

Alexander Nevski Cathedral



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## SOFIA = BOOM!



Sofia is among the 30 fastest growing city-economies in the world



Sofia accounts for 40% of Bulgaria's GDP



Bulgaria's annual GDP growth is 3.9%



Doing Business Index no. 50 (out of 190)



40,000 people employed in ICT sector



R&D operations of SAP, HP, VMware, IBM, Cisco, UBER, the Financial Times, etc. in Sofia



- Sofia remains the largest regional economy in Bulgaria, providing the highest standard of living.
- By the end of 2015, Sofia had attracted more than half of the foreign investments to Bulgaria, totaling over € 12 billion or € 9 000 per person, or three times the country's average.
- Sofia is characterized by good uptake of European funds. By the end of September 2017, the city had absorbed 3.5 billion leva (current programming period)



- Among the top 30 fastest growing city - economies in the world, according to the “Brookings Institute survey” for 2015. Research, conducted by the Institute for Market Economics for 2017, ranks Sofia first in the country in terms of economic and social development.
- Accounts for 40% of Bulgaria’s GDP and the GDP per capita is twice the country’s average. The average salary for 2016/17 was over 30 % higher than the average for the country, approaching the average for the European union.
- Among the top 3 cities in Europe with the highest growth in the number of international visitors, 9.4% for the period 2009-2016 (Mastercard’s Global Destination Cities Index).

# Why we call Sofia a “Regional talent hub”?



Over **51%** of the population has a **university degree.**



High level of language fluency in English, Russian, German and Spanish.



**7%** employed in the creative industries sector.



**23** universities, **110 000+** university students, **63** research centers, several independent software schools.



**70 000** people employed in the broader outsourcing sector. Working in over **30** languages



**40 000** people employed in the IT sector.



**40 000** people employed in the IT sector.



Highly skilled labor market.



# The major action plans adopted

Sustainable urban mobility plan

Green Sofia

Integrated plan for urban development

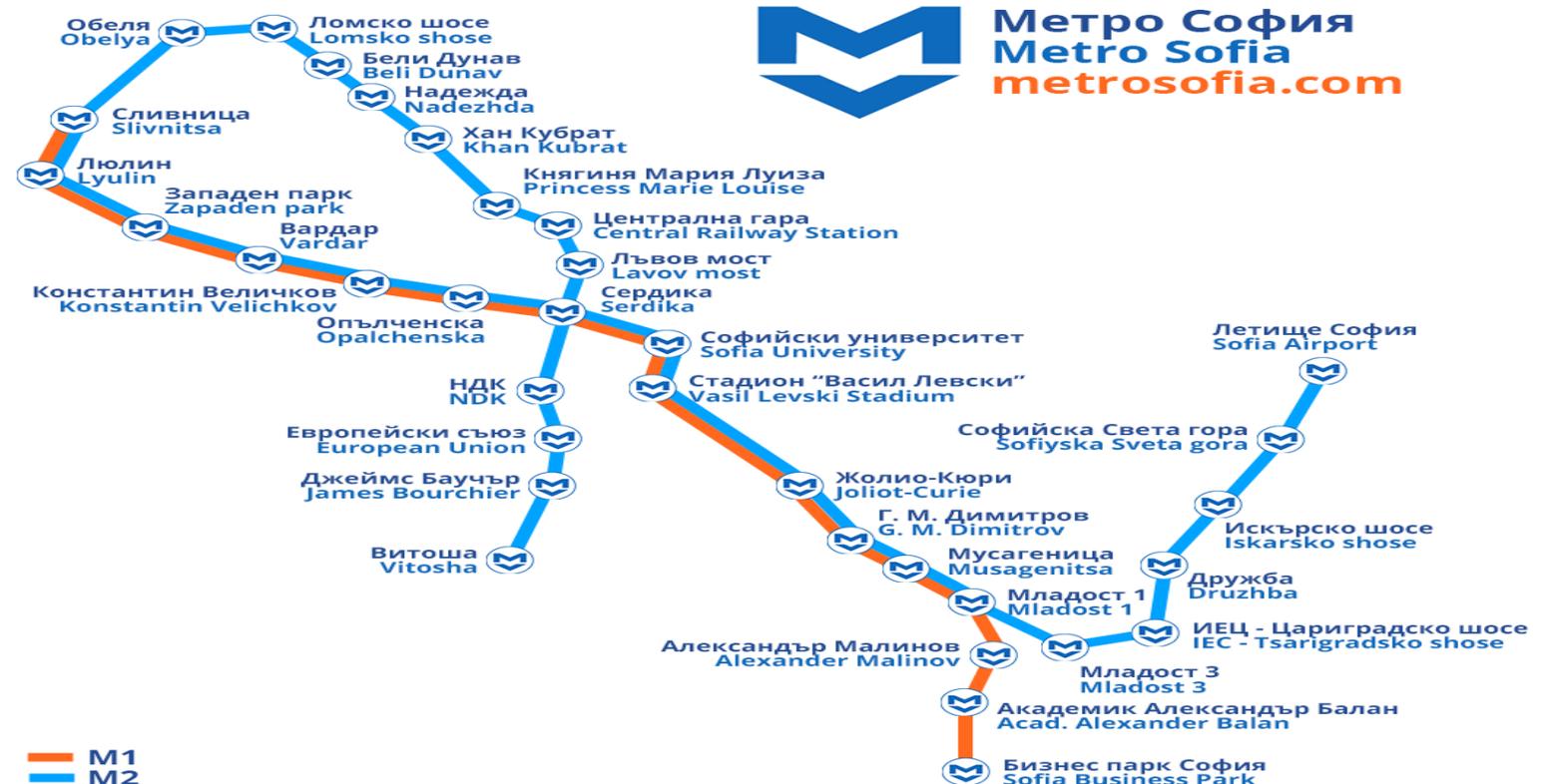
People's city





# The metro of Sofia:

- 34 % share
- 70 000 t. of CO2 reduction per year
- Project awarded by EC as a high quality project
- 22% traffic reduction
- 41 km metro lines





- 3<sup>rd</sup> metro line under construction
- 20 000 t of CO2 reduction per year
- 45% share
- 12 km metro line
- 10 new metro trains





- ITS and 1020 electronic info boards built up
- 50 new trolleys
- 126 new natural gas buses delivered
- 162 new natural gas buses in procedure, 20 of them electro buses
- 20 new trams in exploitation



- Constant urban and transportation environment improvement
- More car free spaces
- Velopaths construction
- Shared e-bike system launched
- E-mobility development

## VITOSHA MOUNTAIN BY E-BIKE





## MBT plant in exploitation since 2015

- 187 877 t incoming waste
- 17 811 t recyclable materials extracted
- 23 656 t RDF (project with District heating company under approval process by Operational program Environment 2014 – 2020)
- 29 430 t deposited
- 15 000 t compost produced in 2017





## The green system

- 4 major city parks renovated
- 1 city park under renovation
- 1 thermal water pool and aqua park complex in procedure
- Sofia's new forest project





## Air quality

- An air quality control and prevention program was adopted in 2017
- Consists 100+ measures
- National level legislative initiative for eco stickers for cars
- FAIRMODE network
- City lab project by JRC



# Sustainable cultural heritage protection in urban environment

- Regional history museum of Sofia with active presence of mineral water – phase I and phase II
- Ancient Serdika archeological complex project
- Constant archeological research work in the city
- Legislative initiative on cultural heritage protection





# Investments in social, educational and sports infrastructure and services

- 63 social services provided
- 13 new foster care centers build
- 90 % of educational Infrastructure renovated/ EE measures implemented
- Sofia, EU capital of sports 2018



# What's next?

## Vision of Sofia 2050



- The base of all future development strategies
- 50+ experts have done research and reports on existing data
- Open dialogue: 294 meetings and events, 2464 participants, 3504 resources studied
- **7 priority axes to work on:**

Citizens

Identity and culture

Transport

Environment

Urban environment

Economy

Governance



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

*Daryana Damyanova,  
EU programs and projects  
Sofia Municipality*