

**Muzeiko Foundation**  
**ACTIVITY REPORT 2017**

**I. PRESENTATION AND GENERAL INFORMATION ON GOALS AND ACTIVITIES**

Muzeiko Foundation (the Foundation, Muzeiko) is a Bulgarian non-profit legal entity that performs activities in the public interest. The Foundation was established by a founding act - a statute adopted on 18.02.2014 through a grant of an amount of BGN 1,000 (one thousand) by the Founder Bistra Dobrinova Kirova-Koleva.

The Muzeiko Foundation is registered with the Sofia City Court in company case 137/2014 and is registered in the Central Register for Non-Profit Legal Entities under N 20140415005, with its seat of management and operating address at 6 Malyovitsa Str., Sredets district, Sofia 1000, with BULSTAT (UIC): 176663537 and is represented by Executive Director Bistra Dobrinova Kirova-Koleva.

As per the Articles of Association, the Foundation pursues the following objectives:

- To inspire children for knowledge by excitement of their interest in the world, science and art through self-directed complex play;
- To work for improving the quality of education in Bulgaria by supporting communities working in this field;
- To create conditions for improving the well-being of children, by reviving their curiosity and their interest in the educational process;
- To support the high academic achievements of students;
- To establish methods for prevention early leaving the education system;
- To encourage the creativity and thinking of children and create better opportunities for them in the future;
- To positively influence the early development of the youngest (0 to 3 years old) by providing protected environment learning and playing space;
- To support the process of creating the right environment for kids, which takes into account their specific needs in order to have a special place to express themselves in their early childhood;
- To support the process of establishing this place as a center for creative meetings and discussions between parents and specialists dealing with the issues of early childhood development and support its potential by creating conditions for a positive change in thinking about early childhood;
- To influence the local economy, infrastructure and cultural development as a catalyst for economic development in the city;
- To motivate public engagement, to provide families with a unique place to share their talents and perspectives, to be a starting point for action by social groups in Bulgaria and around the world towards problems in the sphere of education and child development;
- To be a catalyst for the convergence of social groups by encouraging and supporting the process of exchanging ideas for the creation of an enlightened, healthy and prosperous living environment.

In order to achieve its objectives the Foundation undertakes the following activities:

- Design, organize and perform programs and activities in order to achieve the scopes of the Children's Science Center Muzeiko;
- Prepare, monitor and organize scientific demonstrations, arts and music classes, creativity and makers' workshops, movie projections, meetings with scientists,

businessmen, innovators, various events for children and their families and teachers, etc.;

- Design and organize activities and workshops for children in schools and existing museums in order to support the integration of hands-on learning in those institutions;
- Participate in national and international projects;
- Prepare, monitor, evaluate and organize seminars, conferences, educational courses and meetings;
- Prepare, make publications and issue materials for popularizing the ideas of the Foundation;
- Cooperate and interact with state, municipality, public, business and scientific organizations, scientific institutes and other legal entities and physical persons in the country and abroad, which are related to the ideas and goals of the Foundation.

In addition to its main non-profit activities related to the fulfillment of the above objectives, the Foundation also carries out additional business activities related to the achievement and achievement of its main goals. This business is mainly focused on providing educational and advisory services; renting out areas to other persons for educational purposes, information and publishing activities; expert support; technical assistance and communication; organizing and conducting cultural and educational events, including the sale (distribution for a fee) of educational games, books, souvenirs and other items thematically related to organized events and events. The funds generated by the business are used to achieve the goals of the Foundation.

In 2017, Muzeiko Foundation continued the development of its team and activities in order to achieve the goals of the organization

## **II. ACTIVITIES**

The Foundation's main activity during the current reporting period focused on the following activities:

### **1. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS:**

#### **Sea Change Project**

This project is dedicated to the conservation of water resources worldwide. Its aim is to promote good practices relating to the protection of the seas and oceans, as well as to bring about a positive change in attitudes and in the way that European citizens perceive their connection to water and hence to the oceans. The goal of the project is to get more people aware of our connection and dependence on water resources by providing them with the knowledge and information on which citizens can make responsible decisions and take informed actions aimed at sustainable use and protection of water at sea and the ocean. The main idea of the project is that it is only through knowledge that it is possible to create healthy and informed communities that can be motivated to change their lifestyle and consume resources in the direction of sustainable development and environmental protection. Only a person who is well informed can understand the impact of the ocean on humanity, can talk about it in an understandable and accessible way, can make informed and responsible decisions about the oceans and its resources.

Muzeiko became involved as the third partner in this European project, and within two years held events and activities pre-determined by the project leaders to inform citizens about the state of the ocean and what each of us can do to preserve it. .

*Project activities carried out during the period 2016-2017 include:*

***Planning and organizing an event during European Researchers' Night***

*Muzeiko's activities in connection with the Sea Change project during the 2016 European Researchers' Night were targeted at the general public and included the following activities:*

- Dissemination of information and materials in Bulgarian and English on the Sea Change project through brochures and a banner;*
- Dissemination of information on the importance of the oceans and the processes associated with them that have a vital impact on our well-being and survival;*
- The Muzeiko Foundation organized a public lecture explaining the blue colour of the ocean and screening of information videos produced within the Sea Change project;*
- Muzeiko's representatives held a scientific demonstration of the water cycle, including how water evaporates and condenses. The audience was also informed about the goals of the Sea Change project;*
- The event was promoted through a press release and banner ads, a number of project publications were distributed and public-awareness and information videos were subtitled.*

### ***Promoting project goals to the public***

*October 7 - 9, 2016 - Ocean Weekend - A major part of the program was dedicated to films, demonstrations and other activities related to the oceans, rivers and seas. During this period, the objectives of the Sea Change project were presented and discussed. Muzeiko organized a themed game designed to contribute to the development of children's awareness of ecology and the importance of the oceans.*

*A prominent Bulgarian surfer made a presentation and held a 20 minute interview with adults and children about oceans and the importance of protecting the oceans. Subsequently, materials and screenings for Sea Change were distributed. Brochures and posters were also distributed at schools and sports clubs in Sofia.*

*The target group included families with children between 6 and 16 years of age.*

### ***Other information activities under the Sea Change project in the period 2016 - 2017***

*The Muzeiko Foundation has undertaken activities to raise awareness of the importance of the oceans. We made five short scientific presentations on the link between global warming, the oceans, and pollution. The Museum disseminated information related to the Sea Change project to a wide network of summer schools in Bulgaria. More than 5,000 children participated in activities related to the oceans.*

### ***Collaboration and sharing of results with Science Museums and Aquariums under the Sea Change project in Porto 2017***

*Muzeiko contributed to the 2017 Ecsite Preliminary Conference in Porto, Portugal, by talking about his activities related to the promotion of the Sea Change project and participated in the Fish in a Tank discussion.*

### ***Project Inventions Traveling Exhibition in Razgrad***

The Inventions Traveling Exhibition (Discover America), which aims to promote and support STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Maths) education at schools, had been hosted in Razgrad since April 4, 2017. Initial funding provided free access to the exhibition for visitors - individual and school groups until the end of September 2017. The exhibition was arranged in the Art Gallery in Razgrad and enjoyed great interest among the local people. Due to its popularity, we managed to raise additional funding and the exhibition remained in Razgrad until the end of March 2018.

**Result:** The project was very successful and had a positive impact on the whole community in Razgrad. The exhibition provided access to educational information and inspiration for children, parents and teachers from Razgrad and the region. The number of visitors exceeded 6,000. The project was officially closed in March 2018.

### **The GARDENStoGROW project**

In September 2017 the Foundation started the implementation of its first project funded by the by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union, headed GARDENStoGROW- Urban Horticulture for Innovative and Inclusive Early Childhood Education ([www.gardenstogrow.eu/en/](http://www.gardenstogrow.eu/en/)). It is a 30-month initiative aiming to create inclusive educational gardens and training courses for early childhood teachers and school managers to develop basic, civic and transversal skills for the 3-6 age group.

The project brought together 11 educational organisations across Europe (Bulgaria, Italy, Spain, UK): 2 children's museums, 1 environmental foundation, 4 universities and research centres and 4 schools. The leading organisation is Explora – the children's museum of Rome.

The GARDENStoGROW project has been created because the improvement of education in the earliest stages of development can reduce disparities and inequalities at their roots, with a considerable socio-economic return in later years.

The project encourages the adoption of innovative and inclusive pedagogical practices at pre-school level, based on urban and social horticulture.

Among the main aims of the project are creating hands-on educational gardens as well as developing practical courses that include methodological instructions for teachers and educators from kindergartens and primary schools that have to do with the setting up and maintenance of hands-on educational gardens on site.

Applying the activities for the project should help children aged between 0 and 6 years acquire basic, civic, and multidisciplinary skills. It is expected that the educational gardens established within the auspices of the partner structures pertaining to the GARDENStoGROW project will become centers where gardening and the knowledge about it constitute a primary topic for meetings, sharing of experiences, and inspiration for children, teachers, and families.

The idea is to create and appropiate the educational use of a vegetable garden in each of the practice partner organizations to serve as a starting point and motivate the proliferation of the model in various kindergartens across the country. To this end, thematic practical materials would be developed to serve kindergarten teachers to put into practice sustainable early childhood education solutions for educating children in the love of nature and to provide them with knowledge about the origins of food. The knowledge and experience of the experimental edible kindergarten can be transferred to existing kindergartens, and the Muzeiko Foundation will also provide training opportunities for teachers and educators in Bulgaria's kindergartens.

The project is based on four intellectual outputs (IO 1-4):

IO1 GARDENStoGROW Inventory: Inventory of the educational vegetable gardens established in schools and other organizations, including details regarding the requirements and needs for trainings and skill development for teachers and school managers who would be interested in setting up vegetable gardens in their schools;

IO2 GARDENStoGROW Methodology: General methodological guidelines for developing gardening materials for training and gardening courses for teachers who work with children in preschool;

IO3 GARDENStoGROW Educational materials and training course: Gardening materials for training and gardening courses for teachers who work with preschoolers;

IO4 Innovative practices that aid the learning process, at accessible prices, inclusive and open to all educational vegetable gardens for the youngest children (Early Childhood Education and Care ECEC): online catalogue containing recommendations and best practices for the development of educational gardens, which fit into the paradigm for creating friendly and accessible learning spaces.

GARDENStoGROW will also offer two capacity-building activities: one taking place in Italy–Explora and the other in the United Kingdom– South West College; 4 repeatable events for dissemination and popularization of the research outputs, 4 international meetings pertaining to the project, and 5 activities covering the managing and the execution of the project plan.

### **PLOVDIV 2019 – EUROPEAN CAPITAL OF CULTURE**

Muzeiko Foundation applied for and received approval for the financing of a project from the budget of Plovdiv 2019 Foundation, which will be implemented in the city of Plovdiv in 2019, as part of the European Capital of Culture’s program. Muzeiko is set to begin project preparation activities in the second half of 2018.

The project aims to introduce a new cultural product for children and young people in Plovdiv and the region, as well as for visitors to the city in 2019.

Specific objectives of the project are the placement of the traveling exhibition Eureka! in Plovdiv for the period January - December 2019; developing and delivering supplementary programs for the various exhibits of Eureka! and training local museum workers to engage volunteers in the museum.

The exhibition itself consists of interactive modules that recreate the process of making a scientific discovery. The main purpose of the exhibition is to inspire children to discover and to give them the courage and confidence to develop their ideas.

Workshops for school groups and family audiences will be developed within the project, which will also be adapted for foreign language audiences.

The activities carried out by the Muzeiko Foundation project in 2017 include only preliminary meetings with project partners and discussion of its timetables and budget.

**Result for 2017:** Two partnership agreements were signed with the National Alliance for Volunteer Work and the Regional History Museum in Plovdiv.

## **2. PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER NGOs AND BUSINESS ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE IN NON-FORMAL EDUCATION**

In 2017, the Muzeiko Foundation actively partnered with the Parents Association as part of the Being a Father Campaign and the Familatlon, the Parents Academy as part of the annual Parents

Event, Circle With Children – an informal network of museums and organizations working with children.

***Result:** Through our partnerships with the Parents Association and the Parents Academy, we have disseminated information about the goals of the Muzeiko Foundation to parents in Sofia and the region, engaging children from 1 to 10 years of age in various educational activities which, through play, develop their concentration and learning skills, we supported the organizations we partnered with in disseminating their goals.*

*By participating in Circle With Children, the annual network meeting and individual partnership meetings, we supported the work of museums and organizations that have educational programs, provided methodological support, and exchanged materials and programs that could be used in working with children*

### **ACTIVE SEARCH FOR FINANCING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FULFILMENT OF THE FOUNDATION'S GOALS AND MISSION**

In 2017, the active exploration of the opportunities for applying for various programs that could support the work of the Muzeiko Foundation continued. There have been numerous meetings with representatives of business companies interested in supporting the fundraising for Foundation's work strategically. Project applications were prepared and submitted as a leading or partner organisation with the Plovdiv 2019 Foundation, European Funds and other donors.

*Result: 6 project proposals have been submitted, one funding contract has been concluded with the Plovdiv 2019 Foundation, we expect finalization of the negotiations on 2 submitted proposals and for 3 submitted proposals we have no response from the relevant programs at the time of compiling this document.*

The Muzeiko Foundation has rented premises from the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (UCTM), located in Sofia, Studentski Grad District, 8 St. Kliment Ohridski Str., which after carrying out the necessary repairs is used to organize events related to capacity building of teachers, children and others (courses, trainings and other similar classes). The lease was signed on February 12, 2015. Construction and assembly activities in connection with the reconstruction of the leased building started in 2016 and were completed in January 2017.

### **III. MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE**

According to the Articles of Association, the governing bodies of the Muzeiko Foundation are the Founder, the Board of Directors and the Executive Director. Only a legally capable individual may be elected a member of the Management Board. The members of the Board of Directors are elected and dismissed by the Founder.

As of December 31, 2017, the Foundation's Management Board consists of four members.

The founding act was adopted on 18.02.2014 and was amended by decisions of the Founder dated from 17 October 2014 and 17 June 2015.

### **IV. FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The Foundation financed its activities in 2017 with donations and income from additional business activities, which were related to its main goals.

The Foundation was a beneficiary of a grant agreement provided by the America for Bulgaria Foundation - a donation to fund a \$ 500,000 project for the repair, furnishing and rental of a

UCTM building for educational programs (by decision dated February 24 2015), which was disbursed in instalments over a 12-month period. The amount of the donation received in 2015 was \$ 300 thousand (BGN 555 thousand). In 2016, an annex to the contract was signed, under which the funding period was extended by twelve months. The second tranche of it in the amount of \$ 200 thousand (BGN 353 thousand) was disbursed in July 2016. Building and erection works on the reconstruction of the building, hired by UCTM started in early 2016. The reconstruction of the building was completed in January 2017

In 2017, to support and achieve its goals and activities, the Foundation received funding through other donation contracts and by individual donors for a total of BGN 32 433, as well as in-kind funds in the amount of BGN 6 422, part of which devoted to the development of educational programs for children.

In December 2017, the Foundation concluded a Financing Contract under the Erasmus + program of the EU for the development of a methodology and construction of experimental edible gardens amounting to EUR 32 415.

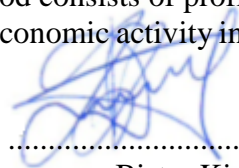
In 2017, the Muzeiko Foundation provided a donation of BGN 100 to the Fundraiser's Club of the Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law (registered under N 20010821004 with the Ministry of Justice), as well as a donation of EUR 106.23 to Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation (registered under N 20011116003 with the Ministry of Justice) by donation contract dated 09/11/2017.

The proceeds from the Foundation's services are generated by advertising and providing premises and equipment for use within various events.

The financial result for the period includes the results of the Foundation's business and non-profit activities. As of December 31, 2017 the result for the period consists of profit from non-profit activity in the amount of BGN 51 thousand and loss from economic activity in the amount of BGN 67 thousand.

**Date: 20.06.2018**

Executive Director: .....



Bistra Kirova-Koleva