**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.

We have involved young people in various social entrepreneurship activities as according to The European Pillars of Social Rights, entrepreneurship and self-employment should be encouraged, and young people are entitled to education, an apprenticeship or a high quality job offer. To us, social entrepreneurship is extremely important as it is about applying practical, innovative and sustainable approaches to benefit the society in general, and can be a unique approach to economic and social problems.

**SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP AGAINST YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT**

Funded by KA1, "Youth" sector of Erasmus + program № 2016-3-bg01-ka105-035230, by co-financing by Erasmus + and the human resource development center.

The current project is awarded with a quality sign of the traditional Erasmus + Valorisation Conference. Organized by the HRDC on 5.12.2017, the project has been jointly developed and implemented by eight organizations from Italy, Portugal, France, Belgium, Greece, Slovakia, Romania and the Coordinating Association "Institute Perspectives" from Bulgaria. The main activities implemented under the project are youth exchange programs, which were held in Svishtov, Bulgaria. Thanks to this youth exchange involving 32 young people and 8 team leaders and their joint work for a nine-day period, the main project goal for raising the knowledge of the target group was reached.

This project directly affects young people aged 13-30 living in the partner organizations' regions that fall into the NEETs group. All participants organized one initiative to multiply the experience through which they directly applied the newly acquired competences of youth exchange. The project mainly used the methods and techniques of non-formal education such as brainstorming; presentations; working in groups; shared space; creative workshops; drama theater; in-depth discussions; learning through creation; communication; simulations; ice breakers; and energy seekers with an emphasis on the intercultural type. All participants jointly prepared 6 ideas for starting a business based on the principles of social entrepreneurship, which were visualized through a short film. The participants recognized the main motivation of social entrepreneurship, meaning the person should help solving the social tasks of vulnerable groups and members of society. Developing social entrepreneurship ideas helps to integrate migrants into the process of implementing social enterprises, and promotes both tolerance and mutual assistance between the "old" and the "new" Europeans. This is necessary for sustainable and inclusive growth in the EU.

The successful implementation of the project activities has had an impact in improving the institutional capacity in the fields of social policy and education. Access to the learning opportunities of the target groups has been expanded through the use of non-formal methods. Participants updated their knowledge about social entrepreneurial ideas. Implementing ideas in working business models has increased the employability of unemployed youths, which reduces youth unemployment rates in the EU. The newly created models of social entrepreneurship help to unite the efforts of youth, refugees, non-governmental organizations and investors against the huge problem of youth unemployment, the solution of which is possible through the implementation of entrepreneurial ideas favoring the social development.

These results will lead to a successful realization of the labor market. By working together on real-life case studies and group work, youth participants have gained attitudes and self-confidence to launch their own entrepreneurial initiatives that will have a positive impact on the society. Youth participants have realized that the key to successful development is to help people in difficulty and then develop themselves and their community.

**CONVERGENCE/COHESION OF LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

In March 2018, a number of activities such as **“Spanish cultural evening”**, “**English tea”** and **“Against the violence in the name of honor”** were organized in order to create an environment for socio-economic development by involving the benefits of youth work, business and vocational education in accordance with the principles of social entrepreneurship.

Over 100 citizens of Svishtov Municipality who were engaged in the field of business, education and social activities, as well as owners and business managers, directors of vocational schools, teachers, social workers, employees and unemployed people were involved in the activities.

The project has helped our participants to understand importance of behaviors, as well as recognition and respect for gender equality and human rights. As a result, employers became more aware of their responsibility towards those working in their companies and employees' trust in businesses has improved. Furthermore, communication between the businesses and the directors of vocational high schools became more effective.