

HEAT FEST 2026

PROGRAMME

4 June 2026, Thursday

11:00 - 11:30 Festival opening.

Tour of the official guests round the festival

11:00 – 17:00 Outdoor programme

Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds Children’s Workshop for Water Birds

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

With colored pencils, paper straws, and lots of imagination, children will create their own water birds inspired by Bulgarian nature. The workshop invites young visitors to draw, cut, assemble, and invent feathered characters while learning more about birds and wetlands in Bulgaria.

The Sofianer Pop-up Exhibition

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Through illustrations, humor, urban absurdities, and poetic scenes, The Sofianer celebrates the love for Sofia and presents different — sometimes unexpected — perspectives on the city, everyday life, and its future. The Sofianer explores what the city is today, how we imagine it tomorrow, and what kind of Sofia we want to live in.

Sofia Municipality Climate Resilience – Sofia Municipality

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

How can a city become cooler, greener, and better prepared for hot summers? Through visualizations and real-life examples, visitors will explore solutions such as rain gardens, climate shelters, and increased urban greenery that help Sofia adapt to climate change. We will also present everyday habits and practical solutions that help people cope with heat waves and the urban heat island effect.

Muzeiko Interactive Exhibition: “Live in the Circle! Solve the Problem”

11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

An interactive exhibition that turns the circular economy into a game. Through riddles, challenges, and hands-on missions, children and their families will discover what happens to waste, how to use resources more wisely, and why small everyday choices matter for the future of the city and the planet.

University of Forestry
Workshop: “Urban Gardeners”**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

A practical workshop where children will learn more about nectar-rich plants, bees, and urban nature. Participants will create seed bombs that they can plant at home, on a balcony, or in the city. The program also includes fun demonstrations for testing pH levels and nitrates in fruits and vegetables.

Ecopack Bulgaria, Ecobulpack Bulgaria and Bulecopack**Workshop: “Recycle. Revive the Packaging”****11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

A creative workshop for children and adults that transforms plastic, metal, cardboard waste into new and interesting objects. Through play and creativity, participants will learn more about waste separation, reuse, and caring for the environment.

Entrepreneurs
Crafts and Organic Products**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Meet traditional Bulgarian crafts, handmade products, and organic goods from small local producers. Discover sustainable and natural alternatives for everyday life — from food and cosmetics to handmade items inspired by Bulgarian traditions and nature. The stands bring together flavors, aromas, and skills from different parts of Bulgaria and demonstrate how local production and craftsmanship can be part of a more sustainable lifestyle.

Multi Kulti Collective
Workshop: “Homemade Eco Laundry Detergent”**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

A practical eco-workshop for people aged 65+, dedicated to environmentally friendly alternatives in everyday life. Together with Ivanka Kulova from Helta, participants will learn how to make eco laundry detergent using simple and accessible ingredients. We will discuss sustainable habits, small changes with a big impact, and ways to reduce harmful chemicals at home.

Boyana Voynova
Culinary Workshop: “Disappearing Tastes”**11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

“Grieving flavours” is an unusual culinary collection and recipe book dedicated to foods and ingredients threatened by extinction due to climate change and biodiversity loss. Visitors will explore the project, hear the stories behind the recipes, and taste selected flavors and ingredients from the collection. The event encourages discussion about climate change and the future of food.

Bulgarian Red Cross
Demonstrations: “Rescuers in Action”**11:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

Demonstrations of first aid and rescue techniques by teams from the Bulgarian Red Cross and the Mountain Rescue Service. Visitors will see how emergency situations are handled and meet a specially trained rescue dog that participates in mountain rescue missions.

WWF Bulgaria**1:00 PM – 3:00 PM****Interactive Games for Children about Large Predators and Their Role in Nature**

Through interactive games and fun challenges, children will learn more about Bulgaria's large predators — bears, wolves, and other secret inhabitants of the forest. We will show why green corridors are important for wildlife and how climate change affects nature.

WATI by Digital Spaces Living Lab**1:00 PM – 5:00 PM****WATI – Your Personal Heat Guide in the City**

Imagine your phone guiding you along the coolest route through the city. WATI is a mobile app that displays local temperatures in real time and helps users choose more comfortable routes during hot summer days. The app collects anonymous citizen data that helps create more accurate urban temperature maps and supports better future urban planning.

National Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology**3:00 PM – 5:00 PM****Demonstration: Early Warning Systems for Heat Waves**

How is urban heat predicted and what does “feels-like temperature” mean? How are extreme heat conditions in Bulgaria forecast using specialized software, and how is thermal comfort and discomfort calculated during heat waves? The demonstration presents the role of science and data in understanding the impact of heat on people and the urban environment.

DevHubOne**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM****The First Arcade Machine: “Arcade with a Mission”**

“Arcade with a Mission” turns recycling into a game. Visitors can play arcade games by “paying” with plastic bottles and aluminum cans for recycling. All games are developed by DevHubOne and encourage sustainable habits and environmental awareness in a fun way. Suitable for children and adults.

Sofia Fire Safety and Civil Protection Directorate**11:00 AM – 5:00 PM****Demonstration: How the Fire Department Works**

A demonstration of firefighting equipment and techniques with professional firefighters. Visitors will get a close look at a light firefighting vehicle, specialized equipment, and learn how emergency and fire situations are handled. The demonstration also includes practical fire safety and prevention advice for urban environments and nature.

**Cleantech Bulgaria
European Climate Pact Ambassadors****11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

The ambassadors of the European Climate Pact in Bulgaria actively work to inform, inspire, and encourage citizens to take action against climate change. Through various initiatives, campaigns, and events, they present climate topics through personal and professional experience and promote more sustainable lifestyles.

**Tsvetelina Ilieva/Flower Post
Seed Preservation and Sharing****11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Meet the “Tsvetna Poshta” initiative — a community for free seed sharing and seed preservation. Visitors will learn more about biodiversity, pollinators, and ways everyone can help nature. The initiative encourages the exchange of seeds and ideas and demonstrates how caring for plants can become caring for the community and the city.

**Mobile Automatic Air Quality Monitoring Station of Sofia Municipality
Demonstration: Mobile Automatic Monitoring Station****11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

What kind of air do we breathe every day in Sofia? Through the Mobile Automatic Monitoring Station (MAMS), visitors will see how air quality is measured in real time and how fine particulate matter and other pollutants affecting health and the urban environment are monitored

**Sofia Library and Tourist Information Center Tram No. 83
“Fairytale Tram No. 83”****11:00 AM – 1:00 PM**

“Fairytale Tram No. 83” invites the youngest visitors to a special reading session of children’s books dedicated to nature, animals, and imagination. In the cozy atmosphere of the retro tram — Sofia’s tourist information center — actor Yuliyana Balahurova will take children on a journey through the world around us. Each child visitor will receive a gift — a library card and a book.

**Directorate of Sports and Youth Activities of Sofia Municipality
“Chichokey”: Interactive Children’s Playground****11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

Dedicated to the Great Tit bird, the interactive installation “Chichokey” transforms children into little explorers of urban nature. Through games, mobile installations, and a sound sculpture, children aged 3 to 10 will discover the world of birds and the relationship between nature, music, and the city in a fun and interactive way.

**Green Sofia
Traveling Exhibition****11:00 AM – 5:00 PM**

An exhibition tracing Sofia’s transformation toward a greener and more climate-resilient city. Through visualizations, data, and examples, the exhibition presents the

city's progress across the 12 key indicators of the European Green Capital competition — from air quality and urban mobility to green spaces, energy, and circular economy.

05:00 – 05:30 PM Cultural Program: Pim Pam Children's Choir

Collaboration Event with Green Transition Forum 6.0 – Bulgaria

4:30 PM – 6:00 PM Round Table: “Cooling Cities: Urban Heat Islands, Climate Resilience, and the Future of Urban Life”

Working language: English

Time: 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM

Location: Sofia Event Center

Organizer: Sofia Development Association

As part of the Sofia Climate Festival and in partnership with the Green Transition Forum 6.0, an international round table discussion will be held on urban heat islands, climate resilience, and urban adaptation to climate change.

The discussion will bring together representatives of institutions, businesses, experts, and international partners to discuss solutions for cooler and more resilient cities, the role of nature-based solutions, the impact of climate change on biodiversity and water systems, and how businesses can support prevention and adaptation to climate risks.

5 June 2026, Friday

13:00 – 17:00 Outdoor programme

**Bulgarian Society for the Protection of Birds
Children's Workshop for Water Birds**

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

With colored pencils, paper straws, and lots of imagination, children will create their own water birds inspired by Bulgarian nature. The workshop invites young visitors to draw, cut, assemble, and invent feathered characters while learning more about birds and wetlands in Bulgaria.

**Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation
Workshop: “Seed Bombs”**

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

A creative workshop for making small “bouquets” from soil, clay, and seeds of nectar-rich plants, which after planting become colorful oases for bees and other wild pollinators. The workshop shows how small actions can help nature return to the city.

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This event is held in the framework of Be Ready, an Interreg Danube Region Programme project co-funded by the European Union.

Badge-Making Workshop with a Cause

A creative workshop for making badges with messages about climate and nature. Visitors will be able to choose from illustrations of species from Bulgarian wildlife and inspiring messages for a more sustainable lifestyle, and in exchange for a donation they can take their badge home with them.

Sofia Municipality

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Climate Resilience – Sofia Municipality

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Multi Kulti Collective

1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Aromatic Eco Culinary Workshop with Mahsa Nourai

An aromatic culinary workshop featuring flavors from the Middle East and ideas for more sustainable cooking. Together with Mahsa Nourai from Iran, visitors will discover how date pits can be used to prepare a caffeine-free drink, as well as various desserts made with dates. The workshop includes tastings, culinary stories, and conversations about sustainable kitchen habits and food utilization.

Studio Vazel

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Workshop: “Original Prints and New Design for Old Clothes”

A creative workshop for textile printing using linocut techniques that gives new life to old clothes and accessories. Visitors can bring their own T-shirts, shirts, bags, or other textile items and transform them with original prints and new designs. The workshop combines creativity, sustainability, and the idea that favorite belongings can be renewed instead of thrown away. Suitable for both children and adults.

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Bulgarian Red Cross

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Demonstrations: “Learn How to Help”

Interactive demonstrations and games dedicated to first aid, emergency response, and caring for people and nature. Visitors will watch demonstrations of CPR, defibrillator use, and first aid in various situations. The program also includes eco bingo, crosswords, and games for children focused on sustainable lifestyles and environmental protection.

Entrepreneurs

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

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**Koren Foundation
Seed Exchange****3:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

An exchange of seeds, seedlings, and gardening stories for all lovers of plants, urban gardening, and biodiversity. Visitors are invited to bring their own seeds or discover new varieties of flowers, herbs, and plants to take home.

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**EXP ART LAB
Creative Challenge****5:00 PM – 5:30 PM**

An improv performance in which the audience provides the challenges and the dancers transform them into spontaneous improvised miniatures. From “a giraffe in the ocean” to “a turtle melting from the heat” — everything is possible when imagination leads the game.

**Imp-Act Agency & Youth Space Magnet
Free Clothes Swap****5:00 PM – 6:00 PM**

A community exchange of clothes and ideas for a more sustainable lifestyle. Bring several clean and well-preserved clothes for swapping — or simply come browse and participate. Visitors will also learn more about overconsumption, fashion, the Make

This event is held in the framework of Be Ready, an Interreg Danube Region Programme project co-funded by the European Union.

Something Week festival, the power of communities, and positive change created by young people.

Two special zones at the festival

New European Bauhaus Zone

4 June, Time: 11:00 AM – 5 PM

5 June, Time: 1:00 PM – 5 PM

NEW INHERIT Project, Gradoscope

“NEW INHERIT” is an international project by Gradoscope and European partners, supported by the Creative Europe 2023 program, dedicated to the sustainable reuse of abandoned buildings and cultural heritage. Through exhibitions, artistic interventions, and international exchange, the initiative explores how old urban spaces can be adapted to the needs of the contemporary city. In Sofia, the project explores how the Poduyane Railway Station building can become a community space for culture, education, and urban development.

Common Grounds Project, Gradoscope

“Common Grounds” is an artistic project by Gradoscope and organizations from France and Spain, supported by Creative Europe 2024, bringing together artists, researchers, and local communities around the topics of soil, ecology, and the future of urban environments. Artists from Bulgaria, France, and Spain collaborate with scientists and local organizations to create ideas for the sustainable regeneration of urban and industrial spaces. In Sofia, the project focuses on the Poduyane Railway Station area and its potential for new public and ecological life.

URBiNAT Project, University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy

URBiNAT is an international Horizon 2020 project dedicated to how nature-based solutions can transform urban neighborhoods into greener, healthier, and more connected spaces. In Sofia, the project focuses on the Nadezhda district, where citizens, experts, and local communities have co-developed the concept of the “Green Health Corridor” — a model for a more sustainable and socially connected urban environment.

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AQUAlive Project

AQUA

live is an international scientific project funded by the DUT program and co-financed by Horizon Europe, exploring how floodable parks can help cities better manage rainwater and adapt to climate change. The project develops nature-based solutions that cool urban environments, increase biodiversity, and create more sustainable and pleasant public spaces.

GreenEsteem Project

GreenEsteem is an international Horizon Europe project promoting collaboration between citizens, institutions, businesses, and academia in the field of nature-based solutions. Sofia is one of the project's two "living laboratories," where local communities and experts develop and test sustainable solutions for greener, more inclusive, and resilient urban spaces.

Municipality of Gabrovo

“Christo and Jeanne-Claude” Center – Gabrovo

The “Christo and Jeanne-Claude” Center in Gabrovo is an example of applying the principles of the New European Bauhaus — creating a beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive space that connects cultural heritage, contemporary art, and active community participation. The presentation follows the transformation of the former Textile Technical School building into a place for contemporary art, public art, textile heritage, creative experimentation, and cultural-educational practices. The project is part of the integrated territorial investment “Banks of Contemporary Times,” financed under the “Regions in Growth” Programme 2021–2027.

Within the Horizon Europe AccesS initiative, the Center is also a pilot location for solutions related to accessibility, sustainability, energy efficiency, and smart urban environments. Through photographs and visual materials, visitors will see how the space was activated through events, exhibitions, artistic interventions, and citizen participation even before its reconstruction.

Municipality of Varaždin

LIFE BauhausingEurope

LIFE BauhausingEurope is an international project co-financed by the LIFE program that applies the principles of the New European Bauhaus to the renovation of public buildings and urban neighborhoods in several European cities. The project demonstrates how sustainable, beautiful, and inclusive approaches can transform urban and rural spaces into more vibrant, resilient, and connected communities.

Waters of Sofia Zone

This event is held in the framework of Be Ready, an Interreg Danube Region Programme project co-funded by the European Union.

4 June, Time: 11:00 AM – 5 PM

5 June, Time: 1:00 PM – 5 PM

Municipality of Kranj, Slovenia - Water Installation: “Rain Zone”

The city of Kranj presents “Rain Zone” — an innovative water installation created as a solution for cooling urban environments and adapting to the urban heat island effect. Located in the city’s historic center, the installation combines climate functionality, design, and public art, quickly becoming a favorite gathering place for residents and visitors.

Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

Exhibition: The Importance of Fountains and Micro-Wetlands

The exhibition presents a joint initiative for the preservation and restoration of fountains and micro-wetlands together with Vitosha Nature Park, UBB, and Mastercard. Since April 2025, three fountains have already been restored, with work continuing on new sites throughout 2026. In addition to financial support, the companies participate through volunteer initiatives along

BCause Foundation, Exhibition: “Drop by Drop”

“Drop by Drop” is a three-year program by the BCause Foundation aimed at improving access to drinking water and hygiene, focusing on regions affected by water shortages, vulnerable social groups, and the capital city. The initiative is funded by the JTI Global WASH initiative and JTI Bulgaria.

Sofia Helpers

Sofia Helpers, an initiative of Sofia Municipality, will support the festival with a team of volunteers helping with organization, coordination, and welcoming visitors. The initiative brings together young people and volunteers participating in causes related to social support, ecology, animal care, events, and crisis assistance.

6 June 2026, Saturday

Municipal Enterprise “Tourism”

8:00 AM – 10:00 AM

Walking tour “Meet the Birds of Sofia”

“Meet the Birds of Sofia” is a walking tour in South Park. Participants will learn more about different bird species, their songs, and habitats while observing nature up close. Necessary equipment will be provided by the organizers. The tour is not suitable for people with mobility impairments. Online registration is required. Only 15 places are available.

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Sofia Development Association & GBM Commerce Ltd.

“Take a plant and make Sofia greener”

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

The initiative invites visitors to take plants home for planting on balconies, in gardens, or in neighborhood spaces. The initiative encourages more greenery in the city and demonstrates how small actions can make Sofia more beautiful, lively, and pleasant for everyone. Seeds are donated by GBM Commerce.