

Teach For Bulgaria

Quarterly Report

April-June 2016

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Highlight: TSIP Conference

This year's Transformed Students Inquiry Process (TSIP) focused on showcasing examples of student ownership of learning on an individual basis and as a class. TSIP is Teach For Bulgaria's 'learning loop' which allows us to incentivize, track, and collect case studies to be used in training and knowledge sharing among TFB teachers and beyond. For five years we have benefited from the best practice examples of TFB teachers who go above and beyond to facilitate and motivate student progress. On June 11th Teach For Bulgaria in partnership with America for Bulgaria Foundation and Plovdiv University, we held the annual TSIP conference, "Education for the success of every child".



The president of the republic of Bulgaria and a student from Lovech region

The TSIP conference brought together the larger TFB community, including teachers, alumni, principals of partner schools and prospective partners, corporate and individual supporters, representatives of educational institutions in Bulgaria and members of the TFALL partner network. We were honoured by the opening remarks and encouragements by the deputy minister of education and science, Deyan Stamatov, the president of the republic of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev, the Dutch Royal princess Laurentien van Oranje, and the deputy mayor of the city of Plovdiv, Stefan Stoianov. Teach For Bulgaria is incredibly grateful for the attendance and recognition of these esteemed guests.

During the course of the day-long conference, participants got to witness an array of inspirational examples of student ownership of learning.

[The videos](#) feature classrooms from within the TFB community where students and teachers describe the objectives, plan and progress towards their collective goal.

Each video was followed by a question and answers segment with the students and guests of the conference.

In addition to the videos, guests got to participate in student-led workshops focused on skills development with a clear objective related to their own classroom experience over the course of the last school year.

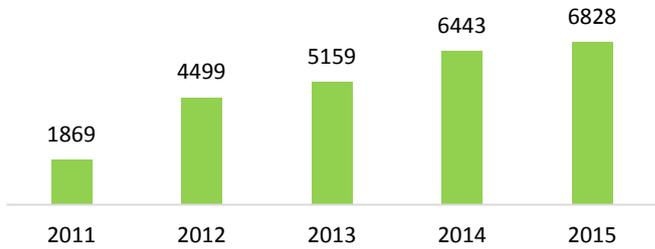
Some groups got to learn about environmental protection while building team work skills, while others got to experience the process of planning and creating a handbook of questions on diverse topics. During the student-led fair, participants had the chance to see many of the products students had created collectively as part of their learning objectives and hear about their journey as a class.



Students from grades 1-6 successfully completing a workshop on problem solving, led by grade 1 students and their teacher Zlatina Georgieva

Student Progress Snapshot

Students taught in TFB classrooms

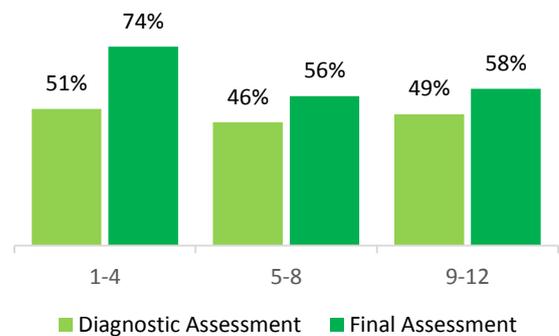


During the 2015-2016 school year, TFB teachers are contributing to the development of skills and enhanced subject knowledge of 6828 unique students, from grades 1 through 12. 24% of these students are in primary school (grades 1-4), 43% in middle school (grades 5-8) and 33% in high-school (9-12).

At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, average student results increased by 23% among students in grades 1-4, 10% among students in grades 5-8, and 9% among high school students. This progress reflects the efforts of TFB teachers and their students in improving subject knowledge among all age groups, as compared to the diagnostic assessments conducted in September-October of the 2015-2016 school year.

In addition to subject knowledge, TFB teachers in grades 5, 6, and 7 worked on developing and tracking reading literacy skills of their students. On average, reading literacy rose by between 13 and 25% among students in grades 5, 6, and 7.

Progress in average of students results on diagnostic subject assessment and final assessment, by grade level



School Initiative



Anglo-American Festival in Samokov

In the spring of 2016, the town of Samokov witnessed its first Anglo-American festival, organized and hosted by a committee of 8 grade 8-11 students at "Otec Paisii" school. The day-long event included information awareness on topics related to studying in the U.S. and the U.K., a showcase of traditional cultural and artistic expressions in each country, and the chance for attendees to prepare and taste typical cuisine from each nation.

After months of intense preparation, the student-led committee and their TFB English teacher, Danny Georgieva, successfully hosted the festival attended by 80 guests from 4 nearby towns. Through this experience the students not only improved their communication and presentation skills, but they did so in English. They are already integrating feedback from attendees and planning next year's festival.

Meet a TFB teacher



TODAY, Radoslav works as an after-school teacher at a school in Karlovo. During his first year as a TFB teacher he focused on skills development through interest-based learning for his grade 4 students. Together they set a class target to perform well on their external evaluations at the end of grade 4, and his students exceeded that target.

Radoslav Stilianov, TFB teacher of 2015-17 cohort, BA and MA in Economics & Commerce, from Plovdiv University.

Why did you become a TFB teacher?

As an economist I realize the critical role of quality education on our economic development and as a volunteer at an orphanage I learned how gratifying it is to help a child learn to read, write and develop skills they'll need in order to be successful. I wanted to contribute to the education sector and specifically in regions with high need for good quality teachers.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

The opportunity I have to unlock the potential of each and every one of my students.

In 5 years I hope to be...

An after-school teacher and a leader of a nonprofit which works on providing opportunities for development of young people in Bulgaria.

Meet a TFB alumna

Zlatka Dimitrova, TFB teacher of 2013-2015 cohort, taught English in a small village- Hristo Danovo.

What motivated you to become a TFB teacher?

I believe that the well-being of our society depends on our personal and collective achievements. I decided that the best way to invest my efforts was teaching students from disadvantaged communities and contribute to their taking a more successful life path after school.

What was your favorite part about teaching?

The opportunity to experiment with art as an instrument for language teaching. The most productive classes were ones which included singing, dancing, drama and art.

What was the biggest challenge you faced as a TFB teacher?

Adopting to my work environment and connecting with my teacher colleagues at the school.

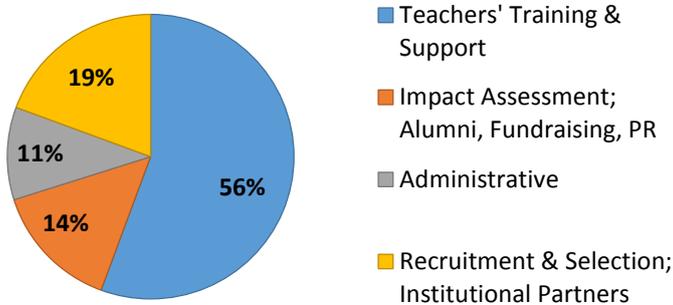
If I had not become a TFB teacher, I would have continued my studies with a Masters degree in Governance, Political Science of Sociology.



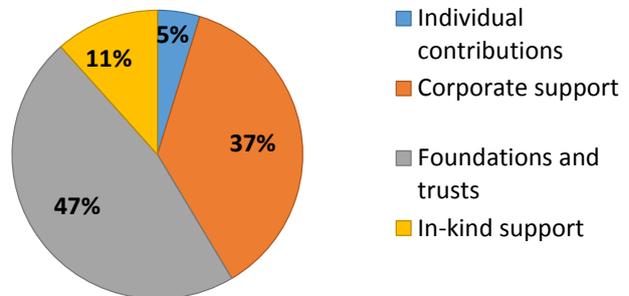
TODAY, Zlatka is the co-founder of Bulgarian Education 2030, an education-advocacy association of over 40 organizations and individuals united in a shared vision and objectives for what Bulgaria's education system should be in the year 2030.

Financial Snapshot

TFB expenses Apr-Jun 2016
BGN 743 495



New donations Apr-Jun 2016
BGN 432 288, excl. ABF grant



Organizational Updates



July 1st marked the end of the TFB program for the 2014-2016 cohort of teachers and [their induction as TFB alumni](#), bringing the total number of TFB alumni to 119. Our community celebrated the occasion with a reflection led by the graduating cohort and a ceremony, featuring TFB founder and main funder, America for Bulgaria, our corporate partner in Srednogorie, Aurubis, representatives from the regional inspectorate of education, and, of course, alumni, teachers and the TFB staff. We're thrilled to have shared the celebration with our cherished partners and excited to witness our newest alumni's future achievements.

On May 10th, Teach For Bulgaria and our partners at Kinstellar held a fundraising event in London. A diverse mix of Bulgarian professionals from the banking and finance sector, as well as the legal field, attended a short information session about TFB's work and a networking reception generously hosted by Sidley Austin. The event was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with TFB supporters based in London and introduce the cause of equal access to quality education for every child to new prospective partners. Our deepest thanks to Kinstellar for co-organizing the evening, and to Sidley Austin for the stellar logistics support. We're happy to report the event raised over 4500 BGN from individual givers. The funds will go directly towards training and support for TFB teachers entering the classroom in September.



TFB Alumni, Pan Panayotov and Stanislava Basitova, CEO of TFB, Evgenia Peeva, and Partner at Kinstellar Bulgaria, Diana Dimova

As of June 30th, TFB has officially welcomed its largest cohort of teachers, 128, and successfully placed 45 of them in partner and new partner schools in 10 regions of the country. We're thrilled at the opportunity to enter the regions of Montana and Vratsa in northwestern Bulgaria starting this September, and continue to build on our partnerships with partner schools in the remaining 8 regions by placing new teachers in vacant positions and collaborating on generating additional positions for TFB teachers.

Honor Roll-will update in July

The 2016 Honor Roll presented below includes all Teach For Bulgaria donors for the period of Jan 1, 2016- Dec 31, 2016. Teach For Bulgaria highly appreciates the generosity and support of our contributors.

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