Vratsa Software Community Report 2015 … in pictures

Supported by

VRATSA SOFTWARE COMMUNITY

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.

Software Industry in Vratsa

8 people started career as software developers in Vratsa for 2 software companies after our training program

IT center

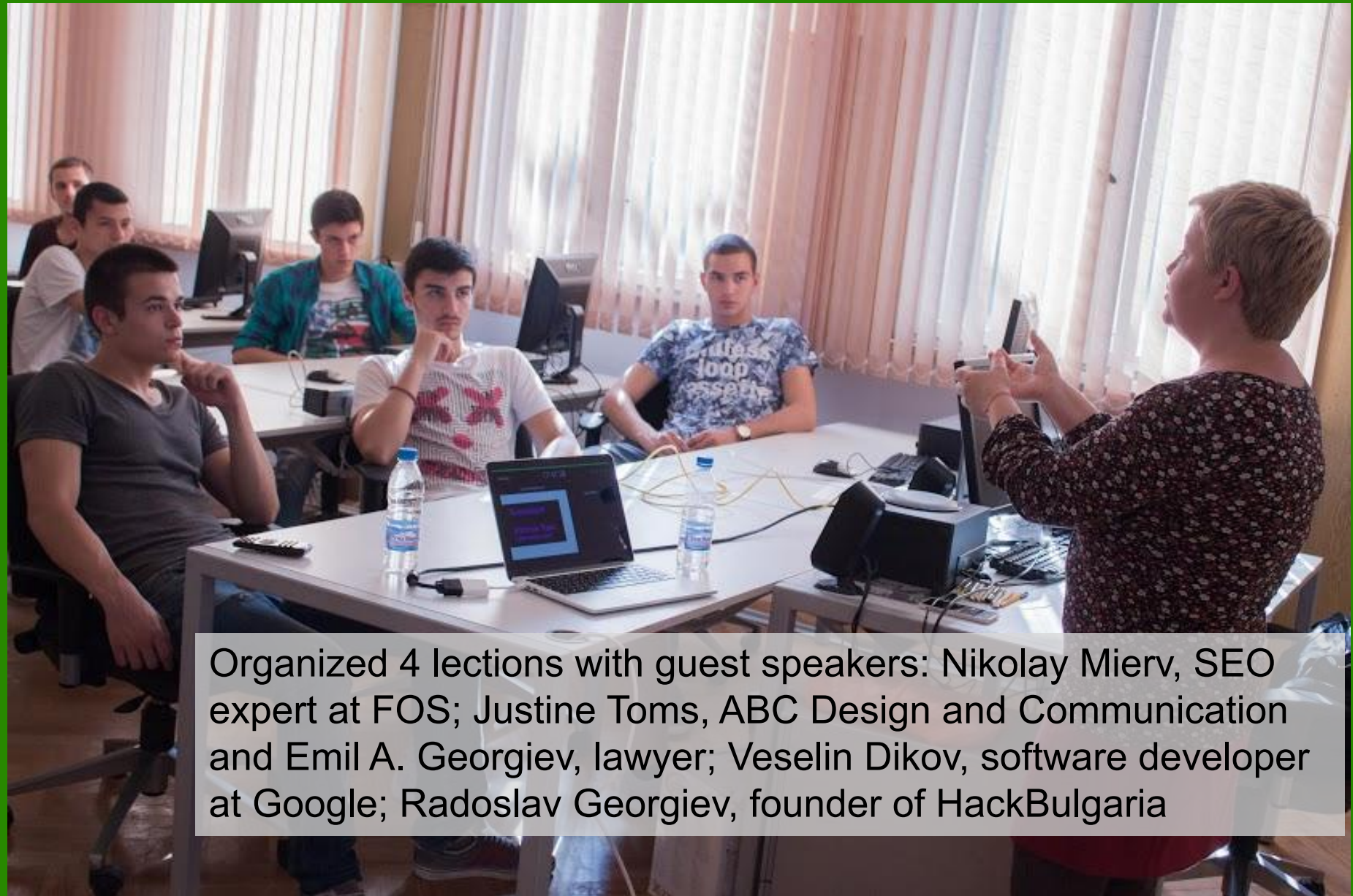Established IT center with room provided by Vratsa Municipality and equipment by Adecco Bulgaria Ltd

IT center

Organized and conducted free 9-month IT program with 60 people divided into 4 groups. Participants included students, employed and unemployed people. (more)

IT center

Organized 4 lections with guest speakers: Nikolay Mierv, SEO expert at FOS; Justine Toms, ABC Design and Communication and Emil A. Georgiev, lawyer; Veselin Dikov, software developer at Google; Radoslav Georgiev, founder of HackBulgaria

Partnership with Schools

Established class Programmers in the local Vocation Technical School "N. Y. Vaptsarov", since September 2015

Partnership with Schools

Telerik Kids Academy started in Vratsa with 2 groups of 15 children in 4-5 grades at "Nikola Voivodov" school, since October 2015.

Partnership with Schools

Organized and conducted five 10-week courses First Steps in JavaScript in 3 high schools: "Kozma Trichkov", "Dimitraki Hadjitoshin", "Nikola Voivodov", Feb-May 2015

Partnership with Schools

Organizing and conducting programming and robotics course with kids 5-7 grade, through the whole year

Events

Organized CodeWeek Vratsa 2015: Two days of practical trainings in the IT field. 250 participants, 20 lecturers, 13 modules. Participants saw the opportunities for the most popular jobs in the IT sector that can be worked at any place in the world 10-11 Oct 2015 ([more](#))
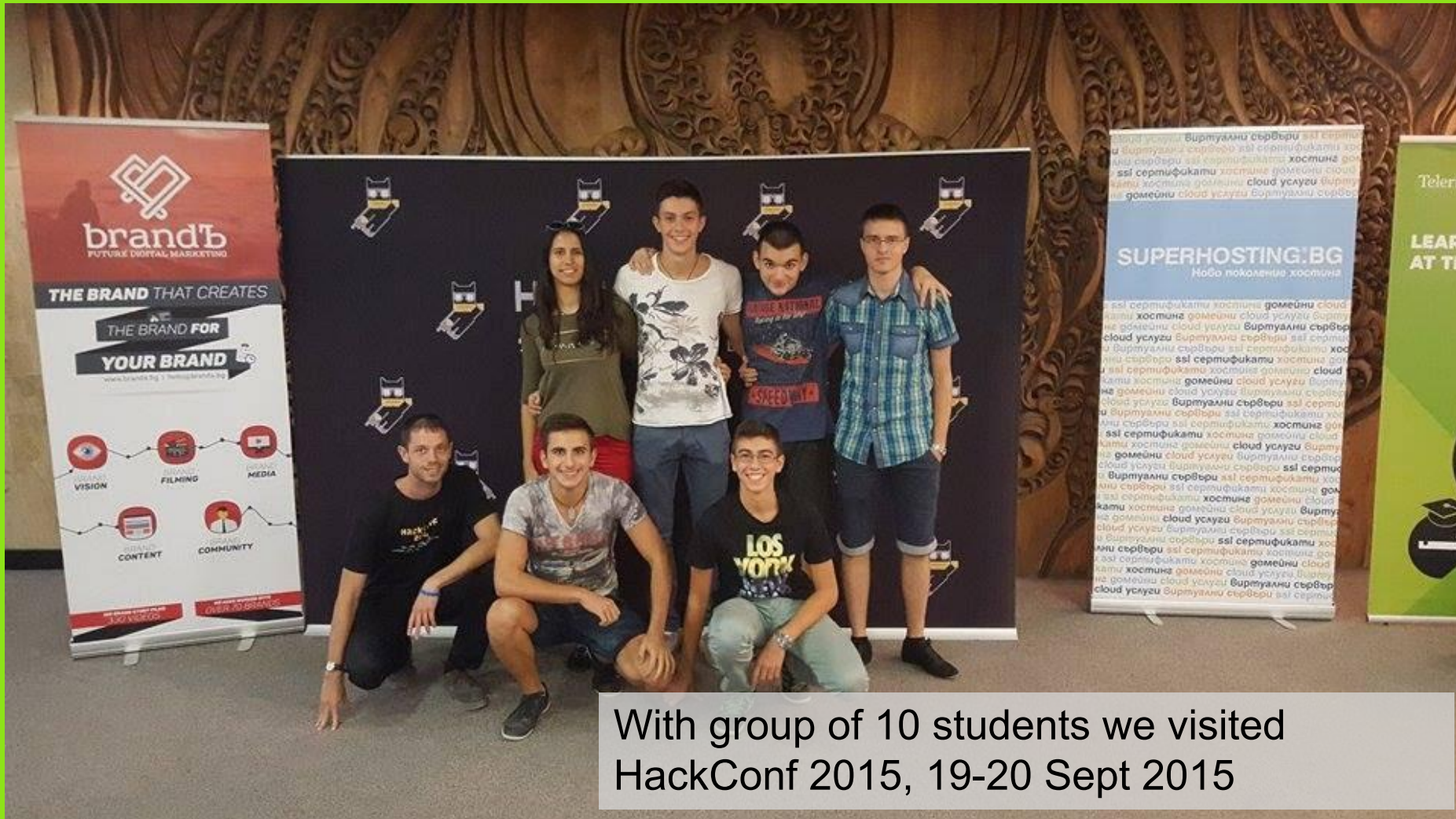
Events

Organized Treasure Hunt Vratsa – 100 participants, divided into teams of 3-5 people, developing their problem solving and teamwork skills. 09.05.2015 ([more](#))

Events

With group of 10 students we visited HackConf 2015, 19-20 Sept 2015

Events

Supported the organization of Social Change Challenge in Vratsa, initiated by Ideas Factory, Sept 2015

Prizes

Won 1st place in Education category on 2015 BAIT awards under the patronage of the President Rosen Plevneliev, 24.02.2016

Prizes

НОВИНИТЕ > НАГРАДИ ЗА СОЦИАЛНИ ПРЕДПРИЕМАЧИ
Млади бизнесмени отличени за създаване на работни места

We won the special prize for Social Innovation from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of Bulgaria, 18.12.2015

Vratsa Software Community

Current Challenges:
- ❖ People need 3-6 month internship after finishing our training program in order to be fully prepared to start career as software developers.
- ❖ Lack of experienced programmers who can lead team of junior software developers who just finished the training program.

Goals for 2016:
- ❖ Conducting new 9-month training program with 60 people.
- ❖ Get license as Vocational Training Center.
- ❖ Attract two more software companies in Vratsa.
- ❖ Organize 3 events: CodeWeek, Treasure Hunt and Hackaton.
- ❖ Help attracting good practices from Bulgarian education sector:
  - o Teach for Bulgaria teachers in Vratsa
  - o ABLE-mentor in Vratsa

We want to thank to our partners from Vratsa Municipality, Regional Administration Vratsa, RIE-Vratsa, Technical House, Youth Center, Regional Library "Hristo Botev".

Local high schools: "Akad. Ivan Tsenov" nature and math school, "N. Y. Vaptsarov" vocational school, "Nikola Voivodov", "Kozma Trichkov", "Yoan Ekzarh" language school, "Hristo Botev", "Dimitraki Hadjitoshin" vocational school.

To our partners from software academies in Bulgaria: Telerik Academy, HackBulgaria, Softuni, I can here and now, StartUP Factory-Ruse, Webrika-Pleven, Mechatronika-Gabrovo
And to all people and organizations who helped to our mission!

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