#### It all started with BEST....



# Bulgarian English Speech and Debate Tournaments

Originally being the Bulgarian Forensics
League (BFL), the foundation was started by
six Fulbright English Teaching Assistants in the
winter of 2012. The idea was simple: give
Bulgarian high school students a platform for
intelligent debate and creative expression, in
English.





## Instilling Confidence

Through encouragement and pushing students to go beyond their comfort zones.

### Students can compete in...

**Duo Interpretation** 

**Original Oratory** 

Prose Interpretation

Poetry Interpretation

World Schools Debate



## Providing a Community

BEST provides a community for English language learners to come together in pursuit of personal growth through competition

#### 2016-2017

687 Student Participants

39 School Participants



6 Students Competing in the U.S. in June



#### BEST is made possible by:







STUDENTS, TEACHERS, SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIONS, JUDGE VOLUNTEERS, COACHES & THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BULGARIA



# **BEST**& FLS 'Ekzarh Yossif I' - Lovech





#### Some facts



**2014:** BFL has been introduced to FLS 'Ekzarh Yossif I' by Claire Sagstuen (a co-founder of BFL), and she coaches the first forensics school team;

- FLS hosts the BEST tournament in December;
- Niya Docheva is among the very first Bulgarian students (three altogether) who qualified, and were funded, to compete in the NSDA National Finals in Kansas.

**2015:** FLS wins both events at the U.S. Qualifying Tournament and sents three students to the United States

**2016-2017:** FLS takes 1st place at Fall Regional Tournament and 15 individual awards during the year.

#### Hosting the BEST tournament in December 2014



#### Kardzhali, 2014



# Kameliya Gazdova and Maya Todorova - 2nd place in Varsity Duo, 2014



# Nia Docheva represents FLS "Ekzarh Yossif I", and Bulgaria, at the 2014 NSDA National Finals in Kansas



# Kameliya Gazdova, Maya Todorova and Preslav Valchev – winners of the BEST USA-Qualifying Tournament, 2015



BEST 18<sup>th</sup>
tournament in Shumen, 2017

## HRISTINA TODOROVA AND KRISTINA VITANOVA

1<sup>st</sup> place with their duo

"GOOD MORNING GLORY"

RYAN N. RAY



# BEST & ERASMUS +

BEST has long term goals to bring participants outside of Bulgaria to tournaments in order to broaden their reach.



Through the FACT project activities, the Bulgarian pupils' BEST experience has been shared, and successfully adopted, by the partner schools in Italy, Turkey, Romania, Spain and Slovakia.

**BEST** makes pupils the BEST!

