



## REPORT ON MOBILITY C5 BULGARIA

C5 Bulgaria

C5 mobility:

Host: No Frontiers 21 Association, Kyustendil, Bulgaria

Dates: 2. – 6.7. 2018

Number of participants: 8 + 33

Participating organizations:

- Legend Photo Slovakia
- SPLAV, Czech Republic
- BORA 92, Hungary
- JAP Estonia
- NF 21, Bulgaria

The mobility held in Kyustendil, Bulgaria, was educational, demonstrational and practical in nature. It covered all three photography areas identified as project themes with emphasis on the following subthemes: Commercial photography: tourism, 360°, drone, studio, macro (living nature) photography; Environmental photography: landscape and nature, recycled art, macro (product) photography; Social photography: street, portrait, fashion photography.

The mobility workshop provided an environment for testing four training courses developed as part of Intellectual Output 2: “Basics of photography“, “Macro and close-up photography“, “360° photography“ and “Drone photography“.

The participants were predominantly young amateur photographers, mostly high-school students from the district of Kyustendil and the town of Petrich (a total of 14). There were also youth workers, teachers, staff members and volunteers from the host organization, as well as several professional photographers. The number of the international participants was 10, out of which 8 from SOL partner organizations.

The major venue for the workshop sessions was the Bratstvo Community Centre in the city of Kyustendil. The working languages were Bulgarian and English with interpretation between the two languages provided with own resources by the host organization.

The types and forms of activities used during the mobility included:

- *Presentations* to introduce the four major topics of the training courses delivered by experienced photographers with plenty of illustrations, references to the Guidebooks created as part of Intellectual Output 1 and practical tips for making and processing quality images. There was also an excellent presentation of the history of artistic and reportage photography;
- *Practical hands-on sessions* in which the participants worked on the respective topics using a variety of photo equipment and instruments to acquire or improve their practical skills;
- *Panel discussions* to provide an overview of the lessprominent subtopics (urban architecture, sacral and street photography, cultural heritage, ethno and fashion photography; nature and landscape photography) including definitions and basic tips in the



form of a brainstorm drawing on the expertise of the local and international professional and experienced photographers for the purpose of expanding the knowledge of the young photographers on the specifics of the different types of photography;

- *Photo sphari*. During the first day of the workshop, entitled “Experience Kyustendil“, when the local students were acquainted with the basics of photography and its technical foundations, the participants, equipped with maps of the city and organized in mixed groups of local trainers and internationals, enthusiastically made their way to major sights and captured images of architectural highlights, temples and street life;

- *Common online photo sharing space*. Google Photos was used as an instrument to create a web-based space for sharing images taken and uploaded by the participants. After registration the space was accessible to them, to the trainers and organizers. (See <https://photos.app.goo.gl/6HjDUEsZ4mLXsri17>)

- *“Show me” sharing sessions*. These sessions were organized at convenient moments of the day, usually in the morning. They were short periods of 10 to 20 minutes, during which shared images were shown on screen. The participants expressed their appreciation and voiced their comments, which were often very educational.

- *Visit to the Hisarlaka forest park and fortress ruins for a bird’s view of Kyustendil*. An outing on a hot day to capture images of living nature and man-made amenities and creative works in the vicinities of the city in high spirits and with lots of fun;

- *Photoshoot*. The second day of the mobility was held under the motto “Tradition and Modernity“. It was dedicated to cultural heritage, ethnography (national costumes) and fashion photography. It included an indoor and outdoor photoshoot of children and young people, also participants, acting as models dressed in traditional costumes and in modern formal and informal apparel. There was an artistic exhibition of artifacts from waste material and of traditional arts and crafts items. Some of the liveliest and most memorable pictures were taken on that day;

- *Visit to a photo studio*. The participants were taken to a local studio, where a professional commercial photographer explained and demonstrated to them the use of light, background and other studio equipment in portrait and product photography;

- *Visit to a TV studio*. The group was taken on a tour of the studio of the local cable TV Zapad. A professional cameraman showed and demonstrated to them the equipment and setting used in live broadcasting and videorecording of news and talk shows.

- *Field trip*. The third day of the workshop was entitled “Environment and Humankind“. It was dedicated to macro and 360° photography. The participants attended demonstrations by the trainers and practiced their newly acquired or upgraded skills in a trip to the Nevestino park and Kadin Bridge and to the geyser in Sapareva Banya.

- *Drone flying outdoor exercise*. After the theoretical and hands-on sessions on macro and drone photography the group was taken to a drone flying site to practice aerial and macro photography – another opportunity for learning by doing in a game-like manner.

- *Gourmet photography* was practiced at a dinner party in the local fancy food restaurant “Friends“.

- *Visit to the Rila Mountain and the Rila Monastery*, the cradle of Bulgarian Christianity with many themes relevant to the conservation of nature and cultural heritage, artistic, landscape and social photography.



Feedback from the participants and discussion and evaluation of the lessons learned were conducted at the end of each day. The overall impact and outcome of mobility and the satisfaction of the participants were subsequently summarized by the local hosts and training organizers. The educational outcomes and photographs of the participants were disseminated through the publicity channels of the organizers including websites, profiles in the social media and local TV prime time coverage of the mobility.