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2025 Sofia Meeting Invitation and Information

Welcome to the Summer 2025 WG21 meeting to be held
June 16-21, 2025 at the **Grand Hotel Millennium, Sofia, Bulgaria**
89B, Vitosha Blvd



We are happy to invite you to the Summer 2025 WG21 Meeting in Sofia.

Please find all the detailed information below, and don't miss the key dates:

- **After January 17, 2025** - the number of available discounted rooms at Millennium Hotel will be limited.
- **April 14, 2025** - closing of discounted booking link (see it shared below)
- **June 15, 2025** - onsite orientation meeting
- **June 16–21, 2025** - WG21 meeting

General Information

Meeting information and stay

The Grand Hotel Millennium is located in Sofia's city center, providing an excellent opportunity to attend the WG21 meetings and explore the heart of the Bulgarian capital city.

The [venue](#) offers discounted rates (breakfast included) from June 13 until June 22. A limited number of rooms are available on-site, so you'd better register early! Please use the dedicated link, which contains the discount already applied -

<http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=4427585&hotelID=110569>

The number of available rooms will be limited after **January 17, 2025**. Please book beforehand to guarantee a discounted stay. Please note that the discounted booking link will be open **until April 14, 2025**. Still, we can not guarantee room availability after January 17, 2025.

Several other hotels are within walking distance ([Central Park](#), [Hilton](#)), but the Millennium is the most convenient option since the meeting will be held there.

Registration

Please register your participation (in-person or virtual) with ISO. Your information is needed for in-person attendees' name tags and catering.

Zoom participants will receive updates via the Meeting Email List. Registration link - <https://sd.iso.org/meetings/143252>

Currency

Bulgaria is not yet part of the eurozone and most places work only with the local Bulgarian currency lev/ leva / BGN. The conversion rate to the EUR is fixed and 1 EUR is roughly 2 leva. In most places in Sofia, you can pay with a credit card, but we advise you to ask in advance whether credit card payments are accepted. It would be handy to have a small amount of local currency. Next to the hotel, there's a bank offering currency exchange services, along with an available ATM. Banks and ATMs can also be found at the airport. [Read more.](#)

Visa

Since January 1, 2007, the Republic of Bulgaria has been applying the European Union's Common Visa Policy, subject to the terms of the Accession Treaty. Bulgaria has recently become a Schengen member, and the EU internal land, air and sea border checks have been lifted, which means that there are no additional checks for visitors coming from another Schengen member country in Europe. In case a visa is required, please contact us if you need any assistance. [Read more.](#)

Transport

Getting to Sofia

Sofia city is easily accessible via Sofia International Airport (SOF), located just 10 km from the city center. Taxis, hotel shuttles, and public transportation (metro and buses) are available to reach your destination. The airport is serviced by numerous international airlines, ensuring convenient flight options from most major cities in Europe.

Sofia Airport (SOF) is serviced by the Metro, providing an efficient and affordable option to reach the city center and the Millennium Center near NDK (National Palace of Culture).

Here's how to use the Metro from the airport:

- **Terminal 2 to the Metro Station:**

- The Metro Station is directly connected to Terminal 2 via a covered walkway. Follow the "Metro" signs to reach the station in a few minutes.

- **Terminal 1 to the Metro Station:**

- There is no direct Metro access from Terminal 1. A free shuttle bus operates between Terminals 1 and 2 approximately every 30 minutes. Take the shuttle to Terminal 2 and proceed to the Metro Station.

Metro Route to NDK:

1. From the Sofia Airport Metro Station, take Line 4 (Yellow Line) in the direction of "Obelya."
2. At Serdika Station, transfer to Line 2 (Blue Line) in the direction of "Vitosha."
3. Get off at NDK Station (National Palace of Culture), which is near the Millennium Center.

Key Details:

- Travel time from the airport to NDK Station is approximately 35-40 minutes.
- Metro tickets cost 1.60 BGN (approximately 1 EUR) and can be purchased at ticket machines or booths in the Metro Station.

Using Taxi Services

Official taxis are available at designated taxi stands outside both terminals.

Important: Do not accept offers for taxi services from individuals outside these stands, as such rides are often overpriced.

The average cost of a taxi ride from the airport to the Millennium Center is around 15 EUR.

More information can be found on the airport's official website: <https://sofia-airport.eu/en/access/transportation/>

Organization & Sponsorship

The organizing institutions are the BDS (Bulgarian Institute for Standardization), [Chaos](#) and the [CPP Alliance](#). To enhance the experience, coffee breaks will be available throughout the event, and lunches will be provided on the first three days. For the remaining days, participants can enjoy lunch at nearby restaurants, offering a variety of options.



Tourist Information

[Sofia](#), Bulgaria's vibrant capital, blends rich history with modern charm. Visitors can explore landmarks like the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, the ancient Roman ruins of Serdica, and the beautiful Vitosha Mountain nearby. The city offers a lively mix of cultural experiences, local cuisine, and vibrant nightlife, making it a delightful destination for travelers.

Tours and visits

For those interested in exploring Sofia, here are a few city tour ideas:

- [Walking Tour of Sofia's Landmarks](#) – Discover key sites like Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, St. George Rotunda, and the National Palace of Culture, all while learning about the city's rich history.
- [Vitosha Mountain Tour](#) – Take a short trip to Vitosha Mountain for hiking or enjoy panoramic views of the city from the Vitosha Nature Park.
- [Day Trip to Rila Monastery](#) – For a more immersive experience, consider a day trip to the UNESCO-listed Rila Monastery, one of Bulgaria's most stunning religious and cultural sites.

Each option offers a unique perspective on the city's history, culture, and natural beauty.

Language

Spending a small amount of time to learn the phonetic reading of Cyrillic letters is useful even for non-speakers as many words are shared with other European languages. [Read more](#). You'll also be getting a taste of Bulgarian history as the Early Cyrillic alphabet was developed during the 9th century AD at the Preslav Literary School in the First Bulgarian Empire. [Read more](#).

Before you depart, **install the Google Translate app** on your mobile phone and download the Bulgarian language database. The camera-based instant translations are super helpful for restaurant menus and the like. Still, it is good to know that most young Sofia citizens speak English well.

Explore Bulgaria on Your Own

Bulgaria is a beautiful country worth exploring. One of the top local destinations is the Black Sea. If you prefer mountains and lakes, Rila, Pirin, Rhodope and Stara Planina mountain resorts are nearby. If you would like to learn about Europe's ancient history, visit places such as [Belogradchik Rocks](#), [Valley of Thracian Kings](#) and [Perperikon](#), and the old Roman mosaics and

amphitheater in [Plovdiv](#). [Read more](#).

If you are planning on organizing your summer vacation before or after the meeting, you can contact us for more information about local travel agencies.

Safety

According to [Eurostat](#) and [Numbeo](#), Bulgaria's safety levels are around the average for an EU member country.

We are looking forward to meeting you in Sofia!