

Bulgaria

The Republic of Bulgaria is located in [Southeastern Europe](#) and is its [14th-largest country](#).

Over the years its location has made it a historical crossroad for various civilisations and it's the home of some of the earliest religious and cultural artifacts in the world.

Its ancient history saw the presence of the [Thracians](#), and later by the [Greeks](#) and [Romans](#).

The unified Bulgarian state dates back to the establishment of the [First Bulgarian Empire](#) in 681.

With the downfall of the [Second Bulgarian Empire](#) in 1396, its territories came under [Ottoman](#) rule for nearly five centuries.

The [Russo-Turkish War](#) (1877–1878) created the Third Bulgarian State.

It is a member of the [European Union](#), [NATO](#) and the [Council of Europe](#).

**FOREIGN LANGUAGE HIGH SCHOOL
'NIKOLA YONKOV VAPTSAROV'
SHUMEN, BULGARIA**





Shumen

Shumen is the 10th largest city in Bulgaria and capital of Shumen Province. As of February 2011, the town has a population of 80,885 people. The city is about 80km away from the Black Sea.

During the golden age of Bulgarian culture under Simeon the Great (866-927), Shumen was an important centre of culture and religion. In 1444, the city was destroyed by the Ottomans and moved to its present location.

During the 19th century Shumen was an important centre of the [Bulgarian National Revival](#), with the first celebration of [Cyril and Methodius](#) in the Bulgaria taking place in 1813.



The first [theatre performance](#) in Bulgaria was here in August 1856.

The first Bulgarian [symphony orchestra](#) was founded in the city in 1850.





Shumen has 11 elementary and 5 common schools, as well as 2 high schools.

The [University of Shumen](#) and the [Faculty](#) to the [National Military University](#) are the two higher education establishments.



In 1882 the [Shumen Brewery](#)- 'Shumensko Pivo', one of the first beer factories in Bulgaria, was founded.



The Monument to 1300 Years of Bulgaria is built on a plateau above the city in 1981 to memorise the 1300th anniversary of the First Bulgarian Empire.



A small astronomical observatory operates in the city.



The Monument 1300 Years of Bulgaria



Some
historical
sites near
Shumen





About 15km away
from Shumen is
the Madara
Horseman



which is a
UNESCO World
Heritage Site.





OUR PARTNERS

Riga

Riga is the capital and largest city of Latvia with 699,203 inhabitants (2012) and one of the largest cities in Northern Europe.

Riga was founded in 1201 and is a former Hanseatic League member. Riga's historical centre is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, noted for its Art Nouveau/Jugendstil architecture and 19th century wooden architecture. The city will be the European Capital of Culture in 2014, along with Umea in Sweden.

The city lies on the Gulf of Riga, at the mouth of the river Daugava and is an important seaport and a major industrial, commercial, cultural and financial centre of the Baltic Sea region.



Riga Classical Gymnasium

Currently, **Riga Classical Gymnasium** has about 1,300 students, aged 7 to 19, concentrating on the study of languages and mathematics.

Riga Classical Gymnasium offers a trilingual education in the Latvian, Russian and English languages. In general, English as a foreign language is offered to students starting from grade 1, the second foreign language (optional German or French) is offered starting from grade 4 and Latin is among compulsory subjects, starting from grade 10.

Various lessons are often organised using IT technologies in specially equipped computer rooms which will be the main part of our partnership. There are three well-equipped computer rooms with Internet access available for our students. In addition, there is a multimedia room with an interactive board, and a large library, equipped with PCs that have Internet connections. Wireless Internet (WiFi) access connections, available in more than 70% of all rooms in our gymnasium, allow our teachers and students to be online almost in any room.

Together with our partners we plan to conduct lessons in English language, IT technology in English, and Cultural Studies in Russian. It would be beneficial for us if in future we could find more partners to work on Geography and Philosophy in English, etc.

Our students plan to work on some training courses in English and Russian for their Latvian partner classmates where we will be their Eco-guides through some essential Environmental problems and solutions. There are many different pieces of work and presentations that very soon are supposed to build up a virtual school museum available for anyone online. Weekly there are many new school campaigns concerning a wide range of topics which in future could be immediately put into practice for this project's goals.

The foundations of our school were laid down in the distant 1848 by Sava Dobroplodny, an eminent reformer of the Bulgarian educational system.

Shumen Foreign Language High School 'Nicola Jonkov Vaptsarov' is one of the first schools in Bulgaria associated with UNESCO.



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

It serves the educational needs of 730 students and 60 highly qualified teachers give intensive training in English, German, French and Russian languages as first and second foreign languages to students of grade 8 to 12.

The school has established a partnership with the **German Schulen: 'Partner der Zukunft'**, which is a global network of some 1500 schools worldwide.



Our students have become prize-winners in many **Olympiads** other different national **competitions**. Many of them are awarded **scholarships** from different foundations and universities every year.



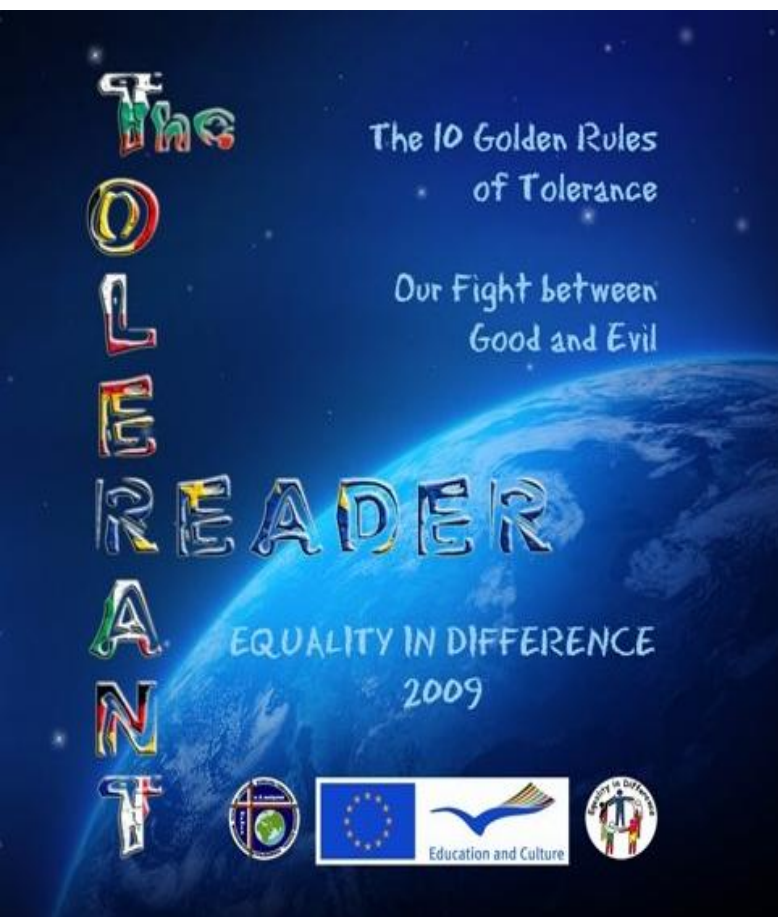
In 2009 the project **'Equality in Difference'** carried out under the guidance of the **vice-principal** of the school **Mrs. Paulina Deseva** was nominated for the highest **award**.

**ЕВРОПЕЙСКИ
ЕЗИКОВ ЗНАК**

за иновативни практики
в чуждоезиковото обучение



Due to that our school has also been awarded **The European Language Label** at the Evaluation Conference organized by Center of Human Resources held in December **2009**.



In 2011 we won a project of the [America for Bulgaria Foundation](#) for modernizing Bilingual Education at the school where 70% of the project's total (BGN 110 000) was funded by the Foundation, the school contributed another BGN 49,000 and another BGN 1000 was raised by the students themselves during some charity concerts.



AMERICA FOR BULGARIA
FOUNDATION



The primary goal of the project is to establish contemporary **highly technological** environment that **increases** students' **motivation**, offers opportunities for the development of key abilities and **skills** of the youngsters and integrates **language** and subject **education**.

In essence, four contemporary **laboratories** in **Chemistry**, **Biology**, **Physics** and **Social Sciences** were created.



AUF
WIEDERSEHEN

ARDIEVAS

ДО СВИДАНИЯ

GOODBYE

ДОВИЖДАНЕ

