

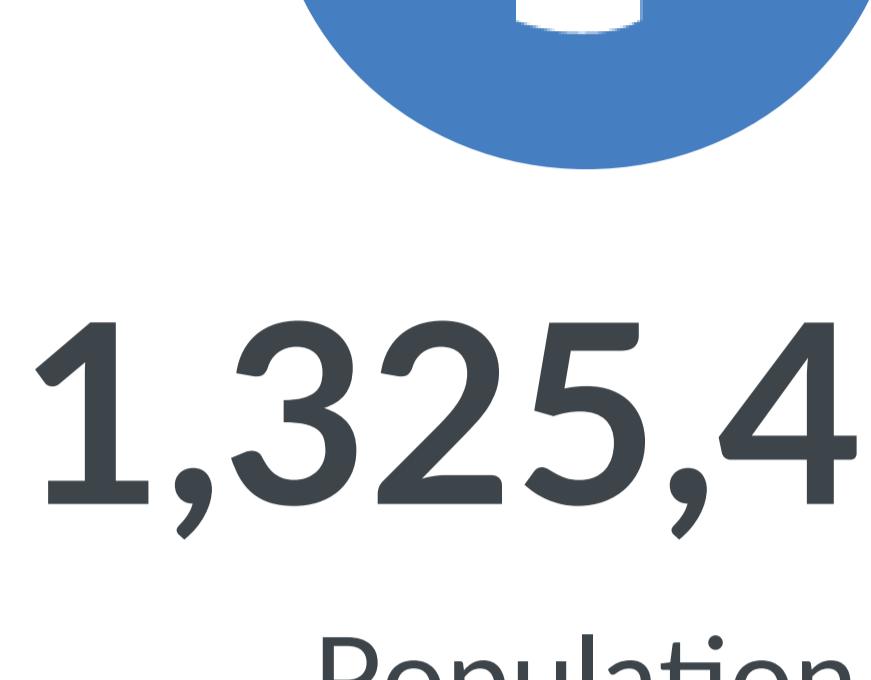
# Sofia

## A platform for smart growth



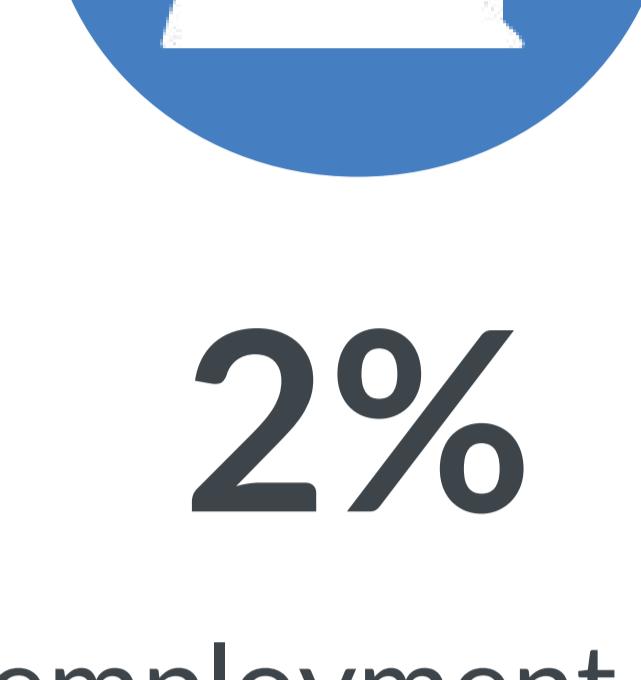
### Vision

To define and elaborate an action plan that strengthens the ICT business ecosystem enabling it to develop innovative solutions for the digital transformation of the city; to create new markets for digital products and services, at local, national or global level; and to support the system of innovation for the development and absorption of new digital services and solutions.



1,325,429

Population



2%

Unemployment Rate

5 / 9

Digital Maturity

Key sectors of the local economy:

IT

BPO

Creative industries

High-end manufacturing

### What are the future goals?



Sofia Municipal Council adopted the "Sofia Smart Specialization Strategy" in early 2016, which aims to turn the city into capital of the new digital market and a centre for digital innovation on a regional and European scale. The strategy emphasis is placed on the development of ICT and new technologies in the creative and recreational industries. The process is supported and coordinated by business representatives, citizens, universities, state institutions and local authorities.



The city tries to develop a comprehensive ecosystem, based on the knowledge triangle (education, science and innovation). Several priorities have been set up: life in smart urban environment, cyber-physical systems, future cloud technologies, future network solutions, health, data protection, security & trust, smart energy systems and smart spaces. Sofia aims to unite societies, institutions, academia, NGOs and business around the opportunities raised by ICT and new technologies in order to enhance the economic development of the city.



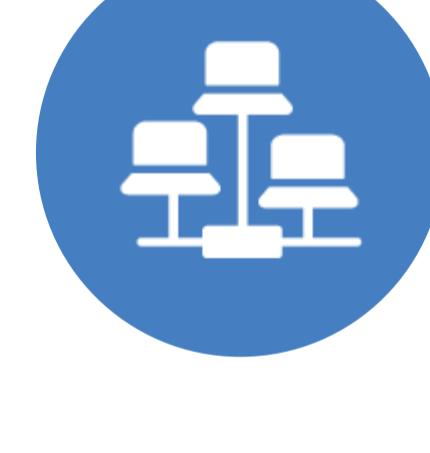
The city intends to rely on a full set of funding instruments to enable the digital transition of Sofia, including public funding, public-private partnerships, private investments, venture financing and crowdfunding initiatives.

Sofia also plans on using the opportunities of the European structural and investment funds for the implementation of projects dedicated to innovation, digital transformation and smart city (i.e. investments in broadband communication infrastructures).

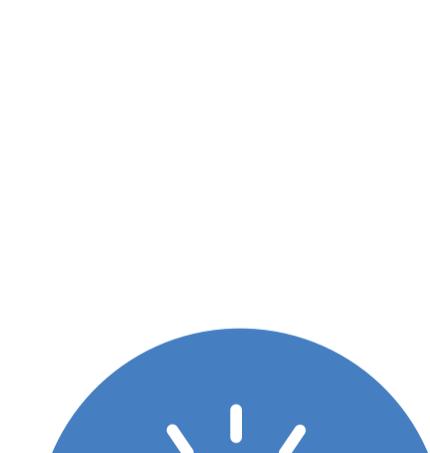


The city aims to leverage on the skills and knowledge of the young, educated and talented human capital, especially in the growing IT community which is globally recognized.

### What is happening today?



The city is the Bulgarian leader in terms of management and provision of electronic services. More specifically, Sofia Municipality developed an automated electronic system for 50 major administrative services for citizens and companies.



Sofia is working on many projects to accelerate the digital transformation of its infrastructure:

"Smarter Together": Development of 5 innovation clusters (innovation labs, heating district and renewable energy sources, holistic refurbishment for low energy district, smart data management platform & services, e-mobility solution).

"AIRTHINGS": Installation of air sensors to monitor temperature, humidity, CO<sub>2</sub> and other toxicity.

"CircE": Updating, development and implementation of integrated waste system.

"Digital Transition Partnership": Creation of better public services. - "Other Projects": a.o. traffic light management by mainframe computer, automated tax payment verification, online platform for alerts by citizens.



Sofia Municipality is doing a pilot program "Startup Sofia Accelerator" in order to support founders of innovative businesses.

