

Teach For Bulgaria

Quarterly Report

January-March 2016

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Highlight: 21st Century Skills

Over the past twelve months, Teach For Bulgaria (TFB) created a handbook for teachers called *How to develop 21st century skills in the classroom*. It is the main outcome of *Functional literacy for 21st century: assessment tools and teaching strategies* project, partially financed by EEA grants. The handbook provides teachers with strategies for integrating 21st century skills across subjects and shares good practices from TFB classrooms. 21st century skills have always been part of TFB's vision for student success as a key instrument for addressing the achievement gap. This handbook is the result of cumulative findings from TFB's five-year experience in diverse classrooms.

Teachers' seminar on "developing functional literacy in the classroom".
Koprivshitsa school, October 2015



More than 20 teachers and alumni were involved in the research, testing and creating the conceptual model for developing skills in the classroom. 16 TFB fellows (11 alumni and 5 second year teachers) wrote the 13 chapters of the handbook, each devoted to a specific 21st century skill (reading literacy, numeracy, scientific literacy, emotional intelligence, personal development, learning to learn, critical thinking and problem solving, collaboration, communication, civic engagement, creativity, financial literacy, and digital literacy). Each chapter contains description of the skill, its

importance, a breakdown of the skill in elements and learning goals, assessment tools, strategies for developing the skill in class and project examples in various subject areas. We conducted pilot trainings on the topic *how to develop skills on a school level* in two TFB partner schools – Nesho Bonchev School, Panagyurishte, and Lyuben Karavelov School, Koprivshitsa. Both school teams adopted the model for developing skills in class, presented in the handbook, and shared their experience with other TFB partner schools at the final conference of the project.

21st Skills in Education Conference took place on 20 February, 2016. Nearly 150 participants attended the conference, including representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science (MES), regional inspectorates in education, universities, research institutes, businesses, NGOs, as well as school principals, teachers and students. The focus of the conference was on how the Bulgarian educational system can prepare successful people in the 21st century and reflect on each stakeholder's role in this process. A special guest lecturer was Prof. Joke Voogt, expert on ICT and Curriculum at the University of Amsterdam's (UvA) Faculty of Social and Behavioral Sciences. The conference was opened by Meglena Kuneva, Minister of Education and Science.

Проектът „Функционална грамотност за 21-ви век: инструменти за оценка и методи на преподаване“ се финансира в рамките на Програмата за поддръжка на ИПО в България по Финансови механизми на Европейското икономическо пространство 2009-2014 г. и се съфинансира от фондация Америка за България.



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КАК ДА РАЗВИВАМЕ
УМЕНИЯ НА 21-ВИ ВЕК В ЧАС?
от учители за учители



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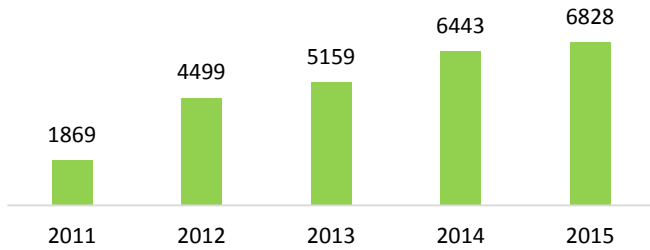
ЗАЕДНО В ЧАС

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Cover of hardcopy of *How to develop 21st century skills in the classroom* handbook. Available online, in Bulgarian, through the official website: www.21stcenturyskills.info

Student Progress Snapshot

Students taught in TFB classrooms

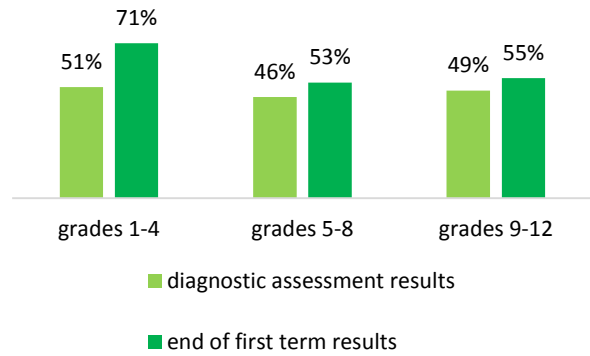


During the 2015-2016 school year, TFB teachers are contributing to the development of skills and enhanced subject knowledge of 6828 unique students, from grades 1 through 12. 24% of these students are in primary school (grades 1-4), 43% in middle school (grades 5-8) and 33% in high-school (9-12).

At the end of the first term, TFB teachers conduct subject assessments to track students' progress as compared to their diagnostic assessments from the beginning of the school year. 100%= equivalent of 6 in Bulgarian grading scheme, 60%=2 (failing grade).

The graph demonstrates an increase in average results by 20% among students in grades 1 through 4, 7% among students in grades 5 through 7, and 6% among high-school students. The data will be used to compare to end of school year assessments, in order to track students' progress over the entire 2015-2016 school year.

Average students' results on diagnostic subject assessment and end of first term, by grade level



School Initiative



Robotics Club

During the first few months of 2016, the school in Oreshene, a small village 100km from Sofia, launched its first robotics club. The club is an initiative started by TFB teacher, Iglia, and supported by her colleagues at the school. Currently there are three members of the club, grades 5, 6 and 7, and they are actively recruiting others. Recently, the students met the mayor of Oreshene to discuss the garbage collection problem of the community and brainstorm innovative solutions. In March, the club led a workshop for 30 students, grades 1-3 at the local "School Miracles" event, which brings together students from 4 villages in the region. They emphasized how being a member of the club teaches students team work and provides them with an opportunity to apply their subject knowledge in math and IT.

Meet a TFB teacher



TODAY, Ekaterina teaches Bulgarian and English as a second language to students in grades 5 through 7 at a Sofia elementary school. Currently she is focused on preparing her students for national exams, as well as developing literacy skills. Before joining TFB, Ekaterina gained valuable experience in government institutions, research and editing, and the private and nonprofit sectors.

Ekaterina Yoncheva, TFB class of 2015-17, BA in Bulgarian and Russian language studies, MA in European Projects, from Sofia University.

Why did you become a TFB teacher?

I wanted to contribute to positive change in the education sector, a cause which requires a dedicated community. For me, TFB is that community.

What is your favorite part about teaching?

The satisfaction from realizing I've had a positive impact on a child's development. As teachers, we have vast opportunities to have a positive impact. I think we truly have the opportunity to change lives.

In 5 years I hope to be...*content with my choice of working towards a better education system in Bulgaria.*

Meet a TFB alumna

Ivelina Pashova (Iva), TFB class of 2011-2013, taught English as a second language in Koprivshtitsa.

What motivated you to become a TFB teacher?

I wanted to work with people who make real positive change in Bulgaria, and especially focused on children. I believe that if children get quality education, they will make better choices and have better life outcomes.

What was your favorite part about teaching?

Working together with the kids and the 'a-ha' moment they quite often have about something. That is the real joy of understanding something new, which fuels motivation for learning.

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

Engaging all of my students and finding a way to make learning meaningful for every child.

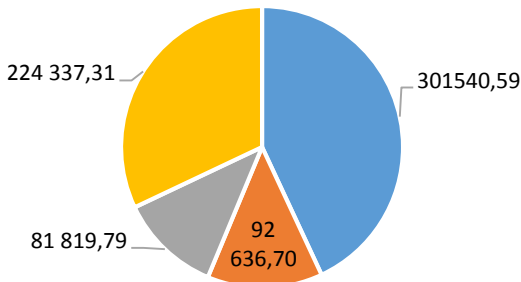
If I had not become a TFB teacher... *I would have started to work in another NGO in Bulgaria, or I would have moved to live and work somewhere abroad.*



TODAY, Iva is a vice-principal at the school in Koprivshtitsa, where she taught as a TFB teacher. She is focused on developing teachers' capacity to facilitate learning and motivating excellence among her students. In 2016, a second student from the school was admitted with full scholarship to the prestigious United World Colleges, where she will complete her secondary education.

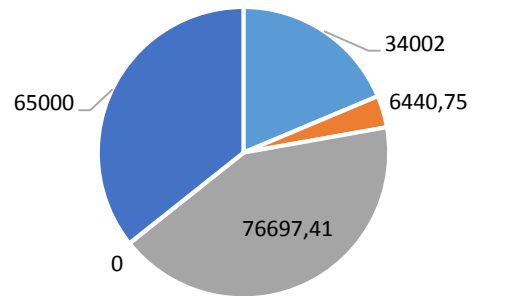
Financial Snapshot

TFB expenses Jan-Mar 2016



- Teachers' Training & Support
- Impact Assessment; Alumni, Fundraising, PR
- Administrative
- Recruitment & Selection; Institutional Partners

New donations Jan-Mar 2016



- Special fundraising events
- Corporate and other business grants
- Other gifts in-kind
- Individual contributions
- Foundations and trusts

Organizational Updates



In February, Vratsa Software, led by our alum Emilian Kadiiski (cohort 2011-2013) [won 1st place in the Education category at the Bulgarian Association of Information Technology annual awards](#). Vratsa Software was recognized for its efforts in providing IT training to motivated individuals, and attracting IT employers to the Vratsa region. So far 10 graduates of [Vratsa Software](#) have secured employment by 2 IT firms, 8 in Vratsa and 2 in Sofia. We're incredibly proud of Emo and his partners at Vratsa Software and the positive impact of their social entrepreneurship!

TFB is always open to collaborations with our partners, and especially thrilled when our team and teachers get to engage with employees of corporate partners. Recently, our gold-level partner Bankia, invited two TFB teachers as guest speakers at two internal conferences with the top managers of the company. Svetla (teacher in Razgrad) and Desislava (teacher in Kostinbrod) each presented TFB's mission and their own work with students from marginalized communities.

Another corporate partner, Questers, hosted [a charity pub-night team building](#), in which Questers employees had a chance to hear more about TFB and contribute to our work through the purchase of raffle tickets for donated prizes. Both examples highlight the unique ways our partners celebrate and support TFB.



TFB's CEO, Evgenia Peeva, and Questers' CEO Alexander Drangajov opening Questers' charity pub-night.

The first three months of 2016 were marked by a TFB recruitment milestone. Our recruitment marketing campaign, supported by Bankia, Nova TV, NetInfo, Sportal, bTV radio, BG radio and Economedia, featured TV, digital, radio, and outdoor advertising, as well as regional recruitment events held in 6 major towns. Collectively, these efforts contributed to increased applications from prospective TFB teachers. As of the end of March, we had 1705 applications submitted, double the number of the same point in time last year (861). With this progress, we're on our way to meeting our ambitious target of 130 new teachers joining TFB for 2016-2018.

Honor Roll

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.

<p>Platinum Sponsor: covers 10% or 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 5 000</p>		 AMERICA FOR BULGARIA FOUNDATION Фондация Америка за България		
		<p>Founder with a start-up grant (2010-2013) of BGN 4 780 000 Approved second grant (2013-2018) of BGN 22 340 000</p>		
<p>Gold Sponsors: Aurubis Bulgaria Bankia Mineral Waters Titan Zlatna Panega</p> <p>Silver Sponsors: Dundee Precious Metals- Chelopech International Women's Club – Sofia NOVA TV Walltopia</p>	<p>Bronze Sponsors: Agrochimconsult Antibiotic Astra Zeneca BG Agro BG Radio Bogomil Balkansky Denitza Zheljazkova JPoint Kinstellar Bulgaria Mina and Savov Savovi Pilko Radoslav Vasilev Sportal BG Vesela Chervenкова Zoya Paunova</p>	<p>Collaborators: Alexander Nikolov Asarel Medet Branimir Lambov Bojil Velinov Bulgarian Charities Aid Foundation Elisaveta Tomova Georgi Tsankov Ivan Davtchev</p>	<p>Maria loveva Milen Dzhumerov Mihail Mitev Mlin 97 Momchil Ivanov Momchil Kyurkchiev Monika Kovachka- Dimitrova Pavlina Yanakieva Petko Minkov</p>	<p>Questers Group Ralitsa Angelova Rusi Popov Tiffanie Harrison Theodore Lazar Vassil Terziev Veselin Dikov Vesta OOD Vladislav Shunturov</p>

Thanks to our partners, we can continue to provide access to quality education for children from underprivileged backgrounds and communities. Your generous contributions make our work possible!

If you would like to support TFB, [click here for donation options.](#)