here according to construction, size and beauty stand higher than those of Niš, Sofia and all other places”.

The Russians under Count Nikolay Kamensky took the city after a brief siege in 1810. By the mid-19th century Pazardzhik was a big, important centre of crafts and trade, with a population of about 25,000 people. It hosted two big annual fairs, and a big market Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There was a post office with a telegraph.

In 1837 the Church of the Mother of God was built – an important national monument, famous for its architecture and woodcarving. In the mid-19th century Pazardzhik became an important cultural centre: a school was opened in 1847, a girls’ school in 1848, a community centre in 1868, the women’s union “Prosveta” in 1870.

Pazardzhik is exempt from Zapdniya Russian detachment commander with Lt. Gen. Joseph Gurko on 14 January 1878 (new style). Thanks Ovanes Sovadzhian Armenian, Turkish command failed to execute his perfidious and monstrous plan – to light the town and destroy its Bulgarian population – before retiring.

The railway station in 1928

From the early 20th century on people built factories, stores and houses, and thus the industrial quarter of the town. From 1959 to 1987 Pazardzhik was again an administrative centre for the region, and is again since the 1999 administrative division of Bulgaria.



The old clock tower is one of the landmarks of Pazardzhik.

## POPULATION

In the 1880s the population of Pazardzhik numbered about 15,000 inhabitants and it was one of the largest of Bulgaria. Since then it started growing decade by decade, mostly because of the migrants from the rural areas and the surrounding smaller towns, reaching its peak in the period 1985–1992 exceeding 80,000.[3] After this time, the population has started decreasing in consequence of the poor economic situation in the Bulgarian provinces during the 1990s that led to a new migration in the direction of the country capital Sofia and abroad. As of February 2011, the city has a population of 71,979 inhabitants, while the Pazardzhik Municipality of 114,817 inhabitants.

## CULTURE AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS

The Church of the Theotokos preserves the most impressive icons in Bulgaria by master artists of the Debar School, wood-carvings of New and Old Testament scenes, and icons by Stanislav Dospevski. Among the town's landmarks are also the clock tower, the ethnographic and history museums.

As with most Bulgarian cities, Pazardzhik has developed a significant pedestrian center, in which several central squares typify the European coffee house society and pedestrian culture. In Bulgaria the café culture is particularly prominent, with many downtown squares easily providing up to a half dozen cafés, with ample outside seating.

Pazardzhik has a level of pedestrian streets (or network of carfree areas) even above the relatively high Bulgarian standard. There are several longer pedestrian streets, and at one point there is even an intersection where five different pedestrian streets converge. A few of these do not continue for very long, but most do, or are connected to the rest of the pedestrian areas of the city, and thus could be said to form the pedestrian network of the city.

During the warmer seasons, most afternoons of the week and especially weekends find a large number of people strolling about or sitting in cafés. There are few tourist attractions in this area but there are large supermarkets including Bila and a Lidl.

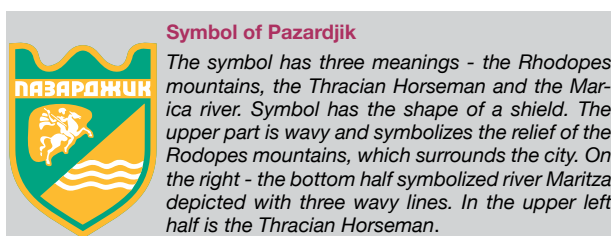
Pazardzhik Point on Snow Island in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica is named after Pazardzhik.



Dormition of the Theotokos Church



Pazardzhik History Museum



## NIGHT WALK VIDEO





