



ETNA
EXPLORING TECHNOLOGIES AND
NEW APPROACHES IN ART EDUCATION
FOR SENIOR ADULTS

Sofia Welcomes Friends



Education and Culture DG

Lifelong Learning Programme



Belgium

Germany

UK

Czech Republic

Bulgaria

19.02.2013

This was the day for arrival and accommodation. In the evening we had a discussion meeting with the group leaders, reporting past experiences and planning the meeting events.

20.02.2013

In the morning, we were ready for discoveries. So, here we are on our Walking tour around the city centre.

Just behind the hotel, the tiny church “St Nicolas” is hidden and could easily be missed. Entering, we followed steps downwards to the real underground church.

Here we learned that for 500 years Bulgaria has been under the rule of the Ottoman empire. In these times, the roofs of Christian churches were not allowed to be higher than a Turkish man on his horse. Later on we found several more of these tiny churches. Some of them we captured in our photos.





St. Nicolas church entrance.



And the little altar inside

A few steps aside we found another underground church St.Petka.



The entrance of St.Petka

And the lobby with burning candles.

The real church was down the steps on the left, under the icon.

Then we passed by the St. Nedelya cathedral (at the back) and followed our way to other sites.



Standing on St,Nedelya square, one can see the main temples of four religions: Orthodox and Catholic churches, the Mosque and the Sinagoue.

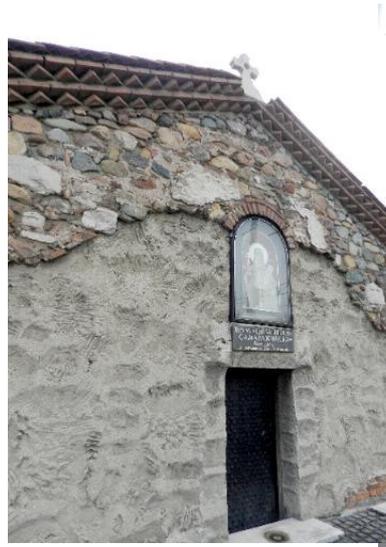
Scientists certify, that this is the only place known, where four religions have their places for worship within a space of less than 1 square kilometer.



The statue of Sofia and the Catholic church at the back.



The Mosque



Sofia is an ancient city, built among and over ruins from Roman times, so no wonder we can meet those everywhere.





Фотография: Владислав Господинов/Photography: Vladislav Gospodinov 2013

Sofia was one of the favorite SPA resorts for the Roman Emperors and nobility. The city was founded at this place because of the many mineral springs with hot water. There are seven springs running in present days, each one with different mineral ingredients helpful for different diseases.

This is the Central mineral bath.

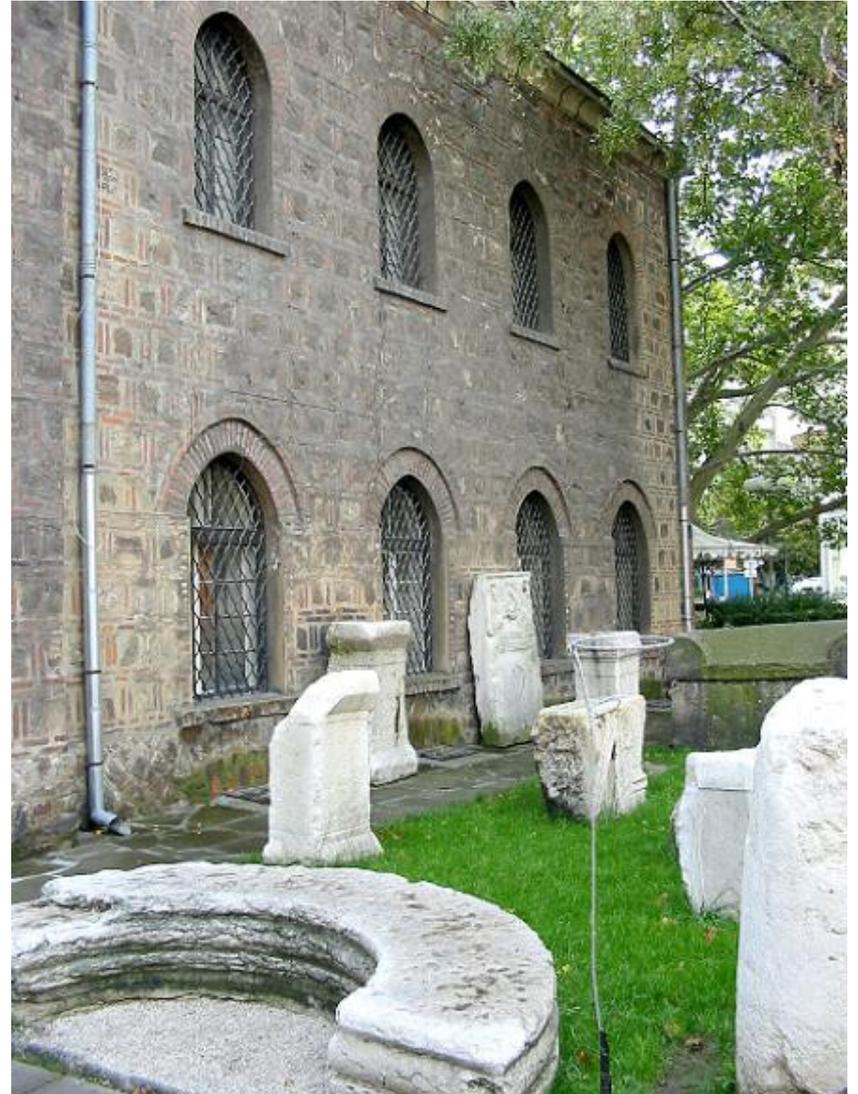
It is now under reconstruction to host the Museum of Sofia.



The archeological museum.



We didn't enter, but we had a nice coffee break and short rest in the café of the museum, which was also furnished with antiques.





Right in front of the Museum and the café, stands the Presidency building with colourful guards in front of it.

Their costumes are a replica of the ones used by the National liberation army in the late 19th c. (A modification of Garibaldi's soldier's clothes).





A view at “St. George’s ancient church through the glass windows of the Presidency.

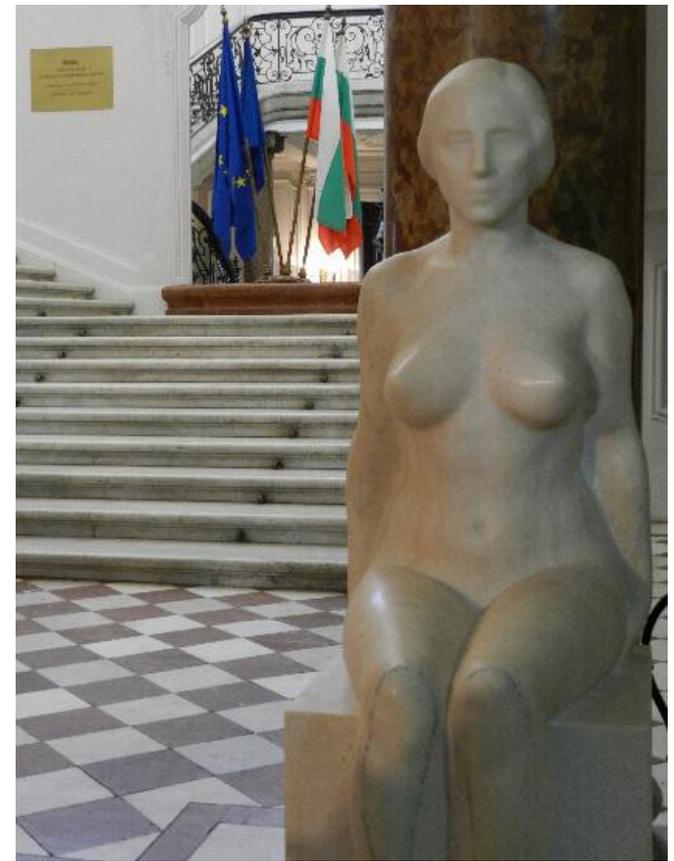


The council of Ministers



The parliamentarian office building

The National Gallery



The Bulgarian National Gallery is placed in the former King's palace. It hosts the best of Bulgarian classical and contemporary art masterpieces.

At the period of the visit the Museum was in preparation for moving into another building, so we could see a few of the masterpieces and an exhibition of contemporary art.

The National Gallery outside



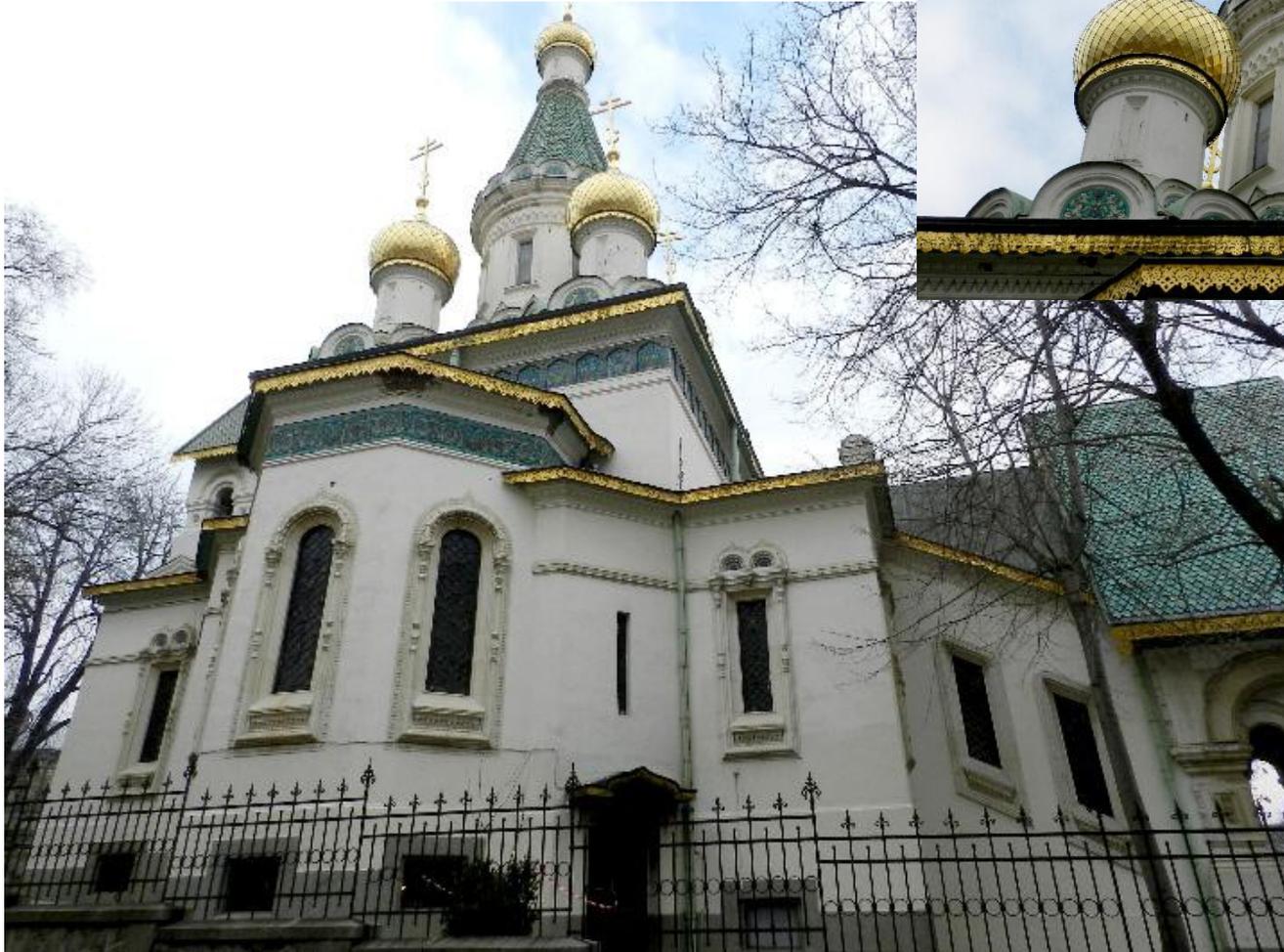
We visited the Ethnographical Museum, (placed in the same building) and learned a lot about Bulgarian History rituals and National clothing in past times.





The “St. Sofia Church” with the Eternal Fire and the Lion standing of guard in front of it.

We passed by the beautiful Russian Church, with a very peculiar fairytale architecture. (As many of the Sofia cultural monuments it was also in repair, so we couldn't enter inside).



Desire for repair and reconstruction could be traced everywhere in Sofia during the days of our visit. We witnessed a public turmoil on many of the streets and the fall of the government.

Unhappy farmers even brought their cattle (pigs and sheep) to Sofia, as support for their expression of feelings.





The Parliament and the people around it.



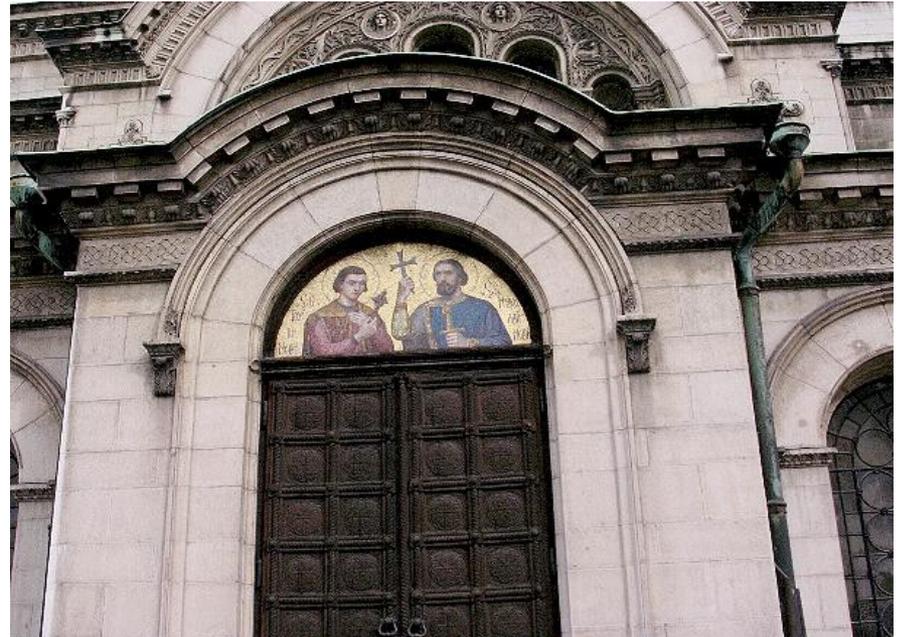
We passed by the Main Cathedral “St Alexander Nevski”.

(It was also closed for visitors, because there were ongoing preparations for the public inauguration of the new Bulgarian Patriarch).



The Cathedral “St. Al. Nevski.

For all friends, who wanted to, but couldn't enter the cathedral these days





Quick view, passing by the
National Library
and the



Gallery for International Art (also being repaired inside)



On our way to the Czech Club (where we had lunch, we passed by The Sofia University "St Kliment Ohridsky". It was built with the donations of brothers Georgievi, whose statues are on both sides of the main entrance



And right behind is the Czech Club





After the short lunch break we strolled the ordinary Sofia streets on our way back to the Hotel.



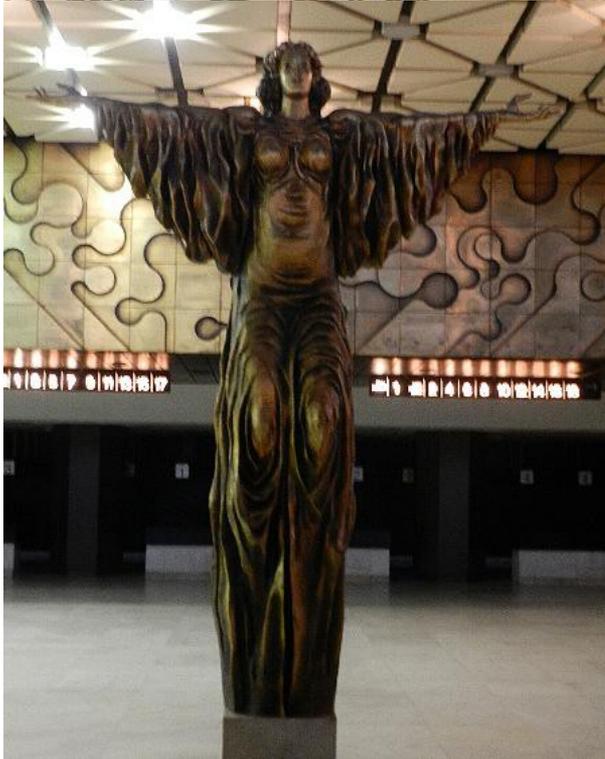


On the way we reached the National theatre and the lovely garden in front of it. The hotel is 150 meters from the site.





After a short rest in the hotel, the ones, who didn't feel too exhausted, took the Metro to the National Palace of Culture and then to the Museum "Earth and Man", and the exposition of crystals.



Statue of Bulgaria at the main entrance of the Palace of Culture.

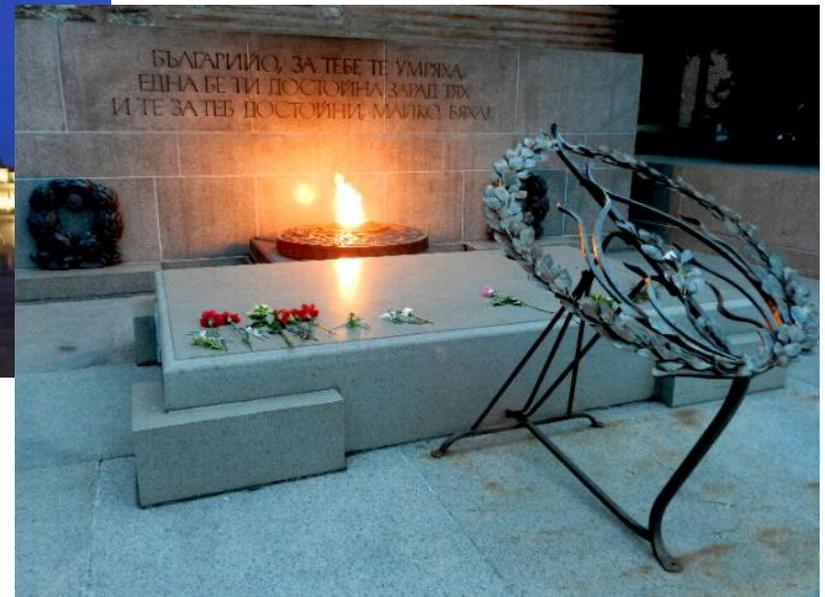
Sites from the evening walks of our German friends, always eager to re-discover.



“St. Alexander Nevski” Cathedral with the evening illuminations.



St. Nedelya Church



The Eternal Fire by night

This PPT presents sites visited and documented within one day only - the **20 October 2012**



We express our thanks to our German friends (Sophia) and our photographer, Ass. Professor Vladi Gospodinov.

Notice: We have inserted 4 older pictures from important sites, which we have visited during our walking tour, but have no quality recent photographs available.

All available info for the events on 21 October 2013 – is available in a separate PPT.