

Working closely with local partners, ZOV has touched the lives of over 400 children since being established in 2006.



HELPING BULGARIAN CHILDREN IN CARE

ZOV has been awarded **"Best Volunteer Initiative"** from the National Children's Net Foundation.

In **2015** ZOV got a special recognition as one of the **best services** for children from specialists in Social care area in North Bulgaria

2008, 2011 2012 & 2014 Civil Society Award for best practice.

In 2012 ZOV and OXAB was rated the **Best and Most Innovative Social Service** in the VT region by the Agency of Social Support.

ZOV is the first organisation to deliver and complete the **Duke of Edinburgh Award** in Bulgaria.

In collaboration with
Gorna and Penyo Home

Penyo and Maria Velkovi Children's home
Gorna Oryahovitsa Agency of Social Support

Communitas Foundation

Duke of Edinburgh

Friends of Bulgaria

ST Mariana Hospital Pleven

St Cyril and Methodius VT University

Social Support Services , VT

Municipality of Veliko Turnovo

Vision: ZOV believes that all children deserve the chance for a bright future and that every child needs to be loved and supported.

Bulgaria has one of highest number of children in institutions across Europe. Due to a severe lack of staff and funding, homes have to prioritise looking after each child's basic needs and cannot provide additional services that support their educational and emotional development.

ZOV supports children who have grown up in institutional care who have suffered severe trauma. We also support children with a range of disabilities and those at risk. We help them prepare for life outside the home until they are secure and independent. We see each child's unique potential and facilitate the development of their skills and talents, to help them build confidence, by providing a range of different creative and educational programmes. We currently work with over 160 children from ten centres.

"ZOV is a great example of good collaboration and partnership between municipality and NGO Sector. I am so Proud"

Rositsa Dimitrova
Director of Social
Support

"ZOV actually became part of our Centre and supports the social service that is essential. We are really grateful and highly appreciate what you are doing for our children!"

Maya Bojkova - Director
of Family Centre for
Children at a Risk



ZOV is a registered UK charity in England and Wales no 1104091. www.zov.org.uk. For more information please contact charlotte@zov.org.uk

CHILDREN'S CLUB

These clubs create a safe haven for the children ZOV works with. A place with familiar, kind faces that is a spring board for success, providing opportunities and experiences that pave the way for a brighter future. Activities include access to computers, Arts & Dance, Singing, English, Sports and Cooking sessions. ZOV has the first amateur folk dance and singing group from a children home in Bulgaria.

OUTREACH

ZOV provides a series of coordinated activities aimed at preparing children for life outside institutional care.

1. Education Club: 55 University volunteers providing educational support to local children the most of any charity in Bulgaria.
2. "I can do it" club : Interactive workshops to develop basic life skills including specialised sessions for at risk children
3. Work Experience: Children over 16 benefit from essential summer paid work experience.

EXCURSIONS & CHRISTMAS

ZOV funds annual educational trips outside the home so children have the opportunity to interact with the natural environment, including the very popular summer camps. Each Christmas a party is organised each child receives an individual present, delivered by Santa himself. In addition. ZOV coordinates a knowledge exchange project each year with local teachers from various institutions to share skills and ideas and identify further training requirements.

"I would never be brave to follow my dreams without the motivation [ZOV] gave me and I now believe in myself!" Methodi (ZOV helped Methodi find a job and paid for his piano lessons so he could pursue his dream.

"Thank you for all your support, I became a student at Uni and this was my dream! I passed all exams with excellent marks and this was because of your help" 18 year old Kristain will become a student in 2016.

"I want to do more in my life – to have a job I know now how important education is!" Emily aged 17



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GORNA ORYAHOVITSA CHILDREN'S CLUB

ZOV provides sessions for children with special educational and social needs. The disabled children currently attend a Day Centre and a Family centre for children without parents. Childcare professionals focus on art therapy, music therapy, speech therapy, drama, life skills, crafts, trips and sports.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT PROGRAMME

ZOV supports those teenagers who want to attend university. The project gives the children an opportunity to study at university and gain work experience working on a project run by ZOV.

MENTORING PROJECT

The project aims to promote social inclusion of young people from homes for children deprived of parental care through an innovative programme of one-to-one mentoring, interactive group workshops and extra-curricular activities. All mentors are trained by local social services and many have been supported to help find jobs as social workers and specialists in children

