

Transnational Meeting

GUIDE

8-11 SEPTEMBER
SOFIA, BULGARIA
LEVFEM + TSS PLATFORM



BULGARIAN
FUND
FOR
WOMEN



this guide's

CONTENTS

CONTACTS

BULGARIA SPECIFICS AND SAFETY

SOFIA PUBLIC TRANSPORT

ACCOMMODATION

MAIN VENUE

KOPRIVA

BREAKS AND LUNCH

REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL

EXPENSES

SOCIAL PROGRAM

CONTACTS

In case of an emergency contact 112 immediately! If you are in an emergency please contact 112 first and the organizers afterwards.

The point of contact for any and all issues for the duration of your stay are the following comrades:

Stoyo, accessible via:

Messenger: Stoyo Tetevenski

Phone, Whatsapp, Viber, Signal:

+359888526284

Kalina, accessible via:

Phone: +359885831422

Whatsapp, Telegram:

+4917683502061

BULGARIA SPECIFICS

The Bulgarian currency is the lev (BGN). One lev = 100 stotinki. The lev is fixed to the euro, so one euro is always 1.95 lev. Virtually all stores accept payment via card, including the subway. You might need cash if banking charges will be steep (e.g. if your bank is outside of EU) or you plan to use a taxi or go to the local open markets.

The emergency number in Bulgaria is 112 and it can be accessed in English as well. You can contact this number to report a medical emergency or get in touch with the police or fire department. You will have to tell them the exact numerical address of your location in order to be assisted.

All attendants who are not citizens of the EU are obliged to have a travel medical insurance. Emergency healthcare is free in Bulgaria, but patients are often forced to co-pay various materials/treatments through loopholes in the system.

Sofia is a relatively safe city with low levels of crime in comparison to the rest of Europe. Please exercise usual caution when it comes to safeguarding personal belongings, and beware of pick-pockets especially in crowded areas.

Please use a mask in closed spaces to guarantee a safe time for all of us.

Something unusual for Bulgaria is that head nods for 'yes' and 'no' do not work as elsewhere. If someone shakes their head as a no, in Bulgaria this means yes! And vice-versa, so do not be surprised. Generally it is the expression of the face that matters, not the direction of the face nodding, so if someone is frowning while nodding this means no. If they are shaking their head no but they are smiling approvingly, that would mean a yes.

Carry your ID everywhere you go. It is obligatory to have your ID on you. Police often stop people on the street (predominantly men and people of color) and they ask for ID. Failure to produce such may result in your arrest. They might also search you for drugs on the spot.

In case the police detains you, please DO NOT sign ANY document they give you, even if they say they will let you go if you do. You have the right to be consulted by a lawyer at any time, and also the right to receive information in your own language. If you are detained, it is best to provide your name and personal information but not give any information on the issue you have been detained for. You have the right to a successful phone call.

Racism, xenophobia, sexism and queerphobia are unfortunately a daily reality, so be careful, especially at night. Public displays of affection between queer persons has resulted in physical assaults, and people of color have been harrassed on multiple occasions. We do not recommend for anyone to be alone on the streets at night for the duration of your stay, especially womxn, queer people and people of color.

We want to take care of each other. We would like to ask everyone to wear a mask at all venues for the duration of the event.



SUBWAY

✓ The subway (Sofia Metro) covers all areas of interest, including the Airport, the Central Railway Station and the Central Bus Station and Serdika Bus Station. A single ticket costs 1.6 lv. (about 0.80 eur). Day tickets cost 4 lv. and include access to all city public transport. Tickets can be bought at stops or by using a debit or credit card. The debit/credit card will act as your ticket and it can be used to enter the subway as well. The system automatically detects if you reach 4 lv in a day and will not charge you more.

Google Maps has the public transport feature on for Sofia so that means that you can rely on that to move around.

_ Beware of scam taxis. If you need to use the taxi please look for Yellow Taxi or call +359291119.



TAXI

TRANSPORT



AIRPORT

Terminal 2 of Sofia Airport is connected to the city center via subway that is situated right outside of the airport (there are signs that guide you to there, just follow the letter M).

Terminal 1 is connected to Terminal 2 via a free airport shuttle that runs every half an hour.



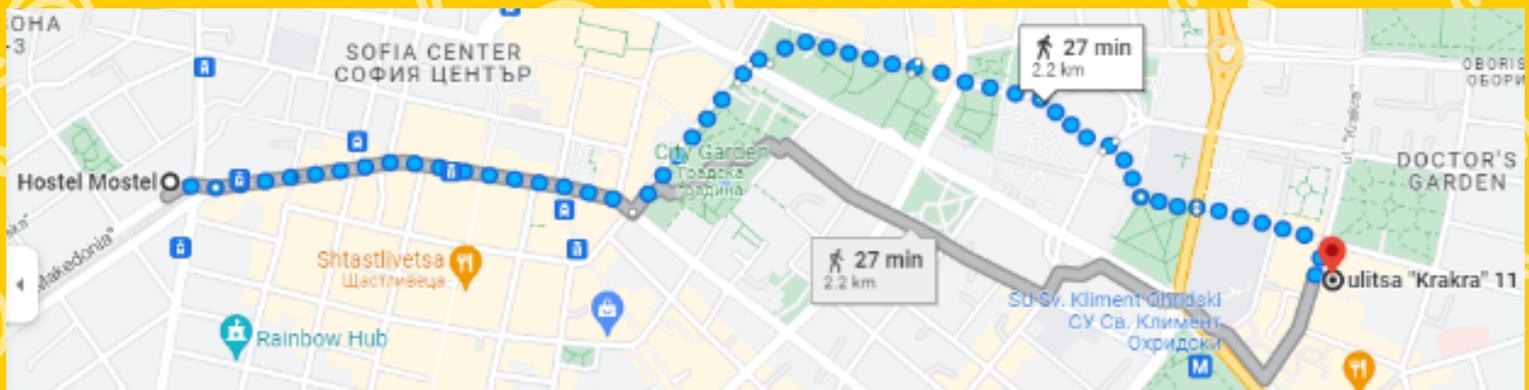
CENTRAL RAILWAY STATION / CENTRAL BUS STATION / SERDICA BUS STATION

These stations are located close to the city center and are all connected to Line 2 of the Sofia subway.

ACCOMMODATION



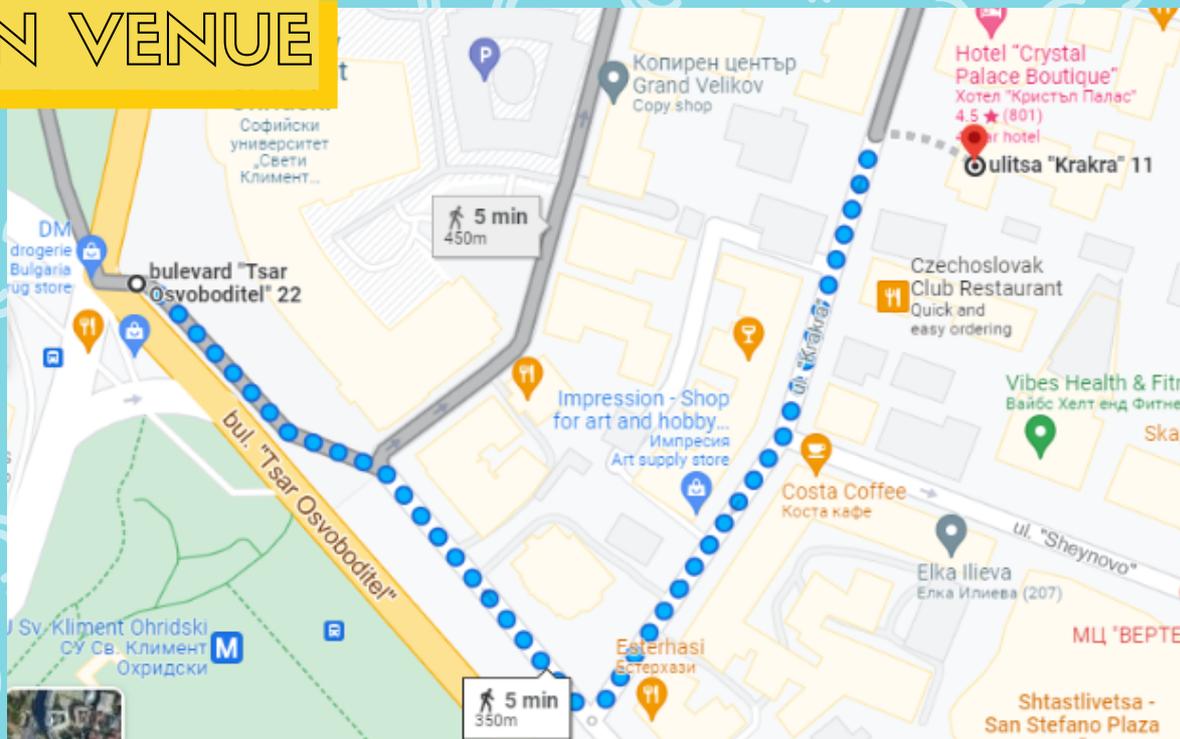
We have provided accommodation up to our budgetary limits. If you have requested accommodation, but we have not informed you of your sleeping arrangements, please contact us immediately so that we can try to find a solution.



HOSTEL MOSTEL

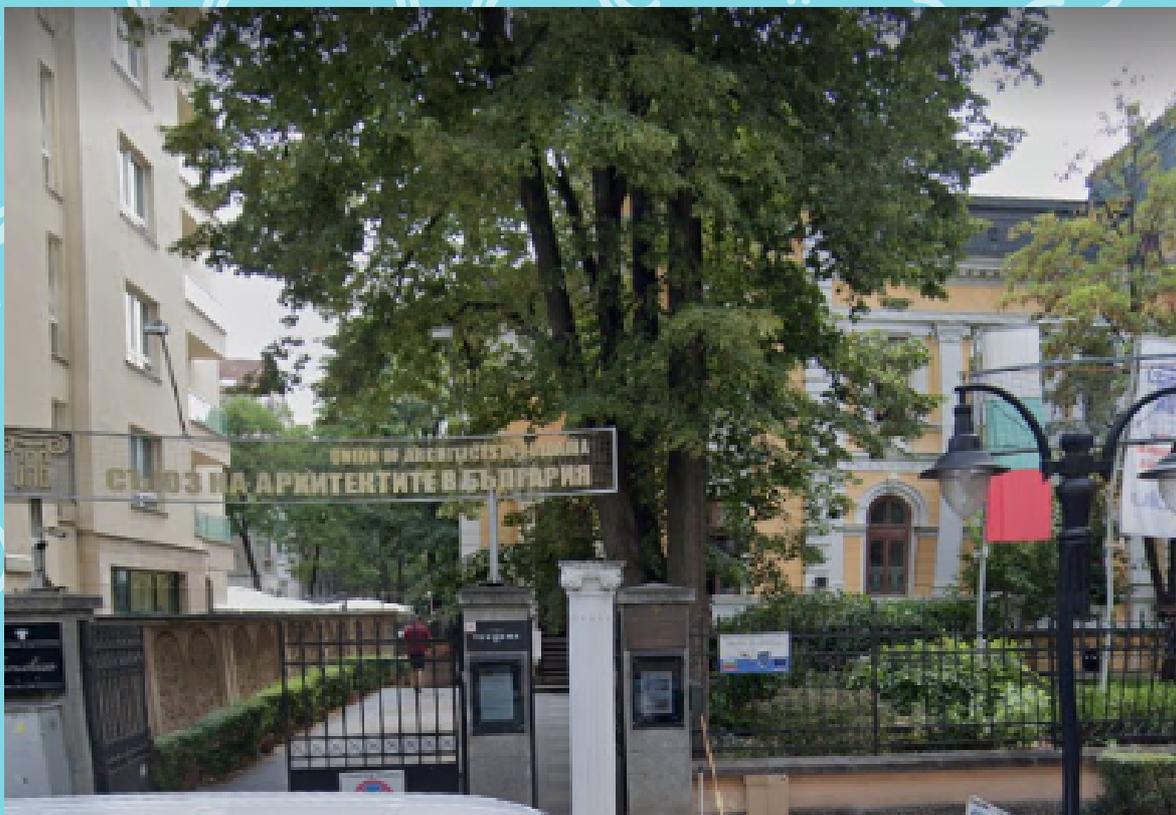
Most of the participants will be staying at Hostel Mostel on 2 Macedonia Blvd. It is located about 25 minutes away from the venue on foot. Alternatively, the subway can be used for one station (Serdica station to Sofia University station).

MAIN VENUE



👤 Wearing a mask will be obligatory for the duration of the event!

The Main Venue, the Union of Bulgarian Architects Building (SAB), is located on 11 Krakra st. It is 5 minutes away from the Sofia University subway station (Line 1). You need to exit the station towards the University exit and then climb up the stairs on the left.



The venue itself consists of two big halls. Hall 1 is situated on the first floor and Hall 2 is situated on the second floor, accessible by stairs. On your program, you will find indications of where each event is going to be held.

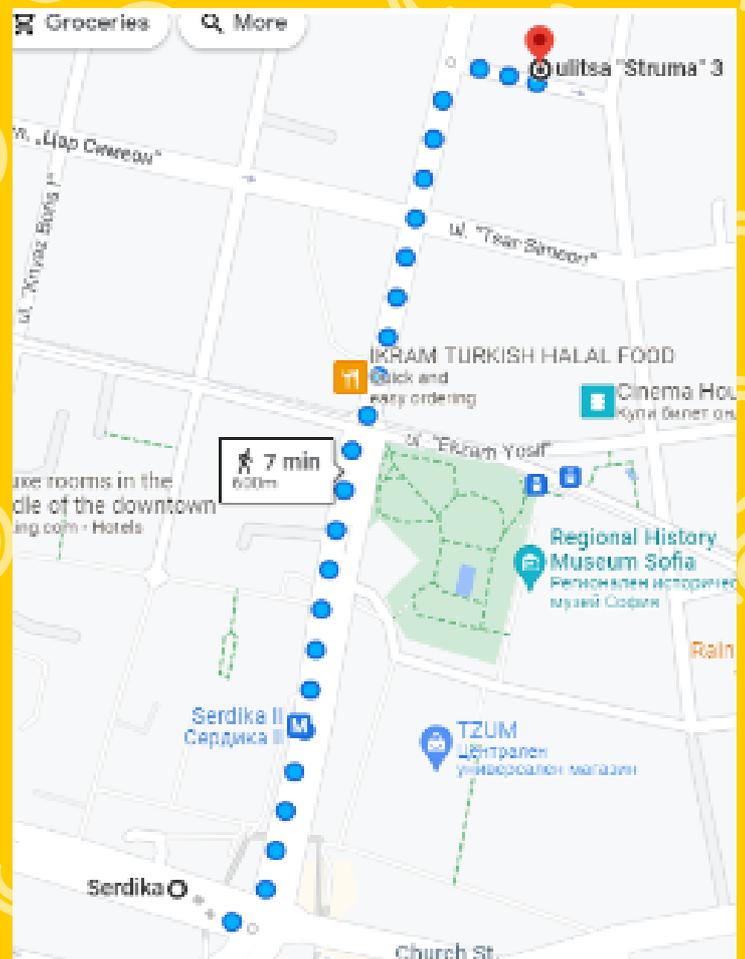
Toilets are located on each floor.

KOPRIVA



The autonomous ecofeminist space Kopriva is hosting the movie screening on Friday evening, as well as lunch and one of the workshops on Sunday. It is located on 3 Struma St., right at the city center. It is about 20 minutes away from the Main Venue and is also accessible from the Serdica subway station.

They welcome donations, and you can support them by bringing a book as they host the only feminist library in Sofia!



BREAKS AND LUNCH

All food served throughout the event will be vegan.

☕ We are going to provide coffee, tea, fruit and some snacks throughout the breaks. They will be located outside hall 1 in the Main venue. We will be providing some lunch on Friday and Saturday (at the main venue) and Sunday (at Kopriva). However, breakfast and dinner expenses are covered by the participants.

Please bring your own reusable cup and water bottle.

REIMBURSEMENT OF TRAVEL EXPENSES

Travel expenses will be reimbursed only for people who have received written confirmation from LevFem regarding their expenses. If we have not confirmed travel reimbursement, but you really need one, please let us know and we will try to reimburse you if we have sufficient funds left. If you have requested that your travel be reimbursed but we did not confirm nor denied payment, please contact us immediately.

! For the reimbursement, you need to prepare all travel documents in advance including receipts, invoices, boarding passes if traveling by airplane/tickets if traveling by train/bus. If you only have online tickets, please DO NOT print them for us but forward them to collective@levfem.org with your name and travel in the subject of the email. Please save boarding cards on your device as they usually expire after your flight and cannot be retrieved after that. We cannot reimburse you without boarding passes or tickets. We will reimburse you for your travel back but we kindly ask you to provide the boarding pass as soon as available.

LevFem will be reimbursing you in cash (in euro). If you prefer another method of payment please let us know in advance, but we cannot guarantee that we would cover banking fees and exchange rate differences in other currencies. If you prefer your reimbursement in Bulgarian lev please let us know in advance.

Reimbursement will be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, half an hour before the start of the program. Please look for the comrades from LevFem.

What do you need to prepare?

- Receipt
- Invoice
- Ticket/Boarding Pass

If you have online tickets, DO NOT print -> send to collective@levfem.org with subject: Travel + your names.

Reimbursement in euro in cash, unless otherwise specified.

Reimbursement will be available on Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning, half an hour before the start of the program. Please look for the comrades from LevFem.

Thursday
Sep 8
2 pm – 5 pm

📍
Sofia
Communist
Tour

The program starts with an optional tour of notable places connected to Bulgaria's socialist and communist struggles, organized by LevFem. The meeting place is the entrance to Vazrazhdane Park (42°41'46.3"N 23°18'30.2"E). The meeting place is on the lawn behind the parking lot on 2 Parteniy Nishavski St. The tour will leave at 2 pm sharp so please be there ten minutes earlier.

The Communist Tour will cover various places connected to the struggle against fascism and capitalism throughout the 1920s-1940s, as well as some notable examples of Stalinist and socialist modernist architecture. We are hoping to have a lively conversation on the role of state socialist history for our movements along the way.

The tour will also cover some historical landmarks in the center of Sofia as well and ends at 5 pm at the event venue.

Bring water, comfortable shoes and a raincoat in case rain is forecasted. Please note that the tour is about 5 km long. If you prefer to sightsee on your own time, we are sharing our top picks and the route of the tour here: <https://tinyurl.com/bg-anticap> (We have added an extra layer of tourist sites that can be activated if you'd like to explore the city. We are passing by some of them on the tour as well!)

Thursday
Sep 8
5 pm – 8 pm
Cocktail
evening

Cocktail evening Location: Main venue

To kick-start the meeting we begin with an informal get-together on Thursday evening. Feel free to bring a snack, a drink, or some meal to share with the comrades!

SOCIAL PROGRAM

Social event
Friday, Sep 9,
7 pm – 10 pm

Location: TBC

We are going to try to organize something on Friday. Those who are attending the Kopriva movie screening are also welcome to join after the movie.

Bar night
Saturday,
Sep 11, 8 pm –
11 pm

Location: Naklona Bar, Tulovo Str. 5, (5 minutes away from the main venue). To relax on our last evening together, we are meeting at a local bar. It is outdoors.



SEE YOU SOON!

The meeting is organized with the financial support of the Bulgarian Fund for Women and Guerrilla Foundation.