Mariya Trifonova, Phd

Date of birth: 18/12/1985 **Nationality:** Bulgarian

Email address: mgtrifonova@feb.uni-sofia.bg

europass

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

03/07/2013 – 24/10/2018 Sofia, Bulgaria
PH.D. IN ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRIAL MANAGEMENT Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (FEBA) Website www.uni-sofia.bg
Thesis The role of institutions for the development of the renewable energy sector in selected European countries

26/09/2013 – 25/06/2014
CERTIFICATE IN ECONOMIC GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT Center for Economic Strategy and Competitiveness Economic Development Certificate Program affiliated with the Michael Porter's Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness (Harvard Business School)
Website http://economicstrategy.org/ Field of study economic growth and development, political science and social policy.

09/2004 – 03/2011 Essen, Germany
GERMAN DEGREE "DIPLOM", EQUIVALENT TO MASTER University of Duisburg Essen
Field of study Business Administration, incl. Erasmus funded exchange student at University of Skövde (Sweden)

WORK EXPERIENCE

24/07/2025 – CURRENT Sofia, Bulgaria
ANALYST / POLICY & PROJECT SUPPORT Planet S.A. for Provision of Consulting Services
- National Capacity-Building Expert in the implementation of advisory services in a framework contract with European Investment Bank
- Project "Public Sector Loan Facility (PSLF) Advisory for the Maritsa East Complex

23/03/2019 – CURRENT Sofia, Bulgaria
CHIEF ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN ENERGY ECONOMICS UNIVERSITY OF SOFIA "ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI", FEBA
- Director of master program Energy markets and services
- Deputy-director of the Net-Zero Lab
- Team member and scientific secretary of the Department of Industrial Economics & Management
- Organizer and scholar in the international Marine Renewable Energy Academy

24/01/2024 – 01/2025 Remotely, Brussels
EXTERNAL CONSULTANT COWI A/S for European Commission – DG REGIO (client)
Provision of consultancy services for the project "Delivering the European Green Deal under PO2 – Cohesion for Communities in Transition (C4T)," specifically focused on authoring publishable Knowledge Pieces relevant to managing authorities and policymakers.

01/01/2023 – 31/10/2025 Sofia, Bulgaria
JustWind4All PROJECT COORDINATOR FOR BULGARIA APPLIED RESEARC AND COMMUNICATIONS FUND (ARC FUND)
Coordinating all activities and deliverables to WPs of the Horizon2020-funded project "JustWind4All"

15/06/2023 – 15/11/2023 Remotely, Cyprus
TECHNICAL ADVISOR/ PROVIDER OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK
Provision of technical assistance to a member state under the Jaspers / Just Transition Mechanism; Design of auctions for hybrid renewable energy projects (behind-the-meter storage and renewable energy installations), incl. evaluation

01/09/2021 – 31/08/2024 Sofia, Bulgaria
PROJECT COORDINATOR BLACK SEA ENERGY RESEARCH CENTER
Coordinating all activities and deliverables to WPs of the H2020-funded project "Simple and Smart Energy Communities" (completed in 2024), LIFE-funded POWER-E-COM and SHAREs+ (ongoing)

28/10/2020 – 01/03/2024 Sofia, Bulgaria
RESEARCH FELLOW CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY
Involved in the projects:
- Establishment of the Black Sea Renewable Energy Coalition (link)
- Assessment of Offshore Wind Technical & Economic Potential in the Bulgarian EEZ (link)
- Development of Legislative Framework for Offshore Renewable Energy in Bulgaria (link)
- Modelling for the Bulgarian Roadmap for Climate Neutrality (decarbonisation scenarios). Related publications: here
- Development of Assessment Framework for the Just Transition Territorial Plans of 5 Eastern European Countries (link) and Index for Stakeholder Engagement in Place-based Policies (DUST project)
- Accelerated lignite exit in Bulgaria, Romania and Greece (link).

31/12/2020 – 30/12/2023 Sofia, Bulgaria
VISITING FELLOW EUROPEAN COUNCIL FOR FOREIGN POLICY
- Expert consultation and assistance for the ECFR team in formulating the national business case for the European Green Deal in Bulgaria;
- Conducting research on the socio-economic implications of climate and energy policies in the country;
- Developing sociological surveys to gauge stakeholders' perspectives on climate and energy transition policies;
- Diss emin

ating research findings to public administration, local businesses, NGOs, and political parties;

27/05/2020 – 26/05/2021

NATIONAL EXPERT, CO-AUTHOR OF 2020 EDITION OF THE WORLD ENERGY TRILEMMA INDEX WORLD ENERGY COUNCIL

Responsible for the Trilemma and Issues Monitor national output for Bulgaria (link)

01/04/2019 – 31/12/2019 Sofia, Bulgaria

PROJECT-BASED RESEARCHER NATIONAL PROGRAM "YOUNG SCIENTISTS AND POSTDOCTORAL CANDIDATES"

Independent research in the field of socio-political acceptance of renewable energy technologies in Bulgaria, financed by the Ministry of Education of Republic of Bulgaria/ National Program "Young Scientists and Postdoctoral candidates"

01/01/2020 – CURRENT Sofia, Bulgaria

PART-TIME PROJECT-BASED RESEARCHER BULGARIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE FUND

Project "Scientific methodology and mathematical models for planning the development of the national energy system"

26/11/2017 – 21/12/2017 Sofia, Bulgaria

PHD FELLOW SHAPE ENERGY PLATFORM

PhD fellowship for MEDEAS project under the supervision of Davide Natalini (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge). Tasks:

- Review of effective decarbonization policies implemented in countries with characteristics similar to Bulgaria;
- Ex-ante evaluation of social effects and barriers related to possible decarbonization policies for Bulgaria;
- Report and presentation of research results at the project consortium meeting in February 2018.

01/10/2016 – 31/07/2017 Karlsruhe, Germany

RESEARCH ASSISTANT EIFER-EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY RESEARCH (POLICY ANALYSIS AND ENERGY MARKET STUDIES GROUP)

Carrying out research in the field of energy regulation, legal framework and policy development in various EU countries,:

- cross-country energy system analysis (particularly Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, Denmark);
- analysis of existing business models, profitability and regulation in terms of self-consumption and energy communities;
- analysis of energy storage regulation and market deployment;
- efficiency assessment of current RES-E support mechanisms and monitoring the effects of auctions' introduction in European countries;
- reports on the wholesale electricity markets functioning;
- energy policy analysis and legislative proposals summary at national and EU level;

- Preparing economic and sensitivity analysis assessing profitability of renewable energy technologies (photovoltaics, geothermal);
- Economic evaluation of potential geothermal energy projects in the Balkans;
- State of the art of micro grids regulation and development in various EU countries;

01/05/2016 – 31/07/2016 Karlsruhe, Germany

GUEST RESEARCHER EIFER-EUROPEAN INSTITUTE FOR ENERGY RESEARCH (POLICY ANALYSIS AND ENERGY MARKET STUDIES GROUP)

04/11/2013 – 30/09/2016 Sofia, Bulgaria

ADMINISTRATIVE AND PROGRAM DIRECTOR BULGARIAN PHOTOVOLTAIC ASSOCIATION

18/08/2010 – 31/12/2010 Sofia, Bulgaria

STRATEGIC PLANNING ASSISTANT BULGARTRANSGAZ EOD (BULGARIAN GAS TRANSMISSION SYSTEM OPERATOR)

01/05/2013 – 09/2013 Sofia, Bulgaria

INDUSTRY ANALYST, CO-AUTHOR OF SECTORAL ANALYSIS BULGARIAN INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION

08/2011 – 05/2013 Munich, Germany

ASSISTANT TO THE BOARD ADVANZ INVEST SE

21/05/2008 – 20/12/2008 Sofia, Bulgaria

INTERN IN STRATEGY AND OPERATIONS AREA DELOITTE BULGARIA OOD

CONTRIBUTION TO RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROJECTS

- EU-funded projects (Horizon, LIFE): TWIN4ECO, JustWind4All (focus on wind and airborn energy), DUST, POWER-E-COM, SHAREs, SHAREs+, MEDEAs, PVGrid, NanophoSolar
- European Climate Initiative (EUKI) of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action: BLUECEE
- Privately funded: ESG Academy of Sofia University; Conducting capacity building for Bulgarian media professionals on energy prices' increase in Europe; Marine Renewable Energy Academy; Net-Zero Lab

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): BULGARIAN, Other language(s):

	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction
ENGLISH	C1	C1	C2	C2
GERMAN	C1	C1	C2	C2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

DIGITAL SKILLS

PLEXOS® for Academic purposes | Pathway Explorer | Power BI Power App | FlexTool | Stata (Statistical analysis) Gretl | AnyLogic| Adobe Photoshop| Microsoft Office Package| Social Media|Moodle | IBM Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) – Utilizador Independente

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL BODIES

DATE	TITLE	ORGANISATION
August 2026–Today	Review Editor, 7th Assessment Cycle	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
May 2025–Today	Government's nominated member of Steering Committee Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership	Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership
April 2025– Today (2 years term)	Selected member of Expert Group on EU-wide flexibility needs assessment	European Union Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)
May 2024 – Today	Representing FEBA in JP Energy System Integration and JP Energy Efficiency in Industrial Processes	European Energy Research Alliance (EERA)
June 2023 – Today	Member of the Academic Sounding Board; Co-author of Knowledge Pieces	Cohesion for Transition Community of Practice (DG Regio, European Commission)
October 2022 – Today	Member of the Steering Committee, Co-Author of Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda for the European Wind Industry	European Technology and Innovation Platform (ETIP) Wind
March 2022– Today	Member of EU MISSIONS A DAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANG	European Commission
01/07/2022 – 30/09/2023	Appointed Deputy Chairperson	Energy Transition Commission to the Advisory Council on European Green Deal under the umbrella of the Bulgarian Council of Ministers, responsible for the modelling work for the National Climate Neutrality Roadmap
November 2021– Today	Member of the Working Group	Just Transition Platform Working Groups on Stakeholder Engagement and Equal Opportunities (DG Regio, European Commission)
Since June 2024 2021– Today	Member of the Board Member, National Expert, Co-Author of 2020 Edition of the World Energy Trilemma Index	Bulgarian Committee of World Energy Council

PUBLICATIONS

Trifonova, M., Georgiev, M. (2026). The Bulgarian Chemical Industry: Carbon Footprint, Resource Dependencies, and Regulatory Challenges. Published by Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

Trifonova, M., et al. (2026). Designing public financing calls for energy communities Guidance Document – C4T Working Group on Energy,

Trifonova, M. (2025). Regionally Tested Guidelines for Fostering Wind Energy Citizenship in Bulgaria (Deliverable 4.1, JustWind4All project). Sofia: ARC Fund.

Trifonova, M.; Aleksieva, R. (2025). Scientific Research and Innovation in Support of the Energy Transition: First Steps Towards a Sustainable, Digital, and Energy-Secure Bulgaria (Научните изследвания и иновации в подкрепа на енергийния преход: Първи стъпки към устойчива, дигитална и енергийно сигурна България). Technical report published by Sofia University

Trifonova, M, et al. (2025): Scientific Research and Innovation in Support of Energy Technologies: Opportunities and Challenges for Bulgaria (Научните изследвания и иновации в подкрепа на енергийните технологии: Възможности и предизвикателства за България). Technical report published by Sofia University.

Trifonova, M, et al. (2025): Flexibility Assessment of the Bulgarian Power Grid: Scaling Variable Renewables for a Resilient Energy System by 2030. Technical report published by Sofia University.

Trifonova, M.; Topaloglou, L. (2024). Implementing renewable energy investments with Cohesion Policy to enable sustainability transitions. Knowledge Piece for Cohesion4Transition Community of Practice, DG Region, European Commission

Trifonova, M., et al. (2024): Shaping future Cohesion Policy for sustainability transitions. C4T Community of Practice, Brussels.

Balz, V., et. Al (2023). Democratising jUst Sustainability Transitions: Theoretical and conceptual framework. Deliverable 1.1. DUST Project

Trifonova, M, Uzunov, K. (2023). Wind Energy in North-East Region (Bulgaria). Regional Case Study Report Strategic Research & Innovation Agenda 2025-2027. 2023. ETIP Wind Publication

MergnerR., Rutz D., Holzmann A., Schilcher K., Sahin A., Fenz N., Höhne U., Nikolaev A., Trifonova M., Heinel T., Burmeister A., Dannemann B., Süle E., Sumbadze N., Robić S., Simek T., Kovács B., Lugosi B. (2023): Supporting Energy Communities in Europe for a Fast Energy Transition, in European Biomass Conference and Exhibition Proceedings, pp. 323 – 327

Trifonova, M.; Catuti, M,; Mikulčić, H.; Smolen, M. (2023): Winds of Change: Offshore Renewable Energy for a More Secure and Resilient Central and Eastern Europe, ISBN: 978-954-477-483-7. Sofia: CSD.

Vladimirov M.; Trifonova, M.; Tsolova, K. (2023): Back to the Drawing Board: The Contours of Bulgaria's Climate Neutrality Roadmap. ISBN: 978-954-477-469-1. Sofia: CSD, 2023

Trifonova T., Primova, R., Vladimirov M. (2022): Towards a Just Transition in Bulgaria. Unlocking the Green Transformation Potential of Stara Zagora, Pernik and Kyustendil. ISBN: 978-954-477-449-3. Sofia: CSD, 2022

Trifonova, M., et. al (2022): The Energy Security and Innovation Nexus. Towards a New Regulatory Frameworkfor Offshore Wind Energy Development in Bulgaria, Center for the Study of Democracy (CSD). 2022-08-30

Trifonova, M. (2022): Public Acceptance and Willingness to Pay for Renewable Energy in Bulgaria, Published in: IFAC PapersOnLine 55-11 (2022) 138-143.

Overview of legal and regulatory framework - 2022, Report D3.1, SHAREs Project

Handbookof identified barriers and enablers - 2022, Report D3.2, SHAREs Project

Trifonova, M.; Vladimirov M. (2021). Wind Power Generation in Bulgaria. Assessment of the Black Sea Offshore Potential. Sofia: CSD. ISBN: 9789544774288.

Trifonova T., Primova, R., Vladimirov M., Rangelova K., (2021): Switching the Gears of Decarbonisation. Policy Action for a Low-Carbon Transformation of the Bulgarian Economy. Sofia: CSD. ISBN: 978-954-477-440-0

Trifonova T., Primova, R., Vladimirov M., Rangelova K., (2021): Territorial Just Transition Plans. Guidelines for a Comparative Evaluation Framework. Sofia: CSD. ISBN: 978-954-477-429-5.

Trifonova, M (2021). Social acceptance of renewable energy sources in Bulgaria - a report presenting the results of national representative survey as well as 2 focus groups

Vladimirov M., Primova R., Trifonova T. (2021): Accelerating the Energy Transition in Bulgaria: A Roadmap to 2050. Sofia: CSD, 2021.

Renewable Energy Sector Development in Bulgaria-an Institutional Analysis - 2019
published in: Chobanov, G. et al. (eds.) Annual of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Volume 17, Sofia. ISSN 1311 8420. Available at link.

The Concept of the Institutions in the Energy Transition Research - 2019, published in: Young Researchers. Conference Proceedings 2 018, Vol. 1, P. 552 563. St. Kliment Ohridski University Press, Sofia