

# Teach For Bulgaria

## Quarterly Donors' Report

Dear partners and supporters,

Nowadays, everybody is talking about innovations. Star-ups and accelerators are popping everywhere around us.

During the last two years, we noticed that a significant part of our teachers and alumni are either considering or already running innovation projects in the sphere of education. All of them are initiatives that build upon Teach For Bulgaria achievements and are working towards significant social impact in the long run. I would like to share with you the footprint that Teach For Bulgaria has in the entrepreneurial projects in education: *Emiliyan Kadiyski* (2011-13 teacher), won funding from Reach For Change Foundation and opened an IT academy in Vratsa, delivering free training courses in programming for the children in the town. The final goal is to start an IT company based in Vratsa that will be providing jobs for the youth in the region and to transform Vratsa into an IT hub; *Teodora Zareva* (2011-13) founded WishBox, an NGO focusing on student professional orientation currently growing into an online media for students; *Ivan Gospodinov* (2014-16) is working to make Khan Academy lessons available to Bulgarian audience; *Stanimira Hristova* (2011-13) opened her own special education center in Sofia, which aims to work with children with special needs, supporting their personal and academic development and providing psychological help.

What makes us happy is that naturally, Teach For Bulgaria has become a hub for social entrepreneurs in education. A proof for this is the most recent event in Teach For Bulgaria calendar – The Innovation Day. During the initiative, 12 Teach For Bulgaria teachers and alumni presented their innovative projects that support our education system. As a result, two of them were approved to participate in an incubator program that will accelerate these ideas into effective startups: the first one presents career orientation courses for high-school students and the second one - legal training courses and ongoing support for school principals and school leadership teams.

We are all looking forward to seeing the results of the consistent efforts of these young leaders and wish them luck. Once again, I would like to thank you for your support that makes these ideas become a reality!

Regards,  
Evgenia Peeva, CEO



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## Student Achievements

The third quarter of the school year in the TFB community is notable for its focus on the annual Transformed Students Inquiry Process (TSIP). This is TFB's main "learning-loop" process that captures evidence of student progress and transformation in our classrooms and links it to specific teacher actions and mindsets. In order to focus on TSIP, at this time of the school year we are not gathering quantitative data for student achievement from our classrooms but qualitative data.

The focus of this year's TSIP is student engagement with classroom vision and its role for enduring impact on student achievement, aspiration and access to opportunities. Therefore the students themselves, supported by their teachers, have the leading role in the whole process.

A total of 56 TFB classrooms applied to be a part of the Process this year. We designed a structure that helped us monitor both the road students follow towards achieving their goal and their level of engagement and understanding of the whole learning process. The classrooms with the highest student engagement and progress towards the vision were selected as finalists for this year's conference.

The event will take place at the American College of Sofia, on 13 June at 9.00 am and will be attended by 400 students and educators from Bulgaria and the Teach for All network.

The attendees of the conference will have the chance to witness some of the best practices in TFB classroom this year. Some of them are:



- The students from Lyuben Karavelov School, Zlatna Panega, together with their teacher Vessela Zvezdelinova are presenting their success story in a 10-minute video.
- The students from Hristo Botev School, Brestnitsa, together with their teacher Alexandra Ivanova, are conducting a workshop.
- The ninth graders from Nesho Bonchev School, Panagyurishte, are also leading a workshop.
- Students from all four TFB partner-schools in the Lovech region are selected for various leadership roles at the Conference – hosts, reporters, photographers. Students from the TFB partner-schools in Zlatitsa and Pirdop are taking part as moderators of reflection sessions.

A special spotlight at the TSIP Conference will be given to the twelfth graders of the Professional school of Tourism, Samokov, and their teacher Ivan Petrov, who organized a national student economics conference.

## Classroom story

**Nasko from Koprivshtitza is one of the three Bulgarian students who will study in the United World College in New Mexico, USA**



Teach For Bulgaria history with Nasko leads back to 2011 when Nasko is a 7 grader. He is doing well in class but has no ambition to continue with his education in a better school or university. Urged by his Iva Pashova and Maria Sendova, TFB teachers, Nasko becomes a mentor in a Summer Academy, organized by them. Later, Nasko commits that this experience has helped him a lot to see himself as a role model to other students. Already in 8<sup>th</sup> grade Nasko stays after classes to work with Iva Pashova on B1 level in English because he has a goal – to go to Harvard. In the summer of 2013 Iva helped him apply for a CVS camp in France and 3 weeks later he comes back even more inspired about his future. He starts preparing for SAT exams.

However, everything changes in 2014 when Nasko is not supported by TFB teachers and lacks their constant support and guidance. He has forgotten about his dream and has given up SAT lessons. And then his path crosses again with Iva Pashova, this time as a Deputy Director of his school. Iva reminds him about his previous successes and his ambition. They spend 6 hours per week in improving his English and stimulating interviews for prestigious schools. And then an opportunity comes – full scholarship for United World Colleges in New Mexico. Reluctantly, Nasko decides to apply and Iva is right next to him, supporting him through the way. Finally, Nasko goes through the selection process and is now accepted for a 2-year program in UWC. When the euphoria of the success passes, Nasko admits “I am calm and I know I earned it with hard work. Now I deeply believe that I can change not only my life but those of the people around me.”

## School initiatives

### Students with solutions for youth unemployment and GDP



On 8 April, a [National Students Conference in Economics](#) took place in Samokov. This is a 6-months effort of 12 graders in Vocational School of Tourism in Samokov, who organized the event together with their TFB teacher Ivan Petrov. The aim of the events was to produce an economic report “[Youth Unemployment and GDP - Proposals and Solutions](#)”. 83 participants from 26 schools (18 regions) were selected to take part in the economic debate. During the day-long conference, the participants took part in discussions with economics experts. In the afternoon, the “young specialists” worked in groups, which were facilitated and organized by students-moderators.

The proposals of each group were presented in a report. As next steps the students will present the report in front of Samokov Municipality, a main sponsor of the event. Students are also aiming at presenting it to the different state authorities such as – Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Education, as well as number of NGOs.

The event wouldn't be possible without the generous support of Samokov Municipality, Bankia Mineral Waters, Nestle Bulgaria, Glavbolgarstroy – Samokov, Samel-90, Barzanov Cookies Company and Montazhi 64.



### Meet Dani Georgieva

Dani graduated from the High School in Mathematics and Sciences in Blagoevgrad. She holds a Bachelor Degree in Law from Newcastle University in the UK. During the 2013-2014 academic year, Dani was the President of the Bulgarian Society in the university.

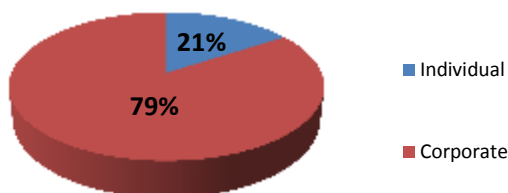
Dani's engagement with Teach For Bulgaria dates back to 2012 when she became an on-campus representative of the organization. She finds her decision to continue her career as a teacher as “absolutely natural and logical”. She wants to be part of a community working for a positive change in Bulgaria.

Dani is currently teaching English in “Otets Paisii” High School in Samokov.

## Financial snapshot

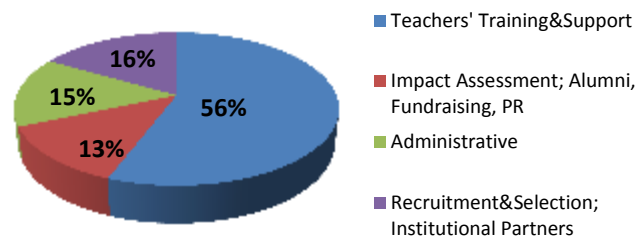
### TFB Donations Jan - March 2015

BGN 125 281 (excl. AFB grant)



### TFB Expenses Jan - March 2015

BGN 478 099



## Organizational Report

**Admissions:** With the end of recruitment and selection season we have received 1056 applications and extended offers to 113 successful candidates. So far 74 of them have accepted their offers and we are waiting for a few more to confirm. The Admissions team has started pursuing an active “early recruitment” initiative, actively participating in career events, workshops and presentations. The goal is to establish a positive awareness of TFB amongst potential candidates for the next recruitment season.

**Institutional Partnerships:** Over the course of the past quarter we launched our schools recruitment campaign for partner schools in 2015/2016. As of now, we have received 145 openings (52% from partner schools) from 139 schools in 13 regions. We are aiming extending our program to two new regions – Vratza and Razgrad. Final decision about the rich of the program will be made in July based on school openings and candidates’ profiles.

The past quarter marked another high priority event for us – a new draft education bill that has been submitted in the Parliament. This was a huge opportunity for Teach For Bulgaria to influence concrete legislation in key areas such as: teachers’ certification, assessment and professional development; school autonomy and external evaluation; as well as schools’ financing mechanism so that students are put in the center of the system.

**Training and Support:** We started the initial training of 2015 teachers. During this quarter, the Support team conducted the first of two annual teacher performance evaluations. 48% of teachers were evaluated as exceeding our expectations for their personal and professional development for this time period. The number of teachers continuing teaching is stable compared with the previous two years. We have had two teachers leave the program in the previous quarter, compared with four last year during the same time period.

**Fundraising and Development:** In March we held first of its kind TFB charity event abroad. The event was hosted by the Bulgarian embassy in London and co-organized by a company supporter of ours - Questers (IT supplier).

After 8 months of continuous efforts, Teach For Bulgaria funding applications to two international foundations had been approved. As a result, Teach For Bulgaria will receive significant funding in the next 2 years allowing us to grow our teacher corps presence and scale in new regions in Bulgaria. We consider this as a big success in our efforts to increase the percentage of independent funding and to guarantee sustainable growth in the years to come.

## 2014-2015 Honor Roll

The 2014-2015 Honor Roll presented below includes all Teach For Bulgaria donors during the fiscal year Oct 1, 2014 – December 31, 2015. Teach For Bulgaria highly appreciates the generosity and support of our contributors.

Platinum Sponsor- covers 10 and more % of the annual budget;

Gold Sponsor - BGN 48 000 – 80 000;

Silver Sponsor - BGN 20 000 – 48 000;

Bronze Sponsor - BGN 5 000 – 20 000;

Collaborator - up to BGN 5000



Founder with a start-up grant (2010-2013) of BGN 4 780 000

Approved second grant (2013-2018) of BGN 22 340 000

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Yordan Georgiev  
Zlatil Davidov  
Zoya Paunova

***Thank you for helping Bulgarian children obtain excellent education!***

***Teach For Bulgaria Team***