

SIXTY-FIRST SESSION OF THE IPCC САТЕЛИТНА ПРОГРАМА

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FOR CLIMATE, SUSTAINABILITY AND CITIZENS

**“From local to national and global perspectives and lessons learnt for
better policies, practices and life”**

IPCC satellite event

01 August 2024, SOFIA

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA) Building, room 420

[Register here](#)

Addressing the climate crisis demands unprecedented measures to deeply decarbonize every sector of the economy, conserve and restore nature, and better protect people from increasingly severe climate impacts. According to the latest analysis from the European Climate Neutrality Observatory (ECNO), EU climate policy, especially through initiatives like the European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 package, is advancing sectors such as electricity, mobility, and industry towards climate neutrality goals. These initiatives introduce comprehensive strategies, including just transition and holistic governance. However, policy gaps still exist, and EU citizens' lifestyle adaptations to climate change have not shown significant progress.

As Bulgaria hosts one of the key IPCC annual events in August 2024, various scientific teams from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski," the largest public academic institution in the country, are initiating an open dialogue to address the following critical issues.

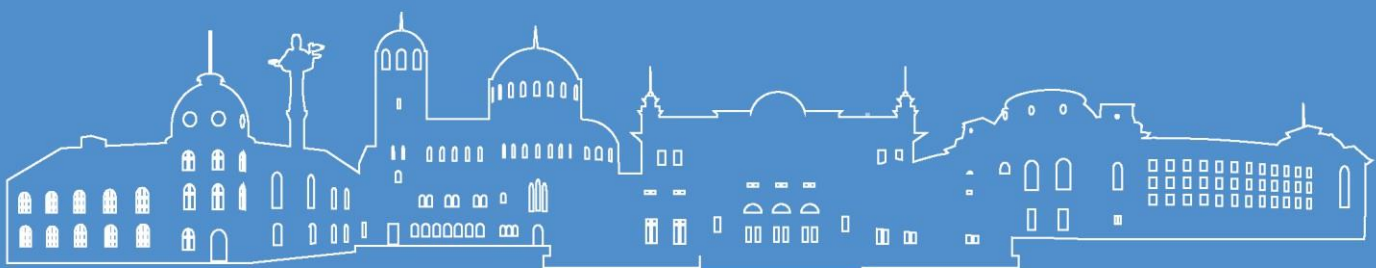


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Panel 1 & 2 The recommendations emphasize the need to advance the implementation of existing and recently agreed policies, including strategic plans for technologies with Net-Zero impact potential, particularly at the Member State level. It is crucial to better align research and innovation (R&I) financing priorities with the needs of the transition, particularly for Bulgaria to competitively position itself in the new techno-economic realities. Furthermore, a people-centered approach to EU policy is essential to ensure a socially just transition that gathers public support. Establishing a new format of partnerships between citizens, businesses, the scientific community, and policymakers, along with innovative mechanisms for coordinating the efforts of all stakeholders, would contribute to achieving reliable and sustainable results.

Panel 3 and 4 Observations, modelling and global assessments describe significant changes in Antarctic physical and living systems, both marine and terrestrial. Changes in Antarctic and Southern Ocean environments are linked to and influence climate impact drivers globally. Rapidly changing they require similarly rapid environmental governance responses, including new R&I partnership, investments in research infrastructure, potential changes to agreements, new geopolitical relations, etc.

Organizers: Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski through its [ESG Lab](#), [Net-Zero Lab](#), and [National Centre for Polar Studies](#)



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09.00 – 09.30 *Registration and welcome coffee*
09.30 – 10.00 **Official opening**

- Maria Nedina, Head of Cabinet of the Ministry of Environment and Waters
- Prof. George Angelov, MEng PhD, Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth
- Iva Petrova, Deputy Minister of Energy
- Assoc. Prof. Atanas Georgiev, PhD, Dean of FEBA, Sofia University
- Prof. Christo Pimpirev, DSc, National Center of Polar Studies, Sofia University and Chair of the Management Board of the Bulgarian Antarctic Institute (BAI)

PANEL 1 Exploring Individuals Consciousness Level of Decision-Making and Action-Taking in Daily Life Towards a Sustainable Citizenship

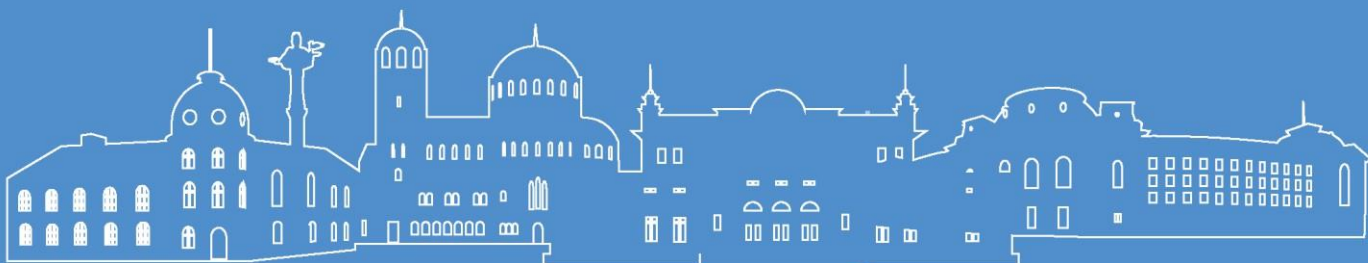
10.00 - 11.15 **Research results** - Chief Assist. Iliia Atanasov, PhD, FEBA
Moderated discussion - Assoc. Prof. Marina Stefanova, PhD, FEBA

- Prof. Vanya Ivanova, PhD, FEBA
- Vladimir Shopov, European Council of Foreign Relations
- Dimitar Dilov, Management Board member and Executive Director of DSK Bank AD
- Hristina Vucheva, Marketing director, DEVIN
- Adriana Branicheva, Business Club at FEBA

PANEL 2 Towards Net Zero: Implementing the EU Strategic R&I Agenda in Bulgaria

11.30 – 12.30 **Research results** - Bozhil Kondev, Research fellow, Net-Zero Lab
Moderated discussion - Chief Assist. Mariya Trifonova, PhD, FEBA, Net-Zero Lab

- Teodor Kuzov, Energy Research & Innovation in the EU, JRC, European Commission
- Milena Stoycheva, Chairperson of the National Board of Innovation (TBC)
- Capucine Vannoorenberghe, ETIPWind



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12.30 – 13.00 **PRESS BRIEFING**

13.00 - 13.40 **Lunch break**

13:40 - 14:00 **Why do we need science-based policies?**

Keynote: Julian Popov, Ministry of Environment and Waters

PANEL 3 Antarctica and the Southern Ocean – a test bed for climate change and environmental observation and mitigation. The role of the Bulgarian researchers in the global community

- 14:00 - 15:00** **Moderated discussion** - Karina Angelieva, Bulgarian Antarctic Institute (BAI)
- Rositsa Janeva, PhD, Bulgarian Antarctic Research Program, National Centre of Polar Studies (NCPS) and Forest Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS)
 - Assoc. Prof. Vesela Evtimova, PhD, Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS
 - Assoc. Prof. Ivan Bogdanov, PhD Dermatology and Venerology Clinic, Acibadem City Clinic UMHAT Tokuda, Sofia
 - Assist. Prof. Gergana Georgieva, PhD, Meteorology and Geophysics Dept., SU

15:00 - 15:20 **Coffee-break**

PANEL 4 Bulgarian First Research Vessel – lesson learn and perspectives for increasing international collaboration for joint marine and polar research

- 15:20 - 16:50** **Moderated discussion** - Karina Angelieva, BAI
- Boyan Mednikarov, Flotilla Admiral, Prof., DSc, Nikola Vaptsarov Naval Academy
 - Assoc. Prof. Raina Hristova, PhD, Institute of Oceanology, BAS
 - Dragomir Mateev, National Center of Polar Studies (NCPS), SU
 - Prof. Christo Pimpirev, DSc, NCPS, SU and Chair of the Management Board of BAI

16:50 - 17:00 **Closing remarks:** Dragomir Mateev, National Center of Polar Studies, Sofia University

