

# Verso Project

Volunteers for European Employment

## **IVth INTERREGIONAL WORKSHOP & STUDY VISIT IN SOFIA FOR VERSO PROJECT PARTNERS**

**24–27 February 2014, Sofia, Bulgaria**



VERSO (Volunteers for European Employment) is a pan-European development and knowledge-sharing project funded by the European Regional Development Fund, INTERREG IVC. VERSO seeks to improve the quality of life of people across Europe by means of learning and sharing best practice experiences with voluntary work to improve European employment.

The VERSO partnership is comprised of 8 public authorities and 4 knowledge partners working together in order to produce a Best Practice Catalogue and practical guidelines to all European regional or local authorities interested in developing policies that will support the inclusion of civic society resources in the development of local employment services. Good practice examples from all over Europe is analyzed in order to extract policy recommendations and policy assessment tools. Secondly the VERSO project will exchange knowledge and good practice examples by disseminating a European.

**24 February, Monday - Day of Arrival in Sofia**

18.00 - 19.30 Volunteering guided tour of Sofia center  
*Meeting point at the lobby of Grand hotel Sofia for a volunteering organized sightseeing tour and informal social get-together*

**25 February, Thursday**

**JOINT STUDY TRIP VISIT TO SOFIA'S GOOD PRACTICES**

8.30 *Meeting point at the lobby of the Grand Hotel Sofia*  
*Organized transport for participants by bus*

9.00 - 10.15 **Visit of good practice “Young Bankers Programme” of Pro Credit Bank, by Mrs. Tsvetomira Tsvetkova**

10.30 - 11.15 **Visit of good practice “Children” Foundation will take place in the Home for Children from 7 to 18 years "P. Slavejkov ", by Mrs Bogdana Manova**

11.45 - 12.30 **Visit to good practices “Business incubator for vulnerable groups”, by Mrs. Stana Ilieva, Bulgarian Red Cross**

12.30 - 14.00 Lunch and travel back to Grand hotel Sofia

14.30 **Partners meeting at “Serdika” Hall**

14.30 - 15.00 **Presentation of good practice “Youth Entrepreneurial Marketplace” of Kauzi Foundation, by Marina Stefanova**

15.00 - 15.30 Tea/ Coffee break

15.30 16.30 **Preparation of the joint study trip report based on focus group interviews**

**Preparation of input to 8 press releases and speaking points for the press conference. Summary of information and preparation of the project newsletter through etc. "Reporter"**

17.00 - 18.30 Consultations in preparation of the SC- meeting (optional)

19.30 **Dinner at a traditional Bulgarian restaurant**  
*One-way transportation by bus*

**26 February, Wednesday**

**IVth INTERREGIONAL CONFERENCE IN SOFIA  
“SOFIA” Hall**

- 9.00 - 10.15 SC meeting - part I at **“Serdika” Hall**
- 10.30 - 10.45 **Official welcome from Mrs. Albena Atanasova, Deputy Mayor of Sofia Municipality and Mrs. Aneta Georgieva, Sofia Municipal counselor, member of PPB**
- 10.45 - 11.30 **Presentations of volunteering organizations:**
- 1. Bulgarian Charities Aid Foundation, by Mrs. Elitsa Barakova, [www.bcaf.bg/en](http://www.bcaf.bg/en)**
  - 2. Mr. Plamen Todorov, Programme and Analytical Center for European law Foundation, [www.bcaf.bg/en](http://www.bcaf.bg/en)**
  - 3. Cross-Sectional analysis of VERSO good practices from a comparative perspective: The challenge of transferability of good practices. By University of Ioanina - Spyridon Pantazis, Harilaos Zaragas, Antoanneta Potsi, Aikaterini Ramioti**
- 11.30 - 11.45 **Questions to the cross-sectorial analysis**
- 11.45 - 12.30 **Discussions in smaller groups combing PPB & PP members**  
*Each partner will identify four good practices they could image to transfer to own political context.  
What will be needed in terms of policy recommendations?  
Drafting 8 regional implementation plans*
- 12.30 - 13.30 **Lunch**
- 14.00 - 15.00 Workshop PPB and PP will work together in smaller groups. Session from morning continued.
- 15.00 - 15.30 **Break coffee/tea**  
**European volunteers face-to-face:** By Anika Eltgen and Danielle Kowert from Netzwerk- Lippe, Germany. For more information: <http://verso.au.dk/europe-face-to-face/ludmila-shmidt-volunteer-in-germany/>

- 15.30 - 16.30 **Final session PPB** – *join for wrapping up policy recommendations, while PP fine tune their implementations plans*  
*Preparation of speaking points for the Press Conference*
- 18.00 - 19.00 **Project Political Board (PPB) Meeting on Policy Recommendations with participation of local politicians**
- 20.00 **Official Dinner**

**27 February, Thursday**

**POLITICAL BRIEFING & PRESS CONFERENCE**

At Sofia Municipality building,  
33 Moskovska Str.

- 8.30 - 10.00 **Steering Committee Meeting - Part II**  
*Hall 5, floor 5<sup>th</sup>*
- 10.00 - 10.30 **Political Briefing combined with a press conference**  
Presenting the policy recommendations on volunteering and employment and implementations plans ahead.  
How is Sofia Municipality using the VERSO project?  
Meeting with local press in hall of Sofia Municipality
- 10.30 Departure of participants to airport