Do you love dance?

Plovdiv is Bulgaria’s artistic heart so it’s no surprise that an international modern dance festival is taking place now in Bulgaria’s second city. Dance troupes from Spain, Korea, the Czech Republic, among other nations, are performing variations of an artistic form that strives to capture every aspect of the human condition including the trope involving bare-chested female-flinging apparently. The price to expose yourself to this expressive life form is 10 leva per performance or about 5 Euros. Couldn’t check your hat in New York for that pittance.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/171392/One+Dance+Week+Features+Shows+from+Europe%2C+Asia%2C+Americas

You’ve heard of Eurovision, yes?

A song contest that rocks European capitals and dorfs like no other collective mania this side of Jerry and the Pacemakers. The junior version has talented adolescents competing from across the continent with original songs written by those very juniors. This year’s
Bulgaria entry is twelve year old Gabriela Yordanova who along with Ivaylo Valchev composed the lyrics to “Cvetat na Nadejdata” (The Colour of Hope). All this takes place in Sofia beginning November 21st. The continent-wide mania in preparation for the actual event starts now.

http://www.novinite.com/articles/171375/Gabriela+Yordanova+Unveils+Bulgaria%27s+2015+Junior+Eurovision+Entry

**Taxing junk food**

Well, the Bulgarian government is being proactive, placing a 3% to 78% tax on food considered to be not part of a healthy diet. Foods high in salt, sugar, caffeine, and vegetable oil will come under close scrutiny with the worst offenders getting hammered. Europeans are generally healthier than Americans. They’re out and about much more than we are. They drink red wine full of antioxidants. They’ve got their own little plot of land somewhere, or an uncle does, or a brother, or a bosom buddy, where vegetables for home consumption are grown and everyone has a little arbor overhead from which to harvest some of those miracle muscadines that are transformed into elixirs that would do Bacchus proud. You’ve got to admire the government of Bulgaria for going where only Michael Blomberg had dare to trespass in the past; using market incentives to steer the Bulgarian people toward healthy foods and healthy living. Bravo!

http://www.novinite.com/articles/171425/%27Junk+Food%27+Tax+in+Bulgaria+Might+Range+from+3+to+78++Health+Min

**Please disregard the previous discussion**

It seems that now after further perusal that Bulgaria has the fifth highest rate of childhood obesity in the European Union. No wonder the government is concerned and is prepared to
tax away the existence of Ho-Hos and Ding-Dongs not to mention anything with a hint of cacao. Logically the rationale for all of this is easy to understand but at an emotional level the quality of life in the era of $10 Snickers bars seems destined to be diminished. Ultimately if you believe that the quality over quantity choice should probably be left to every individual, even the sticky-fingered food-centric louts among us, then the government of Bulgaria has probably over-reached. Let them eat cake! Chocolate if they so choose. Vanilla icing; what could be so bad?

http://www.novinite.com/articles/168370/Bulgaria+Has+ Fifth+Largest+Share+of+Obese+Children+in+Europe+%E2%80%93+WHO

A new road in southwest Bulgaria linking Dupnitsa and Blagoevgrad

Why is this of high note? Well, the American University in Bulgaria is situated in Blagoevgrad and the route from Sofia had been improved from two to four lanes up to Dupnitsa. And now we have a modern thoroughfare for the final fifty kilometers to Blagoevgrad. Of course, the road continues on through to the Greek border through the striking Kresna gorge where four lanes are probably not going to be possible. But for the moment we are satisfied, the people of southwest Bulgaria are pleased, and the drivers of Bulgaria now have a new fifty kilometers to commit vehicular mayhem. Hooray!

http://www.novinite.com/articles/171435/Lot+2+of+Bulgaria%27s+Struma+Motorway+to+be+Launched+on+Thursday

Bulgaria is great but don’t take our word for it

Russians like the place. They always have. It’s beautiful, peaceful, quiet, historic, and the Russian language is close to Bulgarian. Oh, and it’s cheap. Those dachas in Odessa are
much more expensive and much too close to a war zone to expect any semblance of tranquility. Bulgaria is the perfect place and the medieval town of Nessebar pictured above has it all including a United Nations World Heritage site citation. The Russians have it right. http://www.novinite.com/articles/169271/Bulgaria+%27Great+Country+for+Rest+and+Stay%27+-+Russian+Website

**Trivago really likes Veliko Tarnovo**

And so do we. Which is why we have visited this ancient capital of Bulgaria on each of our three previous program visits. And we stay in the old city which is beautifully depicted above. And we discover street festivals, and music, and shopska salada, and the great warmth and hospitality of the Bulgarian people. Come to Veliko Tarnovo with our study abroad program.

That’s it for this time. We hope you decide to do summer study abroad with us in Bulgaria in June 2016. Compare our **$2950** program fee with any other four week program to Europe and you’ll be astonished. How do we do it you wonder? Bulgaria hasn’t adopted the Euro as yet although it became a member of the European Union in 2007. And we have strong connections in Bulgaria. For more information and program application please go to the GSW homepage and then to Student Resources and then to Study abroad or contact me at: philip.szmedra@gsu.edu; 229-931-2122.

Until next time.
Dovizhdane,
Philip Szmedra