

## Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria Final Event

**3 July, 2024**

Sofia 1463, Bulgaria, bul. Bulgaria 1, 2020 Event Space

### Program

- 09:00 – 09:30 *Registration*
- 09:30 – 09:40 **Official address:**  
Kerstin Agneta Wahlberg, EEA and Norway Grants Counsellor, Norwegian Embassy in Bucharest  
Georgi Stoytchev, Fund Operator manager, Open Society Institute – Sofia (OSIS)
- Panel discussion: What we have achieved together?**  
*Facilitator: Elitsa Markova, ACF Bulgaria program manager, OSIS*
- 09:40 – 10:00 Interview with Georgi Stoytchev, Executive director, OSIS, Iliyana Nikolova, Executive director, Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (WCIF) and Maria Metodieva, Director of Institutional Partnerships, Trust for Social Achievement (TSA)
- 10:00 – 10:50 Representatives of the Fund Operator and organisations supported by the Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria will interact in a discussion, including representatives of the Human Rights Academy, Norway, the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, the National Focal Point, Bulgaria
- 10:50 – 11:20 *Coffee break*
- 11:20 – 12:15 **Panel Discussion: Extremism and democracy – Norway's experience and challenges for Bulgaria**  
What should a democracy do when people or groups with extreme views appear in it?  
Host: Gro Lindstad, Secretary General, The Norwegian Support Group after the 22nd of July terror attack
- Presentation of The Norwegian Support Group after the 22nd of July terror attack** – interview with Lisbeth Røyneland (Chair of the Board) and Magnus Håkonsen (Board member)
- Presentation of research data on public attitudes towards hate speech in Bulgaria**, Boyan Zahariev, OSIS
- 12:15 – 13:00 **Panel Discussion: Looking Ahead?**  
*Host: Monika Pisankaneva, WCIF*  
Highlights from the ACF Component related to the provision of scholarships to medical students of Roma origin, the Project Generation Facility, the Initiative to Build Next Generation Civic Leaders
- Discussion with: Ognyan Isaev, TSA, Slavka Andreeva, student in the first year of "Medical Assistant" specialty at the Medical University, Sofia, Iliyana

Nikolova, WCIF, Silsila Mahboub, participant in the Next Generation Civil Society Leaders Initiative, Ilko Yordanov, Project Generation Facility, OSIS, Stela Kostova, Roma Academy for Culture and Education

13:00 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 14:50 **"And what would you do?"** – a forum theatre performance by the "Tseвете" theatre, in which three of the most common forms of school violence are presented. The viewers decide in which of them to try to bring about a positive change, by taking on the role of the victim themselves and changing their behaviour at a moment of their choice, in a way that they think is appropriate.

**Active citizens in the lens – presentation and discussions of short films created under projects of the Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria**

*Hosts: Anita Jones, OSIS and Aylin Dzhafer, TSA*

14:50 – 15:40 **Topic: Media literacy and civic education against misinformation**

*Discussants: Velislav Radev and Yavor Siderov, My Century, and Kristina Hristova, Association of European Journalists – Bulgaria (AEJ)*

Film screening:

*"Roma Build Socialism?", 05' and "A Reluctant Nazi Ally?", 06' – short films of My Century under the project "Against Disinformation: Electronic Lessons from the History of Bulgaria"*

*"The Great Reset Conspiracy", 07' – episode of the video series "Wait for me to explain" of AEJ – Bulgaria under the project "Science and journalism: together against the infodemic", carried out in partnership with Norsensus Mediaforum (Norway), Trakia University, Center for plant systems biology and biotechnology*

15:40 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 – 16:40 **Topic: Violence and harassment**

*Discussants: Lozen Yordanov, Association "Debut" and Julia Andonova, Foundation P.U.L.S.*

Film screening:

*"Combating abuses in the name of honour in a social and legal aspect", 05' – a film by "Center for Development of Sustainable Communities" on the project of the same name in partnership with KUN Center for Equality and Diversity, Norway, and "Association for Women Lawyers"*

*"Domestic violence: Is there anyone to help?", 03' – video of the Foundation Positive Skills of the Person in Society (P.U.L.S.) under the project "Development of monitoring methodology and implementation of national monitoring of policies and institutional practices in relation to domestic and gender-based violence" in partnership with the Center for the Study of Democracy*

*NO means NO – THE EXPERIMENT |Episode 5|, 10' – a series created by the "Debut" Association under the project of the same name*

16:40 – 17:40 **Topic: Art and Media for Civic Activism**

*Discussants: Ana Alexieva and Pavel Kunchev Fine Acts and Denitsa Denitsa Ljubenova, LGBT "Deystvie"*

Film screening:

*"Stronger than words", 12' and "Love speech: Video social experiment" 05' – Fine Acts videos on the project "Creative campaigns: innovations in support of human rights"*

*"Mother 2", 11:25' – video of LGBT "Deystvie" within the project "National LGBTI legal program"*

*"ALMOST HERE – for secure access to refugee protection" 04' - video for a VR event of the "Legal Assistance Center – Voice in Bulgaria" (CPP), "Access to Rights Foundation and Mission Wings Foudnation under their project "Effective legal aid for refugees and migrants in Bulgaria – continuation"*

*"More equal than we think", 01' – video of "Voice – Bulgaria" on the project "Voices of the community", carried out in partnership with "Bilitis Resource Center", Oslo Pride and Association of European Journalists – Bulgaria*

*"I have a dream", 07' – a film about the eponymous project of the Association Liberal Alternative for Roma Civil Unification – LARGO, performed in partnership with KUN Center for Equality and Diversity – Norway*

**18:00**      *Cocktail party*

*In parallel with the current program – from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the 4 Seasons hall – the short videos and films included in this program, as well as more than 30 video products created with the support of the Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria, will be [broadcast to the general public](#).*

*The guests of the event will receive a copy of the collection "Citizens at Work", which presents over 30 projects and civic leaders who worked on projects supported by the Active Citizens Fund Bulgaria, as well as the publication "Civic Activity Compass", providing, inciting to reflection observations on the current state of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Bulgaria and Norway, trends, challenges and needs.*

*During the event we will have a photo booth and we will be able to take photos as a memory of the exciting time spent together.*

*Welcome!*