

## **Sofia (BU)**

### *Setting/Problem*

The city of Sofia is addressing problems related to flood control and ecosystem services – in particular regarding recreation along the Vladaiska river (the longest open water course running through Sofia). The Vladaiska riverbed is sectioned into earth levees, realigned riverbeds and natural river courses – for each section construction and non-construction works will be necessary to conciliate flood control, ecosystem services and quality of life.



### *Objective*

The objective of the “Vladaiska Riverbed Realignment” project is, on the one hand, to consolidate the river banks (enhancing the conductivity of water flow and avoiding floods) and, on the other, to modernize the city and improve quality of life of people living in the areas along the river through landscaping and the creation of new amenities (such as recreational facilities and bike lanes).

The Sofia Municipality constantly carries out project preparation works for the construction of non-realigned sections of the Vladaiska Riverbed, through land acquisition procedures and assignment of design works. The prepared projects are further included in the yearly investment programme. The Vladaiska Riverbed Realignment project aims to achieve:

- The consolidation of river banks (including dikes and levees).
- The development of urban green/blue space alongside the river (including recreational facilities and bike lanes).
- Construction of roads and rehabilitation of bridges to reduce traffic in the city.

### *Expected outputs*

The DST is expected to provide spatially explicit information on the (added) value of green/blue space preservation/rehabilitation scenarios, in terms of household welfare, property values, flood control and cost-benefit analysis. Additionally, this tool is expected to contribute to investigate stakeholder engagement in the process.