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2027 Sofia Meeting Invitation and Information

Welcome to the Summer 2027 WG21 meeting to be held

June 14-19, 2027 at the **Grand Hotel Millennium, Sofia, Bulgaria**

89B, Vitosha Blvd



We are happy to invite you to the Summer 2027 WG21 Meeting in Sofia.

Please find detailed information below, and make sure you don't miss the key dates:

- **By December 31, 2026:** Book your preferred room at Grand Hotel Millennium at a guaranteed discounted rate using this [link](#).
- **January 1, 2027:** The hotel releases 50% of the rooms it's been holding for us, but a variety of rooms will still be available at the discounted rate via the same [link](#).
- **April 14, 2027:** The hotel releases any rooms it's been holding for us that aren't yet booked. At this point, you can still take advantage of the discounted rate if there are rooms still available (subject to limited capacity).
- **June 13, 2027:** On-site orientation meeting
- **June 14–19, 2027:** WG21 meeting

General Information

Meeting information and stay

The [Grand Hotel Millennium](#) is located in Sofia's city center, offering you an excellent opportunity to attend the WG21 meetings and explore the heart of the Bulgarian capital.

The [venue](#) offers discounted rates (breakfast included) from June 11 until June 21. A limited number of rooms are available on-site, so please register as early as you can, using the dedicated link, which contains the discount already applied – [book here](#).

Several other hotels are within walking distance ([Central Park](#), [Hilton](#)), and you can book your stay there instead. However, since we're holding the event at Grand Hotel Millennium, this will be your most convenient option.

Event Registration

Please register your participation in the event (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.

Currency in Bulgaria

In 2026, Bulgaria entered the Eurozone, and payments are now accepted in euros (€) only. Card payments are accepted in most, but not all, places in Sofia — it is best to inform staff in advance when you plan to pay by card to confirm card payments are accepted. It is also a good idea to have a small amount of cash on hand. Next to the hotel, there's a bank office offering currency exchange services and an ATM. Banks and ATMs are also available 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 recently became a Schengen member, and the EU internal land, air, and sea border checks were lifted, meaning there are no additional checks for visitors coming from another Schengen member country in Europe. Please contact us if your travel requires a visa and you need any assistance. [Read more.](#)

Transport

Getting to Sofia

Numerous international airlines operate at the Sofia International Airport (SOF), offering convenient flights to and from most major European cities.

Sofia's city center is easily accessible from the airport — it is just 10 km away, and you can reach your destination by taxi, hotel shuttle, or public transportation (metro, buses).

The "Sofia Airport" metro station is located directly next to Sofia Airport's Terminal 2, providing an efficient and affordable way to reach the city center and the Grand Hotel Millennium. The metro station closest to the hotel is "National Palace of Culture".

Using the metro

- **From Terminal 2 to the metro:**

- Follow the "Metro" signs to reach the station — it is located directly to the left as you exit the airport.

- **From Terminal 1 to the metro:**

- A free shuttle bus operates between Terminals 1 and 2 approx. every 30 minutes. Take the shuttle to Terminal 2 and proceed to the metro station.

- **Metro route to Grand Hotel Millennium:**

- From the "Sofia Airport" metro station, take any train.
- Get off at "Serdika" station and transfer to the blue line (M2) towards "Vitosha" station.
- Get off at "National Palace of Culture" station and walk to the [Grand Hotel Millennium](#) (up to 10 min walking distance)

- **Key Details:**

- Getting from "Sofia Airport" to "National Palace of Culture" station by metro takes approx. 35-40 minutes.
- Tickets cost €0.80. Buy a paper ticket from the booth/ticket machine inside the station. Alternatively, you can simply tap your card at the ticket barrier to get a digital ticket. During your ride,

you may be checked for a valid ticket — show your paper ticket or the card you used at the barrier.

Using Taxi Services

Official taxis (“Yellow”) are available at designated taxi stands outside both airport 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 Grand Hotel Millennium is around €15.

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

Organization & Sponsorship

The event’s organizing institutions are the BDS (Bulgarian Institute for Standardization), [Chaos](#), and [Man Group](#). To enhance the experience, coffee breaks will be available throughout the event. 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 Serdika, 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 Bulgaria'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 quite 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 like the [Belogradchik Rocks](#), the [Valley of Thracian Kings](#), [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 look forward to meeting you in Sofia!