



Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Environment - deployment of local capacity and national policies

National Conference

22 July, 2024 - city of Sofia, Park Hotel Moskva, Europe Hall

Context: The conference is a part of the Climate Change Adaptation Capacity Building Initiative, which is based on the partnership between the National Trust EcoFund and the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities.

Bulgaria will host the 61st session of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), to be held between 26 July and 2 August 2024 in Sofia. The meeting of the most influential international scientific body on climate change is expected to bring together hundreds of scientists and government delegates to discuss key issues related to the process of securing the scientific input that governments rely on to make decisions on climate policy planning and implementation.

The aim of the conference is to continue the process of capacity building and implementation of innovative practices at a local level for climate change adaptation in urbanised areas. The participants will discuss the science potential and its application in shaping and implementing national and local policies in practice through innovative solutions at the local level, as well as the potential of the urban rivers as a tool for climate change adaptation.

Participants in the event will be municipalities, which are actively working and preparing projects in this area. Representatives of universities and research institutions, representatives of the National Association of Municipalities in the Republic of Bulgaria (NAMRB), as well as representatives of ministries, agencies and professional organisations, non-governmental organisations, students and others will also attend the conference.



Program

- 09.45-10.15 Registration**
- 10:15–10:30 Beginning – Introduction to the program**
- 10:30–11:10 Official opening of the conference “Climate Change Adaptation in Urban Environment”**
Moderator: Yulian Popov – Minister of Environment and Water (2013 and 2023-2024)
Participants: Petar Dimitrov – Minister of Environment and Water; Dimitar Nenkov – Chair of the Management Board (MB) of the National Trust EcoFund (NTEF); representative of the NAMRB, representative of the Norwegian Association of Local and Regional Authorities (KS); representatives of the Program Operator.
- 11:10–11:40 Panel 1: The national strategy for climate change adaptation and the topic for “The Usable Science”**
Presentation of the concept - Svetlana Zhekova, member of the Expert Board of the EU Climate Change Adaptation Mission, Assoc. Professor Steliyan Dimitrov - National University Centre for Geospatial Research and Technology - How we can use science in shaping and implementing national and local climate change policies?
- 11:40-12:30 Discussion:**
The discussion will outline the links between the application of science and the development of local and national climate change policies, as well as key drivers for the application of the usable science and the pooling of the efforts of all stakeholders.
Moderator: Assoc. Professor Stiliyan Dimitrov
Participants: University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy (UACEG); New Bulgarian University (NBU); Sofia University (SU); Climate, Atmosphere and Water Research Institute – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (CAWRI – BAS), Forest Research Institute – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (FRI – BAS); Union of Urbanists in Bulgaria; Chief Architects of municipalities; Mayors of municipalities
- 12:30-13:30 Working lunch – opportunity to talk to the conference moderators at tables, designated for this purpose**
- 13:30-14:00 Bike Cinema**
- 14:00-14:30 Panel 2: “Urban Rivers – resource and instrument for climate change adaptation”**
Concept presentation - Yulian Popov – Minister of Environment and Water (2013 and 2023-2024)
- 14:30-15:30 Discussion:**
Urbanization and climate change are two powerful forces that are shaping the modern environment. Urban rivers, which are an integral part of the urban life, are heavily affected by these dynamics. The discussion aims to outline a framework for future efforts for restoration and sustainable management of urban rivers’ ecosystems.
Moderator: Yulian Popov – Minister of Environment and Water (2013 and 2023-2024)
Participants: MEW; MRDPW; municipalities.
- 15:30-16:00 Summary and proposals for next steps**
Moderator: Mariya Minkova, Director of the Executive Bureau (EB) of NTEF