**About us:**

The non-profit Association “Institute Perspectives” is one of the fastest developing NGOs in Bulgaria, working mainly on the development of youth potential. The founders of “Institute Perspectives” originally established many student clubs in Veliko Tarnovo, Varna, Ruse, Plovdiv and Sofia. As a result of many activities organized by the above mentioned student clubs, their founders have decided to establish a non-profit organization to facilitate broader-scale and various initiatives, which would help the youth to develop their potential in Bulgaria and in the European Union. In August 2015, Association “Institute Perspectives” was established as a completely legal non-governmental public-profit organization with economic activity rights. Since then, “Institute Perspectives” has organized many activities at local, national and international levels, involving Bulgarians and international students from different countries, namely Italy, France, Germany, Great Britain, Poland, Lithuania, Finland and Turkey.

Our unique motto is: “We don’t have dreams, we have goals.” And our goals are to help young people to better their skills and behaviors in different fields through motivational and engaging activities. Consequently, we believe our work can also positively impact the society as the relationships and engagement of young people with older generations are also improved. Furthermore, by giving young people chances to improve their skills, we are actually giving them better opportunities in higher education and in employment, which will later benefit our Bulgaria.

Since the foundation of our association, members of ours have taken part in over than 30 Erasmus+ KA1 exchange programs. After each exchange program participants organize an event in which they communicate to other members the experience they have gained.

Projects in the sphere of European integration, European citizenship and European values are our main interest and work, with or without financing – so that the European family can become more and more united.

Our NGO was founded as non-formal youth group and have organized many initiatives and projects dedicated to non-formal education. Non-formal learning happens in activities which are designed but not necessarily for the purpose of learning. It’s really important for our young members to gain experience in hosting non-formal education events because this topic is not well-known in our region. That’s why we strive to train our representatives first in order to share their experience with other peers from our region.

**Our activities:**

26th – 28th September 2013: educational training **“Certifying informal education”**, organized by the National Center “European Youth Programmes and Initiatives” through the National Youth Programme.

27th February – 1st March 2014: seven members participate in a seminar named **“Coaches Teaching Coaches”** carried by the Center for Interethnic Dialogue and Tolerance “Amalipe” and the European Information Center – Veliko Tarnovo.

10th – 15th June 2015: Youth Exchange Under Erasmus+ with topic “**Open to New Horizon”**, organized by Young Europeans Association, Zawiercie, Poland.

24th – 28th June 2015: **“Seventh National Meeting of Youth Worker”,** Varna.

24th – 30th October 2015: Youth Exchange Under Erasmus+ with topic -**"Youth empowerment"**- Poitiers, France.

6th -16th  December  2015: Mobility of youth workers under Erasmus+ with topic: “**Non formal+”** in Poiana Negri, Romania.

29th January 2015: An information day with topic **“Sport and youth policies – perspectives”** was organized together with “Youth home – Veliko Turnovo”. The event was directed to youth leaders and youth non-governmental organisations, representatives of municipalities’ administrations and councils from Veliko Tarnovo which activity is strongly connected with the elaboration and management of youth policies, non-formal education and development of sport on a local level.

30th January – 22nd February 2017: the **“Advanced Mathematics” School** took place, where more than 80 children from the 1st to the 4th grade were involved. The main objective of the initiative was to familiarize students with material other than what is taught at school. These types of tasks develop logical thinking and often found a place in the racing themes of respected mathematical tournaments.

March - May 2017: **The Debate School** successfully completed 30 young people from Svishtov from 15 to 29 years of age. They had the opportunity to get acquainted with the beauty of the debate and at the same time to develop their rhetorical skills. Twice a week, our youth workers delivered lectures and simulated debates to create the best conditions for theoretical and practical preparation. At the end of the course, all participants were impressed by the magic of the debates, and some of them continued to seek opportunities to do so.

15th May 2017: together with the Department of “Social and Legal Sciences”, Economic Academy"D. A. Tsenov” and PHSE “Dimitar Hadjivasilev” held a **Round Table: "Education And Its Forms"** where university teachers, teachers and youth workers discussed issues related to the role of education in the process of forming the personality, the forms of education (formal, non-formal and informal), the methods of non-formal learning and policies for the development of non-formal education at national and European levels.

17th July 2017: Association "Perspectives Institute" as the main partner of the Dimitar Hadjivasilev Professional State Commercial High School from July 17, 2017 for the following period of four school years will implement a project for **Innovative School**. In innovative lessons, students' attention is directed to the process of reflection through which young people accept new knowledge. They were able to realize their own feelings by performing individual and group tasks, as well as identify the advantages and challenges that influence the achievement of educational goals. Through the implementation of the project, key steps towards the real integration of informal learning techniques into the Bulgarian educational system were established.

9th – 10th December 2017 in “Vasil Levski” High school of Karlovo, "Perspectives Institute" conducted the training **“First Steps To European Values”** for 38 young people from the town of Karlovo and the town of Sopot and the settlements. The main goals of the training were: -To increase the competence of the participants to reflect critically; - To raise participants' competence to identify stereotypes and prejudices; -To demonstrate to the participants actions consistent with respect for human dignity, trust, solidarity and active inclusion; -To demonstrate the principles of youth work.