

Educate Bulgarian Children with KHANACADEMY

This project is about localization, awareness and adoption of the Khan Academy website in Bulgarian. Khan Academy is the outstanding educational platform based on skills-driven education.

Your donations will help provide access to the full free Khan Academy website and thus to world-class education to (1) children with access to sub-standard formal education, (2) anyone with limited resource to achieve the learning they want and (3) successful children who want to get accepted into a prestigious university.

Who are we?

“Образование без ранити” (“Education Without Backpacks”) is a NGO registered in Sofia, Bulgaria. We work to localize, and increase awareness and adoption of, world-class educational materials and platforms in Bulgarian. Our mission is to improve the wellbeing of our society through local and distance education via the best available online tools.

Our first large project is [Khan Academy](#) in [Bulgarian](#). We have been translating Khan Academy’s exercises, videos and articles since 2011, mainly counting on volunteer work and individual donations. Our social network includes over 600 volunteers, 4 700 Facebook fans and thousands more users throughout the years. The investment so far is above 8 000 USD of donations, hundreds of hours of project management work and thousands of hours of translation work. Bulgarian is among the top five most translated languages worldwide. In 2014, we have launched the test version of Khan Academy in Bulgarian, and have meanwhile over 1 800 video lessons with translated subtitles and 160 dubbed videos (out of 8 000) as well as thousands of translated exercises. In 2016, we hope to reach the official “live” version of Khan Academy in Bulgarian.

“Education Without Backpacks” is not officially affiliated with Khan Academy; we are a separate Bulgarian organization executing the Khan Academy Bulgarian translation effort.

The problem

Bulgaria is ranked a low 46th place out of 65 countries in the PISA 2015 survey, an evaluation of the big nations’ education systems that tests the skills and knowledge of 15-year-olds. The [survey](#) (page 5) showed that 44% of the Bulgarian kids were functionally illiterate in mathematics and 39% in reading.

Behind the disappointing numbers is an even bleaker reality: under-funded schools, few and unmotivated teachers, unsophisticated use of technology, crowded classrooms and weak relationships between teachers and students. As a result, children receive insufficient attention to their unique problem areas and growth potential.

According to PISA 2015, Bulgaria also provides highly unequal quality of education to students from poor and rich economic backgrounds, from “elite” and average schools, and in cities vs. small towns and villages. This leaves large attainment gaps for almost 80% of all children.

Surprisingly, Bulgaria is also reported as a leader in broadband access and internet-connected schools and households. 21st century technologies are essential for Bulgarian daily lives. Education, unfortunately, has fallen behind the rest of society by managing to buy many computers, but rarely using them in novel and sophisticated ways. Children are taught within an old and narrow framework: the teacher speaks in front of the blackboard and the students are expected to listen and take notes. Textbooks are started and finished, the class is done, and the student just has to move on. The result is not only surprisingly low digital literacy, but also failure in math, reading and, worst of all, reasoning and self-motivation.

platform is already available in.

Our motivation, vision and next steps

We believe that with the help of technology and expertise, personalized learning can be one of the most scalable ways to give Bulgarian children a better education. We care about learners' unique needs, promoting constant learning and equal opportunities in education. Khan Academy is the best platform to achieve that.

This project will directly support our mission - by finalizing the translation of Khan Academy's priority content and launching the official live version, and hopefully soon - by finalizing the translation of all materials. It will also help us guarantee that all translations are of high academic quality, have standard style and correct terminology in Bulgarian and are continuously updated.

The "end product" will be free-of-charge world-class education in Bulgarian for everyone, everywhere. The goal is to encourage social inclusion and personal and professional success towards economic stability and wellbeing for everyone.

According to our long-term goals, Bulgarian-speaking learners will be able to:

1. Grow with Khan Academy's personalized learning experience

Having access to over 8 000 video lessons and 100 000 math, science and other exercises, using the new learning dashboard and receiving personalized recommendations on what to work on next, tracking their progress. In addition to translating the Khan Academy content, "Education Without Backpacks" will promote and implement a free program that takes Khan Academy to students and public schools, train teachers to use the platform in their day-to-day work, and share this knowledge with other educators.

2. Explore tutorials in other topics

Khan Academy tutorials cover a range of subject areas, including physics, chemistry, biology, art history and computer science. Khan Academy also offers partner content from organizations like NASA, MIT, Stanford School of Medicine, the California Academy of Sciences, the British Museum, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Pixar and many others.

3. Learn with a mentor

Learners can sign up a parent, mentor, or teacher to help guide their path. These coaches can access real-time dashboards to identify where learners are and where they need help. Teachers can create their virtual classrooms and invite their students in. We will help by providing a network of mentors to children when they need them.

Our contacts

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