Dear Friends,

Group-living animals make collective decisions about where the herd goes in two ways—by voting or by copying each other. Goats opt for the latter, according to a 2021 Royal Society Open Science paper featured in a New York Times piece. This strategy improves chances of survival.

Unlike goats, humans tend to do better when their decision-making is based on consensus, usually determined after a ballot. People in free, democratic societies not only are richer and live longer, but they also tend to be happier, according to the Fraser Institute.

But agreeing isn't enough for a successful democratic society. Democracy requires informed engagement. Our stories this month tell you why. They also show that being involved isn't as hard as you thought. Just think: it's way more than the alternative. Enjoy our selection of stories and discover new opportunities by subscribing to this newsletter.

Democracy done right

AUBG President Margee Ensign: Civic Engagement Is Democracy in Action

Feeding 300,000 refugees and snatching young women from the clutches of terrorists weren't part of Dr. Ensign's job description as university president.

FIND OUT MORE

You Have a Question for Government?

Stephan Helps You Get Answers

Governments prefer to keep certain information under wraps. It is Stephan Anguelov's job to ensure they are not successful and keep you in the know.

FIND OUT MORE

Those were the days!

Yesterday, All My Troubles Seemed Like They Were Here to Stay…

"It was so much better back then." The protagonists of Communism V2.0 repeat the phrase so many times they get their wish: the past returns. Funny, sad, and thought-provoking all at once, this comic book is a collaboration between the Sofia Platform Foundation and Maina Town Media.

FIND OUT MORE (in Bulgarian)

Just out

Anti-Corruption Fund Recognizes 2023's Top Journalistic Investigations

Red Line awardees investigated corruption in Bulgaria's burial services industry, worsening air pollution, and the plight of Bulgarians without identity documents.

WATCH VIDEO

Mirror, Mirror on the Wall, Who's the Most Transparent of Them All

On December 12, Transparency International Bulgaria released the 2023 edition of its Local Integrity Index, highlighting the work of local government.

FIND OUT MORE

Gift with a Cause

You could go for that branded phone and those fancy memoirs and not-necessarily-useful coffee table books and maybe even supportive social media. Or, you could give gifts at the bazaar. Your purchase will give gifts at the bazaar. The mission is: gift empowerment.

Shopping from DarPazar.bg supports the work of small NGOs helping people in need and guarantees a livelihood for vulnerable individuals.

Stay in Touch

Be the first to learn about ABF events and opportunities: subscribe to this newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn.

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Thank you!

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