

MISSION

GREEN INNOVATION: FOUR SCENARIOS FOR BULGARIA



SUMMARY RESULTS OF THE PILOT EDITION OF
STRATEGIC FORESIGHT

MOVE.BG

2025

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The **MOVE.BG** and **SCION Society** teams are grateful to all 24 Bulgarian experts who participated in the pilot edition of the strategic foresight to identify the potentials for developing green innovation in Bulgaria in 2050.

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► CHAPTER 1

Mission Green Innovation 2024 How to be Prepared for the Future?

1.1. Why is Strategic Foresight Important?

- What is policy planning through strategic foresight in a country?
- Why is it important to know what we want to achieve in the medium or long-term future planning?
- How can we understand what the trends and processes might be in 15, 20, or 25 years that will influence the achievement of our goals?

One of the key elements of successful national development is knowing what goals we want to achieve in the medium and long term. As well as, successfully planning how to achieve these goals in different situations with various implementation challenges.

This is the function of strategic foresight.

It does not predict the future, but works through several different possible scenarios, analysing the challenges and opportunities in each of them.

Strategic foresight helps us to be prepared for the future in a world that consists of many interconnected processes.

As the world is today and as it is expected to be in the coming decades.

For this reason, at the end of 2024 MOVE.BG in partnership with SCION Society gathered 24 leading Bulgarian experts at a special forum „**Mission Green Innovation: Bulgaria's Potentials for Developing Green Innovation in 2050**“. The initiative piloted elements of the still rarely used in Bulgaria strategic foresight methodology. For the focus of the pilot, we chose the important, but barely covered topic at the political level in Bulgaria - the development of **green innovation**. In this brochure, we present a summary of the results of this pilot project.

At the outset, however, we will dwell for a moment on strategic foresight and its importance, as well as the importance of the topic for the development of green innovation.

1.2. What is Strategic Foresight?

Strategic foresight is an essential [tool](#) for preparing us for the future in the [presence](#) of complex processes that influence each other, even if at first glance they do not seem interconnected: for example, climate change, digital transformation, the emergence of viruses, social division...

Processes whose dynamics can „confuse“ the overall development of the state and traditional policy planning: it is enough to turn to the COVID-19 crisis or climate change.

Policy planning is still dominated [by a linear approach](#): we have one problem (e.g. climate change) and we design a strategy, centered around it (e.g. achieving climate neutrality by 2050). The linear approach is dominated by measures, determined by past experience, by current (ongoing) problems, and by sectoral development projections - for example, how to encourage companies to reduce their emissions, because sectoral projections show a need for greater effort by business, while past experience shows that companies are negative to any action that requires additional costs, and in a situation of ongoing economic and political instability, we expect that they will be even more resistant to implemented.

Strategic foresight goes beyond this framework. It creates several lines of development. And it helps us to think [beyond](#) our past experience, current problems, and the limitations of sector forecasts.

Strategic foresight does not create a single plan for the future but looks at several different scenarios in order for the country to be as prepared as possible. These scenarios interweave different [trends](#), with different options for their unveiling and the different challenges and opportunities they bring.

Strategic foresight takes us into the future and helps us to analyse the situation in its entirety, avoiding sectoral constraints: we analyse what processes will be happening at a certain point in the future that will influence the overall situation in the world and in the country, and therefore influence the topic we have decided to do strategic foresight on - for example, the implementation of climate policies or the development of green innovation. We analyse both the processes that will influence and what actions we should take in the different possible situations: for example, if there is a war, if there is a new virus, if skeptical of climate change parties come to power...

Returning to the COVID-19 crisis or the 2024 aridity in Bulgaria, we will be able to value how useful it would have been to be prepared for a future with several possible developments and with complex and interconnected challenges.

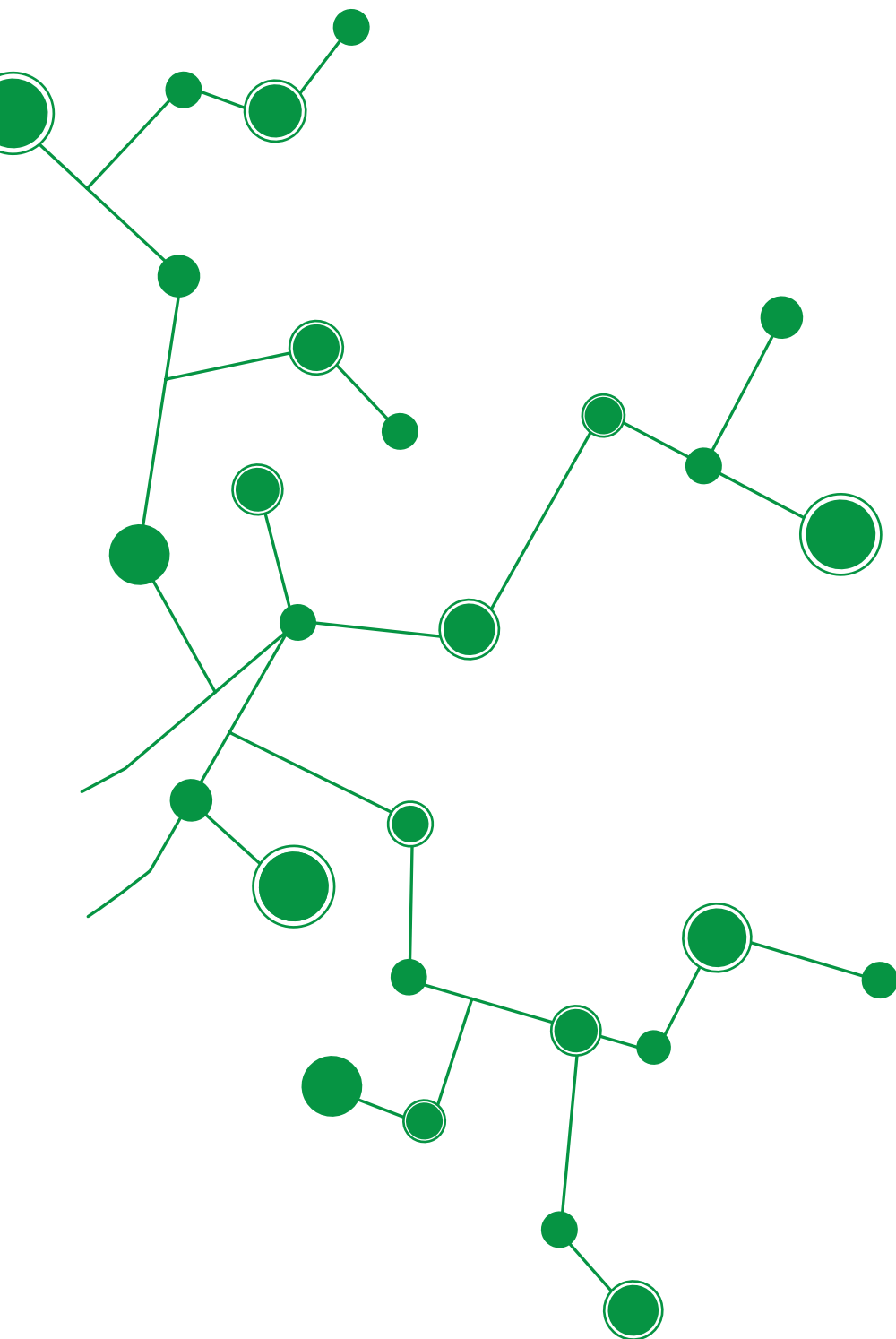
There are [different](#) variants of [applying strategic foresight](#) to the [goals](#) and [objectives](#) for [which the analysis is](#) being performed.

„Strategic foresight‘ is the generic term for methods of strategic planning, policy formulation, design, evaluation and implementation that do not anticipate or forecast the future, but work with alternative scenarios of future developments [...] This enables decision-makers and policy planners to use new ways of thinking about, interacting with and implementing strategic plans that are compatible with the unfolding future, in its different variants,“ [states](#) an analysis by the Bulgarian Institute of Public Administration.

Strategic foresight is used by various [countries](#), [institutions](#), NGOs and [businesses](#). In 2020, the European Commission set up a [dedicated mechanism](#) for strategic foresight. Each year, a team of

experts carries out strategic foresight on major challenges for the EU's long-term development and publishes reports with conclusions and recommendations.

Foresight is the discipline of exploring and anticipating future possible developments to shape the preferable future. To do so, it taps into collective intelligence in a structured and systemic way. Strategic foresight, on the other hand, seeks to embed future insights into European Union policy-making, strategic planning, and preparedness. It helps the EU to prepare for and anticipate future shocks and opportunities, and shape the future we want," the European Commission [states](#).



1.3. Why is Green Innovation Important?

Green innovations [help](#) the [development](#) of [countries](#), the [well-being](#) of people, and the [preservation of nature](#) in a variety of ways: they increase the competitiveness of [the economy](#), attract investment, create new jobs, support [economic development](#), protect the environment, help us live in places with clean air, preserved nature, cheap and clean energy, protected trees and mountains, preserved rivers....

This is why [research and innovation](#) are a key element of the [European Green Deal](#), the European Union's long-term [development](#) strategy, which aims to achieve a net-zero emission society and economy by 2050. Despite the revision of some measures, the main objective of the Green Deal has remained unchanged under the new European Commission „[Von der Leyen-II](#)“.

► What is green innovation?

A green innovation or eco-innovation is any form of innovation resulting in or aiming at significant and demonstrable progress towards the goal of sustainable development, through reducing impacts on the environment, [as defined](#) by the European Commission.

„Eco-innovation needs to be accelerated in a way that boosts resource productivity, efficiency, competitiveness and helps to safeguard the environment. More and more severe environmental challenges and resource constraints have led to growing worldwide demand for environmental technologies, products, and services and have facilitated the emergence of green industries“ the EC [stated](#) in a Communication on the EU Action Plan for eco-innovation.

„Faster market uptake and diffusion of eco-innovation will improve the environmental performance and sustainability of the whole economy, while at the same time delivering benefits to business, in terms of profitability, and to society as a whole.“

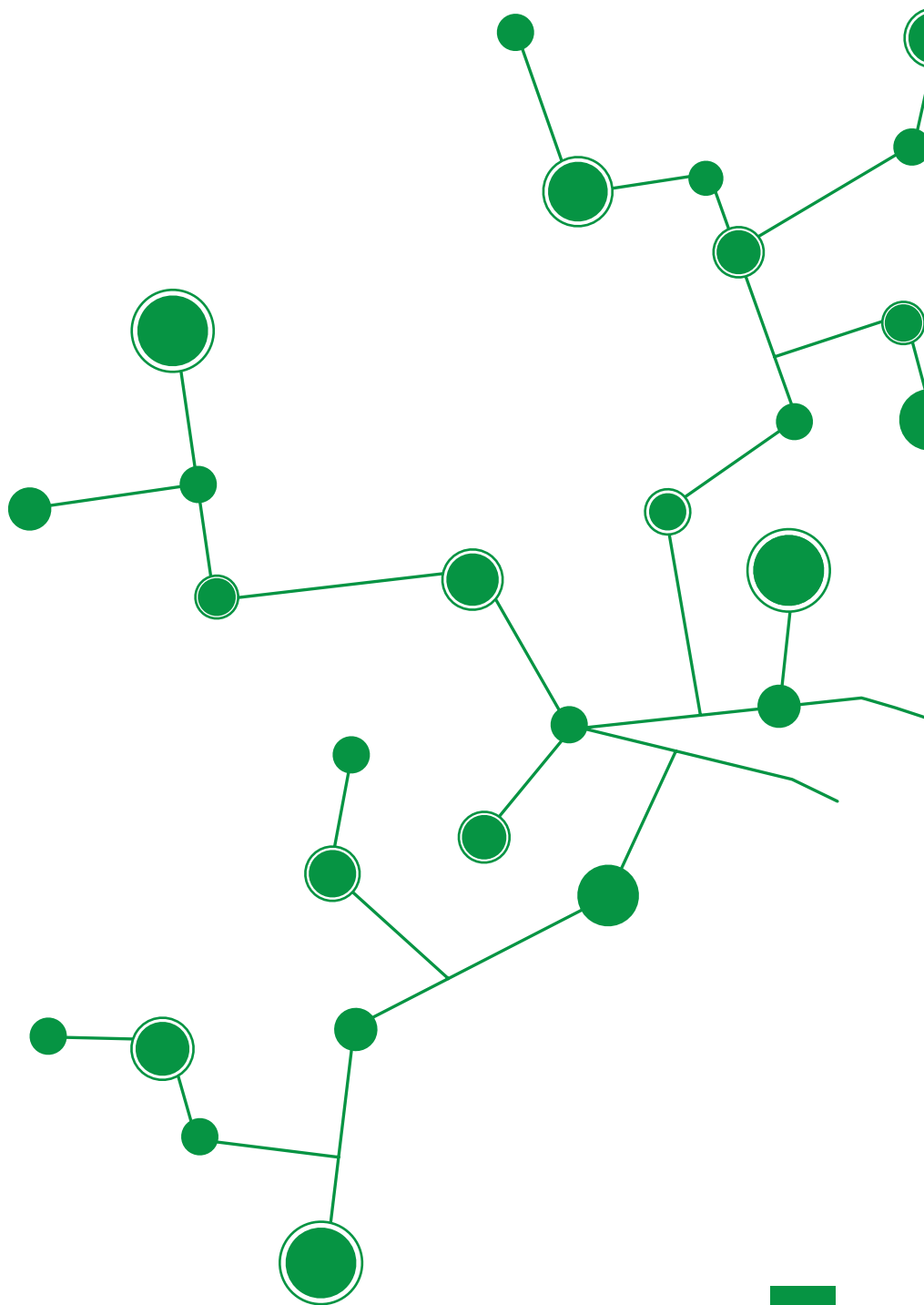
► What is happening in our country?

Bulgaria continues to experience a number of difficulties in the diffusion of new technologies and the development of innovative potential.

Our country faces serious challenges in the adoption of digital technologies in enterprises and society, according to the European Commission's „[Report on the State of the Digital Decade 2024](#)“, which integrates the popular DESI index. Among the serious challenges hindering the development of digital technologies in the country are the low levels of digital skills among the population, the low levels of use of digital technologies by enterprises, and the serious disparities in digital development between urban and rural areas.

Moreover, Bulgaria is in the penultimate place in the European Commission's index for the development of the innovative potential of the European Union - „[The European Innovation Scoreboard 2024](#)“. The improvement of the indicators in Bulgaria is below the EU average. Our country is in the category of the least developed innovators (Emerging Innovators) but lags behind by 70% compared to the first three countries in this group - Croatia, Poland, and Slovakia. Bulgaria is 125% behind the most prestigious group, the Innovation Leaders, which includes Denmark, Sweden, Finland and the Netherlands. Among the main [challenges](#) hindering the development of Bulgaria's innovative potential are the weak development of eco/green innovations, low levels of research and innovation development in business, low levels of innovation adoption (innovative products and innovative processes) by SMEs, and weak cooperation between SMEs on innovation development.

Bulgaria is also ranked last in the EU [Eco-Innovation Index 2024](#), which measures both the penetration of eco-innovation in business, society, and public administration and its development and support at scientific, business, and government levels. Both in 2014, when the first edition of the index was conducted, and in 2024 our country continues to occupy this place. Although significant progress has been made, it is not sufficient to improve performance relative to the European average. Among the most problematic areas for our [country](#) are the low levels of government spending and policies to stimulate research and innovation in green technologies, the low number of eco-innovation patents, and the strong resource intensity of the economy.



1.4. What Happened at the Strategic Foresight Pilot?

As mentioned, at the end of 2024a **MOVE.BG** and **SCION Society** piloted elements of one of the variants for conducting strategic foresight. The initiative involved a cross-disciplinary group of 24 leading Bulgarian experts. We selected professionals with proven experience in science, business, finance, NGOs, and politics.

The pilot included three parts.

I. Determination of development trends for Bulgaria, the EU, and the world in 2050

In this part, the experts were divided into five groups according to the **STEEP** methodology, with each group discussing the main trends of societal development in 2050 in one of the following areas: social development (**Social**), technological development (**Technology**), economic development (**Economy**), ecological development (**Environment**), and political development (**Politics**).

The groups included the following experts:

► SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- **Ana Doneva**, Expert at **MOVE.BG** - moderator of the panel
- **Prof. Antony Todorov**, PhD, Lecturer at the New Bulgarian University
- **Elena Darieva**, Sociologist, Founder of „Nasoka“ agency
- **Martin Yankov**, Founder of The Collective Foundation and The Rivers of the City Festival
- **Teodora Stoyanova**, European Climate Foundation

► TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- **Mirella Yordanova**, Co-Founder of **SCION Society** - moderator of the panel
- **Prof. Ana Proykova**, PhD in physics, Professor at Sofia University, Co-Founder of the Bulgarian Centre for Women in Technology (BCWT), Member of the Scientific Committee on Health and Environmental Risks Assessment of the European Commission's Directorate General Health and Food Safety (2009 - Ongoing - fourth term)
- **Vladimir Danailov**, Member of Parliament from GERB-SDS in the 49th National Assembly, Executive Director of the Fund of Funds (2020-2021), Deputy Mayor for Digitalization, Innovation, and Economic Development in Sofia Municipality (2020), and Executive Director of the Sofia Investment Agency (2016-2020)
- **Karina Angelieva**, Innovation Expert, Deputy Minister for Innovation and Growth (2021-2022), Deputy Minister for Education and Science (2018-2021)
- **Stoyan Nedin**, Partner at Vitosha Venture Partners

► ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- **Kamen Slavov**, Co-Founder of SCION Society - moderator of the panel
- **Assoc. Atanas Georgiev**, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Sofia University
- **Iskren Mitev**, Director of Fundraising at BESCO - Bulgarian Entrepreneurs Association, Member of Parliament from „We Continue the Change“ in the 47th, 48th and 49th National Assembly
- **Nikolay Angov**, Managing Partner at InnoLED, Member of Parliament from „We Continue the

Change“ in the 47th National Assembly

- **Radoslava Maslarska**, Chairman of the Board of the Bulgarian Association of Licensed Investment Intermediaries (BALII), Chairman of the Board of Directors of Elana Trading AD

► ENVIRONMENTAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- **Konstantina Voynova**, Expert - moderator of the panel
- **Genadi Kondarev**, Expert at E3G
- **Ivaylo Ivanov**, Chairman of the Board of the National Agency for Control of Protected Areas (NACPA)
- **Mariana Iteva**, Regional Industrial Development Director for Central and Eastern Europe and Deputy Regional Director of Veolia for Bulgaria, Member of the Board of Directors of Sofia Water AD, part of Veolia
- **Toma Belev**, Co-Chair of Green Movement

► POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

- **Sasha Bezuhanova**, Founder of [MOVE.BG](#) and Co-Founder of [SCION Society](#) - moderator of the panel
- **Borislav Sandov**, Member of the Green Movement Executive Board, Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies, and Minister of Environment and Waters (2021-2022)
- **Lyubo Georgiev**, Head of the Team of Sofia
- **Asst. Ivo Anev**, PhD, Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics of Infrastructure at UNWE

In each group, the experts discussed what the trends would be in 2050 and finally voted to choose two trends in the group.

II. Selection of two main trends for societal development in 2050 to perform the strategic foresight

This was followed by a presentation of the results from the different groups, and then the experts voted and selected two main trends for the strategic foresight. The selected trends are **climate change** and **social cohesion**.

In most variants, strategic foresight requires a simplified representation of trends. In the pilot, experts agreed on the need to look at trends more comprehensively. We therefore briefly present what the two selected trends include:

- **Climate change**: the effects of climate change such as storms, floods, fires, and aridity; the causes of climate change such as sources of greenhouse gas emissions, consumption, economic processes, and industrial developments; the implementation of climate policies by municipalities, the state, the European Union, international organizations and the international community as a whole; the attitude of political parties to climate change and to climate policies; the state of natural resources; the development of a circular economy; the attitude of society to climate;

► **Social cohesion:** relationships between different groups in society and the state of the social fabric; levels of solidarity, tolerance, empathy, and mutual support in society; the relationship of the individual to society, to different groups in society, to the state and to political processes; the relationship of the state to the individual, to society and to different groups in society; the relationship of political parties to different groups in society.

The two selected trends were evaluated against their two extreme possible unveilings - respectively **contained climate change and severe effects of the climate crisis** for one selected trend and **a connected, balanced society and a fragmented, divided society** for the second trend. The two trends were crossed in the X and Y axes, resulting in four scenarios for the development of Bulgaria in 2050.

III. Create four scenarios against the possible unveiling of the two selected trends

In this part, the experts were divided into four cross-disciplinary groups looking at four possible scenarios. The groups discussed five main questions: what does the scenario mean for society, the state, the environment, and the economy and where are the potentials for the development of green innovation in Bulgaria in the given scenario.

In the following lines, we present a summary of the conclusions of the four scenarios considered. The conclusions are categorised and summarised.

In the spring of 2025, expect the continuation of the pilot edition of the strategic foresight of the potentials for the development of green innovations in Bulgaria.

► CHAPTER 2

Mission Green Innovation: Four Possible Scenarios

2.1. Scenario A

Managed climate change and a balanced, connected society in 2050

We start with the positive scenario - where climate change in 2050 is contained and society is balanced and connected.

For many people, this scenario may seem impossible from today's perspective. But if we go back to the situation in 1997 in Bulgaria - did it seem realistic then that in seven years we would be a member of NATO and in ten years - a member of the European Union?

The difficult thing in the positive scenarios is to imagine where the potentials for the development of the country would be and the problem areas (weaknesses), so that we realise the potentials instead of finding ourselves unprepared for the new situation and remaining in the development rankings last places again.

As mentioned above, for each scenario we will present you with five summarized and categorized trends for the development of society, the state, the environment, and the economy, as well as five potentials for the development of green innovations in the respective scenario.

The following experts participated in the **Scenario A** panel:

- **Sasha Bezuhanova**, Founder of [MOVE.BG](#) and Co-Founder of [SCION Society](#) - moderator of the panel
- **Prof. Antony Todorov**, PhD, Lecturer at the New Bulgarian University
- **Vladimir Danailov**, Member of Parliament from GERB-SDS in the 49th National Assembly, Executive Director of the Fund of Funds (2020-2021), Deputy Mayor for Digitalization, Innovation, and Economic Development in Sofia Municipality (2020), and Executive Director of the Sofia Investment Agency (2016-2020)
- **Radoslava Maslarska**, Chairman of the Board of the Bulgarian Association of Licensed Investment Intermediaries (BALII), Chairman of the Board of Directors of Elana Trading AD
- **Toma Belev**, Co-Chair of Green Movement

► Society

- Established mechanisms in society to recognise the contribution of each individual
- Developed culture and education that encourage people to participate in contributory activities
- Introduced socially relevant priorities in education: solidarity practices, eco-education, technological ethics
- Mechanisms in place to avoid fragmentation in society
- Perception by the majority of people of the principles of social inclusion and common action

► Environment

- Environmental and green living policies in place
- Policies in place to protect and restore biodiversity

- Adaptation policies in place for climate change events (storms, floods, fires)
- Policies in place to create technological solutions to conserve natural resources
- Policies in place to create technological solutions for waste reuse

► **State**

- Inclusive democracy mechanisms in place with guaranteed participation of different societal groups in decision-making
- Control mechanisms in place between institutions and compliance with international commitments undertaken by Bulgaria
- Inclusive, decentralised, and facilitated access for citizens to participate in financial markets
- Policies in place to attract investors in green solutions and to support green innovation in a targeted way
- Policies in place to build a new generation of environmentally friendly infrastructure

► **Economics and Business**

- Introduction of a model of economic development based on the value of protecting nature and living in a clean environment
- A model of economic cooperation between individual business entities introduced
- Model in place to reduce overconsumption and develop advanced circularity models
- Introduced management principles of automation and robotics centered around nature and people
- Energy efficiency principles introduced in all economic activities

► **Potential for the development of green innovation**

- Development of innovations supporting biodiversity restoration
- Development of innovation for water retention in winter and release during the growing season
- Development of innovation for water treatment and protection
- Development of innovative formats of cooperation between citizens to protect natural resources
- Development of a new generation of energy innovations as a result of collaboration between businesses that have embraced helping society as a top priority over competition

The outlined trends are based on the ideas shared by the participants in this panel. The ideas are summarized and categorized and do not claim endorsement by complete unanimity of all panelists.

2.2. Scenario B

Strong climate change and a balanced, connected society in 2050

We start with the first of the two „middle“ scenarios - where we have severe effects of climate change, but instead, society is balanced and connected.

While the first part is easy to imagine, the second, perhaps, would make it more challenging. After all, we have to bear in mind that Bulgaria is connected both to the European Union, of which it is a part and to the rest of the world processes - socially, technologically, environmentally, economically, and politically. Different processes inside and outside the country can also lead to a [serious change](#) in social relations inside Bulgaria - let us remember how „suddenly“ social networks and smartphones caused a significant [change](#) in [social relations](#) and communication.

We remind you that for each scenario we will present five summarized and categorized trends for the development of society, the state, the environment, and the economy, as well as five potentials for the development of green innovations in the respective scenario.

The following experts participated in the **Scenario B** panel:

- **Ana Doneva**, Expert at **MOVE.BG** - moderator of the panel;
- **Elena Darieva**, Sociologist, Founder of „Nasoka“ agency;
- **Ivaylo Ivanov**, Chairman of the Board of the National Agency for Control of Protected Areas (NACPA);
- **Iskren Mitev**, Director of Fundraising at BESCO - Bulgarian Entrepreneurs Association, Member of Parliament from „We Continue the Change“ in the 47th, 48th and 49th National Assembly;
- **Lyubo Georgiev**, Head of the Team of Sofia.

► Society

- Awareness of the individual's responsibility to society as a result of the widespread poverty caused by severe climate change consequences
- Built solidarity in society due to the severe effects of climate change affecting all groups in society
- Awareness of the need for equal opportunities for all - a result of the widespread impoverishment caused by the severe climate crisis
- Mutual assistance and support mechanisms established to prioritise support to the groups most affected by climate change
- Embrace of the principles of eudemonia in the face of severe climate change - living with the principles of the common good to achieve harmony and balance

► Environment

- Policies in place to conserve and protect natural resources from the severe impacts of climate change
- Mechanisms in place for the effective management of natural resources (water), and their use by society, government, and business
- Prioritisation of good governance of ecosystem services
- Policies put in place to stimulate agricultural innovation to secure food security in the face of severe climate crises
- Policies in place to stimulate innovation for water-scarcity living and industry

► State

- Presence of limited democracy/soft dictatorship - free elections but no political choice
- Plan in place to make it compulsory for municipalities to become smart cities because of the severe impacts of climate change
- Creation of a 'Green Ombudsman' to protect the public interest in situations of limited access to basic resources
- Creation of a 'Green Ambassador' post as climate cooperation becomes a focus of foreign policy
- Introduction of incentives to develop innovations for efficient use of scarce resources

► Economics and Business

- Existence of economic growth, albeit weak, driven by solidarity in society and despite the severe consequences on the economy caused by the climate crisis
- Presence of oligopolies/monopolies and inflation due to limited resources
- Mandatory environmental measures for economic activities, introduced due to limited resources
- Measures in place to support the development of green innovations for resource conservation, as well as protection and recovery from climate events
- A specific focus on the development of innovations for the protection/smart adaptation of infrastructure to the effects of climate change is introduced

► Potential for the development of green innovation

- Development of innovative approaches to communicate the need to implement climate policies in all areas
- Development of agricultural innovation to ensure food security, including regenerative agriculture
- Development of innovation for smart cities, decentralised energy systems, and new models to control resource management and consumption
- Development of innovation in lifelong learning to support adaptation to climate change and the smart use of resources
- Development of innovation in health and pharmacy to ensure health care in resource-limited and climate-intense situations

The outlined trends are based on the ideas shared by the participants in this panel. The ideas are summarized and categorized and do not claim endorsement by complete unanimity of all panelists.

2.3. Scenario C

Managed climate change and a fragmented, divided society in 2050

¶ We continue with the second of the two „middle“ scenarios - in which we have climate change contained and sufficient resources, but a segregated society and no opportunities to change social status.

The first part is hard to imagine from today's perspective. But it is not impossible as a development. Climate change is already here with us and is forcing us to take action, despite the disinformation and propaganda against green development. As we see every day, [propaganda](#) and [disinformation](#) are some of the main [causes of](#) serious social [tensions](#) and [divisions](#)).

For each scenario, we will present you five summarized and categorized trends for the development of society, the state, the environment, and the economy, as well as five potentials for the development of green innovations in the respective scenario.

The following experts participated in the **Scenario C** panel:

- **Konstantina Voynova**, Expert - moderator of the panel
- **Assoc. Atanas Georgiev**, Dean of the Faculty of Economics, Sofia University
- **Borislav Sandov**, Member of the Green Movement Executive Board, Deputy Prime Minister for Climate Policies, and Minister of Environment and Waters (2021-2022)
- **Genadi Kondarev**, Expert at E3G
- **Martin Yankov**, Founder of The Collective Foundation and The Rivers of the City Festival

► Society

- Development of feudalization, sectarianism, enslavement of people - without the possibility of equal start and social development
- Presence of a general feeling of despair, lack of perspectives, and lack of personal initiative
- Presence of general apathy and disinterest, lack of empathy, lack of solidarity - everyone saves himself and as he can
- Presence of many different closed societal groups that lead to strong segregation and a lack of communication between different groups
- Presence of strong economic polarization - disrupted social fabric and social relations hinder economic development

► Environment

- Target of new and smaller settlements due to segregation, which will lead to over-exploitation of certain local resources and their depletion
- Introduction of policies to protect natural resources threatened by segregation
- Availability of opportunities to use conserved natural resources to reduce segregation
- Introduction of regenerative agriculture policies as a tool to reduce segregation
- Introduction of policies for living in harmony with nature to reduce segregation

► State

- Danger of dictatorship, totalitarian control, and dysfunctional democratic mechanisms
- Need to introduce specific policies to combat inequalities and segregation

- Need to introduce specific policies for social dialogue with different groups and to promote dialogue between them
- Lack of funds to invest in development programs, including infrastructure, due to tax collection problems
- Strengthening the role of cooperation with neighboring countries

► **Economics and Business**

- Existence of serious problems for economic development, including the competitiveness and motivation of the workforce, due to segregation in society
- Creation of local monopolies, intensification of the processes of concentration in all sectors, and impossibility of business expansion
- Increase in corruption risk due to lack of a functioning civil society
- Restricted innovation due to a highly divided society in which different groups do not cooperate
- Lack of an entrepreneurial environment, local businesses are mainly low-tech and lack the capacity to develop innovations

► **Potential for the development of green innovation**

- Development of innovation in agriculture, including the development of regenerative agriculture
- Development of sustainable urban design models for new neighborhoods/villages
- Development of innovations for smart use of resources (water capture) and reducing supply chains in a segregated society
- Development of innovations to create new lines of forwarding in a segregated society - drones, underground vehicles for goods
- Development of innovative models to promote collaboration between communities on environmental issues

The outlined trends are based on the ideas shared by the participants in this panel. The ideas are summarized and categorized and do not claim endorsement by complete unanimity of all panelists.

2.4. Scenario D

Severe climate change and a fragmented, divided society in 2050

We end up with the entirely negative scenario - where we have severe effects of climate change and lack of resources, combined with a segregated society and lack of opportunities to change social status.

The negative scenario seems to be the easiest to predict. But in fact it is not. The main challenge here is how to motivate people from different groups to become knights - to take their part in solving the climate crisis and the crisis in society.

We remind you that for each scenario we will present five summarized and categorized trends for the development of society, the state, the environment, and the economy, as well as five potentials for the development of green innovations in the respective scenario.

The following experts participated in the **Scenario D** panel:

- **Kamen Slavov**, Co-Founder of **SCION Society** - moderator of the panel
- **Asst. Ivo Anev**, PhD, Lecturer at the Faculty of Economics of Infrastructure at UNWE
- **Karina Angelieva**, Innovation Expert, Deputy Minister for Innovation and Growth (2021-2022), Deputy Minister for Education and Science (2018-2021)
- **Nikolay Angov**, Managing Partner at InnoLED, Member of Parliament from „We Continue the Change“ in the 47th National Assembly
- **Mariana Iteva**, Regional Industrial Development Director for Central and Eastern Europe and Deputy Regional Director of Veolia for Bulgaria, Member of the Board of Directors of Sofia Water AD, part of Veolia
- **Teodora Stoyanova**, European Climate Foundation

► Society

- Presence of a feudalized society that cannot exercise civil control
- Presence of strong contradictions between different groups in society, the lack of communication between them
- Presence of high mortality due to the severe effects of climate change
- Lack of development opportunities for individuals, lack of equal start, and opportunities for realization
- Presence of despair among the people, which hinders economic development

► Environment

- Nature threatened with extinction due to climate change
- Food security of the population, threatened due to agricultural problems resulting from the climate crisis
- Limited resources and the threat of extinction of basic raw materials
- Problems with drinking water for the population and water supply for industry
- Problems with implementation of climate policies, including adaptation, due to divisions in society

► State

- The need to take unpopular measures such as raising taxes to meet the costs of the damage caused by the climate crisis
- The need for strong and decisive political action to tackle the climate and societal crisis
- Existence of feudalism that prevents the implementation of effective and long-term policies to address the challenges
- Increase in corruption due to lack of effective mechanisms for citizen control
- Danger of the development of undemocratic forms of governance due to the strongly divided society - the search for the „strong hand“, the „savior“

► Economics and Business

- Existence of serious problems for economic development, including competitiveness
- Rising inflation due to economic problems caused by the climate crisis and societal divisions
- Increased competition for resources due to their scarcity and threat of extinction, and the introduction of coercive measures for the efficiency of production processes
- Increased bankruptcies, especially among smaller companies, which will also lead to a significant increase in unemployment and social costs
- Increase in health spending hampering investment in other key sectors

► Potential for the development of green innovation

- Development of innovations for smart use and reuse of resources, including new and unconventional circularity models
- Development of innovations to decentralize the energy system and seeking new approaches to ensure the sustainability of energy communities
- Development innovations to create local and clean forms of energy production to ensure the security of the district heating supply
- Development of digital innovations to implement more effective models to address climate change impacts
- Development of digital innovations for smart recovery from climate change (infrastructure, water, energy)

The outlined trends are based on the ideas shared by the participants in this panel. The ideas are summarized and categorized and do not claim endorsement by complete unanimity of all panelists.

ABOUT MISSION GREEN INNOVATION

An initiative of **MOVE.BG** to support the development of Bulgaria's innovative potential. Through various activities and initiatives, **Mission Green Innovation** supports green innovators from entrepreneurship, science, and the civil sector.

Follow the initiatives of the Green Innovation Mission [here](#)

ABOUT MOVE.BG

MOVE.BG is a platform for creative people. We seek innovative solutions for social change, work for sustainable development, and promote a culture of constructive dialogue, active leadership, and shared values.

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