



„Plovdiv (Trnava) - The Old Town“ by a n. l. y.



Network of Associations of Local
Authorities of South-East Europe
- NALAS



National Association of
Municipalities in the Republic
of Bulgaria



MUNICIPALITY
OF PLOVDIV
www.plovdiv.bg

Annual Forum of Local Authorities of South-East Europe

16-19 May 2015, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

PROGRAMME

Dear Delegate, dear Guest,

Welcome to Plovdiv, Bulgaria!

*We are very grateful to have you at the **Annual Forum of Local Authorities of South-East Europe, X NALAS General Assembly** and the conference focusing on “**Competences and Preparedness of Local Authorities from South East Europe for Risk Prevention and Crisis Management**”.*

This event is being hosted in Plovdiv, a remarkable city and European Capital of Culture 2019. Known as the oldest living city in Europe, Plovdiv offers impressive history, culture, architecture and art. Along come the modern investments in the city, EU projects, industrial zones, e-governance, which make this city a nice place for living, but also a great example to learn from. The 2015 Annual Forum will provide an opportunity for networking among South-East Europe municipalities, learning from each other and showcasing case studies and best practices in sustainable local development.

*All delegates and guests will be accommodated in **Hotel Sankt Petersburg** (www.sphotel.net), while drivers in Intelcoop hotel (<http://cks.bg/en/pages/koop-intel.html>). The program for NALAS General Assembly **Delegates** starts **at 09:15 on 17 May 2015**, with a departure from the hotel for the study-visits. NALAS General Assembly starts **at 9:30 on 18 May 2015**, in the Bulgaria Hall, Congress Centre of Plovdiv Fair (www.fair.bg/en/).*

*The program for NALAS **Liaison Officers** starts a bit earlier, with a CLO meeting on 16 May 2015, starting from 18:00, in Room “Drujba”, Hotel Sankt Petersburg.*

The programme of the Annual Forum finishes on 18 May 2015 at 19:30. Along with this letter you will find the Agenda for the event, logistical details, as well as some practical information about the host City.

We wish you a pleasant stay and successful participation at the Annual Forum in Plovdiv, Bulgaria!

Yours sincerely,

Kelmend Zajazi
NALAS Executive Director

Annual Forum of Local Authorities of South-East Europe

16-19 May 2015, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

P R O G R A M M E

DAY 1:		16 May 2015 (Saturday)	
		Arrival and accommodation of the NALAS General Assembly delegates	
18:00 – 20:00		NALAS CLO Meeting (Room “Drujba”, Sankt Petersburg Hotel)	
20:00		Dinner (first floor restaurant at Sankt Petersburg Hotel)	
DAY 2:		17 May 2015 (Sunday)	
9:15 – 13:00 on site		AGENDA FOR THE NALAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES	
		Presentation of good practices from the City of Plovdiv	
		9:15 – Transfer from Sankt Petersburg Hotel by buses	
		9:15 – 10:30 Visit of the Economic Zone Marica	
		10:30 – 11:30 (Group A)	10:30 – 11:30 (Group B)
		➤ Presentation of Information and Communication Technologies Cluster – Plovdiv Public-private partnership between the municipality and the consulting company Industry Watch (Venue: House of Culture Plovdiv)	➤ Presentation of Municipal Foundation 2019 City of Plovdiv - Bulgarian host of European Capital of Culture for 2019 (Venue: House of Culture Plovdiv)
		Visit of the Plovdiv Historic Sites (Group A and Group B together)	
		11:30 – 11:40	walking to the Philippolis Forum
		11:40 – 12:00	visit of Roman Stadium
		12:00 – 12:20	visit of Kapana District
		12:30 – 12:40	visit of Ancient Theatre
		12.50	Transfer to the International Fair Plovdiv by bus
13:00 – 14:00	Viennese Pavilion, International Fair Plovdiv	Lunch for the delegates of NALAS General Assembly	

DAY 2:	17 May 2015 (Sunday)
14:00 – 14:45 Exhibition Building 6	AGENDA FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS Opening of the Business Fair and Municipal projects market by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Todor Popov, NAMRB Board of Directors' Chair, Mayor of Pazardzhik ➤ Mr. Ivan Totev, Mayor of the City of Plovdiv ➤ Mr. Djuro Bukvic, President of NALAS ➤ Ivelina Vasileva, Minister of Environment and Water Visit to the municipal and business exhibition booths
14:45 – 19:00 Exhibition Building 6	AGENDA FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS Municipal Projects Market 2007 - 2014 Representatives from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Municipalities from Bulgaria and South East Europe ➤ Heads of Managing Authorities of EU funds ➤ Fund FLAG and city development funds
15:00 – 15:30 Exhibition Building 6 NALAS Booth	Presentation of the awarded GENiYOUTH Municipal initiatives from SEE at the NALAS Booth. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome address by NALAS President Mr. Djuro Bukvic Individual Presentations of the awarded practices by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ms. Anduena Prifti, Deputy Mayor of the Municipality of Elbasan, Albania ➤ Mr. Ozren Petković, Mayor of Petrovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina ➤ Mrs. Jelka Černivec, Vice-Mayor of Maribor, Slovenia ➤ Mrs. Rozeta Aleksov, Gender Equality Coordinator in the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in Serbia ➤ Mr. Tadej Beočanin, Mayor of Ajdovscina, Slovenia ➤ Mr. Cemil Arslan, General Secretary, Marmara Municipalities Union Moderator: Ms. Svetlana Zdravkovska, GIZ, Institutional Strengthening of NALAS Project
16:30 – 17:00 Exhibition Building 6	Information meetings under the Operational Programs 2007 - 2013 (OPE, OPRD, RDP, OPAC, OPHRD, OPTA) – organized specific areas for programs for consultations & presentations
15:30 – 19:00 Open stage, between building 3 and 7	Concerts of municipal performers and bands "Municipal Stage" (cultural programme)
19:00 Plovdiv Int. Fair - Building 3	Dinner for all participants

DAY 3:	18 May 2015 (Monday)	
	NAMRB General Assembly Meeting	NALAS General Assembly Meeting
08:00 – 09:30	Registration (lobby of Exhibition building 6)	Registration (Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hal)
09:30 – 12:30	09:30 – 10:45 NAMRB General Assembly with participation of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions Secretary General – Mr. Frédéric Vallier 11:00 – 12:30 Discussion Forum Exhibition Building 6 For all participants	09:30 – 13:30 NALAS General Assembly with participation of Ms. Barbara Toce , Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe Mr. Gazmend Turdiu , Deputy Secretary General, of the Regional Cooperation Council Mrs. Katharina Stocker , Deputy Director of Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, SDC Skopje Mrs. Dimitranka Kamenova , NAMRB Board of Directors Vice-President, Mayor of Berkovitza Municipality ➤ NALAS General Assembly Statutory decisions ➤ Inauguration of NALAS New Presidency ➤ Thematic presentations: ➤ WB Urban Partnership Programme II Mrs. Sabine Palmreuther – Sr. Operations Officer; Social, Rural, Urban, & Resilience Global Practice; World Bank ➤ ORF MMS Mr. Christophe di Marco – Sector Fund Manager, Open Regional Fund for South East Europe, Modernisation of Municipal Services ➤ IAWD, Danube Water Program Mr. Walter Kling – IAWD – Secretary General. ➤ Award Ceremony: GENiYOUTH Municipal Initiatives
12:30 – 13:30 Exhibition Building 6	Award – European Label for Innovation and Good governance at local level” ➤ Mrs. Lilyana Pavlova, Minister of Regional Development and Public Works ➤ Ms. Barbara Toce, Vice-President of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe.	CONGRSS CENTRE, BULGARIA HALL

DAY 3:	18 May 2015 (Monday)	
13:30 – 15:00 Lunch	Exhibition Building 3 (for NAMRB delegates)	Presentation of practical tools for Improving Local Government Capacity in South-East Europe Sharing experiences from Municipal Finance Self Assessment and Urban Audit in SEE LUNCH/buffet/presentation for NALAS Delegates Lobby of the Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall (for NALAS delegates)
15:00– 15:40 Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall	<p style="text-align: center;">CONFERENCE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">“Competences and Preparedness of Local Authorities from South-East Europe for Risk Prevention and Crisis Management”</p> <p>Moderator: Mrs. Yordanka Fandakova – Mayor of the Capital municipality of Sofia</p> <p>Opening and official addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mr. Rossen Plevneliev – President of the Republic of Bulgaria ➤ Mr. Ivan Totev, Mayor of the City of Plovdiv ➤ President of NALAS 	
15:40 -16:05 Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall	<p style="text-align: center;">Introductory presentations: “EU policies and Global Experiences on DRM”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Risk management in natural disasters - Mr. Joaquin Toro - Senior Disaster Risk Management Regional Coordinator; Social, Rural, Urban, & Resilience Global Practice Europe and Central Asia Region; World Bank ➤ Innovative technologies and smart solutions to help Nations & Cities become more Secure, Reliable, Resilient, Smart & Cyber protected - Mr. Eli Fux, President of the Israeli high-tech company ERSolution 	

DAY 3:	18 May 2015 (Monday)
16:05 – 17:35 Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall	<p align="center">Panel: “Local Governments respond to disasters”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ How Bulgarian municipalities responded to disasters in 2014 and 2015. The role of the inter-municipal solidarity in recovery from natural disasters in Bulgaria. Mr. Todor Popov – Chairman of NAMRB Board of Directors, mayor of Pazardzhik Municipality ✎ The experience of local authorities from Republic of Serbia for managing the floods crisis in 2014 Mr. Saša Paunović – President of the Municipality of Paraćin, Representative of the Standing Conference of Towns and Municipalities in Serbia ✎ Macedonian experience in inter-municipal solidarity during the recent floods in the region. Mr. Koce Trajanovski, Mayor of the City of Skopje, President of ZELS ✎ Capacity development of Sofia Municipality for disasters' response. Mrs. Yordanka Fandakova – Mayor of the Capital Municipality of Sofia ✎ The natural disasters in BiH – the experience and the lessons learned for the local authorities in the Republic of Srpska. Mr. Mico Micic, Mayor of the City of Bijelina, President of ALVRS, NALAS Vice- President ✎ Coordination between national and local authorities – main precondition for effective response to disasters. Chief Commissioner Mr. Nikolay Nikolov – Head of GD “Fire Safety and Civil Protection”
17:35 – 18:10 Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall	<p>Discussion and reflections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ Coordination between central and local authorities in case of natural disasters; ✎ LGA role in promoting Inter-municipal solidarity in South-East Europe; ✎ LGAs initiatives to improve prevention policies.
18:10 – 18:25 Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall	<p>Announcement of NALAS Declaration on Disaster Risk Management Policies in SEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✎ President of NALAS
18:25 – 18:30 Congress Centre, Bulgaria Hall	<p>Closing of the Conference</p>
19:30	<p>Reception at the "Singing Fountains" at the King Simeon Gardens, hosted by the City of Plovdiv</p>
DAY 4:	19 May 2015 (Tuesday)
09:00 – 11:00	Departure of participants

Practical Information

START OF THE PROGRAM FOR NALAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELEGATES

DAY 1

09:15, 17 May 2015

Departure from the hotel
for the study-visits to:

- **Economic Zone Marica**
- Presentations (at the House of Culture Plovdiv)

Group A:
Information and Communication Technologies Cluster – Plovdiv: Public-private partnership between the municipality and the consulting company Industry Watch

Group B:
Municipal Foundation 2019: City of Plovdiv - Bulgarian host of European Capital of Culture for 2019

DAY 2

NALAS General Assembly

9:30, 18 May 2015

Bulgaria Hall, Congress Centre of Plovdiv Fair



ACCOMMODATION

The Delegates for the General Assembly, as well as NALAS Liaison Officers will be accommodated in **Hotel Sankt Petersburg**, 1,3 km (17 min walking or 5 min by car) from the International Fair Plovdiv.

Due to the limited number of rooms, drivers will be accommodated in Intelcoop hotel.

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Reception +359 32 91 03

Restaurant +359 32

904 293

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Intelcoop hotel

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intercoop@rezervaciq.com

info_intelcoop@coophotels.bg

<http://cks.bg/en/pages/koop-intel.html>



TRAVEL DIRECTIONS

Busses are provided by the City of Plovdiv to transport participants with the following departure schedule:

17 May: 9:15 in front of the Hotel, to site visit locations

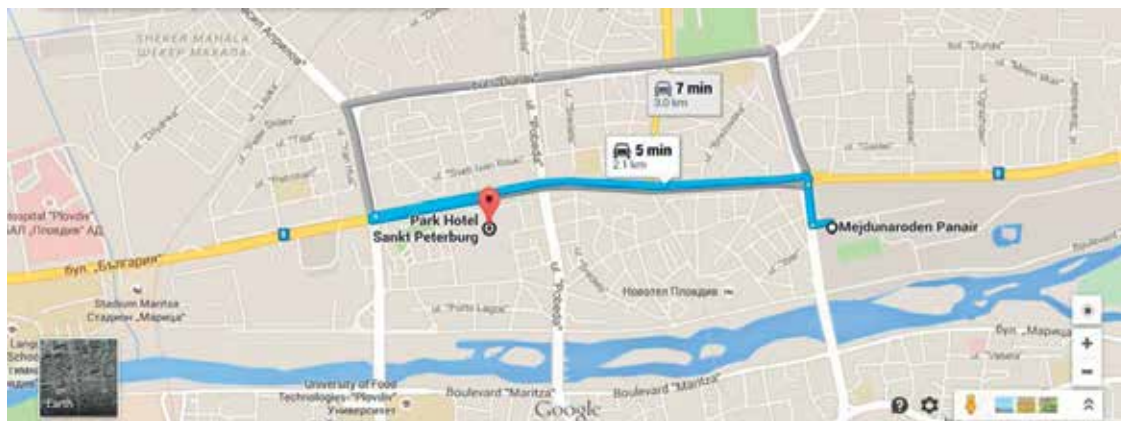
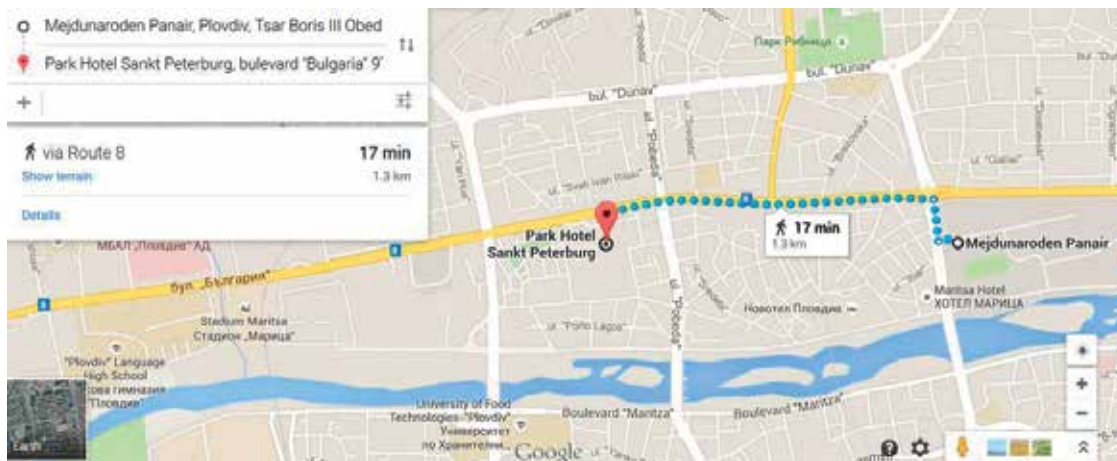
17 May: 23:00 from International Fair Plovdiv to Hotel

18 May: 8:00 in front of the Hotel, to International Fair Plovdiv

18 May: 18:30 in front of the International Fair Plovdiv, to Gala Dinner at the City Gardens

18 May: 22:30 at the City Gardens, to the Hotel

For those coming to the International Fair Plovdiv by car, parking costs 5 leva per day. The entrance is at Boulevard Bulgaria (back entrance, next to the fire department).



MEALS

During the whole event, meals are provided for NALAS delegates (based on the Agenda), through a voucher system. Your Heads of Delegation (LGAs Directors) will hand you the vouchers for meals. Please always have them with you, as that is the only way to get the service. Meals for drivers are not included.



Meals timing and location

Dinner on 16 May: 20:00, first floor restaurant at Hotel Sankt Petersburg, buffet

Lunch on 17 May: after the study visits, 13:00, Viennese Pavilion, International Fair Plovdiv

Dinner on 17 May: 19:00-23:00, Building 3 of the International Fair Plovdiv

Lunch on 18 May: 13:30-15:00, Building 3, buffet hosted by the World Bank

Reception on 18 May: 19:00, "Singing Fountains" at the King Simeon Gardens, hosted by the City of Plovdiv

TRANSLATION

Translation on 17 and 18 May, in the Congress Centre is provided in all NALAS languages.

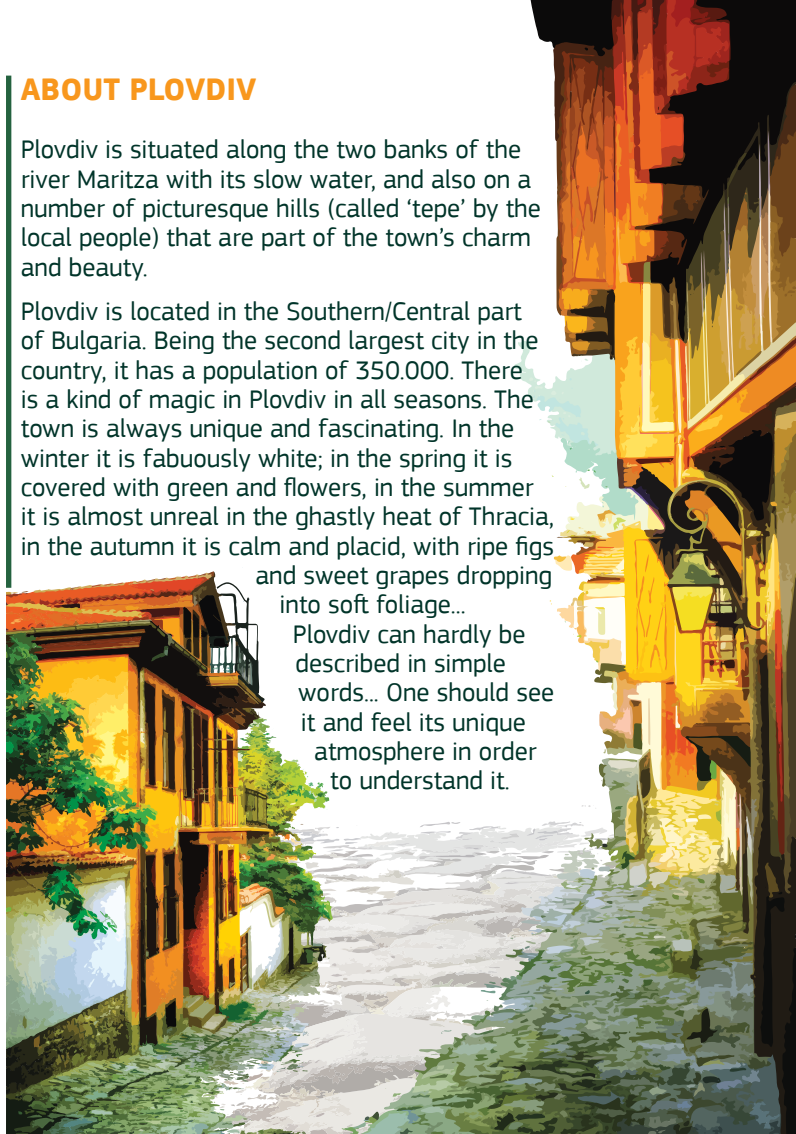
Translation in Building 6 is provided only BG-ENG-BG.

ABOUT PLOVDIV

Plovdiv is situated along the two banks of the river Maritza with its slow water, and also on a number of picturesque hills (called 'tepe' by the local people) that are part of the town's charm and beauty.

Plovdiv is located in the Southern/Central part of Bulgaria. Being the second largest city in the country, it has a population of 350.000. There is a kind of magic in Plovdiv in all seasons. The town is always unique and fascinating. In the winter it is fabulously white; in the spring it is covered with green and flowers, in the summer it is almost unreal in the ghastly heat of Thracia, in the autumn it is calm and placid, with ripe figs and sweet grapes dropping into soft foliage...

Plovdiv can hardly be described in simple words... One should see it and feel its unique atmosphere in order to understand it.



PLOVDIV LANDMARKS

- Old Town
- Archaeological museum
- Roman stadium
- Philippolis forum and Odeon
- Kapana („The Trap“) district
- Ancient Theatre
- St. Konstantin and Elena Chirch
- Etnographic Museum
- Bayatova House
- Nebet tepe
- St. Marina Church
- Ottoman Empire Mosque
- Bachkovo Monastery



INTERNATIONAL FAIR PLOVDIV

Dating from 1892, International Fair Plovdiv is one of the largest exhibition venues in Southeast Europe. It is situated on area of 352,000 sqm. The exhibition complex consists of 17 multifunctional pavilions, best equipped for the arrangement and display of any exhibits. The total exhibition area amounts to 159,100 sqm, including 64,500 sqm of indoor area. The modern Congress Centre comprises eight state-of-the-art conference halls with a seating capacity ranging from 20 to 550. Together with further 10 halls, available in various pavilions, the number of seats amounts to 2,100.

International Fair Plovdiv

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Institutional Strengthening of the
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