



# **The University as an Urban Cultural Institute**

**2<sup>nd</sup> UNICA 'University, Culture and the City' Conference**

**Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Sofia, Bulgaria**

**29-31 May 2017**

## **PRACTICAL GUIDE**











*Dear guests, we are pleased to welcome you to the 2<sup>nd</sup> UNICA ‘University, Culture and the City’ Conference: “The University as an Urban Cultural Institute” that will be hosted by Sofia University on 29-31 May 2017.*

*We hope the following information will assist you during your attendance at the event and make your stay in Sofia more enjoyable.*





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## ARRIVAL IN SOFIA

### HOW TO REACH THE CITY CENTER FROM SOFIA AIRPORT?

	<p><b>BY TAXI:</b> 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 YOU "OK SUPERTRANS" TAXI COMPANY: (+359 2) 973 21 21, <a href="http://www.oktaxi.net">HTTP://WWW.OKTAXI.NET</a> THE OFFICE IS LOCATED AT ARRIVALS HALL. YOU CAN ALSO TAKE A TAXI DIRECTLY AT THE TAXI STANDS, LOCATED IN FRONT OF THE WESTERN EXIT OF THE BUILDING OF THE TERMINAL 2 AND OUTSIDE TERMINAL 1. THE FARE FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE CITY CENTER OF SOFIA IS APPROXIMATELY 13-18 LV.</p>
	<p><b>BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT:</b> <u>TERMINAL 1</u> IF YOU ARRIVE AT TERMINAL 1, PLEASE TAKE THE INTERTERMINAL SHUTTLE BUS TO TERMINAL 2 AND THEN FOLLOW THE ROUTE DESCRIBED BELOW. <u>TERMINAL 2</u> IF YOU ARRIVE AT TERMINAL TWO YOU CAN USE EITHER THE UNDERGROUND OR BUS LINE NO. 84. <b>UNDERGROUND</b> CONNECTS TERMINAL 2 OF THE AIRPORT WITH THE CITY CENTRE AND THE UNIVERSITY. THE JOURNEY WILL TAKE APPROXIMATELY 25-30 MINS. THE TICKET COULD BE BOUGHT FROM THE KIOSK AT THE ENTRANCE OF THE UNDERGROUND OR FROM THE TICKET VENDING MACHINES THERE. PRICE FOR ONE-WAY: 1,60 BGN; ONLY CASH IS ACCEPTED. <b>BUS LINE NO. 84</b> CONNECTS SOFIA AIRPORT TO THE CENTRAL CITY. THE ENTIRE JOURNEY TAKES APPROXIMATELY 30 - 40 MIN. TICKETS FOR THE BUS (1,60 BGN FOR ONE-WAY) CAN BE PURCHASED AT THE NEWSPAPER KIOSKS AS WELL AS AT THE TICKET VENDING MACHINES AT THE TERMINALS. THE TICKET VENDING MACHINE OPERATES WITH BULGARIAN CURRENCY, BANKNOTES AND COINS. MORE INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC TRANSPORT ROUTES, TIMETABLES AND TICKET FARES, CAN BE FOUND AT SOFIA URBAN MOBILITY CENTRE (<a href="https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/common/">HTTPS://WWW.SOFIATRAFFIC.BG/EN/COMMON/</a>), OR BY CALLING 0700 13 233.</p>



## ACCOMMODATION

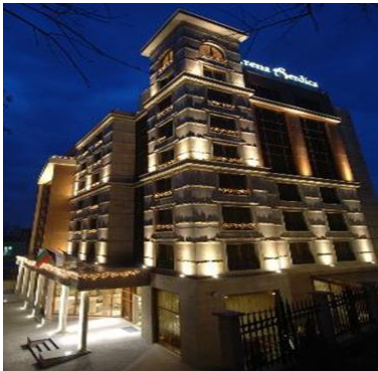


### CRYSTAL PALACE BOUTIQUE HOTEL

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ADDRESS: 14, SHIPKA STR., SOFIA 1504,  
TEL.: (+359) 2 9 489 489  
<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.



### ARENA DI SERDICA RESIDENCE HOTEL

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ADDRESS: 2-4 BUDAPESHTA STR., SOFIA,  
1000  
TEL: (+359) 2 810 77 77  
<http://www.arenadiserdica.com/en/index.html/>

The hotel is located at convenient distance to: Sofia university "St. Kliment Ohridski", the National library "St. St. Cyril and Methodius ", important government institutions, banks and the commercial area of the city. The distance to Sofia international airport is 8 km.





## BEST WESTERN CITY HOTEL \*\*\*\*

ADDRESS: 6, STARA PLANINA STR., SOFIA  
1000  
TEL.: (+359) 2 915 1500  
<http://www.sofiacityhotel.com/en/>

The business hotel is located only 200 metres from the Alexander Nevsky cathedral and the parliament, making it possible to reach on foot the most popular surroundings and attractions in the capital city.

## HOTEL LOCATIONS





## PUBLIC TRANSPORT & TAXIS



### PUBLIC TRANSPORT

TICKETS COST 1.60 BGN AND COULD BE BOUGHT FROM THE KIOSK AT THE PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION STOPS. YOU ALSO HAVE TO BUY A SEPARATE TICKET FOR EACH BULKY PIECE OF LUGGAGE. ONCE YOU ENTER THE VEHICLE, YOU NEED TO VALIDATE THE TICKET IN THE DEVICES INSIDE.

[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

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 - BGN 0.70

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

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

WAIT RATE - BGN 0.22 /MIN.

CALL-OUT CHARGE - BGN 0.70

**IMPORTANT!!!** DISPATCHERS AND DRIVERS USUALLY SPEAK ONLY BULGARIAN, SO YOU MAY NEED SOMEONE TO HELP YOU ORDER ONE BY PHONE, AND YOU SHOULD LEARN HOW TO NAME YOUR DESTINATION. 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)

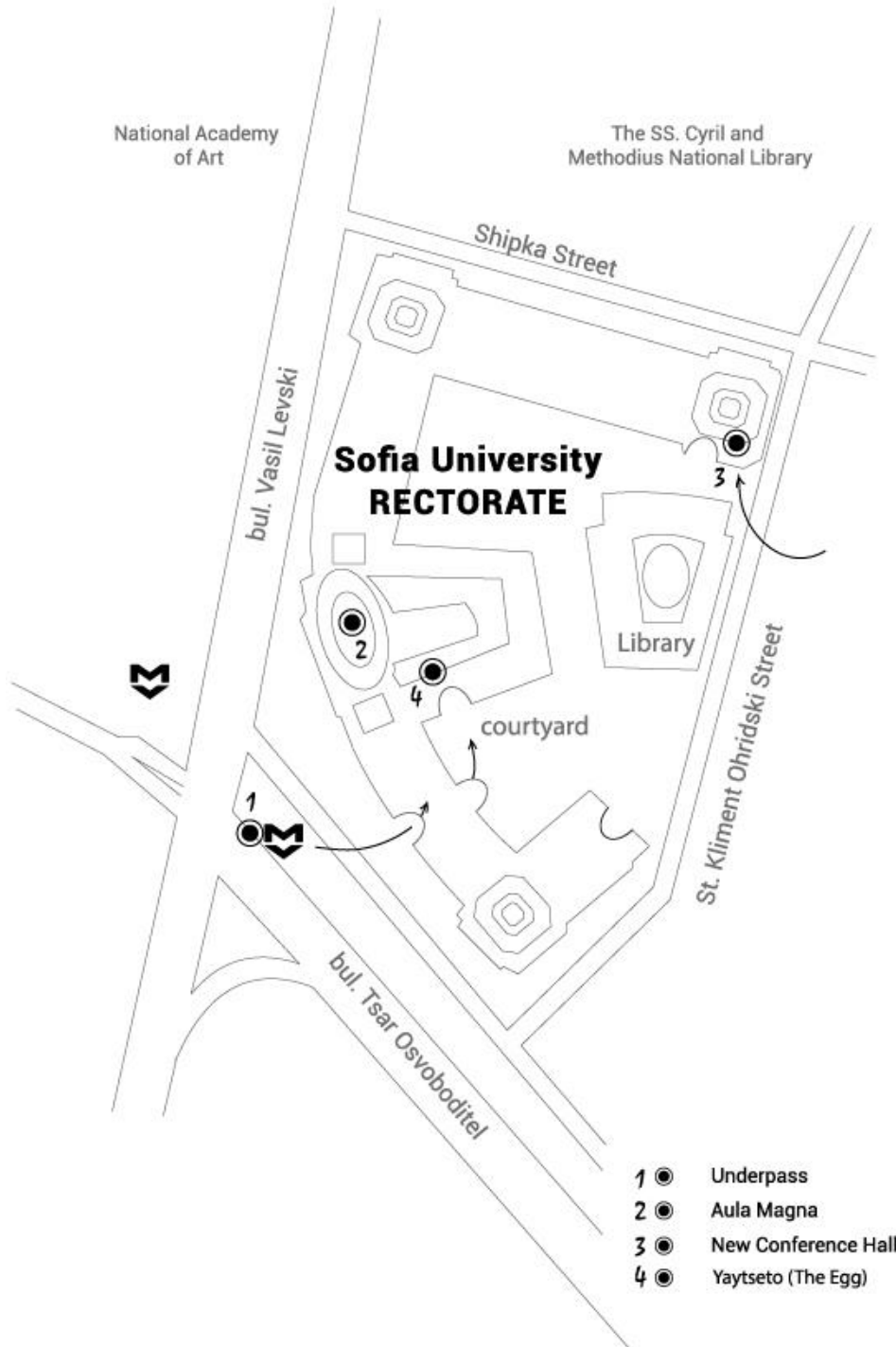
[HTTP://WWW.OKTAXI.NET/](http://www.oktaxi.net/)

[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.



## VENUES







**VENUE:** SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI, RECTORATE BUILDING (15, TSAR OSVOBODITEL BLVD., SOFIA, 1504). THE CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN TWO CONFERENCE HALLS – AULA MAGNA AND NEW CONFERENCE HALL.

**REGISTRATION:** THE REGISTRATION WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE FOYER OF THE AULA MAGNA. WE KINDLY ASK THE REGISTERED GUESTS **TO KEEP WITH THEM THE BADGES DURING THE WHOLE SEMINAR AND THE COCKTAILS** THAT WILL FACILITATE THEIR ACCESS TO THE VENUES.

**RECEPTION OFFERED BY THE MAYOR OF SOFIA:** THE LARGO IS AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE LOCATED IN THE HEART OF THE CITY IN THE UNDERGROUND AREA BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS OF THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE AND THE COUNCIL OF MISTERS. IT IS ON A 15-MINUTES-WALKING DISTANCE (OR ONE UNDERGROUND STATION) FROM THE CONFERENCE VENUE.

**RECEPTION OFFERED BY THE RECTOR OF SOFIA UNIVERSITY:** THE YAYTSETO (THE EGG) RESTARUANT, SOFIA UNIVERSITY ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI, RECTORATE BUILDING



## GOOD TO KNOW



### WEATHER

YOU CAN ENJOY FOUR LOVELY 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 WEATHER IS NICE BUT IT MIGHT BE RAINY, DO NOT FORGET AN UMBRELLA.

### TIME ZONE

EASTERN EUROPE TIME: GMT+2

### 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 (1.00 EUR = 1.95874 BGN).

EURO BANKNOTES ARE NOT ACCEPTED. YOU MAY 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 AT THE EXCHANGE DESK AT THE AIRPORT THERE ARE 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.



**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.



## 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.)



## 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**

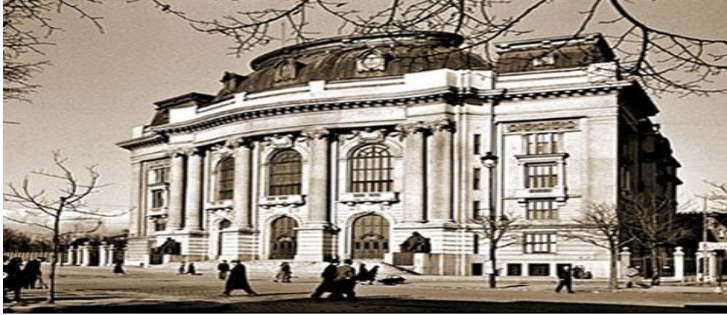


THE UNIVERSITY BOTANICAL GARDEN WAS FOUNDED IN THE 19TH CENTURY (1892) BY THE PROFESSOR OF BOTANY, STEFAN GEORGIEV. IT IS LOCATED IN THE CENTRAL PART OF THE CITY, NOT FAR AWAY OF THE SOFIA UNIVERSITY, IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THE VASIL LEVSKI MEMORIAL, THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF FOREIGN ART AND THE ALEXANDER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





## SOFIA 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.

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 M<sup>2</sup> AND A TOTAL OF 324 PREMISES.

SOFIA UNIVERSITY HAS 16 FACULTIES, 3 DEPARTMENTS. 22,000 STUDENTS (BA, MA, PhD) ARE STUDYING AT THE UNIVERSITY CURRENTLY.



*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.*



## USEFUL LINKS

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)

## CONTACT WITH THE ORGANISERS AT SOFIA UNIVERSITY:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE

15, TZAR OSVOBODITEL BLVD., 1504 SOFIA

RECTORATE, FLOOR 1, ROOMS 5 AND 19

TEL. (+359) 2 930 84 22; (+359) 2 986 15 97; (+359) 2 946 01 15;

INTERN@ADMIN.UNI-SOFIA.BG