

VOLUNTEERING
INFRASTRUCTURE IN EUROPE
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1.VOLUNTEERING INFRASTRUCTURE CONCEPT DEFINITION

In Bulgaria, a volunteering legal framework is not adopted yet. The Law for Legal Entities with Non-profit Purposes (2001) regulates the registration and operation of non-profit organisations in Bulgaria and was later followed by amendments to the Law on Corporate Income Tax (2006) and the Tax Law for Physical Persons (2007) introducing tax exemptions for non-profit organisations and donations made to such organisations.

The history of volunteering is based on the traditional feeling of community (19th - 20th Century). After 1944 (heavy state and ideological regulation under the communist regime), volunteering was associated with physical and strenuous work and political propaganda. Despite the long tradition of solidarity and help, the somewhat negative image of volunteering in Bulgaria still prevailed at the beginning of the democratic reforms in the 1990s. The state of volunteering was additionally aggravated by the sharp political changes and difficult socio-economic conditions in the country. The transition to democracy simultaneously brought about the dynamic development of Bulgarian civil society and the third sector. Despite the existing prejudices, volunteering is a strong feature of the third sector. Volunteering has become popular among young people who are willing to contribute to the social and economic development of the country. Significant efforts by various stakeholders have been made to enhance the third sector and to promote volunteering in Bulgaria. The connection between democratic participation, active citizenship and volunteering is slowly strengthening.

Definitions

“A volunteer is a person who voluntarily gives their free time to help other people, organizations or institutions. A volunteer does work according to their interests and personal motivation. The volunteer may be 10 or 100 years old, he or she may help using their special skills or do something for the first time, he or she can volunteer alone at home in front of the computer or outside with dozens of others, may take an hour once, can help per hour per day for years. Every volunteer is valuable and important”.

“Volunteering (voluntary work) is any activity outside labor and official legal relations for the benefit of unrelated persons, organizations or institutions carried out of their own choice and without remuneration. The work of volunteers is not paid, but it can be encouraged through awards, certificates, etc. Volunteering is undertaken mainly for the benefit of non-profit organizations or the community. Voluntary work does not only cover the social work sector but also activities in the cultural, religious, sports and political spheres”.

“Volunteer initiative is an organized form of volunteering with a clearly defined purpose, in which there are two sides - of offering voluntary work and of accepting voluntary labor.”

The existing legal framework on volunteering is only partial and is not developed yet. In 2006 a Law on Volunteering was drafted with the participation of a number of non-profit organisations.

If ratified by Parliament, the definition suggested by this Law would identify volunteering as an activity “done in an organized way as the activity of the volunteer is coordinated, organized and monitored by a voluntary organization or formation and does not take place spontaneously or incidentally by the volunteer”.

The Law on Youth, adopted in 2012, provides a definition of youth volunteering activity as “an activity carried out in public benefit and without remuneration by young people on the territory of Bulgaria or in another country under programs and initiatives in the field of social, youth, sports and other public activities”

2. VOLUNTEERING LANDSCAPE

The current volunteering landscape in Bulgaria has been formed under a lot of factors and the volatility of the political and social-economic situation over the last three decades after the fall of the communist regime in the country. Volunteering is still a new concept for the Bulgarian society although there has been a tangible change over the last two decades and currently much more people have been attracted to the values of volunteering. According to a research done on the Attitudes of the Society towards the Civil Sector, 8% of the population volunteered in 2020.

As the government has not commissioned any systematic research, there is an observed lack of data on volunteering in Bulgaria, these tendencies are to be followed. But the attitudes on volunteering in the Bulgarian society have played a huge role on the way volunteering organizations work and have created limits and challenges for them which could be summarized as follows:

1. Politically and socially unfriendly environment to the civil society organizations

The civil society organizations in Bulgaria have been working in politically unfriendly environment over the last couple of years. This is due to several events which began in 2019 with the withdrawal of the ratification of the Istanbul Convention /The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence against Women and Domestic Violence/ which was seen by some nationalist political parties as a decadent to the Bulgarian society action, lobbied for by NGOs. Although the Convention was never ratified, it sparked a lot of protests and attitudes towards the civil society organizations as “foreign agents working against Bulgarian interests”. This led to the withdrawal of the Draft Children’s Strategy and created a proposal for amendments in the legislation limiting the CSOs’ freedoms and aggravating their work.

Fortunately, there’s been a change in the political scenery since Bulgaria held general elections in April 2021 and although a new cabinet hasn’t been formed yet, the nationalist parties, hostile to the NGOs, didn’t make it to parliament.

This, combined with the general perception of the Bulgarian society to volunteering, rooted in historical reasons, namely that volunteer labour during the communist times was more like a forced activity in public benefit than an act of selflessness and good will, makes the image of volunteering still not attractive, but mostly to the older generations.

More or less, volunteering is seen nowadays a bit as an “elite” activity and is deemed to be practiced by people who have too much free time on their hands or do not face any personal or professional difficulties so they can dedicate their spare time to a cause.

Despite the above mentioned challenges, there's been a change and the number of people volunteering is rising; volunteering is promoted more often and becomes more popular especially amongst young people.

2. The profile of the volunteer in Bulgaria: young and educated

Due to the fact that young people are not burdened by the idea of volunteering perceived by their parents and the fact that they possess more free time, the majority of volunteers in the country are young people with the following characteristics:

- young people aged between 15 and 30 - they made up 32% of the volunteer force in 2002 ;
- usually coming from economically stable background;
- well-educated - volunteers are typically students in prestigious high schools or have graduated from them - 27% of volunteers have a high school diploma and 56% hold a university degree;
- girls are prevailing over boys as a number (in 2002 69% of those who reported to had volunteered, were women)

Adults, whole families or pensioners also volunteer but these cases are rarer. 95% of volunteers are part of non-governmental organizations, including community centers. The rest 5% volunteer at state and municipal structures, schools, kindergartens. According to the survey "Young Volunteers in Bulgaria" conducted in 2010, 54% of the young people aged 14-17 who volunteered, did it incidentally, while of those aged 18-29 only 29% volunteered spontaneously and just once. 5% of those aged 14-17 volunteered between 1 and 3 weeks a year and 10% of those aged 18-19 spent that amount of time volunteering.

3. Lack of legal framework and sustainable funding

The lack of legislative framework regulating the relations between a volunteer and their organization is making it hard for many organizations to work with volunteers as they do not have established unified quality standards to comply with and are forced to work with internal organizational standards, if any.

There is no sustainable state funding provided for volunteering and voluntary organizations. So all voluntary organizations on the territory of Bulgaria operate thanks to project writing and applying to a number of different national, European and international donors in order to provide any funding for volunteering which is in most cases short-term.

Over that last couple of years, thanks to the launching of the European Solidarity Corps, the Bulgarian voluntary organizations have access to long-term EU funding for their local activities. Applying for projects under volunteer activities and volunteer partnerships, part of the latest program of the EU, turns out to be probably the only option they have to obtain somewhat long-term funding. Still, it is limiting for several reasons: it only supports volunteers aged 18-30 /35 in some cases according to the latest amendments for the 2021-2027 period/; only accredited organizations are eligible to apply and although it provides the option to apply for local activities and the application forms could be submitted in Bulgarian to the National Agency, the European Solidarity Corps Guidelines were never translated from English to Bulgarian so in practice it limits the organizations whose staff doesn't not operate quite well with the English language from access to these funds.

4. Volunteering and the COVID-19 pandemic

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic the image of volunteering has significantly gotten better - more people are volunteering and more are willing to volunteer. According to a research conducted by the Bulgarian Center for Non-for-Profit Law in 2020, on the Attitudes of the Society towards the CSOs, the trust in the non-governmental organizations rose to 31,1% compared to 24,7% in 2018. As reported by the same research, 8% of the population volunteered in 2020, compared to around 6% for the previous years.

Voluntary actions were and continue to be covered on national media, including on the biggest national TV broadcasters as well as on platforms dedicated to good news and positive examples. The society has become more aware of the significance of volunteering at least at times of crisis.

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR VOLUNTEERING AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION

There is no law exclusively dedicated to regulating volunteering in Bulgaria. As mentioned above, in 2006 a Law on Volunteering aligned with European legislation in this area was drafted by the Bulgarian Centre for Not-for-Profit Law and a number of voluntary organisations but it has not been passed by Parliament to date.

The Draft Law on Volunteering (2006) provides a stepping stone for developing a legal base for volunteering. The former sets out such essential aspects as definitions of the terms volunteer and volunteering, the principles on which volunteering is based and the relation of the state towards this type of activity, as well as the legal status, rights and duties of volunteers.

The Law on Youth, adopted in 2012, provides a definition of youth volunteering and information on the obligations of voluntary youth organisations towards their young volunteers in terms of matters such as safety, training, registration etc. Under the Law, the definition of a young person is an individual aged between 15 and 29. The Law regulates the obligations and rights of all young volunteers servicing on the territory of Bulgaria, both local and foreign.

In particular, through **the Draft Law on Volunteering**, the following **basic principles of volunteering** would be regulated:

- The legal status of “voluntary organization”, “voluntary activity” and “volunteer” is defined;
- Provisions regulating the participation of volunteers have been introduced - Bulgarian citizens, volunteers - citizens of EU member states and volunteers - citizens of third countries;
- The organizations that have the right to carry out voluntary activity are determined;
- The types of volunteering are defined - short-term, long-term, corporate;
- A requirement for concluding a written contract for long-term volunteering is introduced;
- It is envisaged that the Ministry of Justice will maintain a public register of persons organizing voluntary activities on its website;
- It is mandatory to issue an identification card to a volunteer through which the volunteer identifies himself.

Attempts to pass the Law have been made in the last four National Assemblies (2006 - 2017). Thus, several drafts have been introduced by different political parties, coalitions and the Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria. The last bill was introduced to the National Assembly on 14th of December 2017 by a group of MPs for consideration and voting in accordance with the relevant procedures but hasn't been adopted yet due to contradictions in the views of the different political parties and lack of clarity about the administrative body which to take charge of the law.

The Law on Youth provides that:

- The Minister of Youth and Sports encourages youth volunteering;
- Youth volunteering activity is an activity in public benefit, carried out without remuneration by young people on the territory of Bulgaria or in other countries under programs and initiatives in the field of social, youth, sports and other socially significant activities;
- The state and the municipalities encourage young voluntary activities through national and regional youth programs;
- Youth voluntary activities are based on principles of: free choice; gratuitousness; personal responsibility; equality and with respect to the life, health and dignity of the volunteer.

The role of youth volunteering is recognised in the National Youth Strategy for 2010-2020 and in the Draft **National Youth Strategy** 2020-2030. The latter identifies several strategic priorities regarding youth volunteering:

- creating and promoting more voluntary opportunities for young people with a focus on the European Solidarity Corps;
- encouraging young people to initiate their own volunteer activities;
- recognising and validating the skills acquired during volunteering.

4. STRUCTURE OF THE NON-PROFIT SECTOR INVOLVED IN VOLUNTEERING

Types and characteristics of nonprofit organizations

According to the Bulgarian legislation most non-governmental organizations are registered under the Law on non-profit legal entities which is a common law regulating the two main forms of NGOs in Bulgaria - a foundation and an association. All other types of nonprofit organizations function under the Law on political parties, the Law on religions, the Law on community centers, etc. The latter are a specific type of non-profit legal entities.

The Law on non-profit legal entities provides for the foundations and associations to work in public or private benefit. Under the Law, an association is established by individuals or legal entities (members) in order to reach a nonprofit goal while a foundation is an organization, given property to reach that goal. If working in public benefit, an association is established by at least seven individuals (members), while the registration of a foundation does not require membership.

By the end of 2019 more than 16 000 NGOs were registered on the territory of Bulgaria according to an NGO Sustainability Index, commissioned by the Bulgarian Center for Nonprofit Law. As reported by an Open Society Foundation research on the active non-governmental organizations in 2017, 63% of them are associations, 25% - foundations and 8% are community centers.

According to the same research and in terms of their main areas of work, the organizations are as follows:

- 34,4% work in the field of education;
- 29,4 % - social services;
- 20% - regional and local development;
- 16,8% - youth;
- **16,1% - charity and volunteering;**
- 15,9% - arts and culture;
- 14,3% - human rights;
- 8,9 % - environmental protection;
- 3,7% - women's rights, etc.

According to a Study on the practices in the governance of nonprofit organizations in Bulgaria (2005), **84% of organisations use the help of volunteers:**

- 27% of organisations work with more than 20 volunteers;
- 17% use between 11 and 20 volunteers;
- 21% use between 6 and 10 volunteers;
- 19% use between 1 and 5 volunteers.

Youth Centres in Bulgaria are municipal structures whose work broadly aims at the civil society education of young people in the country. Youth centres offer many volunteering opportunities for young people's community involvement and often have an especially established Volunteering Centre within its structure (e.g. Youth Centre Haskovo). There are functioning youth centers in most district cities but also in smaller ones. During the last several years many centers have been built thanks to the EEA grants in Bulgaria which provide a specific program for the establishment of youth centers, i.e. the Municipal Youth Center in Plovdiv, the Youth Center in Dobrich, the International Youth Center in Stara Zagora, etc.

The National Youth Program, administered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports provides grants for the functioning of Youth Information and Consultation Centres across the country which offer various services for young people or organisations which work for and with young people, including information on volunteering opportunities and obtaining funding for youth activities and initiatives both through state funding and other donor organisations in the country and in Europe.

Regulation

Since there is no legislation on volunteering in Bulgaria, there is no public body responsible for volunteering from a regulatory or institutional perspective.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports' Directorate Youth Policy is in charge of programs providing grants for youth volunteering.

The National Erasmus+ Agency used to administer the European Volunteering Service. It is now in charge of all of the actions under the European Solidarity Corps, including allocating the funding for local and international volunteers and functions under the Ministry of Education and Science.

Human resource

According to a research by the Open Society Institute in Bulgaria carried out in 2017, 35% of the staff at the NGOs in Bulgaria is paid while the rest work on a voluntary basis. The same survey suggests that among the paid and unpaid staff, people with higher education degrees and good command of English language prevail. According to the National Statistical Institute in 2014 more approximately 23 000 people were employed at NGOs but there is no data on how many of them work at volunteer organizations. Usually, the organizations have small teams (2-3 people) and most of them work part time as they combine it with a second job.

5. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

State funding

There is no state funding program entirely dedicated to volunteering activities but the National Program for Youth, administered by the Ministry of Youth and Sports provides grants for volunteering. One of its subprograms - "Subprogram 2 - National youth initiatives and campaigns" supports projects in 4 thematic fields, the first one of which is "Youth volunteering and participation in volunteering initiatives". Non-profit organizations registered on the territory of Bulgaria are eligible to apply for this grant and their target groups should be young people aged 15 - 29.

EU funding

Since 2018 the latest program of the European Commission - the European Solidarity Corps, has been acting in Bulgaria and supporting volunteering activities done in the country by local young volunteers. Due to its increasing budget, this is in practice the biggest funding mechanism for volunteering organizations in the country but it limits the age of the volunteers up to 35 (according to the latest amendments of the European Commission for some of the activities).

Fundraising

Fundraising for volunteering activities is still not popular in Bulgaria as usually fundraising events or campaigns support people who need urgent medical treatment, the repair of destroyed significant or historical buildings, monuments, etc. but do not fund the execution of volunteer labour or the work of volunteer organizations.

6. REGULAR AND SYSTEMATIC RESEARCH

In Bulgaria, regular and systematic research on volunteering is lacking, although volunteering is mentioned in some research about the non-governmental sector, civic activism or philanthropy. Due to the lack of other, reliable sources of information, some of the findings of these researches are used as a basis for volunteering policy development.

The Bulgarian Center for Non-Profit Law conducts regular research on non-governmental organizations and the civil sector. One of their latest surveys, in 2020 was focused on the attitudes to the civil sector. The survey included some points on volunteering and concluded that there is a rise in the percentage of people who volunteered in 2020 - 9%, compared to 6,4% in 2015 and 3,8% in 2018. The research points out that after the COVID-19 crisis, the civil sector is more often seen as helpful to society and protecting people's rights, compared to the generally unfriendly environment in the country. People aged above 18 years old participated in the research.

The TimeHeroes web platform which matches volunteers and volunteering initiatives in Bulgaria conducts its own research on volunteering, mostly covering the activity on the platform. In 2015 20 000 volunteers registered on the website and 520 NGOs, non-formal groups and causes found volunteers through it. A total of 900 initiatives which took place in 110 were supported by volunteers in 2015 through TimeHeroes. From its establishment

The Open Society Institute is another organization that carries out analysis on a broad range of topics including the state of democracy, civic engagement and the civil sector in the country. Despite not specifically focused on the volunteering sector, its researchers cover i.e. percentage of people who volunteered in the previous 12 months, percentage of NGOs registered as volunteer organizations, etc. For example, according to a survey from 2018, volunteering is the second most commonly associated activity when it comes to the work of CSOs and 15% of the respondents answered that volunteering is the most beneficial field a civil society organization can work in. Again in 2018, more than 500 NGOs registered on the territory of Bulgaria have indicated volunteering as their main activity in their statutes.

Despite not being systematic and not covering the whole sector, several researches focused on volunteering have been conducted in Bulgaria for the last 20 years. Some of them are:

- 2002: Study on the volunteering sector in Bulgaria, "Society and information" Foundation;
- 2009: Engaging the business' employees in socially responsible activities, "Help for charity" Foundation;
- 2010: Youth Volunteering in Bulgaria, "Help for charity" Foundation;
- 2010: Volunteering across Europe: Bulgaria, SPES - Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato del Lazio and Bulgarian Center for Nonprofit Law;

- 2010: Volunteering in the European Union - Country report - Bulgaria, Educational, Audiovisual & Culture Executive Agency (EAC-EA) and Directorate General Education and Culture (DG EAC) of the EU;
- 2014: New aspects of volunteering: researching the attitudes of the acting volunteers, Bulgarian Center for Nonprofit Law and Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

Volunteering in the European Union - Country report - Bulgaria is probably the most extensive and detailed research on the volunteering sector in Bulgaria.²⁶

7. ETHICS AND QUALITY STANDARDS FOR VOLUNTEERING

Individual voluntary organisations usually have their own codes of conduct – for example, the Ethical Code of the Bulgarian Red Cross. Such documents are valid for the organisations' staff and volunteers alike, lay down core values or quality standards, or forbid any kind of abuse in relation to the name, activities, finances or confidentiality of data of the organisations and its members.²⁷

26. https://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/national_report_bg_en.pdf

27. <http://en-m.redcross.bg/about/about1/principles.html>

8. AWARENESS OF VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

In the last several years there has been a significant rise in the volunteering opportunities in the country, especially for young people and that's why the methods for promoting them are mainly targeted to the youth - on social media and specific web platforms. Still, one of the reasons for the young people not to be involved in volunteering, is not because they do not want to but because they don't find the necessary information and most importantly - they don't know where to look for it. There are several platforms dedicated to volunteering and youth in Bulgaria, two of which are most popular:

- **“TimeHeroes”** - it's the biggest web platform for matching volunteers and volunteer causes in Bulgaria. Anyone can register and look for opportunities regardless of their age.
- **“YouthHub”** is a web platform which publishes any kinds of opportunities for young people - starting from competitions, studying opportunities, trainings, mobilities and ending in volunteering in the country and abroad. There is no age limit for those using the platform but all of the calls are looking for participants within a certain age group.
- **European Youth Portal and the European Solidarity Corps opportunities** - the platforms are slowly getting popular with Bulgarian youth but are still far from being a common way of finding volunteering opportunities
- **Social media and Facebook groups** have become probably the most common way of finding volunteer opportunities as there are a number of pages and groups with thousands of members where anyone is free to publish their call for volunteers.
- **“Dobrovolets.bg”** is a platform for the recruitment of volunteers to help tackle the COVID-19 pandemic which was launched in March 2020.

Promotion of volunteering and volunteer awards

One of the ways to promote volunteering and to attract people to it is by rewarding the efforts of those who committed to its values. Usually such campaigns take place around the 5th of December - the International Volunteer Day as the most popular competitions and awards for volunteers and volunteer organizations are:

1. The national competition **“Volunteer of the Year”** was established in 2010 and its organizer is the Astika Foundation. “Volunteer of the Year” is a protected trademark registered with the Patent Office of the Republic of Bulgaria. The competition takes place every year as the Astika Foundation announces annual nominations for the award. The purpose of the procedure and the national competition is to give well-deserved recognition to the volunteers for their volunteer activities, to improve the welfare, tolerance and solidarity in the society. Any Bulgarian or foreign citizen who has reached the age of 15 and has made their voluntary contribution on the territory of the Republic of Bulgaria during the last 12 months may be nominated for the award.

The nominee must have contributed to the preparation, organization and implementation of volunteering in one of the following thematic areas: humanitarian activities, environment, human rights, cultures and arts, sports and physical activities, international participation (EVS, ESC and other international volunteering missions).

2. “THE HEROES” are the annual awards for volunteering of TimeHeroes - the biggest web platform in Bulgaria which connects volunteers and volunteering causes. The awards were established in 2017. “THE HEROES” honours the people and the organizations with outstanding contribution to the development of volunteer culture in Bulgaria. The award seeks to reward and encourage volunteering in the country. Nominations are accepted in four categories - volunteer; organizer of volunteer activities; volunteer initiative; company, encouraging volunteering and journalist covering volunteering. Anyone can nominate but self-nominations are accepted as well. For the four years of its existence, the award was given to almost 60 people, organizations, non-formal groups, journalists and companies. There is a significant rise in the awarded volunteers and causes for 2020. One of the biggest media outlets in the country are partners of the award. The awards for 2020 were announced on one of the biggest radio stations in Bulgaria.

3. “Volunteer Initiative” Competition of the Lale Foundation is an annual competition for the best volunteer initiatives in Bulgaria regardless of the place and time of the initiative, purpose and manner of organization, amount and sources of funding, number and age of volunteers. It was established in 2010 to show the public the good initiatives and to give recognition to thousands of volunteers in Bulgaria. The award ceremony takes place every year on 5th of December - the International Volunteer Day.

4. “Mission Volunteer (Im)possible” Competition is organized by the Ministry of Youth and Sports since 2016. It aims to promote good practices of prominent young people and organizations in the field of volunteering and thus to attract other young people to the volunteer spirit. “Mission Volunteer (Im)possible” rewards young volunteers and youth volunteer organizations from all over the country. The nominees are put into three categories: volunteer organization, volunteer mission and volunteer. The voting usually takes place online as any citizen of Bulgaria can vote for their choice in any of the categories. The winners are announced on the 5th of December.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

There is an urgent need for the adoption of a law on volunteering since it is becoming more popular and there is no unified and centralized regulation as well as no funding to help the volunteering organizations sustain their work. Especially with the rise in volunteering since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the lack of mechanisms, volunteers' data basis, proper volunteer training and monitoring have been significantly felt by the civil sector.

People who've never volunteered but have spare time - for example pensioners in good health could be attracted to the cause in order to unlock their potential. The topic of the meaningful spending of free time of elderly people remains underdiscussed in Bulgaria.

10. RESOURCES

- Law on Corporate Income Tax, 2006, <http://www.bcnl.org/doc.php?DID=241>.
- Tax Law for Physical Persons, 2007, http://www.nap.bg/files/file_download.document?p_doc_id=147.
- Work with volunteers, Guidelines for non-governmental organizations and active citizens, TimeHeroes, 2015 - <https://timeheroes.org/static/TimeHeroes%20Handbook%20for%20NGOs.pdf>
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- Draft Law on Volunteering, 2006, http://www.bcnl.org/pndocs/doc_31.doc.
- Law on Youth, 2012 - <https://www.lex.bg/laws/ldoc/2135786802>
- Study on Volunteering in the European Union; Country- Report Bulgaria, 2010- https://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/national_report_bg_en.pdf
- Youth Volunteering in Bulgaria Research, 2010, “Help for Charity in Bulgaria” Fondation
- Attitudes of the Society towards the SCOs, Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law, 2020
- Reports from the National Assembly- <https://parliament.bg/bg/parliamentarycommittees/members/2592/reports/ID/7577>
- <https://www.strategy.bg/PublicConsultations/View.aspx?lang=bg-BG&Id=5777>
- http://bcnl.org/uploadfiles/documents/NGOSustainabilityIndexBulgaria2019_BG_S.pdf
- <https://osis.bg/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/active-NGOs.pdf>
- https://ec.europa.eu/citizenship/pdf/national_report_bg_en.pdf
- Active NGOs in Bulgaria, Open Society Foundation, 2017 <https://osis.bg/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/active-NGOs.pdf>