

What is "Vision Sofia"?

The "Long term development strategy for Sofia and the region" is an initiative of the Sofia Municipality, which started in the end of 2016 with the scope of creating a system of interaction and analysis of the current condition of Sofia. The developed system is to be used as a basis for adapting all current strategies and developing the new ones until 2050. Major aim of Vision Sofia is to improve the mechanism of urban planning by including all interest groups from the very beginning in the decision making process: public administration, NGOs, investors, researchers, experts, entrepreneurs and citizens. The end result is to be a shared idea of a common future of the city, which has been developed through an informed dialogue and a resilient system of interaction.

The creation of "Vision Sofia" will follow the guidelines, described in the "Methodology for creating a long term development strategy for Sofia and the region". The Methodology was developed through a series of public discussions and was approved by the Sofia's Municipal Council at the end of February 2017.

"Vision Sofia" will gather, summarise and analyse all existing data, documents and research, related to Sofia's development. There are seven thematic groups: People, Culture and identity, Transport, Natural environment, Urban environment, Economy and Governance. Work on each thematic group will last 18 months and is coordinated by the Vision team, which is comprised by professionals in the field of Architecture, Landscape design, Mobility, PR, Urban planning, Sociology and economy, Ecology and Law. The work process will be administered by Sofproect, Sofia's municipal planning body and is under the supervision of the city's chief architect.

The Vision team is entitled with the tasks of ensuring transparency and involvement of as many interest groups as possible. The team also coordinates the work of experts who summarise all existing data, draw conclusions and advise on the need of further research. After all research is complete and the data is analysed and consolidated, a large-scale public campaign is due to begin in autumn 2017. Its purpose is to involve and activate as many people as possible in the discussion of the Vision's topics.

In order to achieve maximum involvement and an informed discussion, the Vision team will develop online and offline platforms for interaction between public administration, NGOs, investors, researchers, experts, entrepreneurs and citizens. Through the platforms will be collected further information about the current state of Sofia and ideas about its development. The team will encourage all interest groups to share ideas and to take visible actions on the most pressing challenges. In spring 2018 will be proposed a draft of the "Vision", which will be further developed through public and expert involvement. In autumn 2018 the final version is to be approved by Sofia's Municipal Council. The result is to function as a base for lasting interaction and a guideline for Sofia's strategic development.

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/ViziaZaSofia/>

<https://vizia.sofia.bg> (work in progress)