



Christine Büring ++ Chair Rotary Friendship Exchange ++ D 1950 ++ buering@altenburg-tourismus.de

RFE – Distrikt-Reise nach Bulgarien vom 17.04.-24.04.2023

- Stationen:** Sofia, Rosental Kazanlak, Schwarzmeerküste Burgas, Weltkulturerbe Plowdiv und kleine Orte am Weg in den Bergen
- Abenteuer:** Wir erleben Bulgarien im Frühling und reisen einmal quer durch das Land. In kleine und große Städte, in die Berge und ans Meer. Wir sind zu Gast bei rotarischen Freunden und haben einmalige Einblicke in das Bulgarien von heute.
- Ziel:** Austausch mit einem Land, das EU-Mitglied ist. Eine Wiege Europas an der Verbindungslinie zwischen Ost und West, Orient und Okzident. Ebenso wie Rumänien – das wir im kommenden rotarischen Jahr besuchen wollen, ein wunderschönes, gastfreundliches Land mit vielen Problemen und noch viel mehr Chancen.
- Team:** Maximal 10 Personen. Gerne Paare oder Menschen, die sich ein Zimmer bei ihren Hosts teilen können. Ebenso viele Bulgaren kommen zum Gegenbesuch zu unserer Distriktkonferenz in Lohr-Markheidenfeld vom 16.06.- 25.06.2023.
- Bedingungen:** wie bei allen Distrikt-RFE-Reisen siehe Anmeldebogen. In Kürze: Aufnahme eines Paares des Gegenbesuchs, Mitorganisation des Aufenthalts der Gruppe im eigenen Club (sehr ähnlich im Konzept wie GSE-Teams, natürlich touristische Ziele, gerne aber auch mit Besuch von Firmen und Infrastrukturen, die Rotarier leiten).
- Kosten:** sind im Detail leider noch nicht bekannt. Sicher aber Flug und persönliche Spesen, z.B. anfallende Kosten z.B. für eigenes Essen und/oder Übernahme Kosten oder Eigenleistungen für Programm im Club je nach Organisation.
- Sprache:** Viele Bulgaren bei Rotary sprechen Englisch oder Deutsch, natürlich auch viele Russisch. Deutsche Rotarier sind sehr willkommen. Rrotarische Freundschaft verbindet.
- Anmeldung:** Bis zum 03.März 2023 über Mail: buering@altenburg-tourismus.de,
- Fragen:** Tel.: 0151.11320082

Application

RFE Trip to Bulgaria D 2482 April 17th-24th 2023

Name_____

First Name_____

Rotary Club of_____

Contact Mail_____

Contact Cell _____

Date of Birth_____Profession_____

I am Rotarian since_____I have been President_____ else_____

I come alone_____with my partner_____with_____

Name and first name of partner_____

I speak English_____I speak Russian_____

I am interested in_____

Important

I am aware that – as a member of the District team – I will actively participate in the preparation and organization of this trip and that my Rotary club will be called to organize part of the program including the home stay of the visiting team.

All expenses of this trip as well as possible expenses for the visiting team will be payed by myself or my Rotary Club.

I also agree also to report on this trip in my home Rotary Club as well as in other Clubs or in District events, on social media according to my abilities and means.

Signature

Rotary Club/Date

A short portrait of Rotary's history in Bulgaria –

we will participating in the Celebration Event for 90 years of Rotary in Bulgaria

In Bulgaria there are 86 Rotary clubs with over 2332 Rotarians in almost all major cities. Since the beginning of the restoration of the Rotary movement so far Bulgarian Rotarians have helped our community programs and activities with more than half a million dollars.

Attempts to create a Rotary Club in Sofia began in 1921, and the earliest document preserved in Bulgaria, which refers to the goals and objectives of Rotary is a letter from Bulgarian Subo Nikolov, member of RC Massachusetts since 1926. After several unsuccessful attempts, in 1932 he finds the “Appropriate person in the right place” – this is was the prominent Sofia lawyer, publicist and politician, Dr. NP Nikolaev. His contribution is undisputed, along with several initiator – Dr. Nedkov, Petko Boyadzhiev, eng. Kadiiski journalist Veliko Hristov thanks to whose tireless careful and exact activity a group of 16 enthusiasts was convened on April 22 1933 to sign a protocol for the establishment of the first Rotary club in Bulgaria. The first meetings are in the “Union Club”, and then – in the hotel “Bulgaria”. In May 1933, he received a telegram from the European Commissioner of Rotary International, Dr. Potar in which Sofia Rotarians are informed that on 25 the same month the club was unanimously adopted as a member of RI under №3596. In June it was decided to issue a monthly newsletter of the club as of September 1, and edited by the inspired journalist Boleslav Tahauer the first issue was released .

On 4 November 1933 the club was officially awarded the diploma for its charter.

The club maintains close links to clubs from neighboring countries – Belgrade, Ljubljana, Zagreb, Thessaloniki, Athens. In just three years, numerous mutual visits were conducted, thanks to which the Rotarians contribute to overcoming the isolation of Bulgaria after the wars. The peak of the cooperation was the signing in Zagreb in 1937 of the agreement establishing a Bulgarian-Yugoslav Rotary Committee. In less than five years four RI president visited Bulgaria. One of them – Maurice Dupree, was awarded personally by King Boris III with a senior medal in recognition for the integration of Bulgaria to the world and its economic and cultural development.

Immediately after the establishment starts and the increasing number of members. In 1936 RC Sofia is a respected organization, including in its ranks the Sofia intellectuals, entrepreneurs, financiers, scientists. Public interest in the work of Rotarians is unusually large.

Sofia club began a work on the creation of clubs in other cities of the country – the first is in Varna, in 1935 followed by Ruse, Burgas, Pleven, Gorna Oryahovitsa, Veliko Tarnovo, Plovdiv. In 1940, the country has 210 Rotarians, 77 of which in Sofia. Obviously the clubs were very active and the success of the Rotary movement in Bulgaria was remarkable because on 20 Feb. 1939 Secretary of RI Chesley Perry informed President of RC Sofia that from 1 July the same year, a Rotary district ‘Bulgaria’ (with № 86) is established.

The first elected governor of the district was Eng. Lyuben Bozhkov (Rotary conference in March 1940). In the beginning of 1940 began the issuing of the magazine "Rotary in Bulgaria" in Bulgarian language.

Through its members Sofia RC contributes to the creation of the small Bulgarian "economic miracle" in the second half of the 30s of XX century. Prof. D. Atanasov is the author of the first in Bulgaria Law for the Conservation of Nature and the ordinance declaring Vitosha for National Park. The first collective agreement was written by the Rotarian R. Oshanov. Mac Gregor and Stoyan Bochev create the first in Bulgaria camps for children and students ("Chaika" and "Bor"). One of the pioneers of modernization of Bulgarian agriculture is the mechanized Rotarian – Eng. Ts. Kadiiski who builds Bulgaria's first sprinkler irrigation system. In 1938 P. Boyadzhiev begins an installation of computing machines (with finished parts from "Remington"). It is an extraordinary contribution of Tevekeliev for Bulgaria to become a world leader in the export of table grapes. The Rotarian B. Nenov designs and builds the country's first air conditioning. Director of BNB Dobri Bozhilov called "the sorcerer of clearing" managed in the condition of financial insulation and economic crisis to make a breakthrough in the trade with the European countries. The previous is not just listing of the professional activities of prominent entrepreneurs and financiers. The club bulletin shows that at the meetings of Rotarians during the discussions appear interdisciplinary proposals (as we call them today), and generated ideas through the activities of interested Rotarians become reality. Thus this the members succeed in the best fundamental requirement of Rotary – to serve the public, creating a modern and efficient industry, agriculture and infrastructure corresponding to the needs and possibilities of the country. Some of the discussions at the club are strikingly up to date with the current problems. Examined topics were, for example. "The future of TV," "Bridge on the Danube", "Corruption among civil servants", "Rights of Minorities", "Causes of demographic collapse" ...

In 1936 and 1937 RC Sofia organized a discussion on urban development and urban problems of Sofia, as a result of a strange coincidence – the first reporting of the final plan of prof. A. Musman in 1938 happened in the club exactly where he was invited by the Mayor Eng. Iv. Ivanov, also a Rotarian.

Unfortunately, under the pressure of Nazi Germany in December 1940 was adopted the Law on Protection of the Nation, in which section I of the list of prohibited organizations is included the Rotary Club. During the adoption of the Law, the second section of which contains a number of restrictive and discriminatory measures against Jewish compatriots Rotarians – Members of Parliament (Dr. Nikolaev, Dr. Nikolay Vasilev and F. Mahmudova) seek to mitigate most solid anti-Semitic regulations. Dr. Nikolaev called the ban on the international organizations "stupid, unnecessary and mischievous" and resigned in protest as a chairman of the Committee on Home Affairs. Later, all three signed the famous Declaration of Dimitar Peshev, that launched the rescue of Bulgarian Jews, resisting the pressure they didn't withdraw their signatures (for his active contribution to the rescue of Bulgarian Jews, Dr. Nikolayev in 2001 was named honorary citizen of the town of Shumen, where he was born).

After the coup of September 9, 1944 the majority of the members were killed, condemned displaced. A Lot of them take the hard road of emigration.

On 19 May 1951 the Sofia Court receives a prosecutor's proposal for the closure of Sofia Rotary Club because "it does not exist but also the goals and objectives of this organization are the goals and objectives of a fascist organization and contrary to the existing social and political life ". Unique is the matching of this quote with the provisions of the People's arbitrator of the National Socialist Party Reichsleiter B. Buch in 1937, which prohibits the activities of Rotary in Germany. The Court accepts the argument of prosecutor Angelov and on 29 June 1951 Judge Ochkov signed a decision to terminate the activities of the club. This is the end of the first part of the history of Rotary Club Sofia – actively worked for the benefit of Bulgaria and twice prohibited.

Restoration

After the collapse of the communist dictatorship and the beginning of democratic processes in Bulgaria in several people almost simultaneously arose the idea of restoring Rotary in Bulgaria.

During his stay in Australia in 1988 Calcho Hinov was repeatedly a guest of RC Pennant Hill and Bruce Ross PDG. After his return to Bulgaria, he began to discuss the idea of restoring the club in Sofia with a small group of friends.

Meanwhile Racho Kosov – one of the founders of RC Varna in 1935 and member of RC Sofia since 1940, associated with the office of RI in Zurich where in March 1990 he got the information about the steps that should be taken for a recovery.

At the same time another group starts working headed by Simeon Kondov that carries the idea of Rotary from Caracas (Venezuela) in 1989.

Another group, descendants of Rotarians from the first club (prof. Hlebarov, Elena Atanasova, Assen Oshanov) associated with German Rotary Clubs (RC Bochum) in an attempt to restore Rotary contacts. In January 1990 Calcho Hinov, Simeon Kondov and Stefan Stoyanov established an Initiative Committee for the establishment of a RC Sofia and began correspondence with offices in Zurich. They were joined by Dimitar Stefanov, Stefan Dragostinov, Todor Kolev and as carriers of continuity with the first club – Racho Kosov and Tsvyatko Kadiiski (a son of one of the founders of RC Sofia 1933).

Same as with the creation of pre-war club, from the very beginning „right person at the right time ”is functioning. In this newly formed group of followers, Calcho Hinov was the engine of the initiative committee and became the first president-restorer.

In April 1990 he made the first contacts with Greek Rotarians from District 2470 (later 2480). Three past president of the district – Tsaluhidis, Vasilikiotis and Vargas repeatedly visited Bulgaria to organize preliminary Club.

The club is later joined by part of the group of descendants, led by prof. Hlebarov.

In May 1990 PDG Tuvia Lavi of Israel arrived in Bulgaria to inspect the situation in the country and met with the President, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. He received an official letter from the government, allowing the establishment of a RC.

On 29.12.1990, the Initiative Committee organized a concert in the hall №1 of the NPC for the recovery of Rotary in Bulgaria. The “Symphony of Peace” was performed, written by Stefan Dragostinov specifically for the 80th anniversary of the first Rotary club in the world in 1915 at the request of the Bulgarian Stefan Tsonev, Rotarian of Venezuela.

For the first time in half a century in Bulgaria spoke again about Rotary.

On October 10, 1991 Rotary Club Sofia was chartered by RI. Charter celebration was held on 30.11.1991, the Rotary in Bulgaria raised.