

# VOYAGER



**G-LENS:  
THE DIGITAL FUTURE  
THROUGH THE LENS  
OF SOLIDARITY**

*Read on pages 16-24*



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**INHERITED CULTURE:  
YOUNG PEOPLE – GUARDIANS OF  
HISTORY**

**ANTI-CORRUPTION: WHEN YOUNG  
PEOPLE STOP BEING "THE FUTURE"  
AND BECOME "THE NOW"**

**LIVING WORDS: THE POETIC BRIDGE  
BETWEEN GENERATIONS**

# EDITORIAL STAFF AUTHORS

Anelia Gospodinova, Yoana Assenova,  
Aleksandra Ilieva, Nadya Molova, Soufiane Ochta,  
Ivanka Stavreva-Ivi, Agata Krumova, Pepa Peneva

## TRANSLATION

Yoana Assenova

## EDITOR

Stela Petrova

## PHOTOS

Anelia Gospodinova, Agata Krumova,  
Ivanka Stavreva-Ivi, Nadya Molova, OSF

## DESIGN

Bulut Erbas

## PRODUCER

Open Space Foundation

## REFERENCES

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ЦЕНТЪР ЗА РАЗВИТИЕ  
НА ЧОВЕШКИТЕ РЕСУРСИ

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# Bridges we never stop building

Dear readers,

Here is issue #14 of Voyager magazine – an issue that brings together our experience over the last 3 months of 2025. If we had to describe the last months in one word, it would be “continuity”.

In this issue, we will go through the entire spectrum of our work together. We will take you to Brussels, where we discussed the ECS (European Solidarity Corps) program and its future, we will take you back to the dusty but inspiring archaeological excavations of Veliki Preslav, Misionis and Heraclea Sintica. There, over the past three years, over 130 young people have proven that cultural heritage is not a thing of the past, but a common European language.

We also speak openly about difficult topics. It has been a turbulent year in Bulgaria, and our projects on anti-corruption training and combating disinformation have shown us that young people are no longer just “hope for the future” – they are the active force of the “here and now”.

But Voyager has always been a space for the personal. Therefore, you will enjoy Yoana's culinary discoveries, Anelia's and Agata's travels, and Nadya's mystical reflections on mirrors. These pages are proof that our team and volunteers are much more than “project experts” - they are colorful, searching and inspired individuals.

We end this issue with a new and very special spark for us - our partnership with the Chitalishte "Iskra 1964" in Sofia. The meeting between generations that took place there inspired us and gave us the beauty of "Living Words". It is their poems that adorn our calendar for 2026, which we proudly present to you.

Thank you for being with us on this journey. We move the office, pack boxes, sometimes we don't sleep, but we never stop believing that every effort is worth it when it is shared.

Enjoy reading and may 2026 bring us even more occasions for common causes and true closeness!

The Voyager editorial team

# Looking back on a strong year

by Pepa Peneva



As the last quarter of the year approaches, it is naturally time to take stock. When we look back at the past 2025, the picture we see is large-scale and colorful. We see thousands of kilometers traveled, countless smiles and real change. But above all, we see **you** – our incredible team and the dedicated volunteers who were the engine of our every endeavor.

Our immense gratitude goes to each and every one of you who put your heart and time into it. Without your energy, our ideas would have remained just words on paper.

## From Brussels with confidence

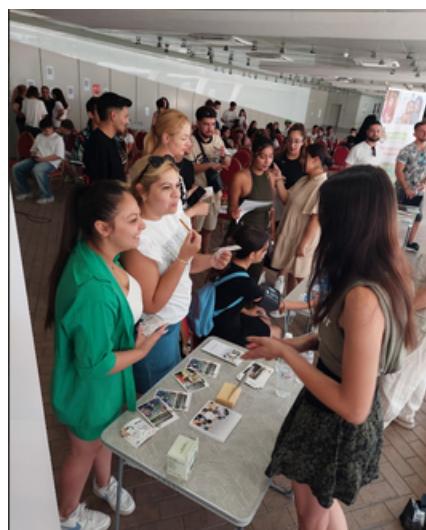
I recently had the honor of participating in a key meeting in Brussels dedicated to the evaluation of high-priority projects under the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) program. There, we discussed the fundamental question: "How do we plan projects that are not only high-quality, but also truly engaging for young people?"

Listening to the examples and analyses, I smiled inwardly, because I know that our projects are already like that. And the proof is not in the documents, but in real life. We can boast of **continuity**. Our young people do not just complete their projects – they come back, they want to continue being part of our team and our "family".

We are proud that we achieve **impact at the local level**: in the communities where we work, tangible development is already observed – new participants, new initiatives, created terrains and places that young people care about.

## The meaning is in "TOGETHER"

Our work only makes sense when it is shared. Your presence proves that our efforts are worth it. You are not just participants in projects – you are ambassadors of a better and more solidary Europe. Thank you for choosing to walk this path with us. In 2025, we proved that when we are together, there are no limits to good!

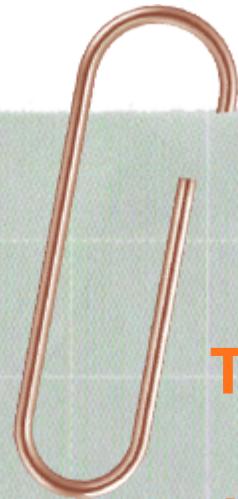


# The volunteers in focus

The following pages tell the first-person experiences of volunteers in our team in Sofia. We will take a look inside the kitchen of things, hear their confessions and most of all WHY should you choose volunteering as your path to development?

First on the hot seat is **Yoana Assenova**.

We met in the summer of 2023, when Yoanna joined our Inherited Culture project and participated in archaeological excavations. Even during the project, we liked each other and agreed that she would soon join our team in Sofia. Her interest in the **Korean language and culture** immediately found expression in 97 Secondary School "Bratya Miladinovi" in Sofia, where we have been working with children and youth in art and sports activities after school for several years. We hasten to clarify that Yoanna's interests in Asian culture date back a long time. As a student at Secondary School "Sava Dobropoljni" in Shumen town, her artistry and curiosity remained insufficiently engaged, and she found online Korean language lessons herself. Today, she is our Gourmet-advisor and selects restaurants with exotic food for us to visit with the team.



## The perks of being an uneducated teacher

by Yoana Assenova

In this article I am going to tell you more about my teaching experience so far as a young uneducated Korean language teacher. This unexpected journey of mine started last year, during my first meeting with Open Space team. Unfortunately, not as appealing as it sounded at first, being a teacher with zero experience was not easy for me. Because of that reason I am writing this article – I hope it will find some of you who are insecure and worried when you are working as a teacher for the first time or whichever job in general.

When I started at first, I did not expect to be that worried and anxious, due to the fact that I know some Korean and there was nothing to worry about when it comes to grammar, vocabulary or culture of Korea. However, the most complicated part of being a teacher is not knowing the material that you teach well but knowing how to communicate with the students and how to make them interested in this material. Even though the students then loved their previous teacher, they started to like me as well. However, my anxiety did not stop, I was so worried all the time and the only reason I continued teaching was that I knew that it was beneficial for my personal and professional development and my CV of course (hahahah).

That was my first 4 months of teaching – constant anxiety and stress. Fortunately, my 2nd school year of teaching started and somehow everything was gone. Honestly, I was so amazed by myself and the way I was teaching and how confident I was. It was like magic to me. Obviously, everything has its reason and the reason behind that sudden shift was the fact that I was not the same freshly graduated schoolgirl I used to be. I gained knowledge and more importantly experience. As for now, I love my job, I love the school, I love the people I am working with there and the students I am teaching. These kids inspire me to not stop believing in myself and that I can do everything, because that is the power of the teachers in their students' eyes. I am happy that I was offered this opportunity, I accepted it and most importantly, I did not give up doing it, because now I would not be the person I am now. I love you kids, this article is written thanks to your positive energy, interest and joyful moments during our classes. I hope this article find the right people, who are feeling lost or unmotivated, and it manages to bring even a little bit hope during your hard times!

Dedicated to every young adult who never stops trying to find themselves!



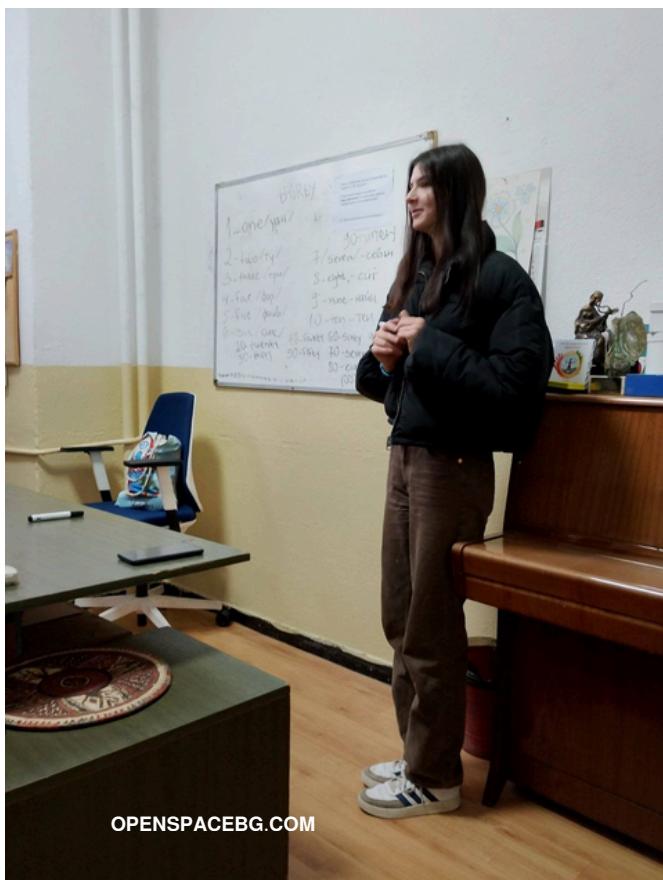
Photo: archive of 97 Sofia High School "Bratya Miladinovi" Sofia city, Korean Culture Festival with the participation of employees of the Korean Embassy in Bulgaria



## The bridge between generations

We met **Victoria Mileva** - Vicky 8 years ago, when she went with a spray can in her hands to paint graffiti in the Obelya district of Sofia. Vicky, a fourteen-year-old young person at the time, had no idea of the current regulations and penalties for painting graffiti. We saved her from a number of troubles. Since then, timidly and with a smile, Vicky has gradually entered our activities and she likes it more and more. In the summer of 2025, she came to the city of V.Preslav for only one week and liked it so much that she stayed for 45 days and participated in archaeological excavations with 23 other young people from different European countries.

Vicky has exceptional kindness in her soul and has often asked the question: how can I help people in need? How can I be useful to homeless people? Very soon after she returned to the city of Sofia, we began discussing how her energy and talents could be useful. And here she is in one of her unexpected roles: **teaching English to seniors** at the "Iskra 1964" Community Center in the West Park district of Sofia. Here's what Vicky shared:



# A flipped classroom: A lesson I taught... and the one that taught me

by Victoria Mileva

The first time I walked into the community center to teach English to elderly people, I was just as excited as I was nervous... I didn't know how they would react, whether they would find it interesting and I was worried that I might not be prepared well enough. As soon as I entered, I felt that this wouldn't be just a lesson, but a shared experience - an exchange of knowledge where we all learn from one another.

I wanted to make the class as light, pleasant and interesting as possible, so we started with the alphabet song - a whole group of smiling people singing A, B, C... and just like that, my anxiety disappeared! Then we played word bingo and finally "What is this?", where they guessed different objects in English. They did amazingly well and brought so much energy into the room that I found myself feeling it too. The best part was how eager they were to learn. They already had a solid basic understanding of the language, they participated with enthusiasm and every little victory made them genuinely happy. They took notes in their notebooks, which reminded me that we all learn in the same way, regardless of age. And it wasn't just them learning from me, I was learning from them as well.

At one point, one of the women asked me how to translate the word "chitalishte" into English, and I froze for a second because I had never thought about that word before. While I was trying to come up with an answer, another woman shared that the word is actually recognized by UNESCO as part of the intangible cultural heritage.

My first lesson was truly an unforgettable shared moment. I left with a huge smile on my face, proud not only of myself, for feeling like a part of these colorful, wonderful people, but also proud of them - of their calmness, their excitement and their impressive knowledge of the subject.

I'm already looking forward to our next meeting.



Photos: archive of the Chitalishte "Iskra 1964" Sofia,  
English lesson with Vicki



### To fill the gap

**Sufiane Ochta or Fini (from Morocco)** appeared in our team with recommendations and hot instructions from Rashid (also from Morocco) to continue working with **the football club in 97 SU "Bratya Miladinovi"**, which we formed as a joke, to fill the summer boredom and nothing to do for the children from Lyulin 5 district, who during the summer vacation have very few opportunities for activity and development.

After the successful and very emotional start, the group not only accepted the previous coach, his families simply "adopted" him: they invited him to watch football matches together, to visit his parents in the village on the weekend, to a family movie and ... And into this almost family idyll, Fini comes, who must replace a beloved coach, as well as adapt himself to a culture and environment terribly different from his in Morocco.

Here is Fini's personal story:



## What I Will Take From My Project in Bulgaria

by Soufiane Ochta

When I arrived in Bulgaria, I didn't know what to expect. I came with hope, but also with uncertainty. The children already had a coach they loved, someone they trusted deeply. and the project had only started a year earlier. For the kids, I was a stranger walking into a world that wasn't mine yet.

On my first day, I did not even know their names. I did not know their positions, their strengths, their weaknesses, or their personalities. Moreover, that same day, I had to coach them in a tournament. I felt lost, confused. Moreover, a little scared. It was my very first time coaching children, and everything felt impossible. However, little by little, things changed. I started listening. I started watching. Slowly, the kids became more than just players they became individuals I cared about. I learned who was shy, who was confident, who listened, who needed encouragement, and who needed to be pushed gently. The connection grew naturally, systematically, without forcing it. Moreover, together against all odds we won the tournament for School 97. That victory was not just a trophy. It was proof of trust, teamwork, and love. From this project, I am taking something far more valuable than experience. I am taking the understanding that being a teacher is not about authority it is on heart. A teacher grows with the students. A teacher cares before instructing. A teacher leads with the heart before the whistle. I am also taking with me the lessons the children taught me: patience, empathy, and the power of sincere connection. They showed me that when you give love, trust eventually follows.

## What Impressed Me in Bulgaria

What impressed me the most in Bulgaria were the children themselves? Their ability to adapt and accept someone new was incredible. Even though I came from another country, another culture, and another background, they opened their hearts to me simply because I showed them respect and care. The spirit of the school—the energy, the passion, and the determination the kids showed every single day, also impressed me. Even when things were difficult, they pushed forward with strength and joy. Bulgaria itself impressed me too. The buildings were interesting, with a mix of modern life and old Eastern European style. I enjoyed the weather in Sofia, especially the fresh mornings and the calm afternoons. In addition, the historical monuments were beautiful every statue, every old building, and every square felt like it carried a story. And maybe the biggest surprise was how much Bulgaria changed me. I left the country more patient, more confident, and more understanding. I discovered a new part of myself thanks to those children.

Bulgaria did not only give me memories. It gave me growth, love, and a story I will carry with me forever.

## Meeting with yourself

The meeting with **Alexandra Ilieva** or **Alex**, as we all call her, came in the middle of the year from a project in Poznań (Poland). After a year spent in Poland, Alex very categorically stated that she was looking for a job and planned to return to Poland. The people are what enchanted her, and make re-adaptation in Bulgaria difficult.

We talk about work, about opportunities in Bulgaria, but there is a sad flame in her eyes. If you look through her Instagram profile, you will find great photos, a ready-made photo model. The liveliness of this look (caught by cameras in Poland) is simply missing here.

The task is complex! But not impossible. Today, there is no obstacle for Bulgarians to move, live and work in another European country. I wish you, Alex, to find the best place for yourself and realize the potential that your colleagues from **CIM Horizonty** saw in you!

Frankly from Alex:



# If I Could Talk to Myself Before ESC

By Alex Ilieva

I would sit next to myself for a moment and let myself feel the excitement and the thrill that come with fear.

Because that, too, is part of the process - and it's completely normal.

And then I would say this:

You're not weak because you're afraid.

You're brave for even considering going.

You're brave because you trust yourself enough to take this step.

Leaving your comfort zone will be challenging.

You'll doubt yourself.

You'll imagine hundreds of possible failures.

Yes - the unknown is scary.

But staying in the same place? That's even scarier.

And deep down, you already know it.

The decision you're about to make will turn out to be one of the best decisions of your life. It will make you stronger than you ever imagined.

When you arrive in Poznań, everything will feel new - the streets, the language, the people, even yourself in this new version of your life. There will be moments of uncertainty, but soon you'll start to feel the change.

You'll laugh more.

You'll breathe more freely.

You'll feel lighter.

You'll realize that you don't need to change who you are you just needed the right environment to finally bloom. Through your camera, your videos, your content, you'll show the heart of volunteering from your own perspective.

You'll work a lot.

You'll manage social media, create visuals and posters, film and edit videos, organize events, help with administrative tasks, and coordinate festivals.

Some days will be chaotic. Some exhausting.

But you'll feel alive.

You'll feel that you matter.

That you're leaving a mark.

And then come the people - the ones who change everything.

The people of **CIM Horyzonty**, the organization I shared one year of my life with.

This is where the magic truly happens.

You'll meet **Kamila**, the founder of the organization, and she'll completely change the way you see leadership.

She'll trust you, challenge you, laugh with you, and believe in you even before you fully believe in yourself.

Working next to her will feel safe, real, and empowering. She'll give you responsibility, not just tasks.

And that trust will slowly build something inside you - confidence.

You'll meet **Kuba**, your coordinator - calm, funny, endlessly kind.

He'll feel like an older brother.

He'll make even the hardest situations feel lighter.

With his humor and perspective, he'll help you breathe when everything feels heavy

and see solutions where you once only saw problems.

You'll meet **Marta**, your mentor - the one who truly listens.

The emotional anchor.

She'll sense when something isn't right even before you say it out loud.

She'll hold space for you when emotions overflow and remind you that vulnerability isn't weakness - it's strength.

They'll become your shield, your compass, your support. Your Poznań family.

You'll meet people from all over the world, some of whom will become lifelong friends. You'll dance, laugh, learn, and support each other. You'll discover how much you can give and how much you can learn, when you believe in yourself and in others.

For the first time, you'll feel truly seen and understood.

And that will change everything.

You'll discover what leadership really means, and you'll surprise yourself.

You'll realize you can guide people, support them, and create a safe, motivating atmosphere.

Leadership built on care, empathy, and presence.

You'll open the world for children and watch curiosity light up their eyes.

You'll dance with elderly people and see joy return to their smiles.

You'll listen quietly to life stories.

You'll help in animal shelters and feel gratitude without words.

You'll learn something deeply important: sometimes, just being there is already enough.

One day, Poznań will stop feeling like "abroad." It will become your new home.



And when it's time to leave...

You'll miss your favorite bar.  
The beautiful parks. The Warta river.  
Summer picnics with music  
and the sparkle of winter ice.  
Crispy pierogi, freedom, movie nights, late-night talks.

But most of all, you'll miss the people,  
in a way you never knew was possible.

And instead of emptiness,  
you'll carry a heart fuller than ever before.

You'll return different -  
more confident, more open to the world, more alive.  
You won't fit into your old frames anymore,  
and that's perfectly okay.  
You weren't made for them.

### Why ESC\* Changes Lives?

Don't become a volunteer if you want everything to stay the same.

Don't do it if you're not ready to leave pieces of your heart in other people and places.

Don't do it if you're not ready to be challenged, changed, and expanded.

Because ESC doesn't just give you experience.  
It gives you courage. Perspective. Community.

Deciding to go is a leap into the unknown,  
a leap that changes your life.  
And you are already brave enough to take it.

This experience will show you who you are when you feel in the right place, supported, and free.

It will teach you how capable you are, how deeply you can connect, and how much you matter - sometimes simply because you're there.

So if it's 2 a.m.  
and you're scrolling through opportunities, scared but curious,  
listen to this:

Do it.  
Say yes.  
Trust the process.

You can always go back.  
But you'll never regret discovering who you can become.

You're about to spread your wings.  
Dare to do it.



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\*ESC - European Solidarity Corps program of EU



# Behind the scenes: The team's pulse on the home stretch

In the following pages, we invite you to take a peek into the heart of Open Space – where plans become action. The last three months of the year – October, November and December – were not just dates on the calendar. They were a real test of our spirit, energy and creativity.

Honestly? There were times when sleep was a luxury, and sport, social life and even normal nutrition took a back seat to our causes. We were so focused on “making it happen” that sometimes we didn’t even have time to tell the world what exactly we were doing.

But today we’re stopping for a moment to take a breath and introduce you to the people who made it all possible. The ones who didn’t give up when the going got tough, and who made every minute count.

See our team in action – real, tired but inspired!

A few numbers:



- we drank 450 coffees



- 1200 minutes spent on Zoom,



- almost no sleep before the event

In mid-September, we said goodbye to the last team of volunteers who participated in archaeological excavations under the **“Inherited culture” project**. In just a few weeks, we would work together with some of them again, but more on that later.



# Training 2 of the CHANCE network program

Tirana (Albania), 25-26 September 2025

by Ivanka Stavreva - Ivi:

My name is Ivy and together with Vicky we had the opportunity to participate in an intriguing event organized by **CHANCE**.

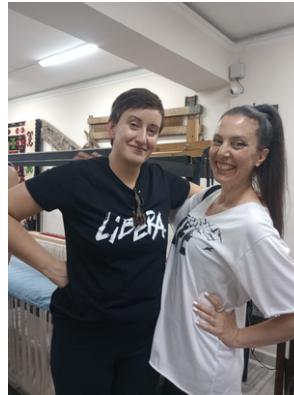
It was a training dedicated to **the reuse of confiscated assets as a tool to support the social economy and youth employment**. It was a forum combining theory and examples that demonstrated the enormous potential of this approach – how problematic assets can be transformed into engines of significant social change.

The first day of the event was held in the capital Tirana and was dedicated to intensive discussions and practical tasks. I was assigned to a group that unanimously decided to work on my idea: creating an art center for youth (and not only) by using confiscated properties.

Since there is still a lack of working practice in this area in Bulgaria, together we came up with the proposal to consider an imaginary project. The other participants shared their real-life experience, established practices and valuable insights from their countries, which was extremely useful for me.

I received concrete feedback and guidelines for future actions. The main advice was: when applying for a similar project and seeking support from the relevant institutions, it is advisable, even if we do not have previous national experience, to apply examples of successful practices from other countries or organizations. In fact, such examples exist and they are undeniable proof of the possibilities for development. This international exchange was a key moment that enriched my knowledge and gave clear guidelines for work in the Bulgarian context.

**EUyouth**  
in power  
#euyouthinpower



On the second day, we saw a practical example in Elbasan - Tradita Ime Artinazale

The second day provided an opportunity to see the theory in action. We were taken to the city of Elbasan, where we were shown a visually successful renovated part of a confiscated building.

Tradita Ime Artinazale is a place where traditional textiles are produced. The walls were decorated with framed photos showing the state of the building before and after the renovation. This visual chronology clearly illustrated the huge difference between the previous ruin and the current useful, properly utilized space.

In addition to the transformation, there is also a serious economic effect here: the products produced are sold in an adjacent shop, providing a financial result from the women's labor and the use of the renovated building for a socially significant purpose.

This trip clearly showed that confiscated assets do not necessarily have to remain unused or burden the state. Through targeted management and innovative projects, they can be transformed into tools to support the social economy, provide employment and create real value for communities. The experience in Albania is a great example to follow and inspiration for future initiatives, which it would be nice to implement in Bulgaria as well.

In a few words: thank you to everyone involved : ) It was very meaningful, interesting and exciting: not only as a planned and implemented program, but also during free time...

Our training program happen with the financial support of EU program Erasmus+, **Youth In Power project**

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the European Union



**DIGITAL CITIZENS**  
Pop-up event with International conference  
9-11 OCTOBER 2025 | LARGO, Sofia (BG)

Supported by:  
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# Pop-up event with an international conference "Digital Citizens"

Pop-up event with the international conference "Digital Citizens" became one of the most significant events for us this year. We brought together visionaries, experts and young leaders in one place. This was not just another forum for digitalization – it was the intersection of technology, critical thinking and active citizenship.

There were several highlights of the event:

- Panel discussions that outlined clear conclusions: in a world of disinformation and artificial intelligence, our most valuable tool remains the human factor and our ability to be critical consumers of content.

- Visitors also met with representatives of organizations from Bulgaria that work to develop digital culture and media literacy, and the traveling truck with its ESCAPE room proved that learning through experience is the shortest path to knowledge.
- The Saturday trainings gave the participating young people concrete tools to be more confident and engaged in the digital space.

The main conclusion is clear: Digital citizenship is a responsibility we bear together. The success of G-LENS has proven that when we combine innovative approaches with a cause, young people don't just listen – they participate.

## The People Behind the Magic

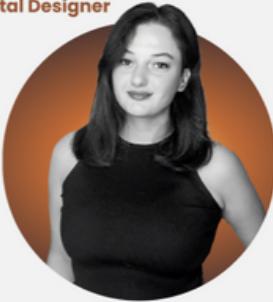
The scale of G-LENS – from the logistics of the international speakers to the details of the ESCAPE room – was made possible by an exceptional group of professionals and volunteers. We are delighted to introduce the team that put so much of themselves into making the vision a reality.

\*For those of you who want to dive into the details, see the full list of panelists and read the key takeaways from the discussions, you can find the full details on our website: [openspacebg.com](http://openspacebg.com).



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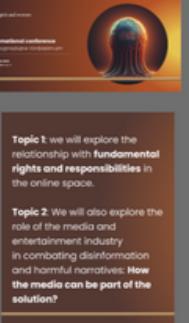
Digital Designer



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**Hale Nur TUNCAY**  
Product designer,  
Volunteer in OPEN SPACE foundation, Bulgaria





**G-LENS**  
Digital citizens | Sofia, BG

DIGITAL CITIZENS  
Pop-up event and international conference  
9-10 October 2025

**Topic 1:** we will explore the relationship with **fundamental rights and responsibilities** in the online space.

**Topic 2:** We will also explore the role of the media and entertainment industry in combating disinformation and harmful narratives: **How the media can be part of the solution?**

**Topic 3:** The focus here will be on the deeper **psychological aspects** of digital citizenship, including cyberbullying and the impact of social media on young people.

We'd love to hear from you with your suggestions!

**REGISTRATION for keynote speakers is open**

[www.openspacebg.com/g-leens-en/](http://www.openspacebg.com/g-leens-en/)











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**Alexandra ILIEVA**  
Communication & Media specialist,  
OPEN SPACE foundation, Bulgaria



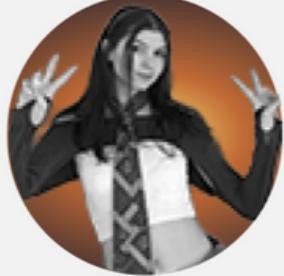








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Digital citizens | Sofia, BG  
Web-Page Support



**Victoria MILEVA**  
Programmer,  
Volunteer in OPEN SPACE foundation, Bulgaria

**Victoria Mileva - Vicky**  
update of our website and  
building the registration  
system for the traveling truck  
with ESCAPE room.  
During the truck's trip (from  
15.09 to 9.10) she was on duty  
in front of the computer  
almost 10 hours a day.  
In addition - Vicky is presenting  
an author's game related to  
incel culture at the exhibition  
on 10 October.

**ESCAPE TRUCK TOUR**

**ESCAPE TRUCK**

**Незабравимо изживяване**  
Приготви се да се потопиш в напрегната история, докато се опитваш да разрешиш сложни пъзели и да избягаш от камиона, преди да е станало твърде късно.

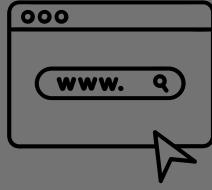
**Запази час**

**Лесна резервация**  
Избираш град, най-удобния за теб ден и час, въвеждаш необходимите данни и само с едно натискане на бутона си гарантираш незабравимо приключение.

**Провери свободни места**

**Подходящо за всички**  
Момичета и момчета над 14 години, които поне веднъж в живота са мечтали да работят в чужбина.

**Резервирай**

**G-LENS**  
Digital citizens | Sofia, BG  
Graphic Recording



**Natali ILIEVA**  
Student of Political Science  
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Bulgaria

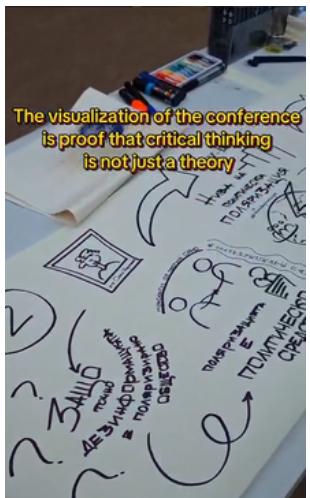
**Natali Ilieva**  
she create a visual presentation  
of the conference



**Natali Ilieva**  
(Student Club of Political Scientists  
at Sofia University)



showed us how  
to see connections  
and structure knowledge.



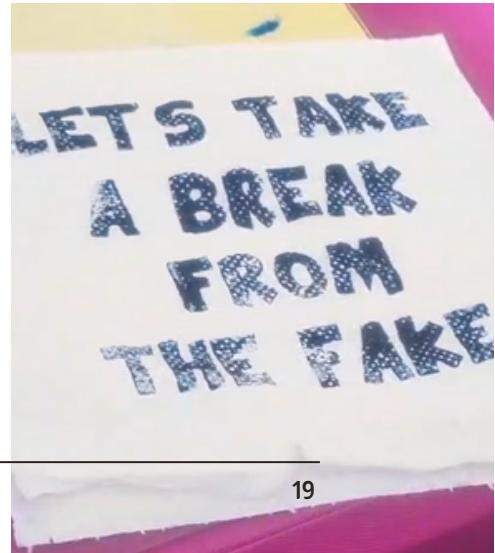
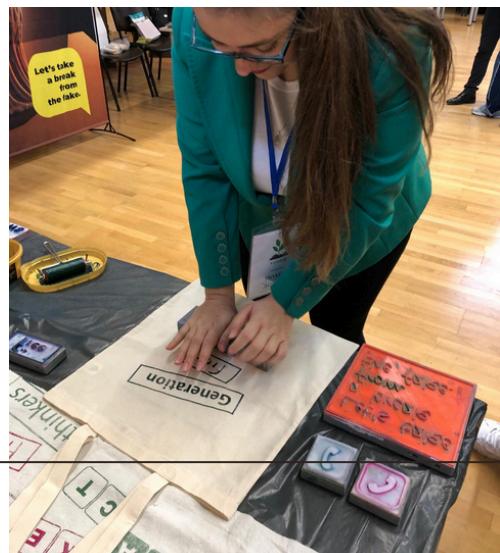
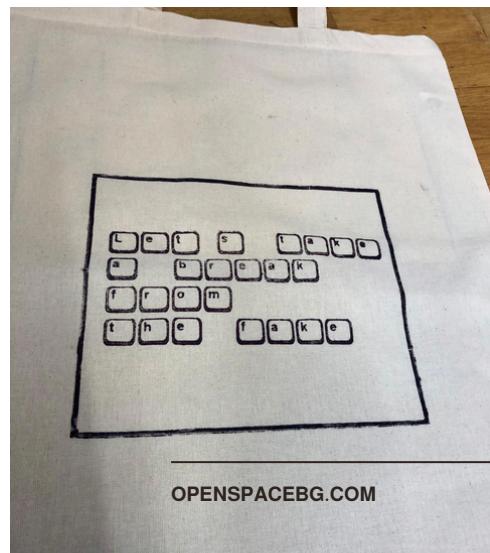
The visualization of the conference  
is proof that critical thinking  
is not just a theory



**Ivanka Stavreva - Ivi**  
textile print workshop

**Nadya Molova**  
textile print workshop

**Yoanna Assenova**  
communication EXPO



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**Dobriana PETKOVA**

Program and Project Manager,  
BRITISH COUNCIL in Bulgaria

**Dobryana Petkova** - a volunteer by heart and vocation. An absolute match-maker - a person who connects the right people with the right projects. A walking generator of ideas, and her multitasking skills helped to moderate the questions online during the conference.



**Pepa VELEVA**

Chairperson of the board,  
OPEN SPACE foundation, Bulgaria

**Pepa Peneva** - the bee of the project. She is the engine that never stops buzzing around every detail. Coordination, management, making things happen - she is at the center of the cyclone. And because she holds all the strings, we have agreed on one thing: everything that happened (or for some random reason did not happen) as it should, is her "fault"! Without her energy, our hive simply would not work.



**Ogi POPOV**

Technical director,  
OPEN SPACE foundation, Bulgaria

**Ogi Popov** -

like any engineering mind, he likes things to be in order, the details clear, and the logistics to be as on the map. Quick-tempered, and sometimes difficult, but despite everything a team player and the strong back of everything.



# Young journalists against disinformation

At the Digital Citizens exhibition, one space caught the eye with its depth and professionalism – the exhibition with the results of the **Youth Connected Against Disinformation project**. The initiative, supported by the British Council and in partnership with the Association of European Journalists in Bulgaria (AEJ), gave young people a platform to confront one of the biggest threats of our time.

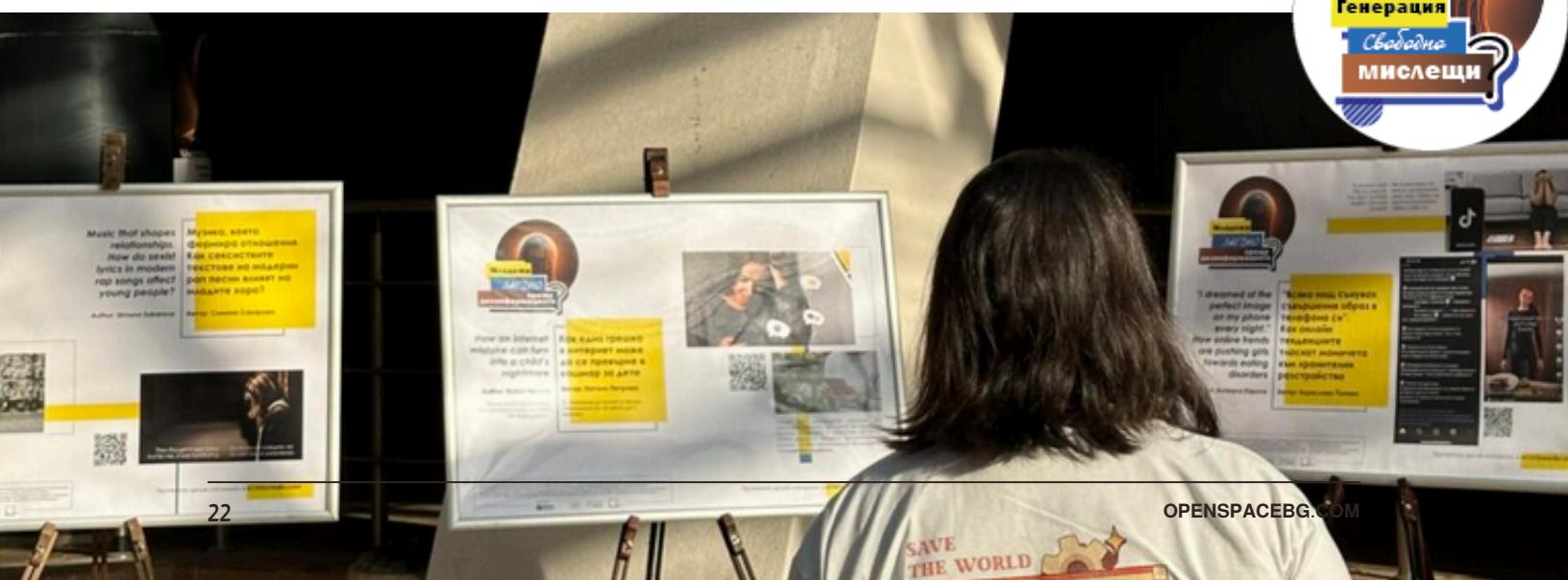
The topics that the young journalists chose are not just topical – they are painful, important and affect every generation. But what really impressed us was the approach. The articles are written extremely professionally, supported by serious analysis and iron-clad facts. We take our hats off to these young authors for the courage to delve into the details and for the discipline to check every source! Naturally, journalists from the Association of European Journalists in Bulgaria (AEJ) who were with the young people during their work remain invisible, for which we thank them very much! At a time when serious journalism is being tossed overboard, or so-called SLAP cases are being conducted to silence them, investing in young people deserves respect.

Here are the authors and their titles:

- **Borislava Popova** – “Every night I dreamed of the perfect image on my phone”. How online trends push girls towards eating disorders;
- **Simona Sakarova** – “Music that shapes relationships. How sexist lyrics of modern rap songs affect young people?”;
- **Elena Dimitrova** – “Immense distrust”. Can the state cope with online harassment against women;
- **Dilyana Stoyanova** – “Speaking up to survive: women against online violence”;
- **Valeria Pramatarova** – “Under pressure for perfection. The invisible side of online harassment against girls”;
- **Natali Petrova** – “How a mistake on the Internet can turn into a nightmare for a child?”;
- **Ivet Atanasova** – “Gossips that hurt. What dangers young people face in closed online groups”;
- **Katrin Radoslavova** – Psychological analysis of people who are capable of harassing women online;
- **Borislav Borisov** – video material with anonymized interviews with girls, victims of distribution of their private photos without consent;
- **Krasimira Yosifova** – working title of the material: “How much do you give her? Do you think they are real?”

All articles can be found on the **sCOOL media** website.

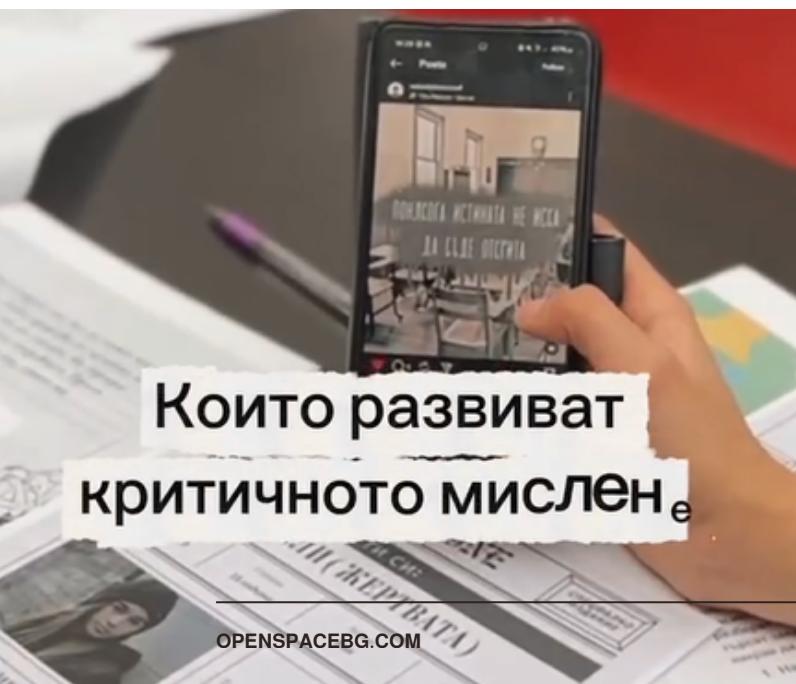
In a partnership with:



# Projects that change the rules

In addition to the articles by young journalists, it is worth telling you about some other interesting events, part of this big topic of disinformation, digital culture and media literacy. Creativity and the real problems that young people face today have made critical thinking turn into games, workshops and digital art. And this shows that the future is in good hands:

- **Board game “Offline – no filters, no hate” by Victoria Mileva:** Who says that difficult topics can't be fun? Victoria created an interactive way for young people to learn tolerance and recognize hate speech while offline – face to face, without social networks.
- **“Think critically, act logically” by Svetoslav Trifonov and classmates:** A great example of student solidarity from Dobrich! Svetoslav and his team focused their efforts on how logic and common sense are the best shield against digital illiteracy.



- **“Filtered Reality” by Tsveta Angelkova and Rada Valevska:** through a fashion show, it presents the topic of how digital filters change our perceptions of the world and ourselves. Their project reminded us of how important it is to see the truth beyond the processed footage, and the large hall of the French Cultural Institute was filled during the performance and the discussion after it.
- **“Don’t Get Caught in the Net” by Megan Krasteva and a team from Fakulteta district, Sofia:** An inspiring project that works directly in the community. Megan and her team showed that media literacy is a universal language and that everyone has the right (and need) to know how to protect themselves online.

All these young people didn't just “participate” – they created tools. They turned theory into practice that their peers can understand and use immediately. This is precisely the power of digital citizenship: **young people teaching young people.**

We thank the British Council in Bulgaria for supporting youth ideas!

# The exhibition is on its way!

Since we believe that these materials should be read by as many people as possible, we are currently preparing a traveling exhibition. It is ready to visit your school, youth center or city to provoke discussion and inspire the next digital citizens.

- Do you want to read the articles right away?  
You can find them on the **SCOOL Media website**.
- Do you want **the exhibition to visit you?**  
Contact us and we will organize its visit to you!

## What is the exhibition:

- The exhibition consists of **15 panels measuring 1.00 x 0.70 m**, printed on high-quality vinyl (you can see what they look like in the photo).
- Each panel presents a title, the name of the author and a summary of the corresponding youth project.

- Each vinyl contains a **QR code** that allows students, teachers and parents to quickly and easily access the full material (video, article or educational game) and to learn in detail about the topic under consideration.

## Logistics of the household:

- **Place of display:** The exhibition is placed on the external fence of schools in the country that have expressed interest.
- **Installation:** The OPEN SPACE Foundation provides the production of the vinyls and all necessary materials for installation. Installation is done easily and quickly with the help of the so-called "pigtails" (zip ties), which are also provided by us.
- **Duration:** The exhibition stays on the fence of each school for a period of 14 days, after which it will continue to the next school according to a pre-prepared schedule.
- **Participation is completely free.**

**Contact us** at [info@openspacebg.com](mailto:info@openspacebg.com) or Mob: 0877552611 to confirm your interest and include you in the schedule.

# New space, new rhythm: we are now in a new office!

Anyone who has ever moved house or office knows that it's an adventure that tests the limits of your patience. Between the endless boxes, the rolls of tape, and the question "Where did that come from?", moving can seem like a real challenge. But for the Open Space team, changing address turned out to be much more than a logistical task.

## The art of freeing up space

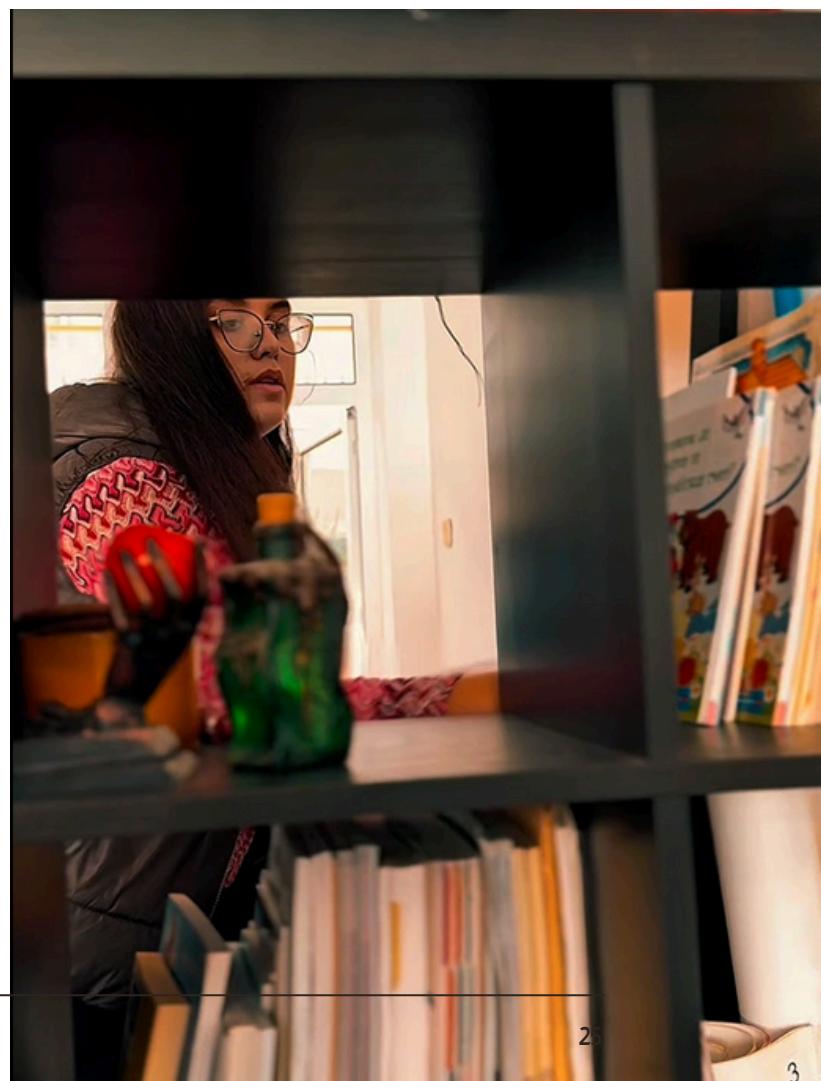
The biggest advantage of moving? The relentless cleaning! It turns out that over the years we've accumulated things that have long since served their purpose. Parting with unnecessary things isn't just about throwing away paper or old objects – it's about emotional release. We let go of what weighs us down in the past to make room for what inspires us.

A new office isn't just a new place to put our desks. It's a "blank slate." The ability to arrange our space in a completely new way has given us a chance to rethink how we work and how we communicate. We now have brainstorming spaces that we previously lacked, and a space that literally invites us to realize ideas that have been put on hold for months due to lack of "space."

We enter this new space with clear thoughts and organized priorities. We believe that the environment determines the energy, and ours is currently at its maximum! The new walls are already awaiting our plans for 2026, and we are ready to fill them with meaning.

Come visit us (as soon as we find where we put the coffee cups)!

*Address: Sofia, str.Sofronii Vratchanski 62B*



# Anti-corruption: When young people stop being "the future" and become "the now"

If 2025 has taught us anything, it is that honesty is not a luxury, but a basis for survival. In Bulgaria, the year passed under the sign of turbulent political upheavals – arrests in high-rise buildings, shaking journalistic investigations and a wave of protests that flooded the squares. And amidst this rumble, we saw something remarkable: the faces of young people.

Just a few months ago, the label on them was *"illiterate, lazy and passive"*. Suddenly, these same young people became the *"hope of the nation"*. The truth is that they have always been here, just waiting for someone to stop underestimating them and start talking to them honestly.

We have been on the move for a year: from Pazardzhik to Brussels

With the support of our partners from the international CHANCE network, in 2025 we turned anti-corruption training into a mission without borders. Our chronicle was intense:

- March: We marked March 21 (International Day of Remembrance for Victims of Organized Crime) with meetings with students in **Sofia**, **Pazardzhik** and **Targovishte**.
- Summer: We trained and shared experiences in **Romania** and **Albania**,
- November: We participated in conferences in **Germany** and **Greece**.
- Autumn: We conducted a training for young people in **Varna**, where we saw the hunger for knowledge on the topic.
- The finale: In December, we closed the cycle with a strategic meeting in **Brussels** to chart the way forward together with our network partners.



## "Free, not dependent": What did young people tell us?

The results of our surveys and meetings are telling: young people have a highly developed sense of justice. They do not want ready-made slogans, but tools with which to recognize corruption and oppose it. You can view the full data and conclusions from our "Free, not dependent" analysis [here](#).

### New faces in the fight for integrity

This huge amount of work would not have been possible without the growth of our team. Marta Buggio and Pepa Peneva were joined this year by Ivy and Vicky.

Vicky has already launched her author's column "Meetings with Vicky". In it, she is not just an observer, but is there - at the protests, with a camera in hand, in the heart of the events. She seeks answers from the people who took to the streets demanding honesty and integrity. Her reports are the bridge between anti-corruption theory and living life.

Our conclusion is simple: If we do not start working together with young people now, tomorrow will be no different from today. We choose to believe them.

СРЕЩИ С  
ВИКИ



## When stones speak to young people

Over the past three years, a project has changed not only the archaeological map of Bulgaria, but also the hearts of over 130 young people from 14 countries. The **Inherited Culture project** has proven that ancient ruins are not just a pile of stones, but a living history that needs the energy of a new generation to continue telling its secrets.



For three summers in a row, young people from Spain, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy and many more countries worked side by side at three emblematic sites in Bulgaria: the ancient capital Veliki Preslav, the mystical fortress of Misionis near Targovishte and the ancient city of Heraclea Sintica near Petrich.

However, their contribution was far from limited to fieldwork. The young people became true guardians of the heritage. They created educational games and became co-authors of a special book - a guide that translates history into the language of the future. They proved that volunteering is the shortest path to understanding the world.

On November 29, Sofia became the center of memories. Hall 1 in the Largo was filled with archaeologists, historians and participants from all over Bulgaria. The heart of the event, however, were the guests who crossed Europe to be with us – Mish from the Netherlands and Sebastian from Spain, two of the inspired co-authors of the book. As we looked at the photographs displayed in the hall, the dusty and hot summers returned with renewed vigor. We saw the smiles under the hot sun, the shared dinners and the pride of each discovery. These frames are not just photos, they are a diary of a transformative journey.

### Thank you, guardians of eternity!

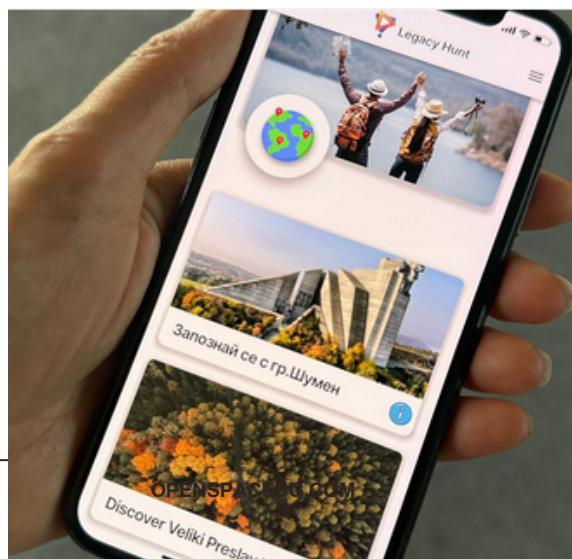
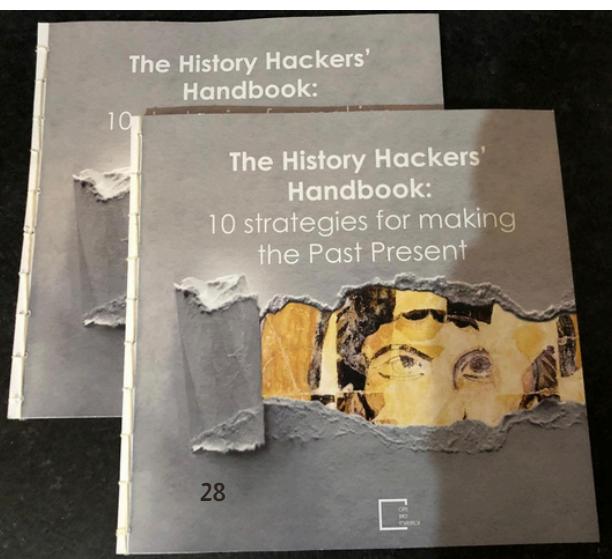
A huge "THANK YOU" to each and every one of you for your trust and dedication. You have proven that when solidarity meets history, the result is irreversible change.

**What's next?** A time of reflection awaits us, in which we will share your and our results with an even wider audience. But the most important thing is that we move forward. The network we built and the friendships that ignited along the ancient walls are still evolving.

Inherited Culture is ending on paper, but our story is still evolving. Inherited culture is something we preserve, and we will contribute to its development.

More about the project, **the book** "The History Hackers' Handbook: 10 Strategies for making the Past Present", **the game** and **the mobile application** can be found on the website: <https://inheritedculture.org/projects.php>

With support of EU program European Solidarity Corps - High Priority Areas



# Beyond the projects: The voice of our volunteers

So far, we have told you about the enormous work that our team and volunteers have done in the field – from anti-corruption campaigns to archaeological excavations. But life at Voyager and Open Space is not just about working according to a schedule. It is an **exchange of ideas, tastes and inspirations**.

Our volunteers are multifaceted individuals and in the following pages they take off their “work uniforms” to share with you a piece of their world. They take on the roles of travelers, culinary experts, researchers of the mystical and cultural critics.

We have prepared an exciting palette of topics for you:

- On the road with **Anelia**, who once again takes on the role of our compass and takes us to the greatness of Veliko Tarnovo. If you are wondering where to take the road next weekend – Anelia has the answer.
- **Agatha** takes us to the States and presents her Michelin star to a museum that impresses.
- Gourmet inspirations with **Yoana**, remember that she is our culinary advisor. As always, she continues to tempt us, because she knows that the way to the heart of every cause also passes through good food.
- The Secrets of the Mirror with **Nadya** is a journey back in time. We are all more or less vain, but have you ever wondered what beliefs and superstitions are hidden behind the glass in which we look at ourselves several times a day?
- Attention! The curtain is rising! Finally, **Anelia** provokes us with a fundamental question: “Why should we go to the theater?” In a world obsessed with screens, she reminds us of the magic of living art.

Enjoy reading with the authors who make our family so colorful!

## For a walk, part 3

by Anelia Gospodinova

Today I chose to take you on a walk around the third capital of Bulgaria - Veliko Tarnovo and the interesting places around the city.

The Yantra River runs through the city, which winds around the hills, emblematic of Tarnovo. You must visit the fortresses Tsarevets and Trapezitsa. One piece of advice from me, it is best to visit Tarnovo and its sights in autumn or spring, because there is a lot to see, and in summer the heat can hinder you.



Photo: Ministry of Tourism

Of course, when you are in Veliko Tarnovo, visit the laser show "Sound and Light". It is held on special holidays related to the country and the city. It is an unforgettable experience.



If you want to immerse yourself in the history of Bulgaria and see what our historical figures looked like, you can visit the wax museum.



Photo: Chamurkovata Kashta

Let's go a little outside the city and its medieval history, let's go back in time and go to Ancient Rome. The archaeological site of **Nicopolis at Istrum** is located 20 km from the city. The city was founded by the Roman emperor Marcus Ulpius Trajan (98 - 117 AD) in honor of his victory over the Dacians in 106 AD. The city has an important strategic location and connects the eastern parts of the empire with the western ones.



Photo: Regional Historical Museum of Veliko Tarnovo

There are many sights in and around Tarnovo, but I want to direct you to a very special place: the **Kapinovo Monastery and the waterfall**. The place is hidden in the mountains. In addition to the monastery, founded in the 13th century, there you will find a waterfall and a river, where you can enjoy a forest beach. In the immediate vicinity there is a campsite and a swimming pool, as well as places to eat traditional Bulgarian cuisine. Believe me, you will not regret once you find yourself in this paradise.



Photo: Kapinovski Monastery camping

Traveling is great, and it's even more great to discover new places, unknown before. With our series, you will discover many more beautiful locations to visit on your next trip... Until our next trip together@!

# Gourmet guide in Sofia

by Yoana Assenova



## Taiyaki Spot

Starting off strong, this place offers the well-known traditional Japanese pastry Tayaki in a whole new modern way. Besides from the original one with red-bean paste flavor, you can try fish-shaped cake with a lot of interesting flavors such as Uzu cream, Oreo, Nutella, Taro, Biscoff cream and a lot more. Centered right next to the National Palace of Culture, this place is the perfect spot for the days when you chill outside with friends or when you take a walk with the family and you want to try something traditional yet unconventional.



## Картофът

This place has already gained a lot of fame for its jacked potatoes, and honestly it is all deserved. Their potatoes are very delicious, big in size and a perfect meal to eat outside during the cold days, because they are given to their customers right from the oven! Nice staff, always ready to help you with your order. Advice: do not try your own combinations, they know what the best ones are already!



## The Burger Joint

The best place for the ones who like to try extraordinary food combinations. Although the word "burger" consists in its name, this place's hot dogs are the real deal. THE most interesting hot dogs I have ever tried! Crazy combinations are their special thing! Do not hesitate to try them! Maybe the only place that offers hot dogs with Chilli Con Carne or Banana!



## French Tacos Factory

Another interesting place in the center of Sofia! It offers the well-known French Tacos! A wide range of alternatives, everything is so delicious, you would want to get another one for home! The perfect combination of flavors - vegetables, meat and sauces! If you like wraps, tacos, doners or gyros, this place is a must for you!



## Bistro Pesto

The best Italian place in Sofia! I love this place, because of its atmosphere, food and friendly staff. Located in the center, with its tiny size and authentic Italian pasta this is a must for everyone who loves pasta and Italian food! Not only the meals, but also the drinks are traditional for Italy! The owner is an Italian who moved in Bulgaria and who made the best Italian place in Sofia!

# Museums with a Michelin taste

## The National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., USA

by Agata Krumova

Our column, in which we award "Michelin stars" to museums that turn a visit into a real experience - with a dose of curiosity, knowledge and pleasure, will take you to Washington this time. The National Museum of Natural History is a true temple of knowledge that combines scientific facts with children's curiosity. It is so large that it can easily accommodate **18 football fields!** Imagine how many stories are hidden here.

As soon as we enter, we find ourselves in the world of dinosaurs. The "Deep Time Hall of Fossils" takes us back millions of years and reminds us that the Earth has gone through countless transformations - and we are only a small part of them. On the other side of the timeline is the Hall of Human Evolution, where we can follow how our distant ancestors turned into the people we are today.



The museum is also famous for its incredible collection of minerals and precious stones. The famous "Hope Diamond" is also located there - a blue diamond about which legends and myths abound. In the same hall, thousands of crystals, meteorites, and rare minerals shine, leaving visitors speechless.



**And did you know that tarantulas can live for decades?** At the museum, we met **Sally**, a 20-year-old female tarantula, who we even saw being fed. Interestingly, while females can live over 20 years, males rarely live more than 5-7. The section with live insects is designed primarily for children, but it turned out to be one of the most fun for adults too - with insects that look like leaves or twigs, and others that seem to come from another planet!



Equally impressive is the hall dedicated to the oceans. There you can meet giant models of whales, learn about the deepest points of the planet and immerse yourself in the secrets of marine life. The exhibition shows both the beauty and vulnerability of the oceans - reminding us that their future is connected to our present.

A walk through the museum is a journey through time, science and imagination. This is a place where you can immerse yourself in the oceans, meet dinosaurs and discover what secrets the Earth itself holds. And it definitely deserves its "Michelin star" - for its impressive ability to turn science into emotion.

Photos - personal archive of Agata Krumova



# The mirror - a reflection of human nature

by Nadya Molova

For millennia, we humans have been divided between this and the other world, which is our mirror, which reflects our essence and life. Our image has always been reflected in crystal pools, in the eyes of people looking at us through the refraction of light from the sun's rays. Thus, nature introduced man to his own reflection, which gave rise to his curiosity to grow, and the mind to create new meanings, ideas and beliefs, to ask itself more and more questions. Thus, Narcissus appeared in mythical representations as an archetype of sinful vanity, born of self-love. From there, the noun **narcissism** appears and man's idea of the destructive power of reflection, creating a double and which is the border between ours and that world, which is deep and mysterious.

Thus, man himself gradually discovers material with which to create an object that creates reflections. The first mirror appeared in 6000 BC, made of polished volcanic glass - obsidian in Anatolia and was initially dark. The functions of this mirror were not only practical, but also spiritual and ritual. In 4000 BC, mirrors made of polished copper and bronze appeared in Mesopotamia, and in 3000 BC in Egypt, but they still did not have a completely crystalline reflection. In the 3rd century AD, glass mirrors with a lead coating on the back were created in Ancient Rome. In the Middle Ages, we have a layer of lead and tin impurities, creating a more convincing effect, and it was not until 1840 that the German chemist Justus von Liebig created the modern version of the silver-coated mirror.

The desire for self-knowledge has always been strong and has existed throughout all eras, and if we think about it,

Today we can see how many old beliefs, superstitions and practices in the use of mirrors are still relevant for humans. Of course, they also have a practical function - beautification. But for us there will always be a strange feeling of someone else's presence when we are alone with our image, because according to some beliefs, the mirror has the ability to remember what we see and hide many secrets, to reflect our dreams and longings, to connect us with the afterlife, to fulfill desires. In many works of folklore, literature and cinema we can see this object with a special role, including a predictive attribute, as well as a harbinger of imminent misfortune when it breaks.

Where this special object is present, many taboos appear, since it witnesses all aspects of human life, including death, therefore, in the old beliefs of people, mirrors must be covered so that the soul of the deceased is not reflected in them, which can take more souls with it.

Of course, there are not only prohibitions and terrible consequences, because the mirror can also be an apotropaic (protective) symbol. Pieces of a mirror or other shiny ornaments are placed in traditional bridal clothes, towels and brooms (they are given to the bride as a symbol of order and purity of the world, and the pieces of a mirror repel and reflect the eyes of the enemy and the one who wishes evil to the whole family).



Illustration generated with AI

Today, the mirror has a purely practical function, although it continues to play a ritual role in some places around the world. Mirrors in modern interior design are used to enlarge the room and illuminate dark spaces, and using this illusion, interior designers successfully create the desired result.

Another of its functions is visually corrective, visually informative and cognitive, when we practice in front of it, when we drive or put on makeup. Of course, modern cinematography also skillfully uses this tool, creating films with philosophical and psychological themes, even thrillers. The idea is self-knowledge, revealing our hidden self, the emergence of our greatest fears.

In 2010, psychologist Giovanni Caputo conducted the following experiment: "Troxler's fading effect - a perceptual phenomenon in which if you focus on one point over time, peripheral, unchanging stimuli begin to fade or disappear from view."

In conditions of low light and lack of movement (when you stare motionlessly into the mirror), the brain begins to "fill in" the blank spaces with information from its memory, which leads to these strange illusions and hallucinations."

And when you look in the mirror, do you feel anxious, afraid, or any other feelings?



Illustration generated with AI



## Why should we support living art?

by Anelia Gospodinova

In recent years we have been oversatisfied with cinema. And it seems that all the storylines are already well known. More and more remakes or sequels of well-known films are being made. What we see on the screen are effects, computer animation and less and less human intervention.

And this is the moment when we need to turn to living art. Theater, concerts, musicals, even stand-up comedy. All of this is live art, it's happening now, and

there's no second take. This kind of art will never be enough, it will never wear out, because a play can be performed by many different actors and it will be different every time. Sitting in the hall, you see and hear the momentary reaction of the performer, you see his every mistake, and this makes the performance even more special.

The last big concert I went to was a Bulgarian singer . She had invited guest performers and one of them forgot the lyrics at the beginning of the song. And neither she nor the audience were worried. Everything was so real and organic, the girl started from scratch and learned a great performance that will be remembered for a long time. All of us in the hall felt her excitement and anxiety and it was magical.

Shortly after that, I went to the musical Zorro. It was a two-hour unforgettable experience. The stage was full of talented singers and dancers, the sets, the dresses, everything was real and on point.

The live performance of each song, the orchestra behind the stage, the overall performance was magic. You are not just a spectator, but a part of a new world created specifically to tear you away from reality at least for a while. Watching the performance you feel how much rehearsal was needed, you feel the work and talent of the actors.

Stand-up comedy is also a very cool live art. To stand alone on stage and make the whole hall laugh is a talent developed with a lot of work. Anyone can tell a joke, but not everyone can grab the attention of the entire audience and make them cry with laughter. Such artists should be supported.

Because of all of the above, I believe that live art is more valuable and should be visited more often. Yes, it is more expensive to go to the theater, but the experience is much more special.

Giving a ticket to this type of experience is a great gift. We all know that material things wear out, break, and are forgotten, but an experience is something that lasts a lifetime. Support living art because it's worth it.



# Looking to 2026: Bridges between generations and the power of "Living Words"

We are sending off a year that was filled with travels, archaeological discoveries, stormy civic debates and hundreds of new friendships. But the most beautiful gift was waiting for us at the end, right here in Sofia.

In the last quarter, we discovered a new world in the face of the **people of Chitalishte "Iskra 1964"**. They reminded us that learning and creativity have no age. We started an English course together, and in our handmade card workshop we saw how much warmth can be put into a small gesture.

We have a lot more to come – we are preparing Yoga for 55+ and a series of events that will turn our office and the chitalishte into a place for a true meeting between generations.

Our most exciting news is our **calendar for 2026**. Every year we send it to our partners and friends as a symbol of our shared vision. This time it is more special than ever.

On its pages you will find **12 poets from the literary club "Living Words"** at the community center. Their poetry is gentle, beautiful and deep. It is a bridge to that forgotten purity of communication, which opens us to love and understanding. We thank these artists for allowing us to "dress" the days of the coming year in their words!

Towards the end of this intense period, we from the Voyager team feel satisfied and deeply grateful. Grateful to the young for their audacity and to the elderly for their wisdom.

We wish all of you in 2026 to find meaning in sharing. May your words be "alive", your hearts - open, and your days - filled with that love that we find only when we work together.



# Upcoming:



## The role of education in combating gendered disinformation

### International conference in Romania

**When?** 20-21 January 2026, 9:00-18:00 EET

**Where?** Online streaming (hosted from Bucharest)

#### 20.01 - International conference

We will explore how **gender-based** disinformation works, its impact on individuals and societies, and how education can strengthen resilience, critical thinking, and media literacy.

#### 21.01 - Online workshop

We invite educators and youth workers to the online workshop on 21 January (17:00 - 19:00 EET), presenting the G-LENS methodology and practical tools for working with young people.

👉 **Register now and secure your place!** <https://forms.office.com/e/pcTSNG80ux>

This event is part of the **G-LENS project**, co-funded by the European Union.

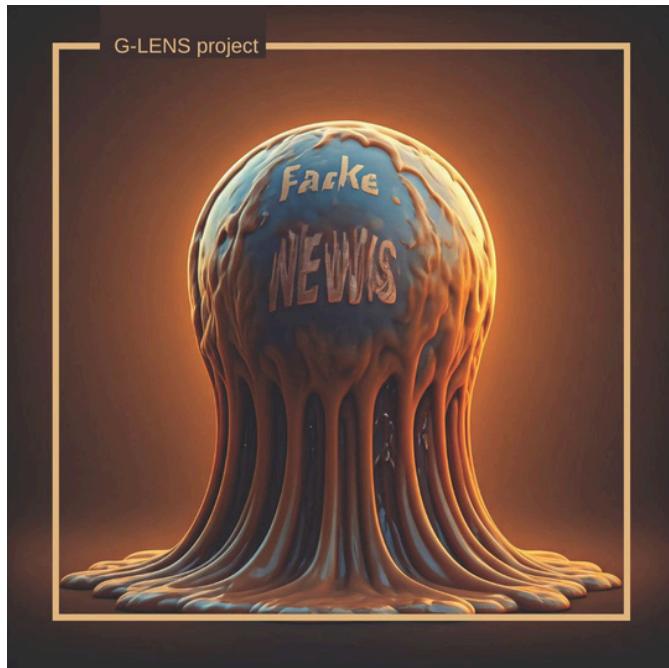
Detailed information about the conference and its agenda can be found at the [web page of the event](#).



Co-funded by  
the European Union



# Upcoming:



**Your voice  
has power!**

**Open Call for  
content creators**

Join a cause that can no longer be ignored. If you are a young artist (under 35) and believe that art is the most powerful weapon against injustice, this challenge is for you.

**Topic:** "Stop online harassment of girls and women" We live in a digital age, but social networks often become a field for slander and violence. We are looking for your vision - what do the words that hurt look like, and what are the messages that heal?

**You can participate in three categories:**

- **Photography:** Series of 4 frames.
- **Graphic design:** Series of 4 posters or collages.
- **Video:** Production with a length of 30 sec. to 3 min.

#### Why participate?

- Exhibition in Sofia: Your project could become part of a special exhibition in March 2026.
- Professional recognition: A jury of established photographers, designers and directors will evaluate your work.
- Support: The organizers cover the costs of printing and technical presentation.
- Prizes: Cash prizes for the first three places in each category (200, 150 and 100 BGN).

It's time to turn a social problem into art that changes destinies!

Do you have questions or are you ready to apply?  
Contact Ogi at 0889916483 or  
write to us at [info@openspacebg.com](mailto:info@openspacebg.com).

We are waiting for your application - let's make the internet a safer place together! Your voice has power!

# Upcoming:



## Training Course No Barriers No Borders Turkey



**When?** 01-07 February 2026

**Where?** Amazia, Turkey

Our aim is to inspire youth workers by encouraging the inclusion of young people with disabilities in various activities organised by youth organisations, especially in artistic, cultural and sporting events. We believe that giving young people with disabilities the opportunity to participate in international youth projects will be a rewarding experience for everyone. This will help young people with disabilities to feel more accepted, while non-disabled participants will learn how to approach and understand disability-related issues. Furthermore, the project aims to contribute to equality and the rights of young people to participate.

Funded by the EU program Erasmus+

# Upcoming:



## International meeting for civil society organizations

**When?** March 3-5, 2026

**Where?** Nicosia, Cyprus, as well as Online Streaming

The focus of the meeting will be gender-based disinformation, its impact on individuals and societies, and how civil society organizations can change the situation.

Invitation for presentations and participation - expect on the hosts' website: [The Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies, Кипър](http://The%20Mediterranean%20Institute%20of%20Gender%20Studies,%20Кипър)

# Upcoming:

## Youth exchange “Play&Think”



**When?** 4-11 May 2026,

**Where?** Lorca, Murcia (Spain)

- 6 participants between 18 and 26 years old + 1 group leader with no age limit,
- Neurodivergent or working with mental health (activists, students, professionals, etc.)
- Participants facing mental health problems and people with fewer opportunities.
- Musicians or those interested in music.

Funded by the EU program Erasmus+

## The traveling exhibition “Youth United Against Disinformation” is looking for its **new hosts!**

In a world of fake news and digital bullying, we need a shield – critical thinking.

We invite your school to become part of the national tour of an exhibition created by young people for young people. It does not just show facts, but tells the stories that often remain hidden on social networks.

What will you see in the exhibition?

- **Professional articles:** Investigations by young journalists about online violence, sexism in music and the pressure for “perfection” on Instagram.
- **Interactive projects:** The board game “Offline” – against hate on the Internet, “Filtered Reality” and “Don’t Get Caught in the Net”.

**Why be a host?** Because media literacy is the most important lesson of the 21st century. The exhibition is an excellent occasion for discussions in class, ethics or civic education.

**Topic:** Disinformation and online bullying targeting girls and women – an issue that affects every child and teenager today.

**WANT US TO VISIT YOU?** Become part of our mission to build a safer digital environment! Write to us. to save dates for your school.

Read more about the materials here: <https://openspacebg.com/youth-against-disinformation-bg/>

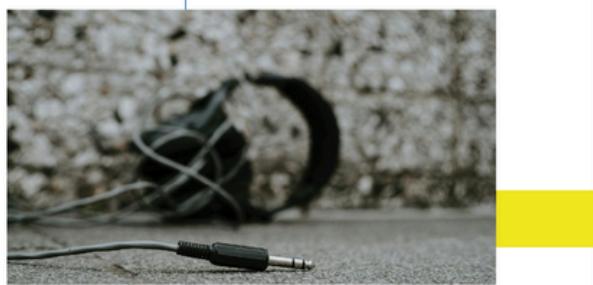


*Music that shapes relationships. How do sexist lyrics in modern rap songs affect young people?*

Author: Simona Sakarova

**Музика, която формира отношения. Как сексистките текстове на модерни рап песни влияят на младите хора?**

Автор: Симона Сакарова



*They thought it was funny, but for me, it was humiliating.*

За тях беше смешно, но за мен беше унизително.

Thank you for being here!

Disinformation and fake news are a challenge that we can only overcome together. Let's be persistent and persistent like bees - with small but important steps every day.

**DO IT FOR YOUR FUTURE SELF!**

**DO  
IT  
FOR  
YOUR  
FUTURE  
SELF**



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