**Transportation**

1. *Taxi*

**OK Supertrans** Taxi 9732121 (see illustration) is Sofia’s most reliable taxi company. You will find the offices at both Sofia airport terminals and the central bus station.

Arrivals at the **Central railway station** have to walk a hundred meters to the left, to the front of the **Central bus station**.

This is one of the most popular taxi companies and there are several ‘fake’ ones imitating its outlook with minor differences, such as “Supershans”, “Superluks” and others, and numbers close to that of the original – 8762121, 9752121 and other varieties. These usually charge double rate.

**At the airport**

Order a taxi at the OK-Supertrans Taxi counter and obtain a taxi number. Walk to the parking lot and hand the ticket to the driver (better option) or just walk to the parking lot (to the right in the Arrivals area); do not follow taxi drivers who offer their services in the lounge, they would take you to one of the “fakes” described above.

The same applies to the **Central Bus Station**: Go to the line right in front of the exit.

Most of the taxis in front of the **Central Railway Statio**n tend to offer higher rates.

**In town**

If you need to pick a taxi from the hotel – ask the receptionist to order one for you. If away from the hotel – pay attention to the info indicated above about OK Supertrans 9732121.

Other reliable companies:

91263 Радио СВ такси (Radio SV taxi)

91119 Yellow taxi

These are the numbers at which you may call taxis:

(+359 2) 9732121 OK Supertrans; (+359 2) 91119 Yellow taxi; (+359 2) 91263 Radio SV taxi

where +359 2 is the country and city code

1. *Public transport*

Public transport in Sofia consists of: subway, buses, tramways, trolley-buses. One ticket – 1.60 BGN is valid for only one trip. The ticket should be validated upon entrance.

Daily card for public transport – 4 BGN which allows you unlimited use of the subway, tramways, trolley-buses, and buses, but not to the minibuses (see below)!

*From the airport/ Central Railway Station/ Central Bus Station*:

Subway lines (see attached map of subway) will lead you to the hotels suggested in the first circular, one ticket costs 1.60 BGN. You may purchase tickets at every station – from the counter or from a vending machine. Do not buy more tickets in advance as they have only one hour validity. The subway station at Sofia Airport is located in the eastern part of **Terminal 2**. Arrivals at Terminal 1 shall take free-of-charge shuttle bus operating between the two terminals. The shuttle bus stops are located in front of the terminal buildings.

Important stations:

“Sofia University” – closest station to Opera Guest House

“Serdika” – closest station to hotel Arte and Bonbon Central Hotel

“National Palace of Culture” – closest station to hotels Niki and Diter

“European Union” – for Lozenets Best Western

Buses from the airport: No 84, which takes you to the city centre (Sofia University).

**Conference Venue**

The 23rd CIEPO conference will take place at New Bulgarian University. We have arranged for buses from the center of Sofia to NBU in the morning:

**meeting point** Aleksander Nevski cathedral, **7:45 am**. The buses will leave every day at 8:00 sharp.

**Return** from the conference venue to the city center (the Cathedral): every day at the end of the sessions/events in accordance with the programme.

*Public transport to NBU*: only bus 73 stops right in front of the University. It does not go to the centre of the city.

*Minibuses* (similar to the Turkish *dolmuş*, called in Bulgaria “marshrutka”) No 27. They cost 1.50 BGN for a ride – start from the Students’ City, pass via Sofia University, go along V. Levski Blvd turn right on Patriarch Evtimii St (close to Diter Hotel and Nicky Hotel) and reach eventually the New Bulgarian University. You need to line on the street and look for the minibus bearing this number and waive for it to stop. Payment is upon entering.

**Currency**

Bulgaria is part of the EU but it is **not part of the Eurozone**. The local currency is Bulgarian lev (BGN). Normally you will be expected to pay in *lev* wherever you go.

Fixed rate: 1 Euro = 1.95 BGN;

1 US Dollar = varies according to the daily rate, right now around 1.68 BGN.

ATM – easily accessible and visible.

Money can be exchanged at bank offices and change bureaus. You are not advised to exchange substantial amounts at the airport and other arrival points where the rates are less favorable.

**Sofia Stroll**

At the registration you will be asked to confirm your willingness to participate in it so we could organize sufficient number of groups for English- and Turkish-speaking participants.

**CIEPO membership**

After the registration we shall open a desk (at the level of Hall A) for the payment of CIEPO membership fee **in USD (15), EUR (10) and BGN (19.50)**. It will work during the coffee and lunch breaks.

This year TL will not be a payment currency due to the recent dramatic fluctuations of the Turkish currency which makes it impossible for us to set in advance a fair and just exchange rate.

At the payment participants will receive a (coloured) ballot card. The card will bear the name of the participant and will be used for voting purposes. In the case participants need a receipt – please let us know we shall send you one immediately after the conference.

**Useful information:**

**We kindly remind you that the language of the title and the abstract should be identical with that of the presentation**. Participants and Chairs of sessions are kindly asked to observe the time limitations – 15 minutes per presentation and 5 minutes for the presentation of a panel. This will allow sufficient time for discussions.

The conference halls are provided with devices for powerpoint presentations. We shall ask you to approach the supporting team assigned for your room and install your presentation during the break before the presentation.

In order to avoid long breaks between the papers or other technical problems, we advise you to use the session room computers instead of your own laptops, presentations in MS – Power Point or Adobe PDF formats (recommended). Please note that you have to give your memory sticks 15 min. prior to your session start! In case your memory stock is formatted only to MAC we kindly ask you to contact the support team at the start of the session day.

In Sofia tap water is drinkable, both at the hotels and the university.