

METREX

The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

12-14 September 2016

**METREX & TURAS Sofia Autumn Conference**

Theme

Urban Resilience and Sustainability

Host

Municipality of Sofia



METREX 20 years  
The **network** of  
European Metropolitan Regions and Areas



**TURAS**

TRANSITIONING TOWARDS URBAN  
RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

project funded by the European Commission through the Seventh Framework Programme



Sofia Municipality



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**METREX** The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas

12-14 September 2016 METREX and TURAS Sofia Autumn Conference

**Theme** Urban Resilience and Sustainability

**METREX**

METREX is The Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas. It was founded in 1996 at the Glasgow Metropolitan Regions Conference, supported by Local Authorities and Government bodies in the West of Scotland and DG Regio of the European Commission. Its purpose is the exchange of information, knowledge, understanding and experience in metropolitan affairs but with a core interest in spatial planning and development. It now has Members from some 50 of the major metropolitan areas in Europe. METREX holds biannual Conferences and works through Expert Groups and Projects on issues of common interest. Details are at [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org)

**Context** EUSDR - EU Strategy for the Danube Region



The EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) is a macro-regional strategy adopted by the European Commission in December 2010 and endorsed by the European Council in 2011. The Strategy was jointly developed by the Commission, together with the Danube Region countries and stakeholders, in order to address common challenges together. The Strategy seeks to create synergies and coordination between existing policies and initiatives taking place across the Danube Region.

*© EUSDR - Text EUSDR web site*

**Monday 12 September 2016** METREX Networking Day - Parallel Meetings

**Networking venue** Ramada Hotel Sofia

**Programme** METREX and TURAS Sofia Autumn Conference

10.00 - 12.00 Room 1 - Merdjan Nordic Network Meeting

12.00 - 13.00 *Snack lunch*

13.00 - 16.30 Parallel Meetings of METREX Expert Groups

Room 1 - Merdjan 13.00 - 16.00 - Baltic Space

Room 2 - Topaz 14.30 - 16.30 - Metropolitan Governance

Room 3 - Sapfir 14.30 - 16.30 - URMA

16.30 - 18.30 METREX Managing Committee Meeting, Room 1 - Merdjan

\* METREX President, Dr. Nicola SCHELLING and SG Henk BOUWMAN

19.30 - 21.30 Welcome Reception at the Ramada Hotel

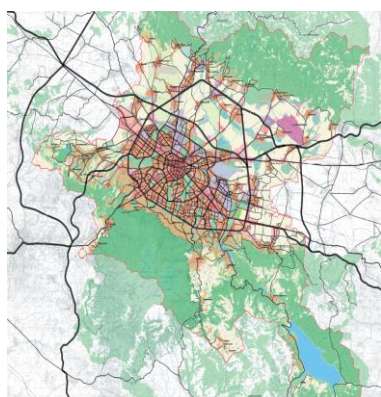


*Sofia, Independence Square*

<b>Tuesday 13 September</b>	<b>TURAS and METREX Day</b>
<b>Themes</b>	<b>Urban Resilience and Sustainability</b>
<b>Conference Venue</b>	<i>Ramada Hotel Sofia</i>
<b>Programme</b>	<b>METREX and TURAS Sofia Autumn Conference</b>
<i>08.30 - 9.00</i>	Registration
<i>9.00 - 9.30</i>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sofia Mayor</li> <li>• Sofia Vice Mayor</li> <li>• President of METREX, Dr. Nicola SCHELLING</li> </ul>
<i>9.30-15.00</i>	<b>TURAS Project Outcomes</b>
<i>9.30 - 10.30</i>	<b>TURAS - Transitioning towards urban resilience and sustainability</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TURAS project overview and general outcomes; Geospatial ICT-support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- professor Zorica Nedovic-Budic, University College Dublin, TURAS scientific leader</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Limiting urban sprawl <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Alexander Slaev, Associate Professor, Varna Free University</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Open discussion</b></li> </ul>
<i>10.30-11.00</i>	<i>Coffee and tea</i>
<i>11.00-12.30</i>	<b>TURAS - Featuring TURAS Key Urban Resilience Issues (WP) and Partner Communities Practices</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of local and regional authorities as “bridging actors” to define the contours of a place- and community-based economy. Lessons learnt and results from the TURAS WP 6 research around resilient economies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Patrick Van Den Abeele - Work package leader TURAS, IBGE/BIM - Brussels Environment.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The WP6 case studies in the region of Rome and Overview on WP7 transversal planning approaches in creation and implementation of place-based integrated strategies for transition to better resilience and sustainability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Adrian Hill, OSMOS network, The Technology Transfer Initiative GmbH, University of</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Open discussion</b></li> </ul>
<i>12.30 - 13.30</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>13.30 - 15.00</i>	<b>TURAS - Transitioning towards urban resilience and sustainability - Partner examples</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Resilience Planning for Barking, London <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Jo Sinclair -London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, UK</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The role of Belgrade Metropolitan Area in improving territorial capital of Serbia: great hopes, false promises, and bleak futures? The case of the Spatial Plan of the Republic of Serbia (2010) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dr.Vujosevic, Dr. Krunic, Institute of Architecture and Urban &amp; Spatial Planning of Serbia</li> </ul> </li> <li>* <b>Open discussion</b></li> </ul>
<i>15.00 - 15.30</i>	<i>Coffee and tea</i>
<i>15.30 - 16.00</i>	Reflection on TURAS from METREX
<i>16.00 - 16.30</i>	Invitation to METREX Spring Conference 2017 & Closing First Day
<i>16.30 - 18.00</i>	<b>METREX General Assembly</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Opening, President, Dr. Nicola Schelling</b></li> <li>• <b>Elections and METREX Managing Committee, SG Henk Bouwman</b></li> <li>• <b>METREX Future, SG Henk Bouwman</b></li> </ul>
<i>19.30- 22.00</i>	Conference Dinner <i>BODEGA restaurant, 8A Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd</i>
<b>TURAS - EU FP7 Programme Project</b>	<b>Challenges being addressed by the TURAS Project</b>
	<p>Cities represent the major consumer of resources, which can greatly impact surrounding landscapes and the communities therein. Many urban areas are vulnerable to gradual environmental change and many city dwellers are concerned with the impacts of rapid or unregulated land use change, environmental health and human well being. This is further exacerbated within city communities, especially those that are socio-economically disadvantaged.</p> <p>Urban planners, managers and designers face demands from communities and individuals for more inclusivity in planning adaptive strategies.</p> <p>Thus, the key challenge in European cities is to devise holistic transition strategies that are tailored to the needs of all stakeholders; strategies that are flexible, adaptive and applicable across urban regions and scales.</p>
<a href="http://www.turas-cities.org">www.turas-cities.org</a>	© TURAS web site

<i>9.00 - 9.15</i>	<b>Welcome and Introduction</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secretary General of METREX</li> <li>Sofia Chief Architect and colleagues</li> <li>Moderator</li> </ul>
<i>9.15 - 9.50</i>	<b>EU Strategy for the Danube Region - EUSDR</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Belin Mollov; partner area colleagues</li> </ul>
<i>9.50 - 10.10</i>	<b>North - South Interface</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Douglas Gordon, City of Helsinki</li> </ul>
<i>10.10 - 10.30</i>	<b>National spatial plans in Bulgaria and integrated implementation practices</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>prof. Vesselina Troeva</li> </ul>
<i>10.30 - 11.00</i>	<i>Coffee and tea</i>
<i>11.00 - 11.20</i>	<b>Planning for Sofia Municipality</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sofia Chief Architect</li> </ul>
<i>11.20 - 11.40</i>	<b>Sofia key green project - expanding the metro network</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stoyan Bratoev, Director of Sofia Metro</li> </ul>
<i>11.40 - 12.20</i>	<b>Sofia Integrated Strategy for transition to better urban resilience and sustainability</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Boyka Kadreva, Director Territorial Planning and Sofia TURAS project leader</li> </ul>
<i>12.20 - 13.00</i>	<b>Open discussion</b>
	<b>Moderator</b>
<i>13.00 - 14.00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>14.00 - 14.30</i>	<b>Sofia study visit presentation</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sofproect Director Petar Terziev and colleagues</li> </ul>
<i>14.30 - 17.00</i>	<b>Sofia Study Visit (by bus)</b>
<i>16.30 - 17.00</i>	Return to Ramada Hotel and end of conference

**Sofproect**



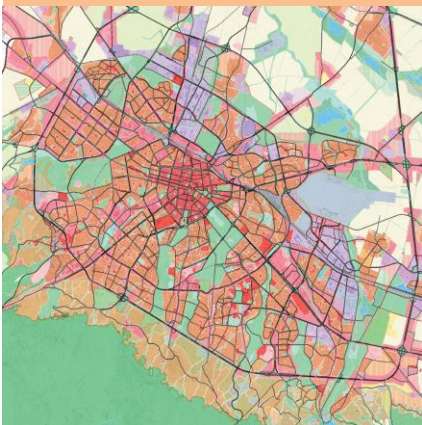
OP Sofproect OGP (Master Plan) is the planning body of Sofia Municipality. This municipal enterprise carries out the most important plans for spatial development of the territory.

The Master plan of Sofia City and the suburban area of Sofia municipality, comprises the long-term strategic plan, zoning plan and regulations and a package of implementation programs, with all updates and amendments.

The seven year Municipal Development Plans implement the Master Plan and integrates and coordinate all sectoral plans and strategies, including the newest one for the 2014-2020 period. These include,

- Specialized development programs, such as the Program for development of the north territories of Sofia Municipality.
- Pilot urban development projects and detailed plans
- Major infrastructure projects, such as the new North speed tangent highway and the Ring road of Sofia as part of Pan European transport corridors 4,8 and 10, boulevards, junctions, urban parks etc.

## Contacts



## Municipality of Sofia - Sofproect

- Georgette RAFAILOVA  
Municipality of Sofia - Sofproect OGP  
Zona B-05, bl. 8 B410100 SOFIA 1000, Bulgaria

Mobile +359884033514  
Tel + 359 2 920 68 62  
E-mail [g\\_rafailova@hotmail.com](mailto:g_rafailova@hotmail.com) [g\\_rafailova@abv.bg](mailto:g_rafailova@abv.bg)

## METREX

- Tim PAGE  
METREX Communications  
125 West Regent Street  
Glasgow G2 2SA

Tel and Fax 00 44 (0) 1292 317074  
E-mail [tim.page@eurometrex.org](mailto:tim.page@eurometrex.org)

## Deadline for Conference Registration

05 September 2016

- METREX Members and other participants can register through the METREX website at [www.eurometrex.org](http://www.eurometrex.org)

## Conference hotel



## Ramada Sofia hotel

LIDIA TOURS is the agency contracted by Sofia Municipality to assist and organize the conference

7-9 Uzundzhovska Str., office 2

1000 Sofia, Bulgaria

[info@lidiatours.com](mailto:info@lidiatours.com)

contact person - Desislava Zlatanova

[desisi@lidiatours.com](mailto:desisi@lidiatours.com)

tel.: (+3592) 488 08 00; (+3592) 488 08 01

mobile: (+359 88) 7 600 383

## Hotel booking can be made by Lidia Tours at rates:

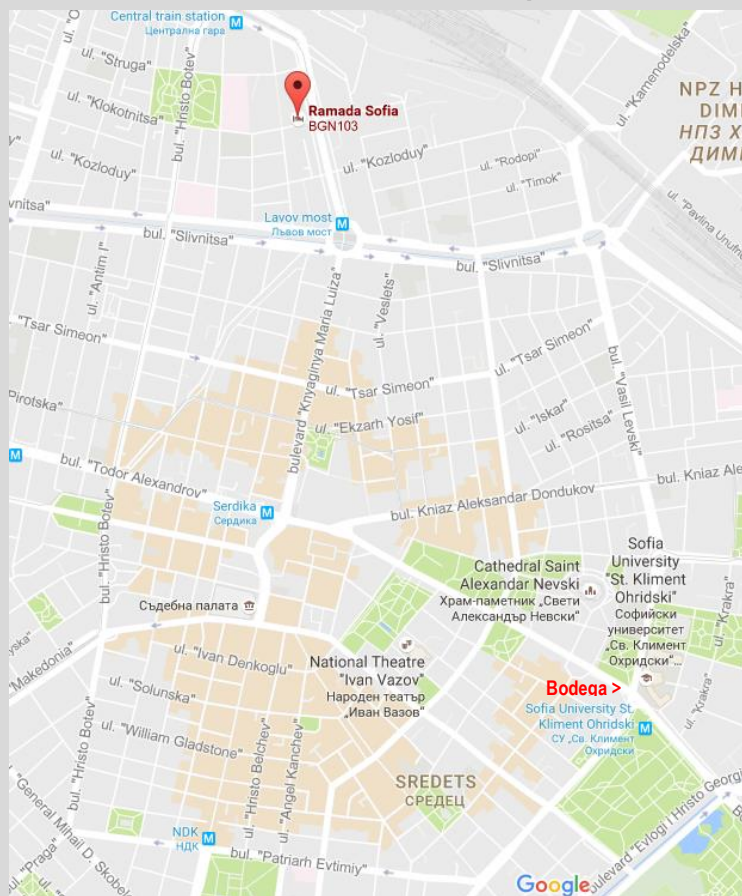
Single superior room - € 55 per night - when paying at hotel reception

Single superior room - € 50 per night when paying to Lidia Tours

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IBAN in EUR: BG85TTBB94001526157571

BIC: TTBB BG 22 Societe Generale Експресбанк



## Transfer from airport:

**Metro** - change line at Serdika station - go to Central Railway Station;

**Taxi** - Price to hotel is about 15 leva depending on traffic.

Best to use the taxi service office inside the airport.

Ramada hotel offers transfer from and to airport