

Hello there!

My name is Svilena Dimova and I'm 22 years old Bulgarian student. Originally, I'm from Varna, the third biggest city in Bulgaria, located on the beautiful Black sea coast. (We, Bulgarians call it "the sea capital".) Now I live and study in our capital city Sofia where I'm currently in my 4th year as a landscape architecture student in the unique for our country University of Forestry. There, I'm taking the role of the Vice- president (since June 2023) of our Student club for environmental studies or "SKOPS" for short, which I'm proud to say is a part of the IFSA family. I was also chosen as the Bulgarian representative.

As our LC has just renewed its activity in March 2023, due to Covid-19 restrictions and other reasons, I'm happy to announce that we've developed quickly and have done so much work since then not only on local but also on international level. I have participated in SERM 2023 in Macedonia, which was my real introduction into the IFSA world and from which I have so many extremely funny and happy memories. There I have met so many incredible people with similar mindsets and some had quickly become my friends till this day. I'm also participating in SERM 2024 in Türkiye, which is just a day away. But most pride I take from helping with the organization of the Balkan meeting in 2023 which took place from 31st of October to 4th of November in Bulgaria. The whole process of organizing and proceeding further with the meeting has made me learn so much from first point of view and has enlarged so greatly my experience, that now I don't feel like I'm swimming in the deep anymore.

Some interesting examples from this year of our club's local activities are: 6 afforestations in different parts of Sofia and in nearby restorative forests; doing workshops at our university including students and professors from all 5 faculties, such as observation of birds and building bird houses, which we have put in our dendrarium. In collaboration with the Student Council, which I'm also a part of, we have done forestry games during the "Week of the forest", which is a long lasting tradition in our university and is celebrated every year on the first week of April.

I'm applying for the position of regional representative of Southern Europe for the term 2024 - 2025 with full understanding of the responsibilities which are included. As current Bulgarian representative and Vice- president of SKOPS I'm used to being the bridge between my fellow colleagues and the people on the upper positions of IFSA. But I feel that I could be of so much more help for so many others. So I decided I should take the next step and eventually apply for the RR position. As a regional representative I will continue the work of the people on this position before me and will try to even better it. I know my responsibilities will include conducting the monthly coffee hour, sharing various opportunities with the others and helping them in every way that I can so they could feel more included and interested in the IFSA family. I'd like to believe that as regional representative I could play a role in shortening the borders between different LCs and bringing them together as a whole.

In my opinion the person who should be chosen for RR must: have great soft skills, be responsible and trustworthy, have some former experience in bringing together and leading people, have cultural knowledge of the region and the people in it and of course normal to excellent level of English. But most importantly a true RR must stay calm in difficult or unexpected situations, be resourceful, flexible and have a great time managing skills. And maybe it would be too cheeky to point it out but I'll risk it and declare that I'm confident that I possess all of the mentioned qualities.

In conclusion I'd say that I'm highly motivated to take on the adventure and the responsibility which this position is and can't wait to see where this path would take me, what I would learn and who I would meet on the way...