

Intercultural communication

One of the main characteristics of inter-cultural and inter-ethnic communication in Bulgaria, preconditioning the small social distances within society, is the fact that the interests of the various groups are properly represented. According to the greater part of Bulgarians, those who are in leading positions in the state bodies should defend the interests of all groups, regardless of their ethnicity. The political tolerance towards minorities in Bulgaria leads to shortening the social distances. In Bulgaria it is acceptable for the ethnic minorities to have their political and cultural organizations, as well as to study their mother tongues. Another factor, which influences the social relations between the minority ethnics and the Bulgarian majority is multicultural. For Bulgarians being close and connected with their ethnicity actually helps them to be more tolerant towards ethnic minorities. And then, those Bulgarians who have a weaker link with their ethnicity, have a rather negative attitude towards minorities.

It should not be forgotten that Bulgarians are a society that has survived through centuries of yokes and half a century of communism. Ethnic tolerance was a condition for survival and preservation and we can say that the average Bulgarian is tolerant and curious about other cultures and ethnicities, but needs time for getting to know them and then joining in inter-cultural and inter-ethnic communication.

One very active and inspiring organization is the Center for inter-ethnic dialogue and tolerance "[Amalipe](#)". It has numerous activities, open to society in general and bringing people together in common projects and events.