



CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND DISASTER RESPONSE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

2016 Crisis Management and Disaster Response Interagency Interaction Annual Conference



**INFO PACKAGE
BULGARIA, SOFIA
31 May-02 Jun 2016**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Here is some useful information to assist your visit.



VENUE:

Hotel Marinela

100 *James Bouchier* Blvd., Sofia 1407, Bulgaria

Located in the most sought after residential area, Hotel Marinela is situated in the center of Sofia, on the highest point of the city, 100 metres from the James Bouchier Metro

Station and 20 minutes afoot from the National Palace of the Culture. Its location provides convenient transport connections to the administrative and trade center of the capital.

POC:

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Conference fee per participant is 50 euros.

This is the ideal opportunity for companies to exhibit at the Conference in a cost effective way.

Conference exhibition fee per stand for 3 days starts from 300 euro.

The Exhibitor package comprises a stand with furniture, power and registration fees for 2 persons. Please get in touch with us for costs.

Arriving in Sofia

A valid passport is required for entry to Bulgaria. Participants from EU countries can use ID cards instead. It is required non-EU citizens to obtain a visa and is kindly recommended to contact with the Embassy/Consulate of the Republic of Bulgaria in their respective country.



There are direct flights to Sofia from the biggest European airports. Generally, the international flights land at Terminal 2 of Sofia Airport. The drive from there to the city center is a short one and should not take more than 30 minutes.

Both Sofia's Central Rail Station and the International Bus Station are located close to the downtown.

If arriving by car, be aware of the numerous speed traps at the entrances to the city as you will end up with a not insignificant spot fine.

Local Transport

The taxi services in Sofia are cheap and reliable and there is a small percentage of frauds, however check the prices before you enter the cab to avoid misleading. The taxi should not be more than 20-25 BGN for a ride to the central parts of Sofia. The payment should be made in Bulgarian currency only. You can change a small amount of money at the airport or use the ATM. All taxis are colored in yellow and operate by meter – it's worth checking if the meter is on. The reputable companies are OK Supertrans, Eurolease, Yes and Yellow 333, and the CMDR COE strongly recommends their services. Their cabs are recognizable by their call-centers always well shown on vehicle's sides.

The public transport in Sofia is composed of buses, trolley and tram networks and an underground as well. The services run from 5 am to midnight. Single-journey ticket costs 1.00 BGN and can be bought from street kiosks at the stops or from the driver. Ticket must be validated on board using the metal punchers near the windows. A single-trip ticket may be issued by on-board vending machine in trams and trolleys for each journey. The metro tickets have the same price (1.00 BGN) but are different from those used in ground transport, and can only be purchased from ticket counters in the underground stations.

Miscellaneous

CLIMATE: The weather in the beginning of June`2016 is expected to be warm as the day temperatures to vary between 15 to 20°C in the morning to 25-30°C at noon.

LOCAL TIME: EEST (UTC+3) between late March and late October.

CURRENCY: Bulgarian unit of currency is the Lev (pl. leva), code – BGN. It is in fraction of 100 stotinki (singular: stotinka). The denomination is coin of 1 lev and banknotes of 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 levs. The exchange rate against the euro is fixed at BGN 1.95583 for €1 as in 1999 the Lev's value was pegged to that of the German deutschmark, which was replaced by the euro in 2001. Since then due to the Currency Board it is easy to calculate the rate – it lasts BGN to € as 2:1.

EXCHANGE: Many international banks and Foreign-Exchange Offices operate in Sofia. Currency exchange at the airport on arrival or departure, and in the hotels, is also possible. Do not exchange money in the streets or outside financial offices despite the bargain rate offered: you risk being cheated!

BANKING HOURS: Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 17:00. Most of Foreign-Exchange Offices are open until 6 PM, and some around the clock. For more information on the actual rates it is better to consult with the Bulgarian National Bank (BNB) website: www.bnb.bg. Most of the banks have very friendly web portals where can find concerning information as well as the location of their ATMs.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS: International direct-dialing access code for Bulgaria: 359, for Sofia: 359 2. Cell phones are widely available where mobile services are provided by three operators—MTel, Telenor and VivaCOM. Another one is MaxTelecom however it is specialized in Wi-Fi supply.

DRINKING WATER: Tap water is safe to drink but not always pleasant in taste or appearance. Bulgaria's vast supplies of mineral water are widely available in 0.5 litre and 1.5 litre bottles. They are very tasty and not expensive. Stick to well-known brands

such as Gorna Banya, Devin or Bankia and check that the bottles are properly sealed.

ELECTRICITY: Main voltage 220 V/50 Hz, round two-pin plugs.

MOTORING: Drive on the right, overtake on the left, cross only when the traffic light is green, give right of way to vehicles approaching from the right at crossroads and to buses in urban areas, carry your International Driving Permit, ride with lights on at all times. The use of seat belts is mandatory for all passengers, except pregnant women. Speed limits are 50 km/h urban, 90 km/h outside and 140 km/h highways.

EMERGENCY: CALL 112.

Useful web links:

www.cmdrcoe.org

www.discover-bulgaria.com/

www.sofia.bg

www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/

www.sofia-guide.com/

www.bgmaps.com/en

www.weather.sinoptik.bg

II ACCOMMODATION

There will be a block booking for all participants in the workshop.

The deluxe single room – 70 EUR

The deluxe double room – 75 EUR

This price is special for our guests and includes: Breakfast, swimming pool, high speed Wi-Fi in the rooms and free fitness facility.

Room attributes: Breath-taking views at the Vitosha mountain and the city; Shower & Bathtub; 24-hour-in-room-dining Laundry / Dry cleaning service; Mini bar; In-room safe; Individual climate control.

Please note that parking lots are not provided.

For more info: <http://www.hotel-marinela.com/en/rooms-en/rooms1-en.ht>

Hotel Marinela ***** is situated in the center of Sofia, 20 minutes away from the National Palace of Culture. Its location provides convenient transport connections to the administrative and trade center of the capital.



All major airlines land at Sofia International Airport which is 13 km from Hotel Marinela.

Please note that the **deadline for hotel booking is:**
MAY 6th, 2016

Note: The Registration Form (on the CMDR COE website) is
sufficient for accommodation purposes.

Please address all accommodation issues to POCs

The drive takes 20 minutes. The central train and bus stations are 10 km away and the drive to the city centre takes only 10 minutes. Request a limousine transfer or shuttle or pick up a taxi to reach our hotel overlooking the buzzing city! The metro station is just 200 m away from the hotel.

GPS coordinates:

Latitude: N 42.6978 / 42°42' 52

Longitude: E 23.3217 / 23°20' 18

Distance to local attractions:

Alexander Nevsky Cathedral - 4.50 km

St. Nicholas the Miracle Maker - 4.00 km

National Palace of Culture (NDK) - 2.00 km

Ivan Vazov National Theater - 3.50 km

National History Museum - 4.50 km

Boyana Church - 8.30 km

Vitosha Mountain- 8.00 km

Paradise Shopping mall - 1.80 km

Shopping / Fashion street - 2.50 km

Hotel Marinela has superb leisure and dining facilities including five restaurants and two bars, including:

- Intermezzo Lobby Bar - The boiling social point in Sofia
- Ambassador Restaurant - Delicious breakfast and refined dining in exquisite surroundings
- Panorama Restaurant - International cuisine at the top of the city
- Captain Cook - Exclusive fish selection
- Happy Sushi - Sushi fantasies in the heart of the Japanese garden
- Candy Club - Chocolate and coffee creations



Hotel Marinela avails of the biggest hotel conference facilities in the capital, with 13 meeting rooms, the biggest ballroom in Sofia, boardrooms with day light and a meeting hall at the top floor revealing Sofia at your feet.

The hotel also offers a modern health club with the biggest hotel swimming pool in the city and the only Japanese garden on the Balkan Peninsula, modelled after the 400-year-old Japanese garden at Hotel New Otani in Tokyo.

Terms & Conditions: *Your reservation is absolutely secure. All personal data is encrypted and will be processed in a secure manner.*

In case of cancellation of the registration one week before the Workshop, an administration fee of 50% of the participation fee will be charged. In case of absence or exceeding this period, the full price will be charged. It is, however, possible to send a substitute for the registered visitor.