



## Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria certification submission

### Name of the school

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria

### Is your school/organisation internationally orientated? (does it look to incorporate a global perspective into everyday school life?)

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

Our organization is an affiliate member of an international network (Big Brothers Big Sisters International - [www.bbbsi.org](http://www.bbbsi.org)), where there have been 19 members from all over the world. Except the partnership with these members, we have an established relations with more than 50 other organization in and outside Europe. Most of our partnerships are related to the implementation of international projects withing the Erasmus+ Program.

### Does your school/organisation participate in international projects? (international cooperation with other schools or between students, EU projects, pen pals, exchange students etc.)

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

Erasmus+ 2015-3-NL02 KA105-001158 Open Up!  
Erasmus+ 2016-1-BG1-KA105-023337" Be Empowered  
Erasmus+ 2016-1-BG1-KA105023334 Better Together  
Erasmus+ 2016-2-BG01-KA105-024084 Volunteering a Pathway to Employment"  
Erasmus+ 2016-3-BG01-KA105-035276 Friends Without Borders  
Erasmus+ KA201-2015-0003 Education for Global Responsibility  
Erasmus+ 2016-1-BE05-KA105-001916 Friends Without Borders 2  
Erasmus+ 2016-1-CZ01-KA204024083 People to People  
Erasmus+ 2017-1-BG01- KA105-03515 Global Responsible Education

### Does your school/organisation have an internationalisation strategy?

No

### Is your school/organisation making an effort to influence behaviors related to sustainable consumption? (ex. CO2 reduction, recycling, limit printing, save on electricity and heating)

No

### Is your school/organisation making environmentally friendly improvements when renovating and expanding? (ex. renewable energy, solar panels etc.)

No

### Does your school/organisation in other ways encourage to take responsibility for the environment? (ex. green infrastructure, eco labels, ecological focus, school projects etc.)

Yes

### Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).

In the past 2 years we have focused on the raising public awareness of young people towards the environmental sustainability and responsible behavior. We have implemented a couple of schools campaigns emphasizing the importance of recycling and reduction of consumption as well as promoting the 17 SDG. A part from the campaigns we have implemented 3 stages KA1 Erasmus+ project on the topic involving partners from 11 different countries.

**Does your school/organisation provide free access to your facilities and resources to the wider community?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters):**

Our office is situated in the center of the city and it has an easy access i.e. for people with disabilities. Since we work basically with young volunteers our office and its facilities are always at their disposal. A part from that, being and Youth Information and Counseling Center gives us the unique opportunity to meet and support lots of start ups and newly established youth organization in the area.

**Does your school/organisation in any kind promote volunteering?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bulgaria is a non-profit youth organization, promoting volunteering and volunteer values around the country of Bulgaria. Main goals:

- To give young people the chance to consciously participate in their own growth as citizens and to take an active part in the development of society as a whole;
- To work for the advancement and institutionalization of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program around Bulgaria;
- To enrich the awareness of young people with regard to the possibilities of volunteer work, social entrepreneurship and active civic participation.

**Does your school/organisation prioritise community engagement?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

In the past 11 years we have focused our efforts in expanding the Big Brothers Big Sisters program around Bulgaria and in supporting greater number of vulnerable children and youth through one-to-one mentoring/volunteer relationships. The program has been functioning in 3 main directions (school-based, community-based and site-based) and has encompassed more than 500 mentees. The organization has a well established school network of 7 Preliminary and 13 secondary schools on the territory of Plovdiv region where it delivers mentoring services for vulnerable children. The community based direction of the program has been implemented in cooperation with the Pedagogy Department of the University of Plovdiv and most of the volunteer-mentors have been University students.

**Does your school/organisation give lessons in sex and relationships education?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

Our organization has been working in close relationship with the Bulgarian Fund for Women since 2009. As a result of this partnership a youth club for gender equality has been established from our volunteers in 2011. Since then the club has implemented a variety of projects and initiatives focusing on sex education, girls' rights, promotion of equality, etc. Except this initiative, we have developed and implemented Erasmus+ project in 2016 "Better Together" focusing on gender stereotypes, human rights and women empowerment on the Balkans.

**Does your school/organisation have an active strategy for prevention and intervention of drug use and alcohol and tobacco consumption?**

No

**Is your school/organisation actively promoting a healthier lifestyle? (ex. nutritional food and drink, physical- and outdoor activities etc.)**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

We have always encouraged healthy life style and outdoor activities among our members and volunteers. We have

implemented a KA1 Erasmus+ project in 2016 "Be Happy Be Healthy" with participants from 13 countries where we have promoted healthy living as an alternative against the social exclusion. A part from that, at our training activities we always try to use interactive methods, i.e. sports and other games and activities.

**Does your school/organisation make efforts to ensure equality for all in your institution - regardless of gender, sexuality, disabilities, ethnicity, belief system (incl. religion, political orientation)?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

We have always tried to give equal access to our activities to children and young people regardless of their ethnic origin, religion, background, gender or social status. Our organization has been focusing vulnerable children and youth in particular which is a prerequisite for encouraging participation of Roma representatives as well as of other vulnerable groups in our programs and activities.

**Does your school/organisation have accessibility for people with physical and/or mental needs?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

Some of the children involved in the Big Brothers Big Sister's mentoring program suffer from some physical or mental disabilities. These diseases usually stop them from visiting schools and from developing social skills and strong friendships. Coming to the organization they receive long-term mentor as well as memorable moments and quality time spent together with their bigger friend.

**Does your school/organisation actively take a stand against bullying?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

We have been involved in the national initiative of the Ministry of Youth and Sports "Say NO to the bullying" in 2016/2017 school year. As a local coordinator of this initiative around the area of Plovdiv we have organized more than 15 meetings in schools where our volunteers were talking with their peers about bullying, hate speech on-line and aggression among the pupils.

**Does your school/organisation have a youth council/student board?**

No

**Does your school/organisation have a policy that ensures student/youth/staff participation in decision making processes?**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

We are very limited in staff (just 4 people) , but quite large in relation to number of volunteers we work with (50-70 a year). That is why the organization is very open to ideas, suggestions and proposals from any person who is interested to take an action or initiative in order to contribute to the development of our mission and achieving our goals.

**Does everyone at the school/in the organisation have the right to express their opinion? (e.g. does the school provide a platform for dialogue, have an active debate culture, offer discussions, have an open forum etc?)**

Yes

**Please describe (min. 350 characters, max. 800 characters).**

As we have mentioned, our organization is an youth NGO focusing on volunteer involvement. We work with approximately 50-70 volunteers a year, depending on our on-going projects. The majority of them is at the age 15-25 years. We involve our volunteers in all stages of implementing the projects - from the time of their application to the time of their implementation and reporting. Young people's opinion has always being important

to us and we always encouraged our members to speak up and share. Since 2014 we have been partnering in a project of IDEA (Netherlands) for encouraging debating education in the neighborhood, where we teach young people coming from disadvantaged background to debate and share their opinion with the authorities.

**How did your organization address Goal 1? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

We have used some of the Methods from the Method Box in this website. Also, we have implemented a variety of activities promoting all the goals among young people, students and international youth workers in 2017 and 2018. We have developed a year long advertising campaign through developing and distribution of leaflets and T-shirts about the 17 SDGs.

**How did your organization address Goal 2? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

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**How did your organization address Goal 14? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

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**How did your organization address Goal 15? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

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**How did your organization address Goal 16? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

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**How did your organization address Goal 17? (min 350, max 800 characters)**

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**Assessment Disclaimer**

- I hereby confirm that the information provided is true and accurate and I agree that it will be made public in form a report. The Nearest Contact Point may verify the information by the most appropriate means (such as visit or phone calls).