



Dear Reader,

We at the America for Bulgaria Foundation are helping create conditions for Bulgarians to build fulfilling livelihoods and for Bulgarian businesses to thrive. This month, we bring you a selection of stories from our community — stories about livelihoods lived and livelihoods aspired to; about daring and entrepreneurship; and about the organizations that ensure that the pursuit of economic opportunity and personal fulfillment is within reach of every Bulgarian.

## Beans, Crafts, and Entrepreneurship



Participants in ABF's Business Academy for Starting Entrepreneurs (BASE) don't wait around for things to happen: they carve their own personal and professional paths in life. Like Mariana Barakchieva (above), who gave up an engineering job in Switzerland for a life of pursuing mountain adventures and [building her own sustainable clothing business](#) in Bulgaria.



Radenko Velinov comes from Bulgaria's bean capital, Smilyan. He learned woodworking from some of Scotland's great masters and brought back the lessons to his native land, hoping to [revive traditional occupations in Smilyan](#).



The featured martenitsas come courtesy of a special place—the [Nadezhda workshop and bookstore in Plovdiv](#). Meet the intrepid entrepreneurs from Nadezhda and find out how being in business has turned their lives around.

## Making Work Work for You



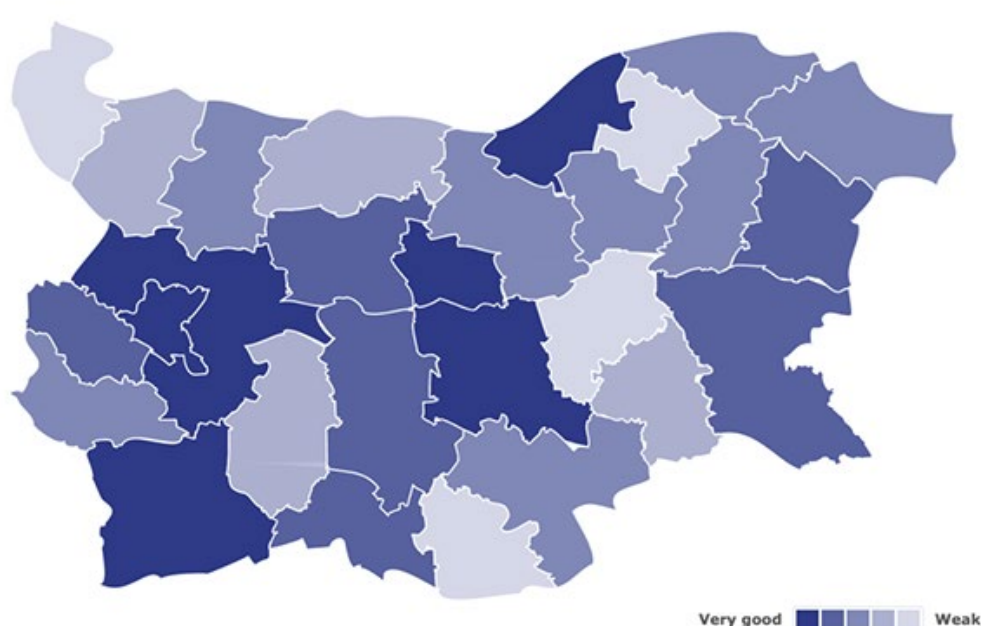
Work and life need not be in conflict, but a healthy balance is hard to achieve. Enter [MindFit, a new service helping companies retain their best employees](#) by providing access to affordable counseling.

## Investing in the Future



[Young Roma in Bulgaria go further in their schooling](#) and earn more than they did ten years ago. Learn what investments enabled those accomplishments and meet Emilian and Rujasina—two students we are really proud to know.

## Economic development



Bulgaria is weathering the pandemic-generated economic crisis relatively well. Find out why some local economies are pulling ahead and what the country's recovery prospects are from our interview with [Svetla Kostadinova and Petar Ganev from the Institute for Market Economics](#).

## Mark Your Calendars

Want to make a difference in the life of a young person or an entire community? Become a mentor or participant in [the largest one-one-one mentorship program in Bulgaria, ABLE Mentor](#). Apply by February 19.

The Bulgarian Center for Not-for-Profit Law's entrepreneurship program for nonprofits, [LET'S GO, is now accepting applications](#). Closes February 26.

Don't miss stories and announcements from the ABF community: [subscribe to this newsletter](#) and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

Stay safe,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation

**Spread the good**  
Please share our content with your friends if you like it. Thank you!

[f](#) Share [in](#) Share

