

B(re)aking Bread and Borders Project Report (technical and financial part)

ACTIVITY REPORT

A. Information about the project

- a) Name: B(re)aking Bread and Borders
- b) Organization: International Council for Cultural Centers
- c) Approved Grant Amount: 7 900 USD
- d) Period of Implementation: 1 November 2017 – 31 October 2018
- e) Project Coordinator: Zdravka Vodenicharova
- f) Purpose of the project: The purpose of the "B(re)aking Bread and Borders" project is to lead to overcoming stereotypes between the main minority groups in Bulgaria. It aims to ensure a cozy and safe space where points of unity will be created and intercultural cooperation will be established. The project will address the challenge of shortening the "social distances" between young representatives of 4 ethnic traditional minorities groups in Bulgaria - Turkish, Roma, Armenian and Jewish, as well as new minority groups from different Arabic countries and Bulgarian young people. The project's purpose includes unveiling the prejudices and stereotypes between them. Moreover, during the project "Breaking Bread and Borders" will be tested and further developed innovative methods, attractive and universal at the same time, based on the most recognized symbol for peace – the bread.

B. Project results and indicators according to the planned project activities

1. Setting up a project team and writing a detailed action plan for the implementation of the planned activities

The project team was set up at the beginning of the project. The team included the project coordinator, the two main facilitators and the social media expert. A detailed action plan was drawn up including information on the division of the responsibilities among the team members and timeline. Logo of the project was created.

Team member	Main responsibilities
Project coordinator	Responsible for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- correct and effective implementation and report of all the activities;- organization and implementation of the team meetings;- communication with Niwano Peace Foundation;- proper spending of the funds;- recruitment of the participants in the workshops;- creation of the project vision and design – logo, blank documents;- communication with representatives of different ethnic communities and community organizations;- the project administrative documentation.

Workshop facilitators	Responsible for the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - communication with representatives of different ethnic communities and community organizations; - preparation and organization of the workshops (space, catering, materials);
Social media expert	Responsible for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - spreading information (preparing texts and messages) about the project in the communication channels of the organization – web pages, social media channels, etc.; - creation and maintaining of project Facebook page (accessible for all the participants in the workshops); - preparing and spreading information about the project and recruitment of the participants among the professional community and informational online channels;

2. Recruitment of participants for the workshops among minority groups and the Bulgarian majority

At the beginning of the project implementation the project team established contacts with organizations and clubs of representatives of the ethnic minorities with the idea to invite organized groups to take part in the workshops. This proved to be an efficient strategy and the team established cooperation with 5 different organizations:

- [Moishe House Sofia](#) - local Jewish youngster's organization
- [Armenian Scout Organization](#) – non-formal youth group part of the
- [Bulgarian representation of the international organization Caritas](#) – working with refugees and migrants from Arabic countries
- [Health and Social Development Foundation](#) – supporting children and young people in Roma communities
- Turkish-Bulgarian Literature Club, organized with the support of the [Turkish General Consulate](#) in Plovdiv

The cooperation with all organizations was very successful and we're convinced it will continue in the future which will bring more long term partners to our organization and will contribute to its stability and sustainability.

The workshops with the Jewish-Bulgarian, Armenian-Bulgarian, Arabic-Bulgarian and Roma-Bulgarian groups took place in Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria where the Sofia Bread House is located. As the Turkish minority is not well represented in the capital, the Turkish-Bulgarian group workshops gathered in Plovdiv - the second biggest Bulgarian city, where a big Turkish minority lives. The events took place in rented premises.

The project was planned to select the Bulgarian participants from 2 schools in Sofia and youth organizations. This proved to be a challenge, first because the students at school age need additional documents from their parents, if they're going to leave the premise for the school in the time of school. Another obstacle was that this would turn the events into "obligatory" for the young people. This is why the team decided to recruit the youth with Bulgarian origins through publishing an open invitation aiming at attracting participants who are available and self-determined to come.

The Bulgarian participants were involved to participate in the project via different channels:

- Through invitations published on web pages and the social media profiles of the Bread Houses Network;
- Through "call for volunteers" at the biggest Bulgarian platform for volunteers' [Timeheroes](#);
- Through invitations disseminated by partner organizations such as the [Bulgarian representation of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#).

Information about the project and recruitment of the participants was prepared and published in:

- [YOUTHub.bg](#) - launched on 1st of September 2016 with the main goal to serve as an online youth platform where young Bulgarian are able to find all kind of opportunities for their personal and professional development such as training courses, seminars, youth exchanges, networking and other events.
- [The Information Portal of Nongovernmental Organizations](#) - joint initiative of the Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law and Programme and Analytical Centre for European Law. The Portal aims at becoming the primary and most accurate source of information about Bulgarian NGOs. Its database contains the most up-to-date data about the non-profit sector in Bulgaria.
- [Foundation for Local Government Reform](#) - an independent professional resource centre, supporting local democracy. Informational weekly electronic bulletin is only in Bulgarian from September 2001. The electronic weekly has the task of informing about initiatives, projects, good practices, funding opportunities, competitions, opportunities for internships and trainings. Its readers are a wide range of subscribers: local and regional NGOs, local authorities, educational institutions, media, business representatives, students, etc.

3. Organizing and carrying out 15 workshops with the target groups:

- *Arabic-Bulgarian group:*
 - 1 March 2018 (20 participants) – [photo gallery](#)
 - 18 April 2018 (18 participants) - [photo gallery](#)
 - 7 June 2018 (16 participants) - [photo gallery](#)
 - 13 July 2018 (24 participants) - [photo gallery](#)

The Arabic-Bulgarian group events were organized in cooperation with the [Bulgarian representation of the international organization Caritas](#), which is working directly with children and youth from 0 to 18 years old in the reception centers for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in Sofia. Every time the young refugees were joined by a social worker and a translator who enabled the communication with the facilitators and the Bulgarian participants for those who didn't understand Bulgarian.

According to the planned activities, at the first community bread making event, held on 1 March 2018, the participants made bread together based on [Theatre of Crumbs](#) method and presented themselves through drawings in flour. They shared what is their country of origin and what are their future wishes and dreams. The participants worked in couples (one Bulgarian and one refugee). They formed breads and decorated them according to their traditions but also own vision and creativity. The breads were linked in a common story in which the breads were the main actors.

After discussing the first meeting and its results, the team decided that at the second meeting, held on 18 April 2018, the group will be invited to make cookies, so that the participants are engaged in a new activity and learn a new skill together. After making

the cookies, the group split in two teams who created and performed songs based on [Kitchen music](#) method. The songs were related to bread and culinary traditions in their countries and were performed by using kitchen instruments.

The following events were more special and they didn't follow strictly the plan of activities, due to the specifics of the target group. The event on 7 June 2018 turned to be a children event as the age group of the participants was 7-14 years old. This was due to the fact that all young people who had participated in the previous two events had left Bulgaria in search for better opportunities in western European countries such as Germany and Austria. Nevertheless we held the event, turning it to an educational bread making in which the children got to know or rehearsed Bulgarian words related to bread making but also summer time and vacation.

As the third event didn't cover the age of the target group – 14-29 years old, the team decided to organize a fourth event. It took place on 13 July 2018. As it was in the period of the summer vacation in Bulgaria and most of the Bulgarian youth was out of Sofia for the summer vacation, the team decided to invite an organized group – a team of the Bulgarian branch of the international software company VMWare. The team mixed with a new group of young refugees, as mentioned above, the previous participants had left the country, using the appropriate weather conditions for travelling. The mixed group participated in a bread making activity, following the steps of the Theatre of Crumbs method and engaged in drawing in flour, kneading and shaping breads. The theme was "Who am I and what are my dreams?".

With the fourth event the Arabic-Bulgarian workshops finished. During these few events we were confronted with the challenge that the Arabic groups could attend the meeting only in the early afternoon hours, which is not convenient for part of the young Bulgarians. We overcame this obstacle by inviting participants who are students and don't have lectures in this time of the day as well as people working as free lancers.

- *Armenian-Bulgarian group:*

11 April 2018 (18 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

13 May 2018 (24 participants) - [photo gallery](#)

29 September (20 participants) - [photo gallery](#)

The Armenian-Bulgarian group meetings were organized in cooperation with a local [Armenian Scout Organization](#). In order to invite the participants the project coordinator established contact with a representative of the organization and joined an event of the Armenian Scouts at which she presented the project and invited them to take part in the activities. As a consequence they became an active participant of the project.

All 3 events of the Armenian Bulgarian group followed the activities plan. At the first event, held on 11 April 2018, the group gathered and got engaged in bread making activity based on the method Theatre of Crumbs. At this event the participants got to know each other and the Armenian participants shared what their names mean translated to Bulgarian. The second meeting, held on 13 May 2018, was devoted to the social entrepreneurship – the Bulgarian and Armenian youth played the game Build a Bread House aiming at resolving social issues by creating social businesses. They divided in groups and developed together great innovative ideas aiming at overcoming environmental challenges and the problem of homelessness both among people and home animals. At the third and last meeting which took place on 29 September 2018, the group made cookies together and shared what are the things that bring joy and satisfaction in their everyday life. The group divided in 3 teams and made a song contest – the participants created spontaneous poems and music with kitchen instruments. After the performing, the best team received small gifts.

The Armenian-Bulgarian group was the most numerous – from one side, because of the good organization of the scout club and from the other, because of the big interest toward the Armenian community among the Bulgarian one. With this particular group, the team didn't meet challenges related to organization.

- *Jewish-Bulgarian group:*

22 February 2018 (18 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

26 April 2018 (10 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

20 September 2018 (8 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

The Jewish-Bulgarian groups were organized in cooperation with a local Jewish youngsters organization - [Moishe House Sofia](#). The contact was established thanks to previous cooperation of the Sofia Bread House with the Jewish community in Sofia and with the Organization of Bulgarian Jews Shalom. Thanks to this, 3 events were organized. They all followed the sequence and themes planned in the action plan. The first meeting took place on 22 February 2018 and included bread making and getting to know each other. This was the most numerous gathering – a big number of both communities took part. The second meeting was devoted to sharing more personal stories as well as culinary traditions, but also to creating and performing Kitchen Music. It was organized on 26 April 2018 and the participants prepared cookies which they afterwards shared over a cup of tea and a discussion about various subjects. The third meeting was held on 20 September 2018 and consisted in playing the board game "Build a Bread House". The participants worked on the problem of lack of opportunities for gardening for people with disabilities and developed an idea of accessible gardens on various levels.

The Jewish Bulgarian group was the most popular at the beginning of the project and the less attended in the end of it. At the beginning a big number of people subscribed for participation, but due to various reasons (educational tasks, travelling, illnesses, etc.), they didn't attend the next meeting, even if confirming their participation via email or phone. This made difficult the gathering of a bigger group, nevertheless the meeting was a success, although organized with a smaller number of people.

- *Roma-Bulgarian group:*

29 March 2018 (11 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

17 May 2018 (10 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

6 October 2018 (21 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

The Roma-Bulgarian groups were organized together with a big and well known Bulgarian organization [Health and Social Development Foundation](#) (HESED), working with the Roma community in Sofia. In order to establish contacts a team member of the Bread Houses Network met with a representative of HESED and presented the project, its goals and time frame. During the project, after the second event another partner was invited – a community leader from the Roma ethnicity, working with children and youth in the Roma neighborhoods and communities in the capital.

3 events were organized. The two first events, organized on 29 March and 17 May 2018 followed the action plan and included bread making and kitchen music as tools for getting to know each other, finding more about the different communities, their lives and habits. A special thing about the second event was that it was joined by a group of 4 Latvians, visiting the Sofia Bread House and training in its methods. This brought additional value to the workshop as it enabled a dialogue with a different culture.

The last event, held on 6 October 2018, didn't follow the action plan, but it proved to be the most successful one. The plan was changed, as the meeting was joined with a big group of new people both from the Roma and the Bulgarian community. As they did not know each other, the activity was not game playing but bread making dedicated to the subject "Who am I and what are my dreams?".

The organization of the Roma-Bulgarian meetings was definitely the most challenging one. There were a few reasons for this. The first one is the negative attitude of the Bulgarian community towards the Roma one, which was also one of the issues that the project was aimed to tackle. This led to less Bulgarian representatives willing to participate in the gatherings, comparing to the number of the candidates for the other

groups. Another challenge was the fact the young people from the Roma minority could not participate in any evening events, as their families are stricter concerning going out hours. This made necessary to organize the events in afternoon hours, which were not convenient for the Bulgarian participants. Similar to the situation of the Arab-Bulgarian groups, we overcame this obstacle by inviting students and freelancers. Another issue was the fact that the partner, the HESED foundation didn't manage to engage a bigger number of Roma youth willing to participate to the events. This was overcome by finding a new partner – a key person in the Roma community with rich contacts and influence.

- *Turkish-Bulgarian group:*

15 April 2018 (21 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

14 October 2018 (12 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

31 October 2018 (23 participants) – [photo gallery](#)

The events with the Turkish-Bulgarian group were organized in the second largest city of Bulgaria – Plovdiv, where a big Turkish community lives. Our partner was the Plovdiv Bread House and a Turkish-Bulgarian Literature Club, organized with the support of the Turkish General Consulate in Plovdiv. The first two events took place in rented premises – community and cultural centers. For the last event, we were invited by the General Consul of Turkey to organize it in the building of the General Consulate. All events consisted in bread making activities based on the Theatre of Crumbs method. At the first meeting on 15 April 2018, the participants presented themselves and shared the stories of their names. The second meeting, held on 14 October 2018, was devoted to the subject of home and its place in the lives of the participants. They shared what kind of home would they like to have and who would they like to share it with. The third meeting (31 October 2018) was a special one – the participants with Turkish origins mixed with a group of deaf youngsters, part of an art club. They drew portraits of themselves in flour and presented them in the group with the help of a sign language translator. Representatives of the Turkish Consulate in Plovdiv were actively participating in all events and the Consul took part in two of the bread makings. This brought media attention to the initiative which was covered by several regional media.

The organization of the Turkish-Bulgarian group started with a challenge, as we struggled to find a Turkish organization in Sofia, as the Turkish minority is not well represented in the capital. We overcame this obstacle by changing the location of the meetings of the Turkish- Bulgarian group in Plovdiv and by cooperating with the Plovdiv Bread House.

4. Organizing and conducting an Open Doors Day of the project as a final event, 21 October 2018 – [photo gallery](#)

As a final of the project, an Open Doors Day was organized in the Sofia Bread House. The event took place on 21 October, as a tribute to the United Nations Day (24 October). The event consisted in writing colorful messages about peace, unity, intercultural dialogue, bread making and friendship. Every participant had the chance to be creative and to send his or her message through a common poster. During the event was projected an exhibition of photos taken during the whole project. There was also a Kitchen Music contest which gave the floor again to creativity and amusement.

C. Main achievements:

In the frame of the project were organized 17 community events with 271 participants from 5 ethnic minorities and native Bulgarians aged 16 to 26 years.

- Creation of a space for communication between young people from ethnic minorities in Bulgaria

In the frame of the project was created, developed and maintained a space for communication between young people from different ethnic minorities in Bulgaria -

Turkish, Roma, Armenian, Jewish, Arabic countries, and young Bulgarians. They could interact freely and spontaneously during the events – in the cozy and welcoming space of the Sofia Bread House and in the carefully chosen rented spaces in Plovdiv. The participants had many chances of direct communication, but also of exchanging contacts via social media and other channels. In a safe, friendly and joyful atmosphere, they had the possibility to express themselves, to find out more about each other and to freely ask questions about the different communities.

- Intercultural cooperation through innovative art forms

The meetings of the groups were based on the innovative community building methods of the Bread Houses Network – Theatre of Crumbs and Kitchen Music, as well as the educational board game on social entrepreneurship Build a Bread House. The participants were engaged in various activities including team work and group cooperation. The participants were encouraged to mix with those they don't know, to work together with them and to establish personal connections.

- Development of the Bread Houses Network methods

This was the first project in which the team of the Bread Houses Network had the chance to apply its methods with five different ethnic groups in the same period of time, to observe their reactions, level of engagement and the influence of the method on them. This gave the team a great possibility to develop and improve the methods and to further adapt them for intercultural dialogue. Inspired by the positive effects, the organization is planning to continue with the work in the field of integration between the different ethnicities in Bulgaria.

- Increase of the knowledge of the participants

Every workshop organized in the frame of the project was dedicated to a different topic, which included subjects such as personal identity, origins, family traditions and cultural customs related to bread. The participants had the chance to present themselves and their communities and to hear the presentations of the others. This improved their knowledge but also gave them the chance to overcome prejudices.

- Development and improvement of participants' skills

Every meeting included different activities which developed the creative potential of the participants. The young people were actively engaged in drawing in flour; shaping and decorating dough sculptures; decorating; storytelling; creating poems, rhythm and music; developing business ideas; creating enterprise logos.

By playing the educational game Build a Bread House the participants improved their knowledge on the social challenges in their community and learned the steps of creating social enterprises addressing these issues.

- Spread of the Bread Houses Network methods

During the project very fruitful partnerships were established between the Bread Houses Network and the organizations and contact persons with whom was organized the participation of the young people from ethnicities other than Bulgarian. During the project were developed ideas for future cooperation and organization of similar events.

- Show of good example of cooperation

Thanks to the spread of information about the project in radio, TV and media, as well as during various events, a good example of intercultural cooperation was given in the Bulgarian public space. It was shown, that through appropriate innovative art methods it's possible and effective to foster interethnic communication and exchange between young people.

D. Media coverage

As a part of the project the Bread Houses Team created a [Facebook page](#) where we post photos and information about the future events. Photos from all the events can be found in the gallery of the page. On the profile were published posts about the events, as well as photos and invitations for the events. The participants in the project were also posting photos of their breads, but also comments and reactions. The page was also a channel for communication with the young people involved in the initiative.

The events in Plovdiv attracted media attention and several articles were published:

- <https://www.plovdiv-online.com/litza/item/91268-mrezha-hlebni-kashti-za-parvi-pat-mesyat-s-turskata-obshtnost>
- <http://u4avplovdiv.com/%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%B9-%D1%81%D1%8A%D0%BC-%D0%B0%D0%B7-%D1%80%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%BA%D0%B0%D0%B7%D0%B0%D1%85%D0%B0-%D1%81-%D1%84%D0%B8%D0%B3%D1%83%D1%80%D0%B8-%D0%BE%D1%82-%D1%85%D0%BB%D1%8F>
- https://www.plovdiv-online.com/dokumentirai-miga/item/95419-detsa-i-mladezhi-i-turskiyat-konsul-zaedno-preodolyat-prepyatstviya?fbclid=IwAR1w_K7uFMs5yI8oRRQUUOpUdxchnu3PIZHfaZPBmlbv6EjsWMCP5nE_P7k
- <https://www.marica.bg/deca-i-mladezhi-s-uvreden-sluh-mesiha-hlqb-s-turskiq-konsul-Article-168265.html>
- https://www.actualno.com/politics/generalnijat-konsul-na-turcija-bylgarija-e-prijatelska-strana-news_643305.html
- <http://www.gustonews.bg/?page=article&instanceID=64950>

The project was also presented at all public events at which the representatives of the Bread Houses Network took part since the approval of the project to nowadays: national and international conferences, fairs and workshops:

International Game Pedagogy Festival "Everything plays"	October 2017, Opole, Poland
Social Enterprises Forum	October 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria
The young people – the new wave entrepreneurs of 21st century Project	November 2017, Sofia, Bulgaria
8 th Mont-Blanc Meetings, SSE Forum International	December 2017, Archamps, France
Social inclusion of young people trough social entrepreneurship Project	January 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria
No More War Fest	January 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria
7th European Forum of Social Enterprises, part of Bulgaria EU Presidency	April 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria
International Spielmarkt	May 2018, Potsdam, Germany
Forum on Social Innovations for Inclusive Society	June 2018, Brussels, Belgium
Empowering communities in Europe Conference	June 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria

Solidarity Festival	June 2018, Sofia, Bulgaria
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The project was also presented every time the team members of the Bread Houses Network participated in interviews on radio and television and was mentioned as a part of the activities of the organization at all appropriate occasions. Information about the project was published in bi-weekly newsletters and Bread for Change Magazine – online editions of Bread Houses Network spread among the Bread Houses Network international members and among the [bakers without borders](#) international platform.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Expenditures	Approved project amount	Financial document №	
Personnel			
2 workshop facilitators	4 400 USD 7 480 BGN	№5/1.10.2018 №6/1.10.2018	
Social media expert	720 USD 1224 BGN	№7/1.10.2018 №BX20190110000480552/27.10.2018 №BX20190110000480538/27.10.2018 №IBX20190110000480548/27.10.2018 №IBX20190110000480554/27.10.2018	
Utensils and fixtures			
Aprons	605 USD 1028,50 BGN	№1868/15.02.2018	296,47 USD 504,00 BGN
		№1000022738/16.10.2018	336,35 USD 571,80 BGN
Supplies			
Rent of a hall	975 USD 1657,50 BGN	№IBX20181129000440266/31.01.2018 №IBX20181129000440463/07.03.2018 №IBX20181129000440466/06.04.2018 №IBX20181129000440469/08.05.2018 №IBX20181129000440472/05.06.2018 №IBX20181129000440473/04.07.2018 №IBX20181129000440480/11.09.2018 №IBX20181129000440482/05.10.2018 №0000000192/15.04.2018 №0004987/12.10.2018	
Catering for the workshops	750 USD 1275 BGN	№000000030/1.03.2018	61,67 USD 104,84 BGN
		№000000031/16.03.2018	11,76 USD 20,00 BGN
		№000000032/29.03.2018	49,60 USD 84,33 BGN
		№000000052/11.04.2018	39,63 USD 67,38 BGN
		№000000080/16.04.2018	46,23 USD 78,60 BGN

	Nº000000033/18.04.2018	35,29 USD 60,00 BGN
	Nº000000034/18.04.2018	46,00 USD 78,20 BGN
	Nº000000017/21.04.2018	24,94 USD 42,40 BGN
	Nº0167117427/25.04.2018	13,40 USD 22,79 BGN
	Nº000000035/26.04.2018	32,00 USD 54,40 BGN
	Nº0167148554/29.04.2018	17,91 USD 30,45 BGN
	Nº1000003734/10.05.2018	9,18 USD 15,62 BGN
	Nº0000003565/14.05.2018	15,29 USD 26,00 BGN
	Nº1000000066/15.05.2018	11,00 USD 18,70 BGN
	Nº0167221631/19.05.2018	14,90 USD 25,34 BGN
	Nº0000000032/25.05.2018	14,34 USD 24,38 BGN
	Nº0000005319/31.05.2018	14,09 USD 23,96 BGN
	Nº0167149297/24.07.2018	13,68 USD 23,26 BGN
	Nº1000000139/25.07.2018	24,16 USD 41,08 BGN
	Nº000000037/08.08.2018	52,94 USD 90,00 BGN
	Nº0000102655/12.09.2018	40,09 USD 68,16 BGN
	Nº0000102656/12.09.2018	36,14 USD 61,44 BGN
	Nº1000000073/30.09.2018	62,82 USD 106,80 BGN
	Nº0000000020/5.10.2018	9,41 USD 16,00 BGN

		Nº000000038/16.10.2018	29,41 USD 50,00 BGN
		Nº1000000047/19.10.2018	19,82 USD 33,70 BGN
		Nº34/20.10.2018	11,17 USD 19,00 BGN
Miscellaneous			
Game "Bakers without borders"	450 USD 765 BGN	Nº0000000030/23.10.2018	
Total	7 900 USD 13 430 BGN		

**1 USD = 1,7 BGN (according to the Bulgarian National Bank exchange rate)*

10 January 2018

Sofia, Bulgaria

Zdravka Vodenicharova

/Project Coordinator/