Coaching in Bulgaria
Коучинг в България
Jonathan Passmore, Hazel Brown, Jenny Georgieva et al
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European Coaching and Mentoring Research Consortium

This research was commissioned by EMCC and was undertaken by a team of researchers in 50 countries across Europe. The research was sponsored by the Henley Centre for Coaching.


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Lead research partners

The Henley Centre for Coaching

The Henley Centre for Coaching is a research and coach training centre at Henley Business School. The Centre is recognised as a world leader for coach training and research, having trained over 2,500 coaches over the past decade. The Centre provides professional coach training with a Professional Certificate in Coaching and an MSc, which are delivered in the UK across Europe and in the Middle East and Africa. Henley’s team is actively engaged in research, contributing to journals, books and best practice publications.

Current research projects include neuroscience and coaching, coach identity and coach development, coaching competences, supervision and coaching ethics. The Centre also provides continuous professional development and supervision for coaches across the world. You can join the Henley Centre for Coaching and access our research, resources, supervision and bi-monthly webinars.

To find out more about Henley’s coaching activities in the UK and Europe visit: henley.ac.uk/coachingcentre

The EMCC exists to develop, promote and set the expectation of best practice in mentoring, coaching and supervision across Europe and beyond, for the benefit of society. EMCC International is a council made up of countries providing coaching and mentoring membership in affiliated countries. Direct membership is available globally where an affiliation does not exist. The EMCC was founded in 1992 by David Clutterbuck, David Megginson, Bob Garvey, Kim Langridge, Julie Hay, Eric Parsloe and Sir John Whitmore.

As of 2018, it has affiliations in 25 countries: Belgium, Cyprus, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom. The EMCC provides course accreditation, alongside individual accreditation for coaches, mentors and supervisors.

Details can be found at: emccouncil.org/eu/en/accreditation

Membership is open to everyone.

Researchers

The research was co-ordinated by:

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TalentLink Bulgaria

The European Coaching and Mentoring Research Consortium project involved a collaboration with over 50 academics and practitioners, and over 100 professional bodies across Europe.
Introduction

This report provides an overview of the Bulgarian results from The State of Play in European Coaching & Mentoring (2017) research project, and compares these with the results from Europe and the UK.

Research method

The aim of the research project was to extend beyond traditional institutional networks and the main European languages (English, French, German and Spanish), to provide a more inclusive research study, recognising the equal value of all European countries, languages and cultures, and of the different professional bodies and institutions.

The research questions were designed by the researchers in collaboration with the EMCC, and were adapted during the development phase. For each country, a research partner or team was identified and a National Research Lead was consulted on whether the survey should be translated, and which language(s) should be used. The National Research Leads led the translation process, which involved initial translation and an independent review.

The survey was launched on 1 March 2017 in 31 languages, ranging from English, Spanish, French and German, to Bulgarian, Catalan and Serbian.

The survey was publicised through established coaching federations and management bodies, as well as online through social media interest groups. In total, approximately 100 organisations committed to sharing the research link with their members or to publishing details of the research on their website.

Participants took, on average, 25 minutes to complete the questionnaire.
The development of coaching in Bulgaria

Coaching development in Bulgaria has progressed with the establishment of the ICF chapter in the country in 2008. Since then, due to the continuous efforts of this organisation, coaching has been growing as a recognised and viable profession, based on the ICF competences, quality and ethical standards.

ICF Bulgaria is the main coaching body in the country. It has 39 members (including 12 ACC, 8 PCC) and is expanding its presence and influence through the ‘Friends of ICF Bulgaria’ club, which is open to anyone interested in coaching.

The second main professional body in Bulgaria is the Ambassadors of the International Authority for Professional Coaching and Mentoring (previously, IIC&M), who are promoting coach accreditation and thus helping maintain international coaching and mentoring standards.

The development of the practice of coaching in Bulgaria is evidenced by the growth in the number of training coaching schools – some of them representing international coaching companies, others established solely by Bulgarian ICF-certified coaches.

The main private coach training providers in Bulgaria are: Erickson Coaching International, Mentor Coaches, Aligned Action International, Intuity Coaches, Develop U, the Adler Faculty of Professional Coaching, and Noble Manhattan Group.

At present there are no university coaching programmes at undergraduate or postgraduate level. However, the New Bulgarian University offers a postgraduate diploma qualification in coaching.

Current hot topics that clients are bringing to coaching sessions in Bulgaria include:

- Personal growth and development
- Leadership development/issues in various profit and non-profit organisations
- Mid-term career crises
- Career/role transition

Jenny Georgieva
Bulgarian National Research Lead
Развитието на коучинга в България

Развитието на коучинга в България получи мощен тласък с основаването на българското представителство на международната коуч федерация (ICF) през 2008 г. Оттогава благодарение на непрестанните усилия на тази организация коучингът се развива като признатата и ценена професия, която почира върху компетенциите, качеството и етичните стандарти на ICF.

Към настоящия момент българското представителство на ICF има 39 члена (в т. ч. 12 ACC, 8 PCC), като увеличава присъствието и влиянието си чрез новосъздадения клуб „Приятели на ICF България“, където всеки, който се интересува от коучинг, може да се присъедини. ICF е основната коучинг организация в страната.

Втората основна професионална организация в България e the Ambassadors of the International Authority for Professional Coaching and Mentoring (предишна IIC&M) която промотира практиката по акредитация на коучове и по този начин подпомага налагането на признати международни стандарти по коучинг и менторинг.

За развитието на коучинг практиката в България свидетелства и растящият брой на коучинг училища – някои от тях представляват международни компании по коучинг, а други са създадени изцяло от български коучове, акредитирани от ICF.

Основните фирми, които предлагат обучение по коучинг в България са: Erickson Coaching International, Mentor Coaches, Aligned Action International, Intuity Coaches, Develop U, the Adler Faculty of Professional Coaching, and Noble Manhattan Group.

На този етап няма университетски програми, които да предлагат коучинг обучения на ниво бакалавър или магистър, макар че Нов български университет включва в програмата си следдипломна квалификация по коучинг.

Основните теми, които интересуват коучинг клиентите в България са:

- Личностно развитие
- Развитие на лидери / въпроси, свързани с работата им като лидери както в търговски фирми, така и в неправителствени организации
- Криза в развитието на кариерата за професионалисти в средата на професионалния им път
- Смяна на кариера / преминаване от една роля в друга

Jenny Georgieva
Bulgarian National Research Lead

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Biographical information

In total, 74 participants from Bulgaria completed the online questionnaire. This included 40 coaches and 22 managers who commission coaching.

Diagram 1: Gender of respondents

Diagram 2: Membership of professional coaching associations

Q1.6 Which coaching and mentoring bodies are you a member of?
Coaching practice

Diagram 3: Proportion of working time spent delivering coaching

Diagram 4: Hourly fee rates: Corporate funded coaching

Q5.6 Fee rates for corporate clients

- Over €1000 per hour
- €800-1000
- €600-799
- €400-599
- €200-399
- €101-199
- €51-100 per hour
- Less than €50 per hour
- Internal coach / no charge
Reflective practice and supervision

Diagram 5: Methods of reflection
Q6.1 What methods do you use to reflect on your practice?
(You can select more than one option)

- Co-Mentor
- Mentor
- Self-support
- Formal supervision
- Reading coaching research
- Peer networks
- Reading coaching books
- Self-reflection

Diagram 6: Frequency of supervision
(based on ratio of 1 hour of supervision per X hours of coaching)
Q6.4 How often do you receive formal coaching supervision?

- I don’t receive supervision
- 1 < 100
- 1: 51–100
- 1: 26–50
- 1 > 26
Continuous professional development

Diagram 7: Time invested in CPD
Q7.1 How do you divide your working time?

Diagram 8: Keeping up to date
Q7.2 How do you keep up to date in your coaching practice?
(You can select more than one)
Q9.2 Which models do you use in your coaching practice? (You can select more than one)

- Behavioural / GROW Model
- Solution focused
- NLP
- Cognitive behavioural
- Transactional analysis
- Psychodynamic
- Motivational interviewing
- Gestalt
- Transpersonal
- Existential
- Psychodynamic
- Transpersonal
- Existential
- Other

Diagram showing the percentage of coaches using each model in Bulgaria, Europe (Excl. UK), and UK.
Diversity of approaches

**Diagram 10: Presenting issue 1 – Career change**

Q9.3 What model do you use with the following presenting issue?

**Diagram 11: Presenting issue 2 – Workplace stress**

Q. What model do you use with the following presenting issue?
Diagram 12: Presenting issue 3 – Improving presentation skills
Q. What model do you use with the following presenting issue?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of model usage for improving presentation skills across Bulgaria, Europe (Excl. UK), and UK.]

Diagram 13: Presenting issue 4 – Persistent checking of non-work emails
Q. What model do you use with the following presenting issue?

![Bar chart showing the percentage of model usage for persistent checking of non-work emails across Bulgaria, Europe (Excl. UK), and UK.]

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Diagram 14: Evaluating impact
Q10.1 How do you evaluate the impact of your coaching?

- When asked by the organisational client: [percentage]
- Periodically, on a random sample of individual clients: [percentage]
- Formally – evaluation form at end of every meeting: [percentage]
- Informally, at end of every meeting: [percentage]
- Formally – evaluation form at end of every coaching assignment/contract: [percentage]
- Informally, at end of every coaching assignment/contract: [percentage]
- I have not formally evaluated my work in the past twelve months: [percentage]
- Other: [percentage]

Diagram 15: Gathering feedback
Q10.2 Who do you gather evaluation feedback from in your coaching?

- The individual client: [percentage]
- The individual client and the line manager: [percentage]
- The individual client and the commissioning manager: [percentage]
- The individual client, commissioning manager and line manager: [percentage]
- Yourself (self reflection feedback): [percentage]
- I do not gather feedback: [percentage]
- Other: [percentage]
Contracting for corporate coaching assignments

Diagram 16: Contract partners
Q11.1 When you enter into a coaching agreement, who do you contract with most frequently?

Diagram 17: The primary partners
Q11.2 Who do you believe is the primary client when you are delivering corporate/organisational coaching?
Diagram 18: Contract clauses – Individual client agreements

Q11.3 What aspects are explicitly included in your contract with the individual?
(You can select as many as appropriate)

Diagram 19: Contract clauses – Organisational client agreements

Q11.4 What aspects are explicitly included in your contract with the organisation?
(You can select as many as are appropriate)
Coaching ethics

Diagram 20: Sharing ethical codes – 1
Q12.1 Do you share your ethical codes with individual clients?

No - never
Yes - sometimes
Yes - always

Diagram 21: Sharing ethical codes – 2
Q12.2 How do you share the ethical code with individual clients?

Not applicable
Tell them about it at the start of the coaching conversation
Give them a copy at the start of the coaching conversation
Attach a copy of the ethical code with your written contract that they sign
Provide a web link to the ethical code (i.e. on professional body’s website)

Other
Diagram 22: Ethical dilemma 1 – Coach pays a fee to secure contract
Q13.1.1 What do you think should happen in the following scenario?
A coach pays a fee to an individual to gain a coaching contract with an organisation

Diagram 23: Ethical dilemma 2 – Coach enters sexual relationship with client
Q13.1.2 What do you think should happen in the following scenario?
A coach enters into a sexual relationship with a client during a coaching assignment
Diagram 24: Ethical dilemma 3 – Coach fails to report low-level drug taking by their client

Q13.1.4 What do you think should happen in the following scenario?
A coach fails to report to the appropriate authorities a client who is using low-level illegal drugs

- Nothing
- Issue a warning by their professional body
- Be removed from their professional register for 1 year
- Be removed from their professional register permanently
- Be reported to the police

Diagram 25: Ethical dilemma 4 – Coach fails to report theft of commercial information

Q13.1.5 What do you think should happen in the following scenario?
A coach fails to report the actions of a client who has disclosed commercially sensitive information, which has affected the value of the company

- Nothing
- Issue a warning by their professional body
- Be removed from their professional register for 1 year
- Be removed from their professional register permanently
- Be reported to the police
Q16.1 When commissioning coaching, what are the most important factors (in order of importance)?

Diagram 26: Criteria in coach selection

- Experience of the individual coach
- Professional qualifications
- Experience of the provider organisation
- Price
- Member of a professional body
- Other

% of coach commissioning managers

- Bulgaria
- Europe
- UK
Research partners

Our thanks go to our research partners who made this research possible. In total, over 100 organisations and individuals collaborated in the research, sharing the research link with their members and encouraging their members to participate.

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