

ASSOCIATION



FOCUS

EUROPEAN CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT

 **BULGARIA**

ESC

INFOPACK



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Dear **SENDING ORGANISATION**,

Dear **VOLUNTEERS**,

Through the following pages, we have summarized the information you need to know about your journey to Bulgaria and about our ESC Project. We are very glad that you have decided to participate in this project, and therefore we will strive to offer a warm welcoming to you in Bulgaria. If you have further questions, do not hesitate to contact us at: info@foccen.org | ivailo_ivanov80@abv.bg

Enjoy exploring the practicalities!

HOSTING ORGANISATION:

Association "Focus - European Center for Development" Pazardjik was founded like a non-profit organisation. Members of the organization are specialists and public figures united around the idea of protecting the people's right of life in a supportive environment, ideas for active youth participation in public life and strengthening the principles of civil society and democracy. Organization works on national level.

Aims:

1. To create a European community of pupils, teachers and parents in the territory of Pazardjik and surrounding that will support the idea of social integration and professional development of adolescents;
2. To implement trainings and experiments about public interest in different problems cooperating with the local authorities.
3. To develop solidarity and promote tolerance among the public in order to stimulate social cohesion in the European Union.
4. To encourage public participation in social life and to strengthen the links between local groups, schools, businesses and municipal authorities.
5. To stimulate youth involvement in the activities related to personal and social development .
6. To carry out active work for sustainable social development and democratic principles to promote civil society.
7. To make activities and events to restore and improve the quality of the environment.
8. To improve the welfare of disabled people - their acceptance and socialization in their families, among peers, colleagues, friends and among the middle part of the community in which they live.
9. To provide an environment where the youth with disabilities will be involved in the activities of their future development..
10. To prohibit negative social phenomena's spreading in the youth environment, such as: crime, aggression, addiction, prostitution, xenophobia and others.

Activities:

1. Educational activities - seminars, conferences, training trips, workshops, joint appearances and public awareness of the history and development and achievements of the association. Helping students and parents to improve communication and teamwork. Support specialists associated with the integration of children with special educational needs.
2. Provide an international partnership and cooperation with the organizations from other countries and from Bulgaria.
3. Developing projects related to the objectives of the association.
4. Prepare training programs for its members.
5. Research activities.
6. Public campaigns - developing local policies and strategies based on thorough analysis of needs of target groups.
7. Volunteering.

Contact:

Name of the organization:
"Focus - European Center for Development"

Contact person: Mr. Ivaylo Ivanov

Role in the organization: President

Address: street "Ekzarh Yosif" №17, fl.3,
ap.6, 4400 Pazardjik, Bulgaria

Phone: 00359 899 08 19 09

Fax: 00359 34 90 17 17

URL: www.foccen.org

e-mail: info@foccen.org

ASSOCIATION



SERVICE DESCRIPTION / ACTIVITIES:

The activities proposed in the project allows volunteers to participate in more specific sub-activities related to their interests and abilities.

Sub-actions in three areas (entertainment, educational and practical) and strive to realize the main objectives.

- Support for disadvantaged groups / people with disabilities /
- Promotion of activities / ESC /
- To develop areas of information, sensitivity to the topic and the formation of good practice
- Volunteers to build their autonomy
- To give volunteers a new way of life
- To increase self-esteem, self confidence, and its functions
- Providing opportunities for training and education for young people interested in social sphere.
- Work with project
- Develop communication skills and presentation skills
- Working with youth
- Learn new language
- To discover new culture and new country
- To have fun and to enjoy the project :)

Volunteers will participate in instructive activities, educational services. Their role would be consistent with the opportunities and responsibility. Mission volunteers will always be led by supervisor and rehabilitator. Volunteers will have the opportunity to submit their own country and culture by organizing food, exhibitions, slideshow examples. Volunteers will participate in educational activities educators by helping people with disabilities in the manufacture of pottery, cards, posters and more. Together we will organize their time to visit the institutions, cafes, public spaces, galleries, theater, movies and more. Volunteers will support people with disabilities in their daily activities - nutrition, hygiene, dressing, working, walking in the city/park and others. Will participate in festivals and celebrations of the association and the day care center. Volunteers will organize activities during leisure customers - such as painting, music, hiking, and more. Finally, the volunteers will have the opportunity to develop a personal project related activities and objectives of the day care center and the host organization. Organizing volunteers missions will be based on 30 hours per week, 5 days, 6 hours per day including language courses and meeting with the mentor. Volunteers will have holiday/vacation two days a month. Volunteers will always have the accompaniment of Bulgarian and monitors will be integrated into work teams.



DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES:

A) SOCIAL ACTIVITIES: AT THE DAY CENTRE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Educational activities: individual, active, yet flexible, adapted to the specific needs of youth and to his personal rhythm.
- Socialization, sports and leisure activities.
- Support for the development of autonomy in self.
- Encouraging walking. Implementation of various motor - motor play, didactic games. Training in speech.
- Excursions, visiting agencies and institutions.
- Holidays and carnivals - organization and celebration.

B) EDUCATION: WORKING WITH THE COMMUNITY

- Monitoring and Prevention
- Meetings with students, public / presentations, discussions, workshops /
- Informal education / rights and obligations of volunteers, sending and hosting organization - keeping the ESC Charter /

C) MEDIA AND COMMUNICATION/ YOUTH INFORMATION/ PROJECT MANAGEMENT: AT THE OFFICE

- This activity will enable volunteers to work with projects.
- He/She will help the young people visiting our office to find the information they need, answer their questions and help them to find information on the Internet.
- Research and spreading of information material, updating the web page and database (infosheets and leaflets on various topics). Will work on our newsletter, bolg, web page.
- Contributing to the organisation of small information events in the youth information centre, in schools and in youth center.
- Assistance (to the members of the staff) in preparing and organising local participation projects and international project with young people. In this frame the volunteers will be in contact with all the components of youth representatives and structures of the region and will assist in elaborating the programme, finding partners, sending of invitations, leading a thematical workshop etc.).
- S/he will take part in the team-meetings where the activities are planned and evaluated.

D - PERSONAL PROJECTS

This activity will enable volunteers to develop a personal project. Presentation of the home country in an unconventional way and / or innovative, creative ideas presented and implemented by the volunteer during ESC. Participation in festivals and traditions, celebrations of the Day Centre and the Association "Focus - European Centre for Development".



PRACTICAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE VOLUNTEERS:

Upon arrival the volunteer organization committed to acquaint him with its rules on accommodation, food, spending, hours, schedule activities, weekends, holidays, duties and responsibilities.

Accommodation and Food:

Volunteers will be accommodated in apartments equipped with bathroom, kitchen, 2 bedrooms. Resources /money/ for food will be provided to volunteers at the beginning of each month.

Hours:

Volunteers will carry out planned activities for a period of 6 hours per day during 5 days a week. Determined lunch break of 1 hour and 30 minutes. 2 free days per month /holiday, vacation/

Allowance - pocket money:

Association "Focus - European Center for Development" will provide a monthly allowance corresponding to the subsidy amount which will be paid in installments every month.

Local transport:

It will be no necessary to use public transport. When necessary underlying transport program, it will be the responsibility of the host organization. When the volunteers arrive representative of the organization will meet them at the airport.

Language support:

Association "Focus - European Center for Development" will provide language training - Bulgarian, during the ESC.

Mentor and Supervisor:

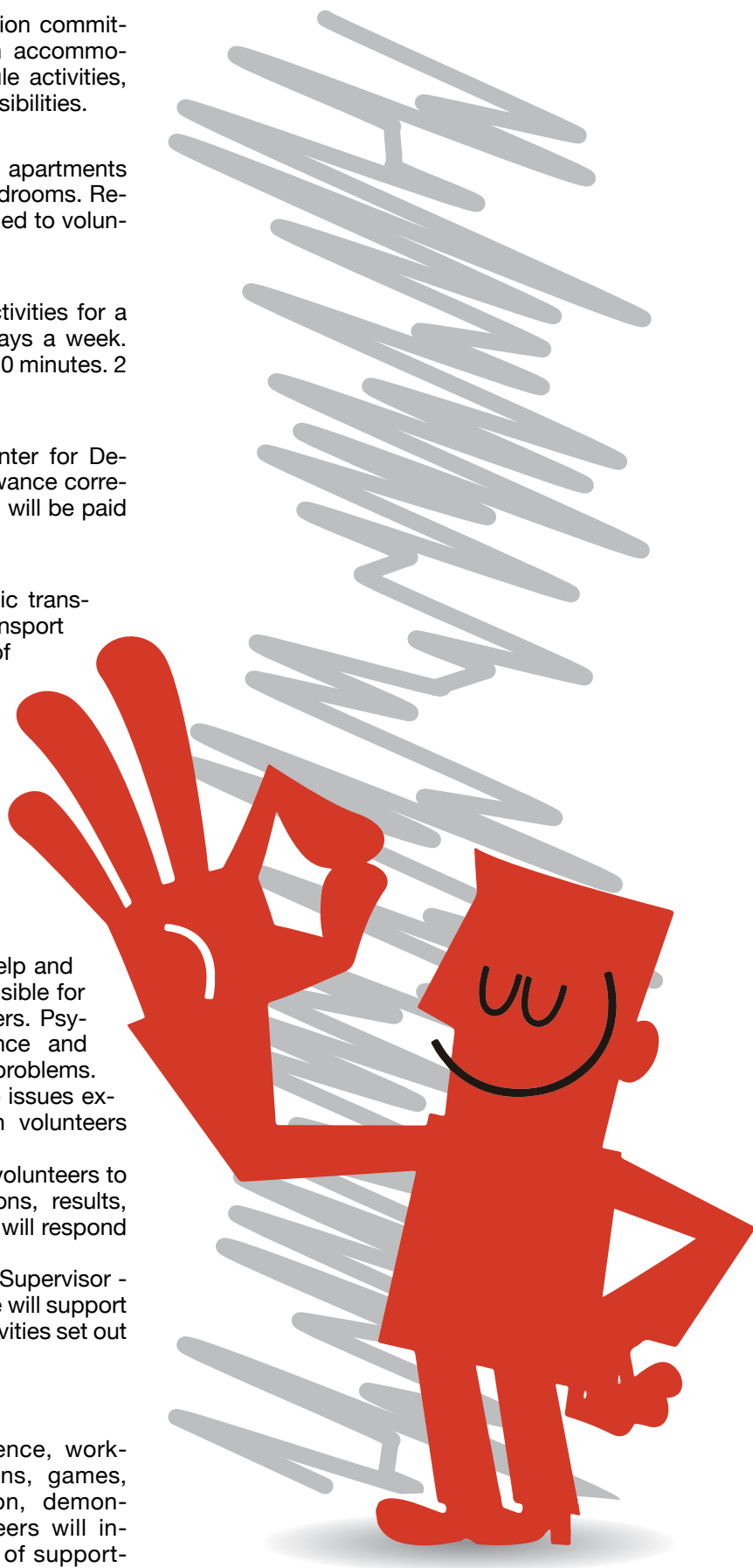
Each volunteer will be able to get help and support from Mentor. Mentor is responsible for providing personal support of volunteers. Psychological and pedagogical assistance and support in case of crisis situations and problems. Information and guidance to clarify the issues exciting volunteer. Coordinator between volunteers and host organization.

Mentor will meet twice a week with volunteers to share concerns, problems, expectations, results, successes, joys and concerns. Mentor will respond correctly to the needs of volunteers.

Volunteers will receive support from Supervisor - a former volunteer, realized the ESC. He will support volunteers in the implementation of activities set out on schedule.

THE WORKING METHODS:

Through dialogue, sharing experience, workshops, visits in hosting organizations, games, observation, discussion, presentation, demonstration, practical and more, volunteers will increasing their skills and competence of supporting people with disabilities.





PROJECT GOALS:

The aim is through direct and indirect participation in the life work of the host organization Association “Focus - European Centre for Development”, Volunteers plan activities under the project to acquire new knowledge and skills, competencies / non-formal education. Personal example of teamwork, communication, a new language, explore new rituals and traditions will enrich the volunteers and will provide:

- Opportunities for acquiring knowledge and competencies;
- Building communication skills and work with people with disabilities;
- Acquisition of language skills / written and spoken Bulgarian language;
 - Direct work with people with disabilities over 18 years old in day care center for people with disabilities.
 - Skills in team work.
 - Gaining new creativity and methods of approaching when working with youth.
 - Create new friends and acquaintances.
- Will be familiar with the customs and culture.
- Will know the natural attractions in Pazardzhik, in Bulgaria.
- Social and intercultural skills.
- Acquisition of responsibility towards the disadvantaged groups.
- Better understanding of people with disabilities.

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITY:

HOST ORGANIZATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Facilitate the implementation of the project by offering administrative and quality support to all project partners and ensuring their good work in the network;
- Preparation of necessary documentation;
- Provide information volunteers country, its culture and tradition, the host organization, conditions, tasks, duties and rights under the project;
- Inform volunteers for pocket money;
- Ensuring interim and final evaluation meetings;
- Assures the project participants that in any moment of execution of the activities there will be no substitution of labor.;
- Assist in the solution;
- Support for volunteers in all matters relating to insurance, visa and residence permit;
- Ensure that enrollment of volunteers Insurance Plan for ESC volunteers is done;
- Provides support of volunteers in crisis situations and in solving problems.
- The development of activities and tasks of the volunteers - scheduling by time and date.
- Accommodation for volunteers. Provide intensive language course.
- Keeping the exchange of information related to a project between the sending and host organization;

SENDING ORGANIZATION WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Prepare all necessary documents before departure.
- Provide information about the host country, its culture and traditions;
- Provide information and documentation on ESC activities;
- Training of volunteers for the upcoming period of his life (intercultural issues, conflict management, rights and obligations);
- To care for international travel volunteer (ticketing and reservation of tickets)
- Assures that volunteers will participate in training prior to departure;
- Supporting volunteers in all matters relating to security and visa;

- Keep in close contact with the volunteer and the host organization before, during and after the project;
- Provides volunteer support in crisis situations and in solving problems.
- Provides support to the volunteer after his return to the country as developing a personal project of the volunteer.

VOLUNTEER WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Participation in non-profit activity;
- Be aware of the importance of the project for themselves and for local communities;
- Participation in activities with responsibility;
- Actively participate in all phases of crossing sending, reception and realization of the ESC departure.
- Compromise to comply with the rules and methods of work and host organization;
- Participate in all training sessions: before departure, intermediate term, the final assessment;
- Participation in a given language course (informal);
- Getting support from personal mentor.
- Support from partner organizations.



EXPECTED RESULTS:

Successfully coordinated and implemented the ESC project - national importance and visibility. Cultural exchange in the form of informal education. Acquired different skills and knowledge in different areas for volunteers and the host organization. Increased self-esteem and motivation of the local population as well as greater transparency and awareness of the nature of ESC volunteering and its principles. To have a nice time and a lot of fun. :)

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

Volunteers to be motivated, ambitious person who want to show and prove their skills. Able to prioritize tasks and allocate work in a team. Be interested in the social sphere and to work with people with disabilities. Have knowledge of English. To be between 18 and 30 years old. Open minded and able to adapt him/herself to new environments and culture.

ESC PROJECT TEAM

First of all we would like to introduce ourselves, so that you know with whom you are working together during your experience!



Ivaylo Ivanov

Project coordinator

Trainer,
psychologist,
working with people
with disabilities

+359 899 08 19 09



Dimi Sheyretova

Volunteer's Mentor

Love to read, travel,
cycling in the moun-
tain and discover
new places.

+359 894 08 09 04



Petko Petkov

Project Supervisor

Photogrpaher,
cinematographer
graphic designer
love rock music

+359 898 89 71 00



MEET THE TEAM

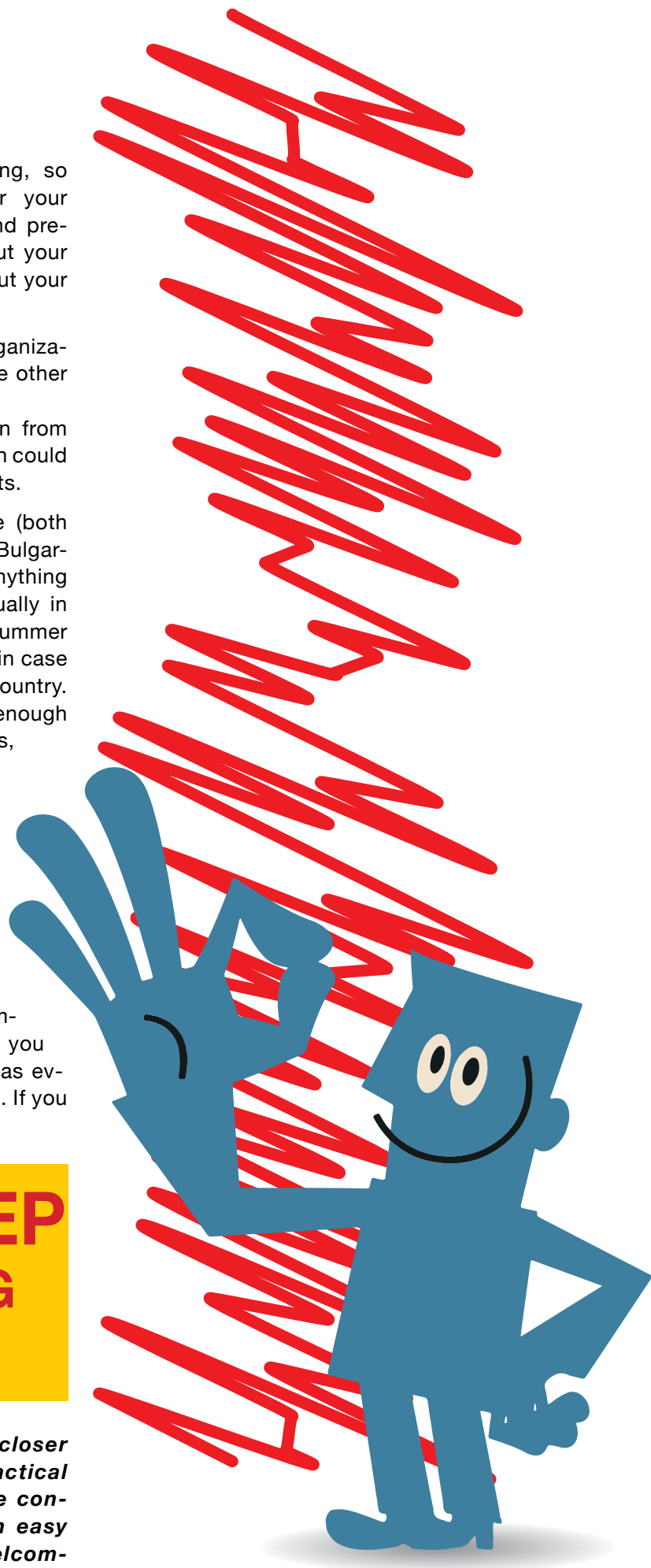
WHAT TO BRING WITH YOU

- We will have an intercultural evening, so please bring something typical for your country. (food, drinks, music, etc) and prepare a PowerPoint presentation about your hometown so we can learn more about your life.
- Bring also some material from your organization which could be interesting for the other participants.
- Bring also some touristic information from your own country and hometown which could be interesting for the other participants.
- A combination of clothes to change (both summer and winter). The weather in Bulgaria is unstable. You can not predict anything as far as weather is concerned. Usually in Pazardjik winter is very cold and summer very hot, but you should be prepared in case you will travel in and outside our country. Among these, we advise you to bring enough of both comfortable and smart clothes,
- If you can please bring your own laptop. Especially if you will stay in Pazardjik for more than two months, you will maybe be asked to work on your computer for writing projects, or working on the monthly newsletter and many other activities.

Instead, since you will be living in a comfortable house with the other volunteers, you don't need to take bed sheets or towels as everything will be provided from NGO Focus. If you want you can bring your own too :)

**PLEASE KEEP
ALL BOARDING
PASSES !!!**

As your ESC experience is coming closer and closer, here you have some practical information and more info about the content to make sure you'll all have an easy arrival. We are looking forward to welcoming you in Bulgaria!



TRAVEL GUIDE: HOW TO COME FROM SOFIA TO PAZARDJIK



Focus Association is located in Pazardjik, a small city situated along the banks of the Maritsa River, Southern Bulgaria, 40 minutes away from Plovdiv and two hours away from the capital, Sofia. With a population of 71,979 inhabitants and many points of historical and cultural interests, Pazardjik hosts many tourists during summer. During the warmer seasons, most afternoons of the week and especially weekends find a large number of people strolling about or sitting in cafes. In Bulgaria the café culture is particularly prominent, with many downtown squares easily providing up to a half dozen cafés, with ample outside seating.

From TERMINAL 1 Sofia Airport

from terminal 1 is necessary go to terminal 2 for take the metro. There is a **free shuttle service with the logo of the airport company**.

The service is active every 30 minute from 7:15 in the morning until 18:45 in the evening. If you arrive after this time, no problem Between 19:00 and 07:00 free-of-charge transportation between Terminal 1 and Terminal 2 can be requested at the Information Desk inside the terminals or you can take a TAXI and share the price with your mates. (The two terminals are very near, 5 minutes by car, so the price for the taxi are very low).



From TERMINAL 2 Sofia Airport

Outside of the building, on the left you can see the metro station.

In this metro station there is only one line (M1) for go in the city of Sofia.

Take the metro and at the 2th stop (Iskarso Shose) go out. You will be in the train station Sofia-Iskarso Shose. There you can take the train to Pazardjik. The ticket you can do it in the train, just ask to the controller.

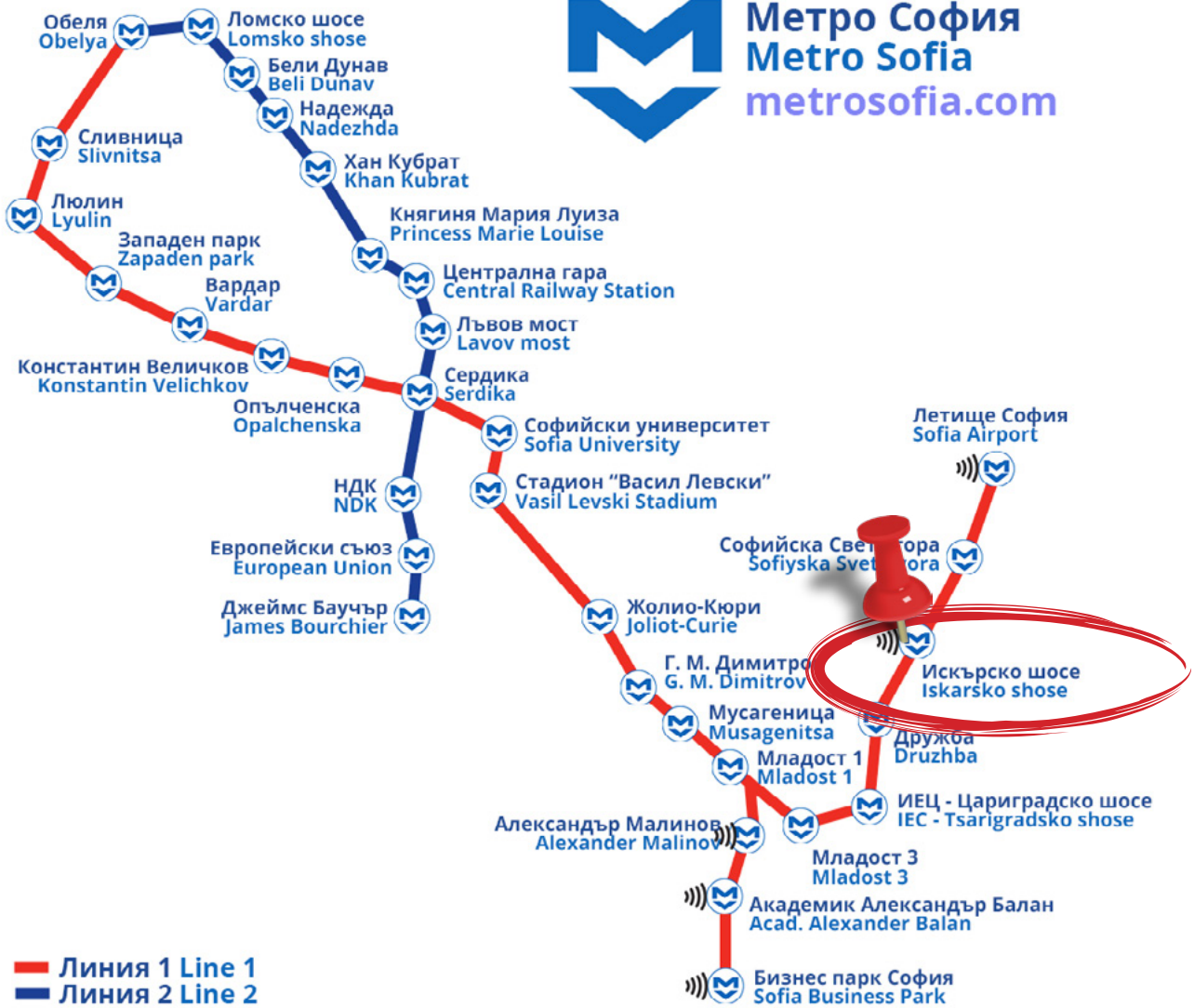
The metro trains operate from 5am to midnight.

Single ride ticket price is 1 lev (0.50 EUR). The ticket is valid for the entire metro network so you can use the same ticket for transfer to M2. Tickets can be purchased from the cashier desks in the metro station or from ticket machines.





Метро София
Metro Sofia
metrosofia.com



— Линия 1 Line 1
— Линия 2 Line 2

Hereafter the train time table: Sofia (Iskarsko Shose) – Pazardjik

07:30	08:31	11:56	13:51	14:27	15:41	17:11	17:36	18:42	22:57
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The price for the ticket is 7 lev (3,58 €) for the ordinary train and 8 lev (4,09 €) for the fast train, it depend for the time. The trip by train Sofia (Iskarsko Shose)-Pazardjik takes 2 h or 2 h and 30 minutes.

ATTENTION: the last train in the night is at 22:57

One of the last important train stop is before Pazardjik is Septemvri.





When you will arrive in Pazardjik train station we will be there to wait you and to pick up you in your apartment.

For any problems or doubts you can call this number:

Ivaylo Ivanov: +359 899 08 19 09

Alexandre Hannedouche: +33 610 248 470

Enjoy your trip and don't be afraid to ask to the people info or help. The people here are friendly and most of them speak in English and they like help people especially from ab-road.!

SEE YOU IN
BULGARIA!!!



MONEY / CURRENCY OF BULGARIA

1 euro = 1,955 leva (fixed)

In Bulgaria our money (currency) are - BGN / lev	
1 ticket - 1 leva	1 beer - 1,50 leva
1 coffee - 1,00 leva	1 coca cola - 1,40 leva
1 bread - 0,70 leva	1 mineral water - 0,60 leva / but you can drink from the tap. the water is good for drinking



Note that prices are approximate and changes are possible

DICTIONARY (Your first Bulgarian lesson)

ENGLISH	BULGARIAN	TRANSCRIPTION
Hello	ЗДРАВЕЙ	Zdravei
Good morning	ДОБРО УТРО	Dobro utro
Good afternoon	ДОБЪР ДЕН	Dobar den
Good evening	ДОБЪР ВЕЧЕР	Dobar vecher
Good night	ЛЕКА НОЩ	Leka nosht
Nice to meet you	ПРИЯТНО МИ Е ДА СЕ ЗАПОЗНАЕМ	Priyatno mi e da se zapoznaem
How are you?	КАК СИ?	Kak si?
Where are you from?	ОТ КЪДЕ СИ?	Ot kade si?
Where is the train station?	КЪДЕ Е ЖП ГАРАТА?	Kade e GP garata?
Where is the bus station?	КЪДЕ Е АВТОГАРАТА?	Kade e avto garata?
How old are you?	НА КОЛКО СИ ГОДИНИ	Na kolko si godini?
How much does it cost?	КОЛКО СТРУВА?	Kolko struva?
One ticket, please	ЕДИН БИЛЕТ, МОЛЯ	Edin bilet, molia
To the train station	ДО ЖП ГАРАТА	Do GP garata
To the bus station	ДО АВТОГАРАТА	Do avto garata
One lev	ЕДИН ЛЕВ	Edin lev

EX-EVS STORIES:



My EXPERIENCE
AS A VOLUNTEER in Focus.
Jump from Thailand to Bulgaria
by **Nontasit Kongsanan**

READ MORE...



MY ONE YEAR EVS
IN BULGARIA

by **Catherine Akorfa Akpaloo**

READ MORE...



GREAT EXPERIENCE
from a long term
volunteer
by **Roberta Liccardi**

READ MORE...



From Argentina to
Pazardjik - This is
my EVS

by **Karina Cáceres**

READ MORE...



From Cankkale
to Pazardjik - EVS
for 2 months!

by **Onur Duran**

READ MORE...



Sulav Aryal the boy
from NEPAL -
EVS in Bulgaria

by **Sulav Aryal**

READ MORE...



My 2 Months
EVS in Bulgaria

by **Batuhan Ahiskalioglu**

READ MORE...

INTERVIEWS FROM OUR EX EVS VOLUNTEERS



Marie Leroy | France

🔊 french



Niko Muffler | Germany

🔊 german



Viviana D'Alonzo | Italy

🔊 italian



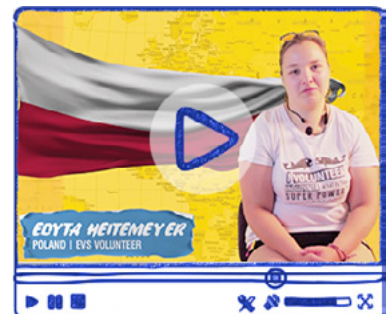
Yaiza Ferreirós | Spain

🔊 spanish



Daniela David | Portugal

🔊 portuguese



Edyta Heitemeyer | Poland

🔊 polish



Tuncay Alp | Turkey

🔊 turkish



ABOUT BULGARIA

Bulgaria, officially the Republic of Bulgaria, is a country located in Southeastern Europe. It is bordered by Romania on the north, Serbia and Macedonia on the west, Greece and Turkey on the south and the Black Sea on the east. With a territory of 110,994 square kilometres, Bulgaria is Europe's 14th-largest country. Its location has made it a historical crossroad for various civilisations and it is the home of some of the earliest metalworking, religious and other cultural artifacts in the world. The population of 7.36 million people is predominantly urban and mainly concentrated in the administrative centres of its 28 provinces. Most commercial and cultural activities are concentrated in the capital Sofia. The strongest sectors of the economy are heavy industry, power engineering and agriculture, all relying on local natural resources.

Official languages – Bulgarian

Official script – Cyrillic

Bulgaria Weather – summer +40 C° ; winter –1 C°

HISTORY OF BULGARIA

In 680 Bulgar tribes, under the leadership of Asparukh moved south across the Danube and settled in the area between the lower Danube and the Balkan, establishing their capital at Pliska. A peace treaty with Byzantium in 681 marked the beginning of the First Bulgarian Empire. The Bulgars gradually mixed up with the local population, adopting a common language on the basis of the local Slavic dialect.

Succeeding rulers strengthened the Bulgarian state throughout the 8th and 9th centuries. Krum doubled the country's territory, killed Byzantine emperor Nicephorus I in the Battle of Pliska, and introduced the first written code of law. Paganism was abolished in favour of Eastern Orthodox Christianity under Boris I in 864. This conversion was followed by a Byzantine recognition of the Bulgarian church and the adoption of the Cyrillic alphabet developed at Preslav which strengthened central authority and helped fuse the Slavs and Bulgars into a unified people. A subsequent cultural golden age began during the 34-year rule of Simeon the Great, who also achieved the largest territorial expansion of the state.

Wars with Magyars and Pechenegs and the spread of the Bogomil heresy weakened Bulgaria after Simeon's death. Consecutive Rus' and Byzantine invasions resulted in the seizure of the capital Preslav by the Byzantine army in 971. Under Samuil, Bulgaria briefly recovered from these attacks, but this rise ended when Byzantine emperor Basil II defeated the Bulgarian army at Klyuch in 1014. Samuil died shortly after the battle,[38] and by 1018 the Byzantines had ended the First Bulgarian Empire.





Map of Bulgaria

GEORGRAPHY OF BULGARIA

Bulgaria occupies a portion of the eastern Balkan peninsula, bordering five countries—Greece and Turkey to the south, Macedonia and Serbia to the west, and Romania to the north. The land borders have a total length of 1,808 kilometres (1,123 mi), and the coastline has a length of 354 kilometres (220 mi).[93] Its total area of 110,994 square kilometres (42,855 sq mi) ranks it as the world’s 105th-largest country. Bulgaria’s geographic coordinates are 43° N 25° E

The most notable topographical features are the Danubian Plain, the Balkan Mountains, the Thracian Plain, and the Rhodope Mountains.[93] The southern edge of the Danubian Plain slopes upward into the foothills of the Balkans, while the Danube defines the border with Romania. The Thracian Plain is roughly triangular, beginning southeast of Sofia and broadening as it reaches the Black Sea coast.

The Balkan mountains run laterally through the middle of the country. The mountainous southwest of the country has two alpine ranges—Rila and Pirin, which border the lower but more extensive Rhodope Mountains to the east. Bulgaria is home to the highest point of the Balkan peninsula, Musala, at 2,925 metres (9,596 ft)[97] and its lowest point is sea level. Plains occupy about one-third of the territory, while plateaus and hills occupy 41 per cent. The country has a dense network of about 540 rivers, most of which are relatively small and with low water levels. The longest river located solely in Bulgarian territory, the Iskar, has a length of 368 kilometres (229 mi). Other major rivers include the Struma and the Maritsa in the south.

Bulgaria has a dynamic climate, which results from its being positioned at the meeting point of Mediterranean and continental air masses and the barrier effect of its mountains. Northern Bulgaria averages 1 °C (1.8 °F) cooler and registers 200 millimetres (7.9 in) more precipitation annually than the regions south of the Balkan mountains. Temperature amplitudes vary significantly in different areas. The lowest recorded temperature is −38.3 °C (−36.9 °F), while the highest is 45.2 °C (113.4 °F). Precipitation averages about 630 millimetres (24.8 in) per year, and varies from 500 millimetres (19.7 in) in Dobrudja to more than 2,500 millimetres (98.4 in) in the mountains. Continental air masses bring significant amounts of snowfall during winter.

А Б В Г Д Е Ж З
 И Й К Л М Н О
 П Р С Т У Ф Х Ц
 Ч Ш Щ Ъ Ы Ю Я
 а б в г д е ж з и
 ѝ к л м н о п р
 с т у ф х ц ч
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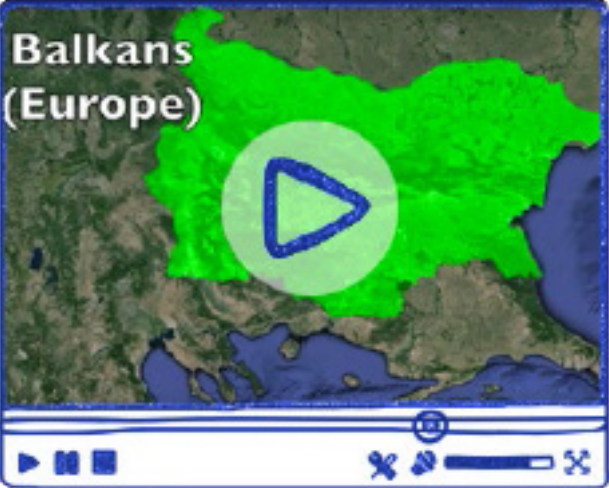
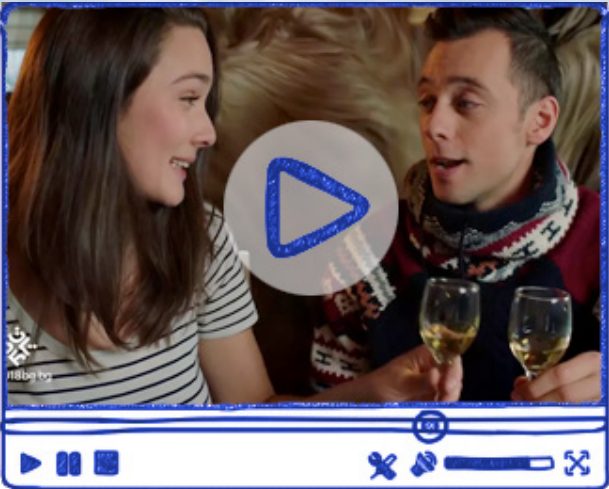
Bulgarian cyrilic alphabet

In AD 886, the Bulgarian Empire introduced the Glagolitic alphabet, devised by Saints Cyril and Methodius in the 850s. The Glagolitic alphabet was gradually superseded in later centuries by the Cyrillic script, developed around the Preslav Literary School, Bulgaria at the beginning of the 10th century. Several Cyrillic alphabets with 28 to 44 letters were used in the early and middle 19th century during the efforts[clarification needed] on the codification of Modern Bulgarian until an alphabet with 32 letters, proposed by Marin Drinov, gained prominence in the 1870s: it was used until the orthographic reform of 1945, when the letters Ъ, ъ (called ят “yat” or двойно е/едвойно “double e”) and Ъ, ѡ (called Голям юс “big yus”, голяма носовка “big nasal sign”, ь кръстато “crossed ь” or широко ь “wide ь”), were removed from the alphabet, reducing the number of letters to 30.

The Bulgarian alphabet

With the accession of Bulgaria to the European Union on 1 January 2007, the Cyrillic script became the third official script of the European Union, following the Latin and Greek scripts.

VIDEOS ABOUT BULGARIA



CITY OF PAZARDZHIK

Pazardzhik is a city situated along the banks of the Maritsa river, Southern Bulgaria. It is the capital of Pazardzhik Province and centre for the homonymous Pazardzhik Municipality.

For more information on Pazardzhik, visit:

www.PzHistory.info

Weather in Pazardjik

You can check more info before coming to Pazardjik at www.sinoptik.bg

Our currency and prices

Bulgarian's official currency is the LEV (BGN). One Euro is approximately 1,955 Bulgarian leva. For other exchange rates, check the following website:

www.xe.com

You can change currency at exchange office in your hotel, or get LEVA right out of the ATM in several places in the town, banks and exchange offices.

NOTE!

You should change or withdraw money when you arrive in Bulgaria, in order to buy a bus tickets only in Bulgarian leva (BGN).

Here are some examples of local prices:

- One coffee at a coffee shop costs 0,50 €.
- One beer in a pub costs 1 €.
- One cake in a patisserie costs 1 €.
- One bread in a bakery costs 0,45 €.

Note that prices are approximate and changes are possible



HISTORY OF PAZARDHIK

Pazardzhik was founded by Tatars from what is today Bilhorod-Dnistrovskiy in 1485 on the left bank of the river Maritsa, near the market of the region, an important crossroad at the middle of this productive region, and named Tatar Pazardzhik meaning “small Tatar market”. Thanks to this favourable location, the settlement quickly developed. While it was very small at the beginning of the 19th century, it became the administrative centre for the region at the end of the century and remained so until the dissolution of Ottoman Empire.

During the following centuries the town continued to grow and strengthened its position. Trade in iron, leather and rice prospered. The town impressed visitors with its beautiful houses and clean streets. In 1718 Gerard Kornelius Drish visited Pazardzhik and wrote “the buildings here according to construction, size and beauty stand higher than those of Niš, Sofia and all other places”.

The Russians under Count Nikolay Kamensky took the city after a brief siege in 1810. By the mid-19th century Pazardzhik was a big, important centre of crafts and trade, with a population of about 25,000 people. It hosted two big annual fairs, and a big market Tuesdays and Wednesdays. There was a post office with a telegraph.

In 1837 the Church of the Mother of God was built – an important national monument, famous for its architecture and woodcarving. In the mid-19th century Pazardzhik became an important cultural centre: a school was opened in 1847, a girls’ school in 1848, a community centre in 1868, the women’s union “Prosveta” in 1870.

Pazardzhik is exempt from Zapdniya Russian detachment commander with Lt. Gen. Joseph Gurko on 14 January 1878 (new style). Thanks Ovanes Sovadzhian Armenian, Turkish command failed to execute his perfidious and monstrous plan – to light the town and destroy its Bulgarian population – before retiring.

The railway station in 1928

From the early 20th century on people built factories, stores and houses, and thus the industrial quarter of the town. From 1959 to 1987 Pazardzhik was again an administrative centre for the region, and is again since the 1999 administrative division of Bulgaria.



The old clock tower is one of the landmarks of Pazardzhik.

POPULATION

In the 1880s the population of Pazardzhik numbered about 15,000 inhabitants and it was one of the largest of Bulgaria. Since then it started growing decade by decade, mostly because of the migrants from the rural areas and the surrounding smaller towns, reaching its peak in the period 1985–1992 exceeding 80,000.[3] After this time, the population has started decreasing in consequence of the poor economic situation in the Bulgarian provinces during the 1990s that led to a new migration in the direction of the country capital Sofia and abroad. As of February 2011, the city has a population of 71,979 inhabitants, while the Pazardzhik Municipality of 114,817 inhabitants.

CULTURE AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS

The Church of the Theotokos preserves the most impressive icons in Bulgaria by master artists of the Debar School, wood-carvings of New and Old Testament scenes, and icons by Stanislav Dospovski. Among the town's landmarks are also the clock tower, the ethnographic and history museums.

As with most Bulgarian cities, Pazardzhik has developed a significant pedestrian center, in which several central squares typify the European coffee house society and pedestrian culture. In Bulgaria the café culture is particularly prominent, with many downtown squares easily providing up to a half dozen cafés, with ample outside seating.

Pazardzhik has a level of pedestrian streets (or network of carfree areas) even above the relatively high Bulgarian standard. There are several longer pedestrian streets, and at one point there is even an intersection where five different pedestrian streets converge. A few of these do not continue for very long, but most do, or are connected to the rest of the pedestrian areas of the city, and thus could be said to form the pedestrian network of the city.

During the warmer seasons, most afternoons of the week and especially weekends find a large number of people strolling about or sitting in cafés. There are few tourist attractions in this area but there are large supermarkets including Bila and a Lidl.

Pazardzhik Point on Snow Island in the South Shetland Islands, Antarctica is named after Pazardzhik.



Dormition of the Theotokos Church



Pazardzhik History Museum



Symbol of Pazardjik

The symbol has three meanings - the Rhodopes mountains, the Thracian Horseman and the Marica river. Symbol has the shape of a shield. The upper part is wavy and symbolizes the relief of the Rodopes mountains, which surrounds the city. On the right - the bottom half symbolized river Maritza depicted with three wavy lines. In the upper left half is the Thracian Horseman.

I ❤️ PAZARDJIK | Movie about Pazardjik



Activities





Activities




TRAVEL





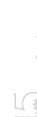
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Contact:

Focus - European Center for Development

Address: street "Ekzarh Yosif" №17, fl.3,
ap.6, 4400 Pazardjik, Bulgaria

Phone: 00359 899 08 19 09

Fax: 00359 34 90 17 17

URL: www.foccen.org

e-m@il: info@foccen.org | evs@foccen.org

