



Report for 2017

... in pictures

supported by

**AMERICA FOR
BULGARIA
FOUNDATION**

 **TELUS**
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 **заедновчас**
за успеха на всяко дете



 **ПРомяната**

Mission

To build an IT community which through quality education gives the people in Vratsa the opportunity to have challenging and well-paid jobs as software developers in their hometown.



Vision

From 2022 , 40 people will start career in the software industry in Vratsa every year.

Summary

The problem Vratsa Software Community is trying to solve is the lack of challenging and well paid jobs in Vratsa. Which causes most young people to leave the town. From statistics of the national institute for 2013 and 2014 Vratsa is among the cities with most people who left their homes in Bulgaria. And data from Eurostat shows that northwestern Bulgaria (where Vratsa is situated) is the poorest region in EU. Another challenge in Bulgaria right now is that there are not enough IT specialists which slows down the development of the IT sector in the country. Many researches show that Bulgaria needs at least 20 000 more IT specialist. What Vratsa Software Community does for solving these 2 problems is developing software industry in Vratsa. We do this through organizing free 9-month IT training program, IT events and work with local schools.

IT center



*In November we started new **9-month** software development course. There were **130** candidates, from whom **65** started, divided in **4** groups.*



IT center



From December, Vratsa became part of the global movement CoderDojo. We started working with a group of 22 kids from 3rd to 8th grade. Mentors are successful trainees from our software academy.

Software industry in Vratsa



New IT company opened an office in Vratsa and hired **3** of our trainees. **22** people who completed our 9-month training programmes are working as software developers, **15** of them are located in Vratsa.



Organized events

For a second year in a row we organized **HackVratsa**. This year's topic was “Games”.

There were **8** teams, **31** participants, from whom **17** were under 18 years old. The winner, **The Bulgarian Gurus**, won a Sony Playstation 4 and a trip to **Gameloft**'s office.

([more](#))



Organized events



Treasure hunt

With the help of volunteers from "Student's city council Vratsa", we conducted **Treasure hunt** for third year in a row with more than **100** participants. The topic was "**Back to the future**".

[\(more\)](#)



Organized events



We conducted **Rails Girls Vratsa**, which aims to aspire girls for IT. There were **20** participants from whom **7** were under the age of 18, and **6** mentors. The event was initiated and organized by **Adelina** and **Kristina**, who are part of our alumni network. ([more](#))



Organized events

We organized **Summer IT academy PRO** with the help of **Telus International**. 25 students divided in 6 teams worked for 5 weeks to create software projects they invented in the start. ([more](#))



Organized events



CodeWeek Враца 2017

We organized **CodeWeek Vratsa 2017**: Two-day event of lectures and workshops for IT. There were over 200 participants, 25 lecturers, 15 modules. **14-15 October** ([more](#))

Initiatives we participated in

EDITontheRoad | ВРАЦА

21 / 10 / 17

Търговско-промишлена палата Враца



EDITTogether ce осъществява от **MOVE.BG** и **Google** с подкрепата на:



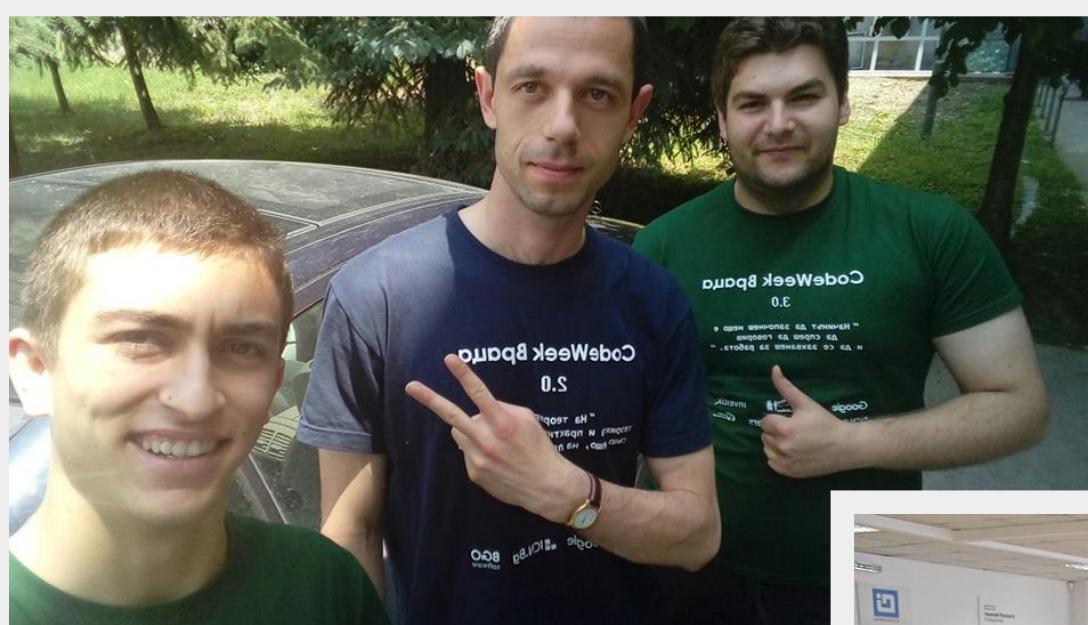
*We were a partner in the 3-month roadshow of the network for digital development **EDIT** and **Google**. Vratsa was recognized as one of the cities with strong digital community.*

Initiatives we participated in



New class “Applied programming” with dual learning in the local technical school with an updated curriculum based on the business’ needs.

Initiatives we participated in



We participated in
SoftUniada and TechFest



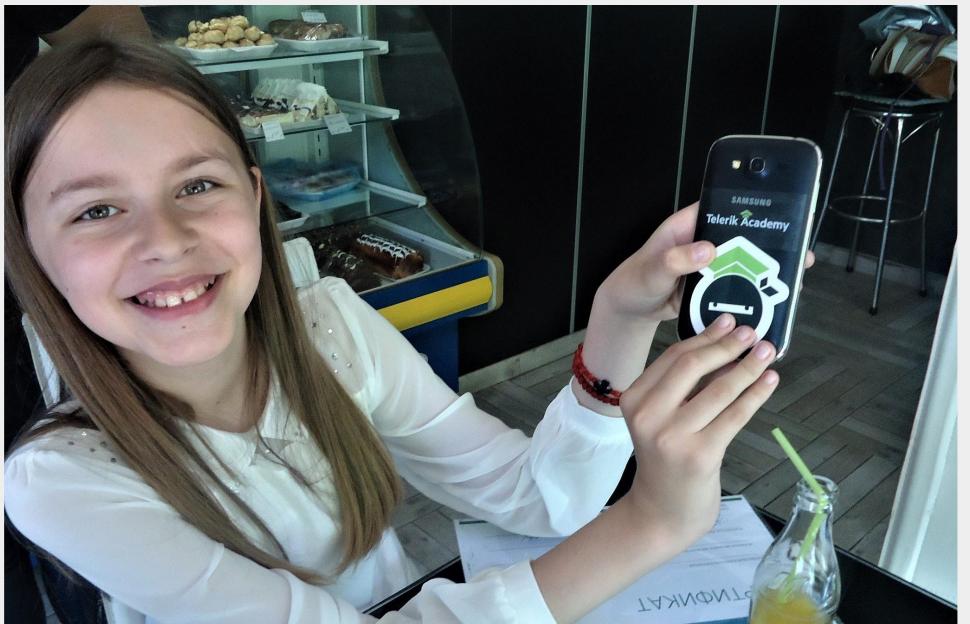
Softuni organized free coding course “Programming basics” in Vratsa. The course was held in the IT center by Volen, who was our trainee.



Initiatives we participated in



We are using **Telerik Academy's** online platform for managing our learning process



Telerik Kids Academy – 3 groups
55 children total, 4-6 grade, in
“Nikola Voivodov” school ([more](#))

Awards



Forbes
**30
UNDER
30
EUROPE**

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS

Leveraging business tools to save the world

Vratsa Software Community team was included in [Forbes Europe 30 under 30](#) social entrepreneurs list. “Innovators in education” listed Emo and Vratsa Software at [second place](#) in “Schools” category.

New exciting partnership

AMERICA FOR
BULGARIA
FOUNDATION



From this year, the mission of Vratsa Software is backed up by America for Bulgaria Foundation, which is committed to create opportunities for young people to work and receive education in Bulgaria. They will support our work over the next three years.





Results

- Over **400** participants in 5 events in Vratsa
- **15** people completed successfully the full course
- **65** trainees started in the new season of the 9-month software development courses
- **15** people in total work as software developers in Vratsa after finishing our courses



Appeal

- ❖ *If you would like to come to Vratsa and be our guest-speaker in the IT center - please write us to school@vratsasoftware.com*
- ❖ *To Java/PHP programmers: If you would like to engage for a longer term, you can become a mentor of our successful graduates and work with them on software projects. This requires at least 1 hour a week and it can be done remotely. If you are interested, please write us at school@vratsasoftware.com.*

**We want to thank our main partners:
America for Bulgaria Foundation, Reach for Change Foundation, Telus
International, Vratsa Municipality!
And to all people and organizations who helped to our mission!**

We are glad that in 2017 we worked successfully with:

- Local partners: Regional Management of Education, Youth House, Regional Library “Hristo Botev”, Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Youth Center, Student’s city council Vratsa
- National partners: Telerik Academy, BAIT, Software University, Startup Factory, Hack Bulgaria, DNA, Teach for Bulgaria, ABLE, eskills for jobs, National Youths Network
- Volunteers: Adelina and all mentors at HackVratsa and CodeWeek Vratsa
- Local Schools: “Akad. Ivan Tsenov” nature and math school, “N. Y. Vaptsarov” vocational school, “Nikola Voivodov”, “Kozma Trichkov”, “Yoan Ekzharh” language school, “Hristo Botev”

From Vratsa Software Community team

school@vratsasoftware.com

<http://school.vratsasoftware.com/en/>

Facebook: [Vratsa Software](#)