



**ANNUAL GENERAL
MEETING
JOINT WITH
STAFF TRAINING
18TH – 20TH APRIL 2024**



THE ECTS MA EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA,
BULGARIA HAVE THE PLEASURE TO INVITE YOU TO THE
ECTS MA ANNUAL MEETING 2024 IN SOFIA



MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA

Medical University – Sofia (MUS) has a unique place in the Bulgarian education system. The high level of teaching, training and the achievements in the research work, health care and public activities are integrated – aiming that MU would be innovator and meeting the public interest. The University strives for regional leadership while increasing the quality of the education on a national and international scale.

Medical University – Sofia trains the students for work in a competitive environment where the quality is a determinant factor for success. At the same time MUS aims at cultivating tolerance, team oriented, responsibility, autonomy and ability to solve problems and take decisions alone. This is the way that Medical University - Sofia tries to answer the increasing public needs.

ECTS MA EXECUTIVE BOARD:

President: Prof. JUAN ARGÜELLES (University of Oviedo)
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ORGANISING COMMITTEE:

MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA:
Prof. Tsvetalina Tankova, VICE-RECTOR
PROF. DIMITAR BULANOV, DEAN OF THE MEDICAL FACULTY
ASSOC. PROF. GENOVEVA TACHEVA, ACADEMIC COORDINATOR
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MR. SIMEON MANOLOV, ERASMUS COORDINATOR
MS. MAGDALENA KASNAKOVA, ERASMUS COORDINATOR

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY Evening (Sofia) 18th April 2024

14:00 **ECTS MA Board meeting for the members of the Board and Medical University of Sofia**

VENUE [University hospital "Saint Ekaterina" 52A Blvd Pencho Slaveykov](#)

18:00 – 18:30 **Registration**

18:30 – 20:00 **Welcome Addresses and standing Welcome Reception**

- Welcome address by *Prof. Boycho Landzhov, MD, PhD, Rector of Medical University - Sofia*
- Welcome address by *ECTS-MA-President Juan Argüelles*
- Welcome address by *Iliana Ivanova, EU Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth*
- Short presentation of the Host institution, by *Prof. Dr. Tsvetalina Tankova, DSc, MD, PhD, Vice-Rector of Medical University - Sofia*

ECTS MA Meet and Greet: make yourself known to your colleagues

FRIDAY Morning (Sofia) 19th April 2024

VENUE [University hospital "Saint Ekaterina" 52A Blvd Pencho Slaveykov](#)

08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**

09:00 – 09:15 **Introduction of the participant institutions** by *President Juan Argüelles, University of Oviedo*

CURRICULUM OF MEDICINE

09:15 – 9:50 *National Erasmus+ agency of Bulgaria - Priorities of the National agency*

09:50 – 10:30 Longitudinal curriculum by *Eliana Lemos (RWTH Aachen)*

10:30 – 11:00 **Coffee Break**

INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME (lecture with workshop)

11:00 – 12:30 *How to internationalise students and staff who stay at home?* by *Marina Casals Sala (Universitat Rovira i Virgili)* and *Jerneja Čelofiga (University of Ljubljana)*

12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch**

13:30 - 14:15 **Clearing House**

SPEED DATING: Meet current and potential partners to discuss student exchange

- in the application for the meeting add the checkbox which colleagues you would like to meet
- possibility of starting new partnerships, projects,...

FRIDAY Afternoon (Sofia) 19th April 2024

ECTS-MA SHORT SESSIONS ON INTERNATIONALISATION

14:15 – 15:00	Medical University - Sofia's journey through the capacity building to support upskilling and reinforcing academic expertise: BI4E & INGENIUM Magdalena Kasnakova, Erasmus+ coordinator, MU-Sofia	
15:00 - 15:45	<i>Workshop 1: Possible Erasmus+ call project application by Pinar Topsever (Acibadem University) and Juan Argüelles (Universidad de Oviedo)</i>	<i>Workshop 2: Language skills and mobility by Mario Antonio Martelli (Alma Mater Bologna), Nicole Dourado (University of Coimbra)</i> - OLS tests - Help2Project
15:45 – 16:30	<i>Workshop 2: Language skills and mobility by Mario Antonio Martelli (Alma Mater Bologna), Nicole Dourado (University of Coimbra)</i> - OLS tests - Help2Project	<i>Workshop 1: Possible Erasmus+ call project application by Pinar Topsever (Acibadem University) and Juan Argüelles (Universidad de Oviedo)</i>
16:30 – 17:00	Final discussion of the Workshop results	
19:00 – 21:00	Gala Dinner at Venue: Restaurant Shtastliveca, 27 Blvd Vitosha	

SATURDAY (Sofia) 20th April 2024

VENUE

[University hospital "Saint Ekaterina" 52A Blvd Pencho Slaveykov](#)

HOW TO MAKE ERASMUS MORE INCLUSIVE – best practices

09:00 – 10:00	"'The reason why you send students on an exchange'?" - Medical students' approaches to racism in medicine and healthcare in Germany" by Simon Gerhards (Carl von Ossietzky Universität Oldenburg)
10:00 – 10:45	Personal experience with Erasmus+ (round table) by Marina Stark (Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg) and Yanitsa Docheva (Medical University - Sofia)
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 13:15	ECTS MA General Assembly What do you expect from ECTS MA? Candidates for membership: - University of Augsburg,

- Université Paris Cité,
- Poznan University of Medical Sciences,
- Universitat Cat lica de Valencia and
- Uppsala University

13:15 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 18:00

Social Programme; visit to the Unesco site of Church of Boyana and National History Museum

19:00

Final ECTS MA Board meeting for the members of the Board, Medical University of Sofia and University of Antwerp as the future host

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Arriving from the Airport

Sofia Airport Metro Station is in close proximity to the airport terminal building. To reach it, follow the blue line on the floor in the public area of Terminal 2. The line provides a transport connection to the city centre. Take Line 4 (yellow) to the station Sofia University. Then change with line 3 (green) to the station National Palace of Culture. The suggested hotels are around the Palace. The taxi from the airport to the city centre costs around 20-30 BGN, 1 euro is almost 2 BGN (1,95583 BGN).

Accommodation in Sofia

You can find the suggested hotels in Sofia, walking distance to the venue:

Hotel "Niky" ***

<http://hotel-niky.com/>

ul. "Neofit Rilski" 16, 1000 Sofia

Double room, single use, breakfast – 50 euro

Apartment, single use, breakfast – 65 euro

Reservations by email: office@hotel-niky.com or by phone 00359 (2) 9523058 for the Medical University -Sofia event

Best Western Art Plaza Hotel***

46 Str. Hristo Belchev, Sofia 1000

Reservation by email: reception@artplazahotel.bg

Tel. number; 02 980 0030

Prices: from 65 euro

Rosslyn Central Park Hotel ****

Bldv Vitosha 106

<https://centralparkhotel.bg/>

Room type Preferential rate with breakfast:

Classic room, single use 105,- EUR

Superior room, single use 115,- EUR

Panoramic Superior room, single use 145,- EUR

Supplement for second guest 10,- EUR

Link for direct reservation with special prices:

<https://centralparkhotel.book-onlinenow.net/index.aspx?specialoffer=ECTSMA&promocode=ECTSMA>

VIKO BOUTIQUE Apartments Hotel ****

Street Zdrave 21A

<https://vikohotel.com/>

Standart apartment (junior, family, vintage), single use – 110 EUR

<http://vikohotel.com/rooms/junior/>

Superior Apartment, single use – 135 EUR

<http://vikohotel.com/rooms/superior/>

Bookings by email: manager@vikohotel.com

Please inform that you will attend Medical University – Sofia event 18-20 April.

About Sofia and Bulgaria



Sofia is the largest city and the capital of Bulgaria, as well as the 15th largest city in the European Union with a population of 1,350,904 people (2019 Census). Sofia citizens account for 83.5% of the population of Sofia district and for 17.5% of the population of Bulgaria. Sofia is a cosmopolitan city of different nationalities and cultures. They elegantly coexist in the historic downtown, which has become a kind of open-air museum with preserved remains of ancient civilizations.

Sofia is located at about 550 m asl, in the foothill of the northern slope of the Vitosha, in the Sofia plain enclosed by mountains on all sides. As early as Antiquity, the five mountain passes leading to the city (Iskar, Vladaya Dragoman, Petrohan and Botevgrad) and the roads passing there connected the Adriatic and Central Europe with the Black and Aegean Seas and the Middle East. Thanks to its central position in the Balkans, Sofia is a large and flourishing city to this day.

Since the remote past the city is known for its numerous hot and cold mineral springs (15 fields with a total output of mineral water of 130 l/sec). The Iskar, the longest river running entirely in the territory of Bulgaria, traverses the city.

Country information

Area – 110,994 square kilometers (42,855 square miles)

Population – 7,606,551 inhabitants

Capital City – Sofia

Currency – Bulgarian Lev (BGN) (plural Leva)

Language – Bulgarian

Time Zone – Eastern European Time: GMT plus 2, no time zones within the country.

Country Phone Code – 00359 Area

Phone Code (Sofia) – 02

Weather Chart:

Average Annual Temperature: 10,5 °C; 50,9 °F

During the Summer: 23 °C; 73,4 °F

During the Winter: 0 °C; 32 °F

Additional information

Electricity: the electricity is 220 Volts AC, European 2 round pin plugs

Weights and measures: Bulgaria uses the metric system for all weights and measures. To convert metres into feet divide by 0.3048; to convert kilometres into miles divide by 1.6083; to convert kilograms into pounds divide by 0.4536; to convert hectares into acres divide by 0.4047. To convert imperial into metric, multiply by the factors shown.

Bank Opening Hours: Monday–Friday 09:00–16:30

Healthcare: no vaccination is necessary.

Airlines: Bulgaria Air

Airport name: Sofia International Airport

Distance from Airport to city centre: 10 km

Access Information: bus route 84, 184 (Terminal 1); Metro, 84,184 (Terminal 2).

Language and Alphabet

The official language in Bulgaria is Bulgarian. Bulgarian is the first Slavonic language with its own alphabet introduced in the 9th century. From 1 January 2007, the Cyrillic alphabet is the third official alphabet in the European Union after the Latin and the Greek alphabets. Nowadays the Cyrillic alphabet is used not only by Bulgarians, but by Serbs, Montenegrins, Russians, Ukrainians, Belarusians, as well as by Mongolians. A total of over 200 million people!

On 24th May, Bulgaria celebrates the day of Bulgarian enlightenment and culture and the creation of the Slavonic alphabet by the two brothers, Saints Cyril and Methodius. Bulgarians consider May 24th the most loved of all holidays.

Transportation in Sofia

<https://www.visitsofia.bg/en/howtotravel>

From the National Palace of Culture starts the pedestrian boulevard “Vitosha” with cafes, restaurants, bars and shops. The city centre is 10 min walking from there.

Places to visit and what to do in Sofia: <https://www.visitsofia.bg/en/>