



UNICA RECTORS SEMINAR 2013

*The balance of responsibilities: University and Society
in securing financial stability of higher education*

in the framework of the 125th anniversary celebrations of Sofia University

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

27-28 September 2013

PRACTICAL GUIDE



*Dear guests, we are pleased to welcome you at the **UNICA Rectors Seminar 2013** that will be hosted by Sofia University on 27-28 September 2013. We hope the following information will help you in the preparation for the event and make your stay in Sofia more enjoyable.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	ARRIVING IN SOFIA
	ACCOMMODATION
	PUBLIC TRANSPORT TICKETS & TAXIS
	VENUES
	GOOD TO KNOW
	RECOMMENDED SIGHTS
	THE UNIVERSITY
	USEFUL LINKS & CONTACT WITH THE ORGANISERS



ARRIVING IN SOFIA

HOW TO REACH THE CITY CENTER FROM SOFIA AIRPORT?

	<p>BY HOTEL SHUTTLE SERVICE: CRYSTAL PALACE HOTEL PROVIDES A SHUTTLE FROM/TO THE AIRPORT. THE RATE IS €20 PER PERSON ONE WAY AND A ROUND TRIP IS €35</p>
	<p>BY TAXI: <u>TERMINAL 2</u> FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY, WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT YOU USE THE SERVICES OF THE TAXI COMPANIES WHICH SOFIA AIRPORT HAS CONTRACTS WITH. WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND "OK SUPERTRANS" TAXI COMPANY: (+359 2) 973 21 21 HTTP://WWW.OKTAXI.NET THEIR OFFICE IS LOCATED AT ARRIVALS HALL – TERMINAL 2. YOU CAN ALSO TAKE A TAXI DIRECTLY FROM THE TAXI STAND, LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE WESTERN EXIT OF THE BUILDING OF THE TERMINAL 2. THE FARE FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE CITY CENTER OF SOFIA IS APPROXIMATELY 13-18 BGN (1 BULGARIAN LEV=0,51 EUR)</p>
	<p>BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT: 84 AND 384 PUBLIC BUS LINES CONNECT SOFIA AIRPORT TO THE CENTRAL CITY. 84 BUS LINE OPERATES ON THE FOLLOWING ROUTE: GEN. GURKO STR. –TZARIGRADSKO SHOSE BLD. – CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BLD. – PRODAN TARAKCHIEV STR. – TERMINAL 2 – TERMINAL 1. THE REVERSE ROUTE IS FROM TERMINAL 1, ALONG CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BLD, TOWARDS GEN. GURKO STR. BUS STOPS AT ORLOV MOST (EAGLES'BRIDGE) AND SOFIA UNIVERSITY PROVIDE CONVENIENT CONNECTIONS WITH THE UNDERGROUND AND OTHER PUBLIC BUS AND TROLLEY SERVICES. THE ENTIRE JOURNEY TAKES APPROXIMATELY 40 MIN ON WEEKDAYS AND 30 MIN. ON WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS. 384 BUS LINE OPERATES ON THE FOLLOWING ROUTE: MLADOST 1, BL.70 – JERUSALEM STR – TZARIGRADSKO SHOSE BLD. – CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BLD. – PRODAN TARAKCHIEV STR. – TERMINAL 1 – TERMINAL 2. THE REVERSE ROUTE IS FROM TERMINAL 2, DOWN CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS BLD., ALONG TZARIGRADSKO SHOSE LOCAL LANE AND JERUSALEM STR, TOWARDS MLADOST 1, BL.70.</p>



Network of Universities
from the Capitals of Europe

THE BUS OPERATES DURING MORNING HOURS (FROM MLADOST 1 BUS STOP – FROM 5:11 A.M. TO 9:04 A.M.) AND DURING AFTERNOON AND EVENING HOURS – FROM 4:52 P.M. TO 7:27 P.M.

THE FIRST STOP AT MLADOST 1 PROVIDES CONVENIENT TRANSPORT CONNECTION TO MLADOST 1 UNDERGROUND STATION, AND THE ENTIRE JOURNEY TAKES APPROXIMATELY 30 MIN. BOTH DURING WEEKDAYS AND WEEKENDS.

AT SOFIA AIRPORT, **PUBLIC TRANSPORT TICKETS (1 LEV FOR ONE-WAY)** CAN BE PURCHASED AT NEWSSTANDS SITUATED INSIDE TERMINAL 1 AND TERMINAL 2, PUBLIC AREAS, AS WELL AS AT THE TICKET VENDING MACHINE IN TERMINAL 1 - PUBLIC ZONE ARRIVALS. THE TICKET VENDING MACHINE OPERATES WITH BULGARIAN CURRENCY, BANKNOTES AND COINS, AND THE ISSUED TICKETS ARE VALID FOR BUS LINES 84 AND 384.

MORE INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTES, TIMETABLES AND TICKET FARES, CAN BE FOUND AT SOFIA URBAN MOBILITY CENTRE [HTTP://WWW.SOFIATRAFFIC.BG/EN/](http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/) , +359 700 13 233.



ACCOMMODATION

CRYSTAL PALACE BOUTIQUE HOTEL ****



ADDRESS: **14, SHIPKA STR.**, SOFIA 1504, PHONE: 00359 2 9 489 489

WEBSITE: [HTTP://WWW.CRYSTALPALACE-SOFIA.COM](http://www.crystalpalace-sofia.com)

THE HOTEL IS LOCATED IN A VERY CONVENIENT DISTANCE TO:
SOFIA UNIVERSITY "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI",
NATIONAL LIBRARY "ST. ST. CYRIL AND METHODIUS",
MAIN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS,
BANKS AND THE COMMERCIAL AREA OF THE CITY.

THE DISTANCE TO SOFIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT IS 8 KM.



PUBLIC TRANSPORT & TAXIS

PUBLIC TRANSPORT



YOU CAN USE THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT THROUGHOUT SOFIA. PLEASE ASK FOR A MAP OF THE CITY OF SOFIA AND A MAP OF THE PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEM AT YOUR HOTEL.

TICKETS COST **1 BGN = 0,51 EUR** AND CAN BE BOUGHT AT A KIOSK BY A BUS STOP OR DIRECTLY FROM THE ELECTRONIC DEVICE IN THE BUS. YOU ALSO HAVE TO BUY A SEPARATE TICKET FOR EACH BULKY PIECE OF LUGGAGE. APART FROM GETTING SINGLE-FARE TICKETS, YOU MAY BUY A 10-JOURNEY TICKET.

[HTTP://WWW.SOFIATRAFFIC.BG/EN/TRANSPORT/121/MARSHRUTNA-MREZHA](http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/transport/121/marshrutna-mrezha)

[HTTP://WWW.SOFIATRAFFIC.BG/EN/TRANSPORT/TARIFA-I-PREVOZNI-DOKUMENTI/P/1](http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/transport/tarifa-i-prevozni-dokumenti/p/1)

TAXI SERVICE



TAXI NUMBER: TO ORDER YOUR TAXI

CALL AT **+359 2/973 21 21**

ALL LEGAL AND REGISTERED TAXI CABS MUST BE YELLOW AND OPERATE BY METER.

INITIAL CHARGE - 0.70 BGN

DAYTIME RATE (FROM 6:00 A.M. – TO 10:00 P.M.) - 0.79 BGN /KM

NIGHTTIME RATE (FROM 10:00 P.M. – TO 6:00 A.M.) - 0.90 BGN /KM.

WAIT RATE - 0.22 BGN/MIN.

CALL-OUT CHARGE - 0.70 BGN

IMPORTANT!!! DISPATCHERS AND DRIVERS USUALLY SPEAK ONLY BULGARIAN, SO YOU MAY NEED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU ORDER A TAXI BY PHONE, AND YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW TO NAME YOUR DESTINATION. SOME TAXI DRIVERS MAY TRY TO OVERCHARGE YOU, THEREFORE THE BEST WAY TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS WOULD BE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING TAXI COMPANIES:
[HTTP://WWW.BULGARIAN-TRANSPORT.COM/TRANSFERS.HTML](http://www.bulgarian-transport.com/transfers.html)
[HTTP://WWW.OKTAXI.NET/](http://www.oktaxi.net/)
[HTTP://WWW.YELLOW333.COM/OPENCMS/OPENCMS/MENU/EN/](http://www.yellow333.com/opencms/opencms/menu/en/)
YOU SHOULD ONLY TAKE TAXIS WITH **ONBOARD TAXI METERS**. ONCE ARRIVED AT YOUR DESTINATION, YOU CAN ASK FOR A TAXI METER RECEIPT. THE RECEIPT WILL CONTAIN DETAILS OF YOUR TRIP AND CAN BE USED AS AN EXPENSE NOTE.





27th September 2013:

The Rectors Seminar will be held at Sofia University ***Aula Magna*** located in the **central part of the Rectorate (15, Tsar Osvoboditel BLD., Main entrance)**.

Registration: The registration will take place at the Foyer of the Aula Magna. All guests will receive Seminar materials and their badges. We kindly ask the registered guests **to keep with them the badges during the whole Seminar and receptions** that will facilitate their access to the venues. Those guests who will bring their academic gowns, caps and chains may leave them at the Registration Desk. The staff of Sofia University responsible for the organization will keep them in a safe place until the beginning of the Academic Procession that will start at 16:00 on 27th September 2013.

The **lunch** will take place at the Alma Mater Restaurant located at the University Main Building, South Wing.

The **coffee breaks** will be served at the Foyer of the Aula Magna.

The **Ceremonial Academic Procession** will start at 16:00 at the Main entrance. The procession will be led by the Rector of Sofia University. The University staff will assist the official guests with putting on their gowns just before the procession.

The **official dinner** will take place at the Alma Mater Restaurant. The Main Entrance of the University will be opened from 20:00 to 20:30. After 20:30 all guests will have the possibility to reach the Restaurant by the entrances situated at the University inner yard.



28th September 2013

The Seminar sessions will be held at Sofia University Aula Magna located in the central part of the Rectorate (15, Tsar Osvoboditel BLD., Main Entrance).

The **coffee break** will be served at the Foyer of the Aula Magna.

The **guided tour to Plovdiv** will start at 13:30 from the Rectorate.

Schedule:

13:30 Departure from the University to Plovdiv

15:30 Arrival at Plovdiv

The programme of the trip will include an approx. 2 hour-walking tour of the city and a visit of the Ancient Theatre, the Church of Sts. Konstantine and Elena, and the Nebet Tepe Archaeological Complex.

17:30 Visit of the wine cellar Todoroff (close to Plovdiv) – wine tasting

21:30 – Arrival at Sofia



GOOD TO KNOW

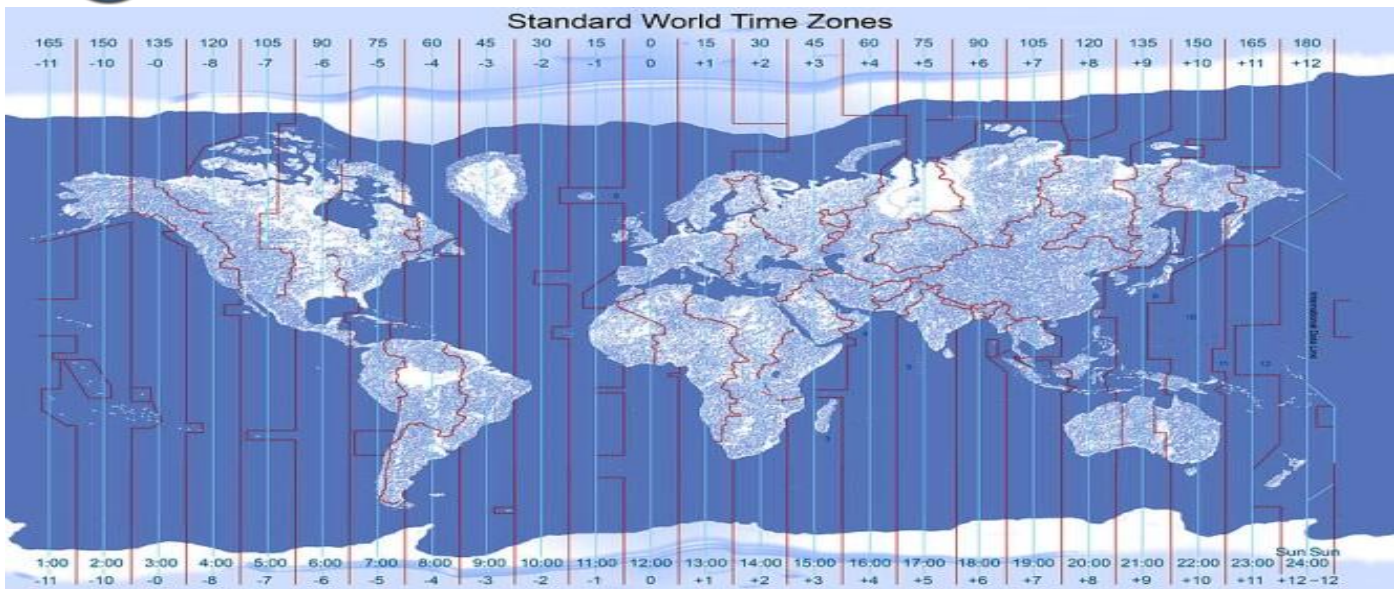
WEATHER

YOU CAN ENJOY FOUR LOVELY AND TENDER SEASONS IN BULGARIA: BEAUTIFUL BLOOMING SPRING, DRY AND HOT SUMMER, LONG AND PLEASANT AUTUMN, AND MILD WINTER WITH LOTS OF OPPORTUNITY FOR SKIING. ALWAYS LIT BY THE SUN BULGARIA HAS BETWEEN 2200 AND 2500 HOURS OF SUNLIGHT PER YEAR. AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (APRIL - SEPTEMBER): + 23 °C. THE AVERAGE YEARLY TEMPERATURE IS 14.7 °C. THE WEATHER IS NICE BUT IT MIGHT BE RAINY, DO NOT FORGET AN UMBRELLA.



TIME ZONE

CENTRAL EUROPE STANDARD TIME: **GMT+3**





LANGUAGE SPOKEN

THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE SEMINAR IS ENGLISH.

THE LANGUAGE SPOKEN IN BULGARIA IS BULGARIAN.

IN THE TOURIST, SHOPPING AND UNIVERSITY AREAS THERE WILL USUALLY BE ENGLISH-SPEAKERS.

CURRENCY

BULGARIA USES THE BULGARIAN LEV (1BGN = 0,51 EUR).

EURO BANKNOTES ARE NOT ACCEPTED. DON'T FORGET TO EXCHANGE CURRENCY BEFORE YOUR ARRIVAL IN SOFIA OR TO DO IT AT THE EXCHANGE DESK AT THE AIRPORT IN ORDER TO PAY FOR YOUR TAXI/BUS TRANSFER TO YOUR HOTEL.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EXCHANGE DESK AT THE AIRPORT HAVE HIGH COMMISSIONS, THAT IS WHY WE DO NOT RECOMMEND IT FOR LARGE AMOUNTS OF MONEY.



TELEPHONE

TO CALL BULGARIA YOU HAVE TO DIAL **00359** + CITY AREA CODE
(2 FOR SOFIA IF YOU CALL TO A LANDLINE)

+ NUMBER YOU WISH TO CALL.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBER: 112



RECOMMENDED SIGHTS

ALEXANDER NEVSKY CATHEDRAL



THE CATHEDRAL WAS BUILT IN THE EARLY 20TH CENTURY IN MEMORY OF THE 200,000 RUSSIAN, UKRAINIAN, BELORUSSIAN AND BULGARIAN SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE RUSSO - TURKISH WAR, 1877–1878. IT IS ONE OF THE LARGEST EASTERN ORTHODOX CATHEDRALS IN THE WORLD. THE CATHEDRAL'S GOLD-PLATED DOME IS 45 M HIGH, WITH THE BELL TOWER REACHING 50.52 M.

THE BOYANA CHURCH



THE BOYANA CHURCH IS A MEDIEVAL BULGARIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH SITUATED ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SOFIA. IT IS BUILT IN THE LATE 10TH OR EARLY 11TH CENTURY. THE CHURCH IS FAMOUS WITH ITS FRESCOES FROM 1259. THEY FORM A SECOND LAYER OVER THE PAINTINGS FROM EARLIER CENTURIES AND REPRESENT ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE AND WELL- PRESERVED MONUMENTS OF EASTERN EUROPEAN MEDIEVAL ART. BOYANA CHURCH WAS INCLUDED IN UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE LIST IN 1979.



THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM



THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL MUSEUM WAS FOUNDED IN 1973. SINCE 1979 THE MUSEUM WAS HOSTED IN THE BUILDING OF THE COURTS OF JUSTICE BUT IN 2000 IT WAS MOVED INTO THE BUILDING OF RESIDENCE "BOYANA" (QUARTER OF BOYNA, SOFIA). THE MUSEUM HAS 32 HALLS AND IS ONE OF THE LARGEST HISTORY MUSEUMS ON THE BALKANS WITH 650,000 ITEMS AND THE LARGEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL ARCHIVE. THE MUSEUM'S COLLECTIONS ARE ITS GREATEST TREASURE. THEY COMPRISE MATERIALS FROM PREHISTORIC AGES TILL OUR DAYS. (ADDRESS: 1618 SOFIA, 16 VITOSHKO LALE STR.)

THE NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE



THE NATIONAL PALACE OF CULTURE ABBREVIATED IN BULGARIAN AS NDK IS THE LARGEST MULTIFUNCTIONAL CONGRESS, CONFERENCE, CONVENTION AND HIBITION CENTER IN SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE.



IVAN VAZOV NATIONAL THEATRE



“IVAN VAZOV” NATIONAL THEATRE IS BULGARIA’S BIGGEST THEATRE, AS WELL AS THE OLDEST AND MOST IMPOSING THEATRE IN THE COUNTRY. THIS THEATRE IS ONE OF THE MAJOR LANDMARKS IN SOFIA DUE TO ITS PRIME LOCATION AND GRANDIOSE ARCHITECTURE.

UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDEN



THE UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDEN WAS FOUNDED IN THE 19TH CENTURY (1892) BY THE PROFESSOR OF BOTANY, STEFAN GEORGIEV. IT IS LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY, NOT FAR AWAY OF THE SOFIA UNIVERSITY, IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE VASIL LEVSKI MEMORIAL, THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF FOREIGN ART AND THE ALEXANDER NEVSKY CATHEDRAL. HERE ARE GROWN OVER 1500 SPECIES OF PLANTS, AMONG WHICH SEVERAL EXOTIC SPECIES - BEAUTIFUL TROPICAL PLANTS, CACTI, ORCHIDS, FERNS, BROMELII, ETC.



THE UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1888 Sofia University was named after Saint Clement of Ohrid, a medieval Bulgarian scholar, who was also the first bishop to preach in the Old Bulgarian language.

Sofia University is the oldest school of higher education in the country. Its birth date is October 1, 1888, when the Higher Pedagogical Class at the First Boys' High School in Sofia was founded. The first class consisted of 43 students, all male. Two thirds of them were scholarship holders. The 7 lecturers (4 of them working full time and 3 part time) all had European degrees and scholarly achievements. A law passed on December 18th, 1888 transformed the Higher Pedagogical Class into a School of Higher Education.

The first elected Rector was Alexander Theodorov – Balan, who had degrees from the universities of Prague and Leipzig and a doctorate from Prague University, and taught linguistics, dialectology and Slavic philology. In 1891 the first class of 34 students graduated from the Department of History and Philology and the next year a class of 23 graduated from the Department of Physics and Mathematics. In 1892 a third department – the School of Law – was founded, with 67 students and professors. At the end of 1894 a royal decree approved a Law of Higher Education and the departments became faculties. The Faculties of Medicine and Theology were added to the School of Higher Education and in 1904 it was transformed into a University.

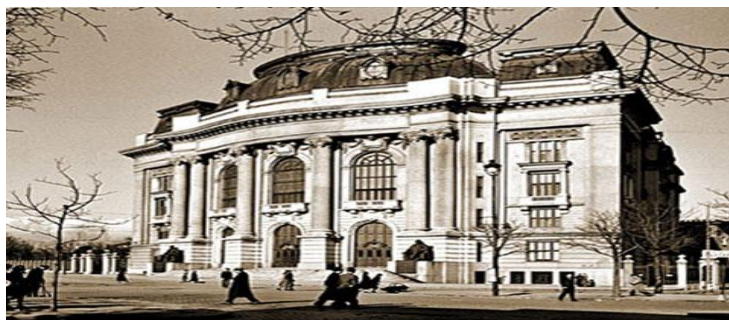


Saint Clement of Ohrid (840 – 916) was a medieval Bulgarian saint, scholar, writer and enlightener of the Slavs. He was the most prominent disciple of Saints Cyril and Methodius and is often associated with the creation of the Glagolitic and Cyrillic scripts, especially their popularization among Christianized Slavs. He was the founder of the Ohrid Literary School and is regarded as a patron of education and language by some Slavic nations. He is regarded to be the first bishop of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church, one of the seven Apostles of the Bulgarian Empire (Bulgaria), the patron saint of the Republic of Macedonia, the city of Ohrid and the Macedonian Orthodox Church.



The university's edifice was constructed between 1924 and 1934 with the financial support of the brothers Evlogi Georgiev and Hristo Georgiev, whose sculptures are now featured on its façade, and has an area of 18,624 m² and a total of 324 premises.

Sofia University has 16 faculties and three departments, where more than 22,000 students receive their education.



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY “ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”

The University Library at Sofia University is one of the largest scientific libraries in Bulgaria. It was opened in 1888 at the same time as the Institute of Higher Education in Sofia and today it plays a major role in the development of Bulgarian science and education.





USEFUL LINKS & CONTACT WITH THE ORGANISERS

SOFIA AIRPORT: [HTTP://WWW.SOFIA-AIRPORT.BG/DEFAULT.ASPX](http://www.sofia-airport.bg/default.aspx)

URBAN MOBILITY CENTER: [HTTP://WWW.SOFIATRAFFIC.BG/EN/TRANSPORT/SCHEDULES](http://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/transport/schedules)

GOOGLE MAPS & STREET VIEW: [WWW.MAPS.GOOGLE.COM](http://www.maps.google.com);

SOFIA TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE: [HTTP://WWW.TMBULGARIA.COM/EN/ARTICLES/SOFIAS-TOURIST-INFORMATION-CENTER-TO-START-FUNCTIONING-IN-SEPTEMBER/2758/INDEX.HTML](http://www.tmbulgaria.com/en/articles/sofiastourist-information-center-to-start-functioning-in-september/2758/index.html)

CONTACT WITH SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

15, TZAR OSVOBODITEL BLD. 1504 SOFIA

TEL./FAX: +359 2 986 15 97; TEL./FAX: +359 2 946 01 15; TEL.: +359 2 9308220

INTERN@ADMIN.UNI-SOFIA.BG

CONTACT WITH THE UNICA SECRETARIAT:

UNICA SECRETARIAT, C/O UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

RUE D'EGMONT/EGMONTSTRAAT 11,

B-1000 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

TEL: +32/(0)2/514.78.00

FAX: +32/(0)2/514.79.00

E-MAIL: OFFICE@UNICA-NETWORK.