

E(U)VOLUTION: THE GENERATION

10 - 17 April 2016, SOFIA

The National Student Confederation along with JEF and UEF-Bulgaria have the pleasure of inviting you to participate in the international seminar

“E(U)VOLUTION: THE GENERATION”.

Today, European citizenship is more than a concept. It is a practical reality that brings tangible benefits to citizens. The better Europeans understand their rights as EU citizens, the more informed decisions they can take in their personal lives. This will lead to a more vibrant democratic life in Europe at all levels.

Objectives

The international seminar “Democratic European Citizenship: Turning the Concept into Reality” to be held in Sofia from 10 to 17 April, 2016 will meet the need to inform the young people how the EU works and the rights and obligations the EU citizenship brings in order to provide young people with knowledge and skills for active participation in the democratic life of the union. The political, social, economic and cultural aspects that the seminar addresses will contribute to shape a vision how to strengthen European democracy and reaffirm the concept of active European citizenship.

The participants will acquire competence about how to develop activities fostering active European citizenship and build capacity for preparation and conduct of campaigns aiming to boost the turnout in the European Elections. The ideas and knowledge generated during the course can be used by every participant and be implemented at local level.

Panel discussions, working groups, lectures, plenary sessions, simulation games and information market will be some of the methods used to debate these issues. The rich social program will enable the participants to explore the night life in Sofia, enjoy a horse ride in Vitosha mountain and see the Rila Monastery, one of the most significant and picturesque monuments on the Balkans, part of the UNESCO book of world heritage.

Programme

10 April, Sunday

10.00-14.00 *Arrival and registration of participants*

20.00-20.30 Icebreaking games

20.30-21.30 Dinner

22.00 Welcome party

11 April, Monday

08.30-09.15 Breakfast

10.00-10.15 Official Opening

10.15-12.00 Preliminary Assessment of the Dutch Presidency of the EU followed by discussion

Guest: Tom van Oorschot, Ambassador of the Netherlands (tbc)

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 The Role of the European Parliament in the institutional system of the EU,
Representative of the Information Bureau of the EP

16.00-18.00 Sightseeing in Sofia

18.00-19.00 Working groups: Why should people switch on, listen and get involved in EU issues

20.00 International evening

12 April, Tuesday

08.30 - 09.30 Breakfast

10.00-11.30 The EU CFSP: Making the Dream a Reality

11.30-12:30 Discussion

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 Visit to the Bulgarian Parliament

16.00-17.00 Presentation of the Initiative “Civil Society for a Democratic Renewal of the EU”

17.00-18.00 How to defend the common European interest in national public spheres?

20.00 Dinner

13 April, Wednesday

08.00-09.00 Breakfast

10.00-11.00 Critical Analyses of European Citizens’ Initiative

11.00-12.00 Presentation of the Simulation Model EU 2016

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 The Nationalists and Eurosceptics: A Threat or Alternative

16.00-17.00 Introduction to street actions and low budget activities encouraging active European citizenship

17.00-18.00 Working groups: gathering ideas for low budget activities

18.00-19.00 How to make Europe Day 2016 a Real Holiday?

20.00 Dinner

14 April, Thursday

08.30-09.15 Breakfast

09.30- 13.30 Activities in the open. Hiking in Vitosha Mountain and horse riding (optional)

14.00 Lunch

16.00-18.00: Discussion: The Role of Culture and Sport for the Shaping of a Common European Identity

20.00 Dinner

15 April, Friday

08.30- 09.15 Breakfast

10.00- 12.00 Visit to the Information Centre of MEP Andrey Kovatchev

12.30-14.00 Lunch

14.00-16.00 The role of the media in promoting active European citizenship

16.00-17.30 Working groups: Preparing a press release and providing media partnership

17.30-18.00 Presentation of the results from the working groups

18.00-19.00 Political Café: The Community Method vs Intergovernmentalism

20.00 Dinner

16 April, Saturday

08.00- 08.30 Breakfast

08.30-17.00 Visit to the Rila Monastery

17.00- 18.00 Preparing a CD with pictures and impressions from the seminar

18.00-20.00 Evaluation

20.00 Dinner

21.00 C U Soon Party

17 April, Sunday

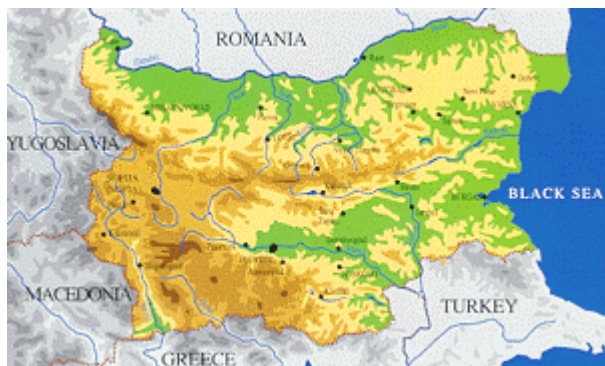
Departure of participants

**Please submit to EUROSUDNGO@GMAIL.COM
THANK YOU!!!**

COST

The participation fee of 75 Euro has to be paid on the spot. It covers accommodation and full board .

PRACTICAL INFORMATION FOR YOUR STAY IN BULGARIA



Population: 7,4 million
Area: 110,994 sq. Km
Language: Bulgarian
Predominant Religion: Bulgarian Orthodox
President: Rosen Plevneliev
Prime Minister: Marin Raykov
Capital: Sofia
Sofia Population: 1,3 million

DEAR PARTICIPANTS,

As the seminar in Sofia is rapidly approaching in time, we would like to provide you with some useful information regarding our event.

Attached you will also find the program which may be subject to minor changes.

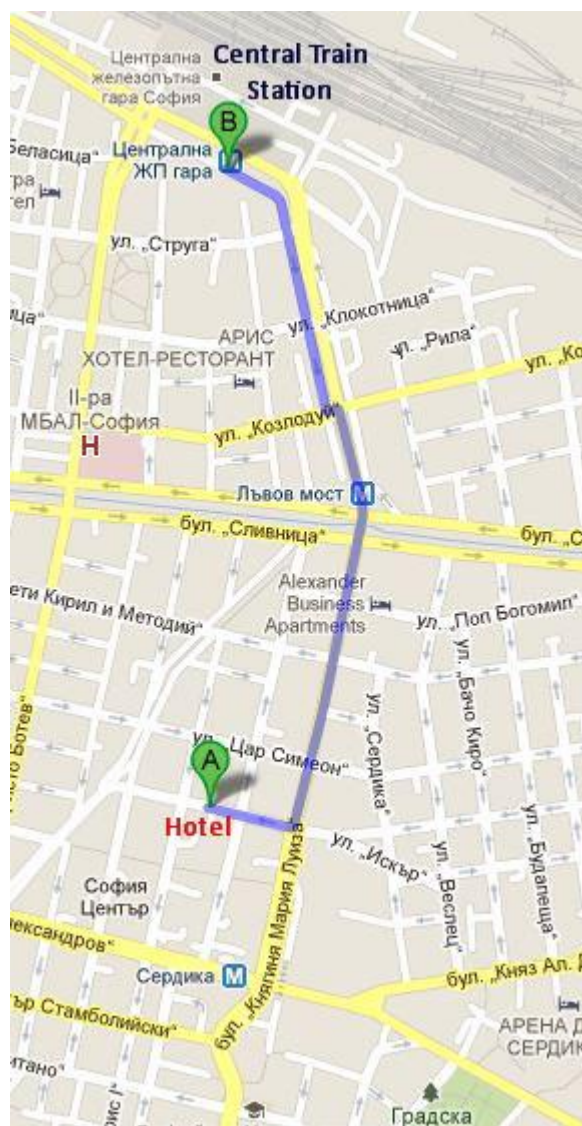
ARRIVAL

If you need an invitation letter, you should inform us about this as soon as possible. As you can see from the program, all participants should gather for the ice-breaking games at 20.00, on 7 May, Tuesday in the National Student House. At 19.30 there will be a person in the lobby of the hotel to take you to the place.

HOW TO GET TO THE HOTEL

Since there are no direct buses to the hotel, the easiest way to get to it is to take a taxi. It will cost you no more than 4 Leva (2 Euro) from the Central Station and no more than 14 Leva (7 EURO) from the Sofia Airport. You can also take bus 84 from the airport and get off at Orlov most station. The journey takes 35-40 minutes. Then you go down into the subway and take the metro from Sofia university for 1 station only. Next station is called Serdika. It takes 5 minutes walk from the station to the hotel.

It will take you 15-20 minutes if you prefer walking from the Central Station to the hotel.



Walking directions from Central Railway Station to the Scotty's Boutique Hotel (11 Ekzarh Yosif Str.), Sofiya, Bulgaria

[3D](#)

Gare Centrale Sofia
Sofia, Bulgaria

1. Head **southeast** on **Predgarov ploshtad/Предгаров площад** 170 m
 2. Turn right toward **bulevard Knyaginya Mariya Luiza/булевард Княгиня Мария Луиза** 90 m
 3. Turn left onto **bulevard Knyaginya Mariya Luiza/булевард Княгиня Мария Луиза** 600 m
 4. Continue onto **ploshtad Lavov most/площад Львов мост** 50 m
 5. Turn right onto **bulevard Slivnitsa/булевард Сливница** 11 m
 6. Turn left onto **bulevard Knyaginya Mariya Luiza/булевард Княгиня Мария Луиза** 800 m
 7. Turn right onto **ulitsa Ekzarh Yosif/улица „Екзарх Йосиф“** 150 m
- Destination will be on the right

At the reception in the hotel there will be a List of the foreign participants in the seminar.

CHECK IN starts from 14.00 A.M.

CHECK OUT until 11.00 A.M.

In case you arrive earlier on 7 May, you can leave your luggage at the reception and have a walk around the area. Listed below are a few reputable taxi companies as far as pricing goes. All legal and registered taxi cabs must be yellow, and operate by meter. Rates per km (between 0.70 - 0.90 leva), any starting and call out charge must by law be displayed on the windows.

Company	Tel.
OK SUPERTRANS	973 21 21
TAXI-S-EXPRESS	912 80
YES TAXI	911 19, 91 009

Please, be aware that they're many illegal taxicabs around the Train and Bus Stations. The names and telephone numbers displayed on the cars are close to the legal taxis companies, but are not the same. Usually those taxis are not radio taxis and the drivers are too insisting.

There are **trams, buses, and trolley buses** (as well as a recently-opened short section of underground) which cover most of the city.

Public transport runs daily from 5am till 11 pm for buses, 11.30pm for trams. **Tickets:** single use, for any distance on any tram, bus or trolley-bus line are **1.00** lev. Tickets good for a single trip are sold at kiosks at the major stops or at newsagents. You have to punch them inside the vehicle.

Tickets are inspected at random by conductors; the fine is 20 leva.

THE INTERNATIONAL EVENING



You should not forget to bring something typical (food, drinks, music) from your country for the international evening which will be on Wednesday 8 May. You can also prepare a kind of presentation of the place you come from and of yourself. National anthems are welcome ☐

SESSIONS

All the sessions except the Public discussion on the 9 May as well as the Welcome and Farewell Party will be held at the National Student House, 10 "Narodno Sabranie" Sq. It is 50 metres on the right from Hotel Radisson SAS and against the Bulgarian Parliament. Standing behind the monument of "Tzar Osvoboditel" (horseman) you should see on your right hand side a yellow building and the entrance of a night club called "Revue". Our office is two floors above the night club.

Please, take the entrance of the National Student House, next to the entrance of the night club, and go to the 3rd floor-room 302. The sessions will be on the 2nd floor, Hall 201. The Public discussion on 9 May will be in the Central Military Club (7 Tsar Osvoboditel blvd) which is only 200 m away from the National Student House.



MEALS

All meals are provided. Breakfast will be delivered to your rooms in the hotel. The organisers will inform you how to get to the venues of the lunch and dinner or take you there.

COST

The participation fee of 75 Euro has to be paid on the spot. It covers accommodation and full board .

Travel reimbursement for the seminar is at 100 % of the cost of the ticket based on the cheapest means of travel. Reimbursement will be given on the spot at the end of the seminar only to the participants who attended all the seminar's sessions.

Social activities in the evenings are not covered by the organizers. Make sure you have some pocket money. However, don't worry, since Bulgaria is one of the cheapest places in Europe. For your information a good beer costs only 1.5 Euro.

WEATHER IN BULGARIA

http://vremeto.v.bg/c/index.pl%3Fplace=84&action=real&lang=_eng.html

CLOTHES

The clothes during the week can be casual. You will need comfortable clothes and shoes for the excursion to the Rila Monastery and the horse ride in Vitosha Mountain.

CURRENCY

Bulgaria's currency is called **lev (BGN)**, plural: leva. One lev is made up of 100 stotinki. Bureaux de change are found on all major streets in Sofia. Some in the centre now charge commission but are not very up-front about it. Best to ask how much they will give you before you hand over your money. Travellers cheques must be cashed at banks and most charge a commission.

The exchange rate is fixed at EURO 1 = BGN 1,95583

For more information and a city map:

www.sofiacityguide.com

www.bulgaria.com

Please submit to EUROSUDNGO@GMAIL.COM

THANK YOU!!!

We hope that this e-mail answers all your questions! If not, please get in touch with the office as soon as possible.