

Dear Readers,

Plastic bottle caps in Bulgaria have become a symbol of the socially and environmentally conscious. Recycling drives over the past few years have raised money for equipment for neonatal intensive care units and an ambulance. We chose them as a headline image not just because they represent a new, more engaged generation, but also because plastic bottle caps are valuable! This newsletter brings you the stories of people who look at things in an unconventional way and see value where others don't. Looking beyond the obvious allows them to come up with innovative solutions to longstanding problems.

See for yourselves.

## Stemming the Tide



Two out of five young medics leave the country as soon as they graduate. ABF teamed up with a Plovdiv foundation to help keep medical professionals in Bulgaria.



## Science with a Future



With Kelvin Health's screening tool for breast cancer, keeping yourself and your loved ones healthy would be as easy as taking a selfie. All you need to do *is* take selfies.





What's in a plate? Zero Wave's tableware is not only not destructive to the environment, but the material it is made of is cheap and bountiful: waste.









Martina Lazarova and Milko Penev are medical students working on a ground-breaking treatment for knee injury. Getting it right would be good news for orthopedic patients the world over.



## **Business of Tomorrow**



An electrical car–sharing service using repurposed old Trabants, biomass pellets made from spent coffee grounds and woodchips, and a natural pest repellent are some of the business ideas developed in Panda Labs Bulgaria.





Innovation Academy 2021 participants are problem solvers: they worked on projects to reduce waste and step up recycling, encourage blood donation, facilitate remote education and work, and upgrade the workplace.



## **Stay in Touch**

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Stay safe,

Your friends at the America for Bulgaria Foundation







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