

Freedom of Speech in the Digital Era
7-8 October 2021
 HFR/2021/06
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

I – Activity

Name: HFR/2021/06 Freedom of Speech in the Digital Era

Dates: 7-8 October 2021

Venue: [Sofia Hotel Balkan, 5 Sveta Nedelya Square, 1000, Sofia, Bulgaria](#)

II – Accommodation

The list below provides you with the contact details of hotels located within walking distance of the seminar’s venue. **Please note that this list is offered on a suggestion-basis only and that it is up to each participant to make his/her own individual hotel reservation.**

The prices indicated are estimated.

<p>Name of the hotel:</p> <p>CENTRAL HOTEL SOFIA(4*) Address: Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia, 52 Hristo Botev</p> <p>Rate: daily internet rate Booking email: marketing@central-hotel.com Website: http://central-hotel.com/en/ Tripadvisor.com Central Hotel Sofia  tripadvisor Walking distance from the venue: 10 min</p>	<p>Name of the hotel:</p> <p>SOFIA HOTEL BALKAN (5*) Address: Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia, 5 Sveta Nedelya Square</p> <p>Rate: daily internet rate Website: www.sofiabalkan.com Booking.com – Sofia Hotel Balkan</p>
<p>Name of the hotel:</p> <p>BEST WESTERN PLUS City Hotel 6 Stara planina Str., Sofia 1000, BG Tel.: +359 2 915 15 00; Mob: +359 890 111 108; Fax: +359 2 423 1078; Web: www.sofiacityhotel.com</p> <p>Rate: daily fluctuating internet rate Walking distance from the venue: 15 min</p>	<p>Name of the hotel:</p> <p>HOTEL COOP SOFIA (4*) Address: Bulgaria, 1000 Sofia, 30 Iskar Str.</p> <p>Website: http://www.coophotel.bg/en/rooms/</p> <p>Rate: daily fluctuating internet rate Walking distance from the venue: 15 min</p>

Please look at the www.booking.com website for rates and special offers

III- Meals

Coffee breaks and lunches will be served at the venue of the seminar. The costs will be of approx 5 EUR per coffee break per person and 15 EUR per lunch per person and will be deducted from the per diem. Vegetarian option will be offered for the activities organised in the hotel.

The official dinner will be organised at the end of the first day in a nice restaurant so the participants will have the opportunity for informal networking. The amount of approx 30-35 EUR for a three course menu with drinks will be deducted from the per diem (please confirm your attendance in the OSP registration form)

Please inform us of any dietary restrictions in the registration form. (vegetarian, allergies etc.).

IV. Directions and transportation

From the airport to the city centre

1. By public transportation:

The journey takes 20 minutes depending on the transportation. You have several options:

- By metro:

Sofia Metro Line 1 connects Sofia Airport to the city centre. The journey time from Sofia Airport to the city centre is approximately 18 min.

The metro station at Sofia Airport is located in the eastern part of Terminal 2. You can reach it by following the floor markings in blue at the public area of Terminal 2.

- Ticket Price: 1.60 Leva (approximately 0,80 euro). Don't buy more than one ticket because it expires after half an hour.

Passengers arriving at Terminal 1 of the Sofia Airport should arrange by themselves a free ride to Terminal 2 from here <http://www.metrosofia.com/en/sofia-airport>. There they, as well as the participants arriving at Terminal 2, should take the subway to downtown Sofia <http://www.metrosofia.com/images/sofia-airport-metro-plan.png>. The airport is the last stop so the direction is only one and should go to Serdika Station which is the main transport hub of the city.

2. By taxi :

Please **do not take** a taxi immediately after your exit of the airport building. You should order your taxi via the desk in front of the arrival exit to the right. There is a sign of OK Taxi Company. The clerk will give you a detailed receipt for the car that will wait for you in front of the exit. **Do not hand over this receipt to the driver.** The taxi would drive you to the hotel in 15-20 minutes for approximately 12 Euros.

V. Entry and Exit Requirements

Are EU citizens permitted to enter? Yes. EU citizens arriving from Green or Orange Zones (and from Red Zones if they meet an exception) are allowed to enter Bulgaria.

Under the Bulgarian Ministry of Health order, countries are classified as Green, Orange, or Red zones based on their COVID-19 risk. Please note that the current Bulgarian entry requirements are based on the country of departure only—not on citizenship and not on countries through which you transit. If you are departing from a Red Zone country, you must meet one of the listed exceptions to enter—the fact that you are vaccinated or have a negative COVID test result is not considered an exception.

The current classification of countries as Green, Orange, and Red Zones, is based on COVID-19 risk levels and is listed below. The list changes frequently, so please check the website of the Bulgarian Ministry of Health for the latest updates!

Green zone: Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovak Republic, Spain, Vatican City State.

Orange zone: All countries outside the green and red zone.

Red zone: Argentina, Bangladesh, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eswatini, Fiji, Georgia, Grenada, Guatemala, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Palestine, Paraguay, Peru, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Seychelles, South Africa, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Suriname, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, the United States, Zambia.

Entry restrictions:

All travellers arriving to Bulgaria from a green or orange zone country, regardless of their citizenship, can enter without quarantine if they present an EU Digital COVID Certificate showing that the person has been vaccinated against COVID-19, has received a negative COVID test result, or has recovered from COVID-19. EU national authorities are in charge of issuing the certificate. The certificate may be issued by test centres or health authorities, or directly via an eHealth portal. The digital version can be stored on a mobile device. Citizens can also request a paper version. Both will have a QR code that contains essential information, as well as a digital signature to make sure the certificate is authentic. Similar documents which contain the same data as the EU digital certificate are also accepted.

Persons arriving from the Green zone who do not present an EU Digital COVID Certificate will be quarantined for a period of 10 days. The quarantine may be revoked if they obtain a negative result of a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test performed 24 hours after their arrival in Bulgaria or a positive result from a PCR or antigen test for immunity for COVID-19 for persons who had the coronavirus infection not more than 6 months from their entry date into Bulgaria. The quarantine is

to be lifted within 24 hours after the submission of the document showing a negative PCR test result or a positive result from a PCR or antigen test for immunity for COVID-19. The Director of the respective Regional Health Inspectorate may revoke the issued order for quarantine upon submission by e-mail of a document showing a negative result from a polymerase chain reaction test conducted within 24 hours of entering the country to prove COVID-19 or by a rapid antigen test as specified in Annex № 2. The recommendation shall be removed within 24 hours upon presentation of the document showing a negative test result.

We will update you if the regulations change in due time before the event.

VI. Additional information

For information on Sofia's touristic attractions, as well as Bulgarian culture, cuisine and entertainment please visit:

- <http://visitsofia.bg/en/>
- <http://www.bulgariatravel.org/en>
- <http://www.programata.bg/?l=2>

Bulgarian currency is Lev (BGN). It is officially bonded with the euro at a rate 1euro/1,95583 Leva. You can exchange Euro in the banks which are quite many. Most restaurants accept credit and ATM cards. Some may even accept Euro at a 1 Euro/2 Leva rate.