

**BEST Sofia
Autumn
Engineering Competition
9-18 October 2009**

**Survival
Guide**



General Information

When?

From Friday 9th to Sunday 18th October

for additional information check the schedule

www.bec09.bestsofia.org/schedule.html

Where?

Technical University of Sofia



Technical University of Sofia is the largest technical university in Bulgaria. It was founded in October 1945 under the name of machine-electro-technical institute "V.I.Lenin" and acquired a university status in 1995.

Now the university has 14 faculties based mainly in Sofia, but also in Plovdiv and Sliven. There are 3 additional faculties with education only in English, German and French. Nowadays more than 14 000 students and 1000 teachers are making the university the place it is.

How to get to Sofia:

By Plane

The fastest way to get to Sofia is, of course, by plane. So, if you are one of the lucky guys who want to come by plane, you can use **Bulgaria Air**, which is the Bulgarian national air company. Its rates are about 200\$-300\$ for return ticket from almost every European country. You can get some detailed information at www.air.bg/en/home/home/. A lot of European companies, like **British Airlines, Air France, Lufthansa, Alitalia, Malev, Czech Airlines, Austrian airlines** and others, have regular flights to Sofia. You can also try the low-cost companies Wizzair and Skyeurope which are currently flying to Sofia from some European cities.

For more info: www.sofia-airport.bg/default.aspx

By Bus

For those who want to save some money on travelling... it could be useful to know that there are some very good Bulgarian bus companies, travelling every day from many European cities.

For more info:

www.centralnaavtogara.bg/cbs/home.nsf/vPagesLookup/home~en?OpenDocument

By Train

If you are an adventurous person and have a lot of free time, you can come here by train. There are direct trains to Sofia **from Belgrade, Bucharest, Istanbul, Thessaloniki, Alexandroupoli, Kiev, Moscow, Saratov, Krakow, Katowice and Prague.**

For more info: www.bdz.bg

www.bdz-rila.com

Already in Sofia?

Just let us know when and where in Sofia you will arrive and we will come and take you!

Here is the address of the Technical University of Sofia in both English and Bulgarian (just in case).

Technical University - Sofia
8 "Kliment Ohridski" Boulevard
Sofia 1000, BULGARIA

Технически Университет - София
София 1000, бул."Климент Охридски" 8,
България

If you have any questions or you are already here :

Passports and Visas

Out of the European countries, Bulgaria has a visa-free regime with the members of EU, with the members of EFTA (Iceland, Norway, Switzerland and Liechtenstein), as well as with Andorra, Monaco, The Vatican and San Marino. EU citizens need only an identity card to enter Bulgaria. The citizens of the other visa-free European countries need a valid international passport.

Citizens of all other European countries need both a valid international passport and a visa. For more information check

www.mfa.bg/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=5106&Itemid=320
or consult the Bulgarian embassy in your country.

Useful information

Accommodation

You will be accommodated in students' dormitories. Two or three people per room and every room is with a bath.

Food

You will be eating in the university canteen. There will be also sandwiches, croissants, sweets and others. You'll have at least one hot meal per day.

Telephone

Cell phones will work, but it is best to talk to your operator to know the cost of the calls. Bulgaria phone code is +359 and 02 for Sofia. For example, if the phone number in Sofia you want to call is 123456, from abroad you should dial +359 2 123456. If you are in Bulgaria but outside Sofia, dial 02 123456.

Money

Bulgarian national currency is LEV (BGN) consisting of 100 stotinki. Banknote denominations include 2, 5, 10, 20, 50 and 100 leva, as well as coins of smaller denominations.

1 EUR \approx 2 Leva

1 USD \approx 1.5 Leva

Shake your bolts, baby!

You can exchange money in banks and 24-hour exchange offices. The exchange rate is announced every day.

TIP: Ask an organizer to come with you when exchanging money! It's not dangerous to go alone, but it's still safer to go with one of us!

Some prices for orientation:

	BGN	EUR
0.5 l Beer in the shop	1-1.2	0.5-0.6
0.5 l Beer in the pub	2-3	1-1.5
1l Vodka in the shop	10-12	5-6
Hot Dog	1.5	0.75
Hamburger	2-3	1-1.5
Mineral Water 1.5 l	1	0.5
Bread	0.8-1	0.4-0.5
Dinner at canteen	1.5	0.75
Entrance fee in disco	2-5	1-2.5
Public transport ticket	1	0.5

Emergency

In case of emergency call 112.

Internet

There is free internet all around the university and in the coffee places, also there are internet clubs, which aren't expensive at all.

Weather

The weather during October(which is the time of the course) is unpredictable, so bring warm clothes and raincoats (just in case), but also take some T-shirts. ☺

What to bring?

1. International Passport
2. Visa (if you need it)
3. Official invitation (if we have sent you)
4. Travel & Health insurance
5. International Student Identity Card (ISIC card)
6. Comfortable shoes for walking
7. Suitable clothes for walking in the mountain
8. Typical food and drinks from you country for the International Evening
9. A CD with your favourite traditional music
10. Small presents for organizers :P
11. A big smile on your face 😊

English-Bulgarian dictionary

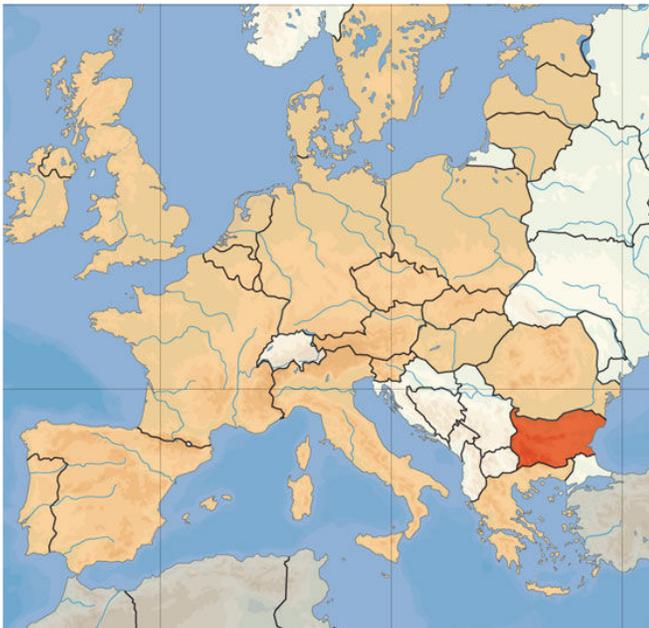
English	Bulgarian
Hello	Zdravei
Thank You	Blagodarya
Yes/No	Da/Ne
Where is?	Kade e?
Please	Molia
Left/Right	Liavo/Diasno
I love you	Obicham te
A beer, please	Bira, molia
This beer is not cold enough!	Cakate me s topla bira!
A condom, please	Prezervativ, molia

About Sofia

Sofia is the capital and largest city in Bulgaria, with a population of 1,4 million people. It is located in western Bulgaria, at the foot of Vitosha mountain and is one of the oldest cities in Europe. Sofia has over 7000 years of history and development. Now it is the administrative, cultural, economic and educational centre of Bulgaria.



About Bulgaria



Location: South-Eastern Europe

Territory: 111 000 km²

Capital: Sofia

Population: 7,6 million people

Official language: Bulgarian

Founded: 681

In European Union since: 2007

Shake your bolts, baby!

Bulgaria has over 30 000 historical monuments from different historical epochs, 36 culture reserves, 330 museums and galleries. The Bulgarian lands are ancient crossroads. They were populated from remote antiquity and remember many ancient civilizations.

The state of Bulgaria has an over 1300 year old history and according to the statistics, it is ranked third (after Greece and Italy) for its number of archaeological monuments. The earliest inhabitants of the present Bulgarian lands were the Thracians. Ancient Greek historian Herodotus describes the Thracians as the second biggest tribe in the Ancient world, after the Indians. The most famous Thracians were Spartacus and Orpheus.



The welcoming climate from late May to late September with average sea temperatures of 25C, the beaches with fine golden sands, and the modern resorts not surprisingly attract more and more tourists in Bulgarian seaside resorts. The Black Sea coast is also one of the best spa areas in the country where the combination of sea climate, mineral baths, hot springs, and curative mud adds to the possibilities of holiday enjoyment. The vast tourist complexes such as Sunny Beach, Golden Sands, Albena, Elenite and Dyuni compare favorably with villa settlements in the Mediterranean.

Shake your bolts, baby!



Rila, Pirin, the Rhodopes, Vitosha and the Balkan Mountains offer wonderful possibilities for skiing and mountain hiking. The international resorts of Pamporovo, Borovets and Bansko allows one to enjoy some of the best skiing in Europe - with snow from Christmas to Easter. Bulgaria has more than 600 hot, warm and cold mineral springs of varied physical and chemical contents, mineralisation, curative gases, biologically active trace elements, temperature and curative properties. Bulgaria enjoys a network of three national and nine nature parks, a number of reserves and natural places including gorges, steep rocks, and waterfalls.

About BEST

BEST, Board of European Students of Technology is a constantly growing non-profit and non-political organisation. Since 1989 we provide communication, co-operation and exchange possibilities for students all over Europe.

82 Local BEST Groups (LBGs) in 30 countries are creating a growing, well organised, powerful, young and innovative student network.

Our priority is to offer high quality services for students all over Europe. Thus, we manage to bring all the partners in the "student - company - university" triangle closer.



Shake your bolts, baby!

- We do everything out of free will.
- We are politically neutral.
- We attempt to make no profit from our actions.
- We represent nobody.
- We are based in Europe.
- We are there for European students of technology.
- We want you (yes you!) to feel our spirit!

If you happen to get lost, have any questions or whatever, call us:

+359 889 532 112 - Zanko Ralenev, Main Organizer
+359 878 113 785 - Yoanna Stoyanova, Main Organizer
+359 883 546 397 - Zdravko Popov, President of BEST Sofia
+359 889 857 887 - Dimitar Dimitrov , Secretary
+359 888 417 660 - Kalin Chernev, Treasurer