

The NorthStar Foundation Bulgaria

Business Proposal: Establishment of a Future-Ready School in Burgas, Bulgaria

Executive Summary

The NorthStar Foundation Bulgaria aims to create an innovative, forward-thinking educational institution that will empower children in the Burgas region of Bulgaria with the skills and knowledge required to thrive in the 21st century. Focusing on personalised learning, technology integration, and fostering critical thinking, the school will prepare students for a rapidly changing world.

Our mission is to build a sustainable, world-class educational environment that caters to the diverse needs of the Bulgarian population while supporting the region's overall educational reforms. The school will blend traditional values with modern methodologies to produce well-rounded global citizens, ready to excel in an interconnected world.

Background & rationale

Bulgaria consistently ranks among the European Union countries with the highest rates of poverty and social exclusion.

Approximately 30% of the Bulgarian population is at risk of poverty or social exclusion, significantly higher than the EU average of 21.4%. In September 2024, the Bulgarian government announced that the national poverty line for 2025 would be set at BGN 638 (approximately EUR 326), reflecting a 21.3% increase from the previous year's threshold of BGN 526. This adjustment aims to enhance social protection by increasing social benefits and financial support linked to the poverty line, as outlined in the Social Assistance Act, the Persons with Disabilities Act, and the Child Protection Act.

In the Burgas region, 21.0% of the population live below the national poverty line, slightly above the national average of 20.6%. Children are particularly vulnerable; 26% of children aged 0 to 17 are at risk of poverty.

The high levels of poverty and social exclusion in Bulgaria, especially among children, highlight the critical importance of initiatives aimed at alleviating these conditions. Implementing an innovative charitable education project for children aged 4 to 18 in the Burgas region would address these challenges by

providing essential educational support, thereby offering opportunities for a better future.

Vision & Mission

Vision:

To create a transformative learning environment where children are not only educated but empowered with the skills, values, and confidence to thrive in an increasingly globalised and technology-driven world. Our school will serve as a hub of knowledge, creativity, and community, fostering a love for learning while bringing families together.

Mission:

Our mission is to provide an innovative, inclusive, and future-focused education that nurtures creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Through diverse learning strategies, and a holistic approach, we aim to inspire a lifelong passion for learning.

We place a strong emphasis on foreign languages, the arts, sciences, and sports, with specialised tuition in foreign languages using the Suggestopedia method to enhance language acquisition. Our school will also serve as a cultural and social space, hosting exhibitions, musical and sports events, and theatrical performances that unite families and the wider community.

To ensure we reach those most in need, we have established a network of talent scouts and volunteers who help identify disadvantaged families. Additionally, a team of distinguished teachers, trainers, and experts will lead and implement our programs, ensuring excellence in education and personal development.

The NorthStar Foundation is part of a well-established, successful private language school with a **27-year track record**, a **British Council partner**, and **voted the best English language school in Bulgaria for 14 consecutive years**. This strong foundation ensures the educational excellence and credibility of the proposed school.

3. Goals & Objectives

- **Goal 1:** To establish a state-of-the-art educational and cultural hub that serves children from kindergarten through high school, providing a holistic and inclusive learning environment.
 - Objective: Secure funding for the purchase of land/existing building, construction of school facilities, and necessary infrastructure to support an innovative curriculum, performing arts, sports, and community engagement initiatives.
- **Goal 2:** To provide a future-oriented education that emphasises foreign languages, arts, and sports, while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and entrepreneurship.
 - Objective: Develop and implement a flexible and adaptive curriculum, incorporating the Suggestopedia method for language learning and diverse learning strategies to prepare students for a rapidly evolving global economy.
- **Goal 3:** To create a vibrant cultural and community space that unites families through education, exhibitions, musical and sports events, and theatrical performances.
 - Objective: Establish dedicated spaces and programs for artistic and cultural expression, ensuring the school serves as a centre for creativity, collaboration, and social cohesion.
- **Goal 4:** To ensure access to quality education for disadvantaged children through a network of talent scouts, volunteers, and educational experts.
 - Objective: Identify families in need and provide scholarships, mentorship, and tailored support, led by a team of distinguished teachers, trainers, and experts committed to excellence in education.
- **Goal 5:** To establish strategic partnerships with international educational institutions, technology companies, and cultural organisations.
 - Objective: Collaborate with global educational experts, technology providers, and arts organisations to enhance the school's curriculum, infrastructure, and extracurricular opportunities.

4. Target Audience

The NorthStar Foundation will serve children aged 4-18 from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds, with a special focus on underprivileged families identified through our network of talent scouts and volunteers.

By offering scholarships and subsidised education, we aim to ensure that high-quality, innovative education—including foreign language learning through the Suggestopedia method, arts, and sports—is accessible to all children, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Additionally, the school will function as a cultural and community hub, welcoming families to participate in exhibitions, musical and sports events, and theatrical performances, fostering social cohesion and lifelong learning.

Summary of Costs

TBC