

E-NEWSLETTER ISSUE 2 • DEC. 2023

BLACK BELTS, BOLLYWOOD AND BANITSA: A FULBRIGHTER IN SAMOKOV

Official Newsletter of the Bulgarian Fulbright Commission

Who knew that Bollywood film music goes just as well with banitsa as does boza? Learn this and more in an interview with Veda Balaji, our first Fulbright | ABF ETA in Samokov, who works with Roma high school students. In addition to culinary advice, Veda offers insights into what true cultural exchange is about: building friendships and community.

This issue of our e-newsletter also features Bulgarian Scholar Radostina Angelova, who discovered “Where Good Business Begins” on her visit to Bentley University. We also share insights into “Engaging and Empowering Gen Z” gleaned from the Fulbright Media Literacy Seminar, which brought nearly 70 ETAs from around Europe to Sofia. We were also thrilled to relaunch our Open Lecture series for the first time post-pandemic, where ten alumni explored topics ranging from “The Shape of Sound to the Power of Sign Language” – check out the highlights below!

Thank you for subscribing to Fulbright Bulgaria’s quarterly newsletter! We wish all of our alumni, partners and friends a healthy and joyous holiday season and look forward to working together on building intercultural bridges and strengthening mutual understanding in 2024.



This issue:

Engaging and Empowering
Gen Z through Media
Literacy
[PAGE 02](#)

From the Shape of Sound
to the Power of Sign
Language: Fulbright Open
Lectures 2023
[PAGE 02](#)

Black Belts, Bollywood and
Banitsa: An Indian-
American ETA in Samokov
[PAGE 03](#)

Where Good Business
Begins
[PAGE 03](#)



U.S. GRANTEES

Engaging and Empowering Gen Z through Media Literacy

From November 16–19, Sofia, the vibrant capital of Bulgaria, hosted a seminar on media literacy for Fulbright English Teaching Assistants working in high schools across Europe. The seminar, sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs at the US Department of State, aimed to equip participants with crucial skills to navigate the complex landscape of modern media and to bring these skills to their classrooms.

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BULGARIAN GRANTEES

From the Shape of Sound to the Power of Sign Language: Fulbright Open Lectures 2023

On Thanksgiving Day, November 23, 2023, the Bulgarian–American Fulbright Commission gave thanks for its fantastic community of Bulgarian alumni by renewing the annual Open Lectures, which highlight the achievements of Bulgarian Fulbright grantees.

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"I had terrific learning opportunities through all these new contacts and vast experience."

HRISTINA KATSIPIDOU
CIVIL SOCIETY RESEARCHER
AY 2022–23





Black Belts, Bollywood and Banitsa: An Indian-American ETA in Samokov

Veda Balaji, a 22-year-old graduate of Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia, holds a bachelor's degree in neuroscience and a minor in history. She is the first Fulbright|America for Bulgaria Foundation English Teaching Assistant at the Vocational School of Tourism in Samokov.

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Where Good Business Begins

Radostina Angelova is CEO of Global Metrics company and holds a PhD in Economics from Sofia University. A sociologist, Dr. Angelova is currently doing research in econometrics as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at Bentley University. She shares her impressions of her Fulbright experience.

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