



Report for 2016

... in pictures

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Mission

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



Vision

From 2021 50 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



From January there is a robotics club "**Leonardo robotics**" with 21 participants.

IT center



*In November we started
new **9-month** software
development course.
There were **135** applicants
from whom **78** started,
divided into **5** groups.*

IT center



We organized 2 lectures in the IT center with guest speakers **Martin Marinov** from Amazon and **Milena Stefanova** from Komptel. ([more](#))

Software Industry in Vratsa

The screenshot shows a web browser displaying the Kindlink website at <https://www.kindlink.com/kindteam.html>. The page features a header with the Kindlink logo, a search bar, and navigation links for Home, About, FAQ, KindTeam, Contact, and Sign up. Below the header, there are four circular profile pictures of individuals, each with their name and job title. To the right of each profile picture is a LinkedIn 'PROFILE' link.

Profile Picture	Name	Title	LinkedIn Profile
	Lilly Mihaylova	Software Developer	in PROFILE
	Tereza Mihova	Software QA	in PROFILE
	Tihomir Krastev	Software Developer	in PROFILE
	Todor Nikolov	Software Developer	in PROFILE

Inveitix
Software Development Company

***Inveitix**, the main partner of Vratsa Software Community attracted new software company in Vratsa that provides job for 3 of our successful trainees.*

Software Industry in Vratsa



14 people who completed our 9-month training programs work as software developers in Vratsa



Organized Events

VSC organized **CodeWeek-Vratsa 2016**: Two-day event of lectures and workshops for IT. There were over 200 participants, 24 lecturers, 13 modules. 22-23 October 2016

[\(more\)](#)



Organized Events



We conducted **Treasure Hunt** for a second year with over 100 participants. This year the hunt was in honor of the 30 years anniversary from the discovery of the Rogozen treasure. ([more](#))

Organized Events



VSC organized the first Hackathon in northwestern Bulgaria, **HackVratsa**. There were 14 teams with 54 participants total from whom 16 under 18 years old. The winner is CodeMasters, a team of 5 students in 10th grade from the local mathematical high school. They won a trip to the European Parliament in Brussels in May. ([more](#))

Organized Events



We conducted **Rails Girls Vratsa**, which aims to aspire girls for IT. There were 20 participants from whom 9 under the age of 18 and 7 mentors. The event was initiated and organized by Adelina who is a student in 11th grade. ([more](#))

Organized Events



ABLE Mentor



10 teams participated in the first season of the mentoring program. At the end of October the second season started with 12 couples.

Коди
шоудъринг

Google
Code-in

Unity
уроци

Unity
проект

Лекции за
използването
на Unity

Съвети +
данни
разработки

Initiatives that we participated in



*With a group of over 20 youths we visited **HackConf***

Initiatives that we participated in



For a second year we supported the **Social Innovation Challenge** event organized by Ideas Factory. In November in Vrasta was conducted the forum for social entrepreneurship **Empatheast** ([more...](#))



Initiatives that we participated in



VSC helped **Teach for Bulgaria** with promoting their program in Vratsa and the region. Since September 2016 there are **9 teachers** who started teaching in 6 schools in the region. Their number will grow next year.

Initiatives that we participated in

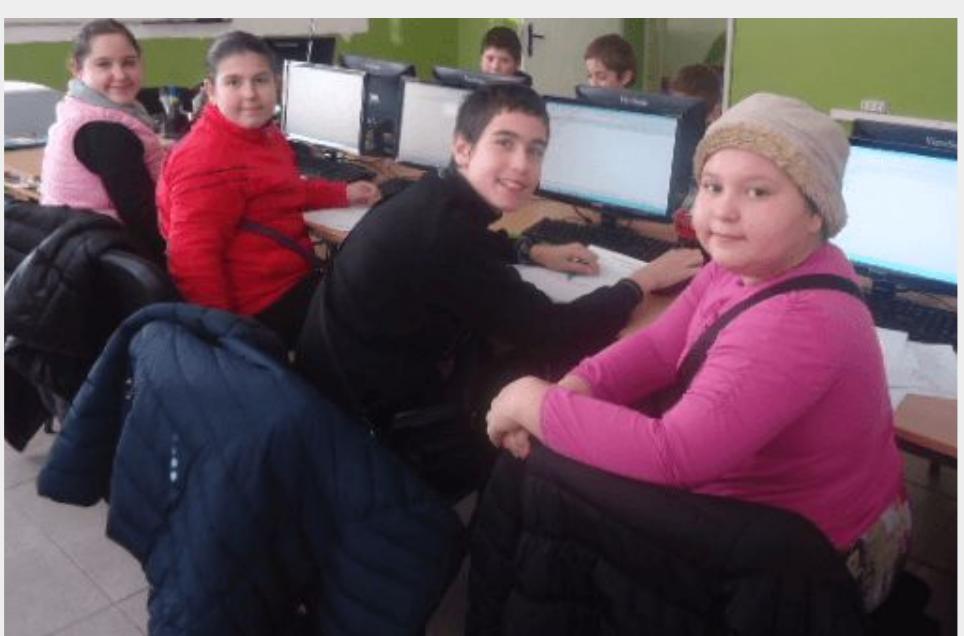


SoftUni organized free coding course “Programming basics” in Vratsa. The course was conducted in the IT center by 2 students from SoftUni who used to study in VSC. With a group of 16 youths total we participated in **SoftUniada** and **TechFest**.

Initiatives that we participated in



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



Telerik Kids Academy – started with 2 groups of 15 children each, 4-5 grade, in “Nikola Voivodov” school since october 2016 ([more](#))

Awards



We won **Google RISE Awards**, that ensures our funding for one more year. Vratsa Software Community is one of the six organizations in Europe that was awarded.

[\(more...\)](#)



Awards



Vratsa Software Community team was included in **Forbes Europe 30 under 30** social entrepreneurs list. ([more](#)).

VSC won the **BAIT** award in Education category.

Teo was included in **Forbes Bulgaria 30 under 30** list in Education category as well.



Statistics

- *There were over 270 participants in 3 IT events in Vratsa*
- *78 trainees started in the new season of the 9-month software development courses*
- *29 students from Vratsa participated in national IT events and competitions*
- *14 people 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 developers: If you would like to engage for longer term you can become a mentor of our successful graduates and work with them on software projects. This requires 5-10 hours weekly and can be done remotely. If you are interested, please write us at school@vratsasoftware.com.*

We want to thank to our donors: Reach for Change Foundation, Telus International, Google RISE Awards, Vratsa Municipality!
And to all people and organizations who helped to our mission!

We are glad that in 2016 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 Municipal 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, Kristina all mentors and volunteers at CoderDojo and Hack Vratsa, the lecturers and volunteers at CodeWeek Vratsa
- Local Schools: “Akad. Ivan Tsenov” nature and math school, “N. Y. Vaptsarov” vocational school, “Nikola Voivodov”, “Kozma Trichkov”, “Yoan Ekzarh” language school, “Hristo Botev”

From Vratsa Software Community team

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