

Case 4: The Social Teahouse



Who?

Maya Doneva – cofounder and mentor;
Stoyana Stoeva – cofounder and mentor

What?

The Social Teahouse is a social entrepreneurial idea from Varna, **Bulgaria**. It is a social enterprise, an **alternative** space where you can take part in various events and experience different tastes. It is space for meetings & tea. The Social Teahouse is also a place, where young people, raised in **orphanages** can learn, work and develop. Winners of the Change Competition (Change Foundation and Reach for Change Bulgaria). Announced **Leaders of Change** 2014/2015. **Winners** of best NGO Business Plan Competition 2017 of Bulgarian Center for Non-governmental Law.

In the UN Headquarters in New York the Social Teahouse has had its special spotlight during the **event** “Young Social Entrepreneurs for Sustainable Development”.

Why?

The Teahouse creates a space where young people, raised in orphanages can start their professional path and receive the **mentorship** and support, which they need to overcome the lack of good **education**, social skills and **trust towards society**. The Social teahouse team has developed a **3-year** mentorship program to **support** the young people.

Where?

The team has **convinced** the **Municipality** of Varna to **provide premises** in the heart of the city so they can open in a beautiful 112-year old building in the center of Varna – the 2017 European Youth Capital.

How?

Basically, the idea is a 3-stage **development process**:

The first stage is the mentoring program, where young people from orphanages get **knowledge** on their **rights and responsibilities** as **citizens** acquire social and **communicative skills** and develop their emotional intelligence.

The Teahouse Training Center is involved in the second stage to **equip** young people with **vocational skills** in the services filed.

The last stage is providing young people their first employment so that they can work and **improve** their **quality of life**.

Conclusion

“I came to the Teahouse because it gives me a lot of opportunities for development, meeting many and new people, and I also work with a great team. For the last six months since I joined the Social Teahouse, I learned how to manage my money and time. I became a leader in Duke of Edinburg’s Award and also I am part of it.” *Dimitar Petkov, 18 yrs old, contracted in the Social Teahouse since July 2016.*

“I joined the mentorship program because I didn’t have the knowledge about the things that happen outside the shelter living. Now, step by step I learn constantly new things about life. For the last six months since I joined the mentorship program, many things have changed. But maybe most important to me is that I learned how to speak to people I don’t know” *Cyril Vassilev, 18 yrs old, trainee in the mentorship program since July 2016.*

Web links:

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/social-teahouse/>

<http://thesocialteahouse.bg/>;

<https://www.facebook.com/SocialTeaHouse>

Videos:

<https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/social-teahouse/> (EN- example of promotion and fund-raising)