

# GEOPARKS AND MODERN SOCIETY:

**protection, promotion and sustainable use of  
Earth heritage in park environment**

**dedicated to the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the UNESCO GEOPARK Initiative announced in  
1998 at the ProGEO Meeting in Belogradchik, Bulgaria**

Organised by:

*ASPIRING GLOBAL GEOPARK „BELOGRADCHIK ROCKS“*

In cooperation with:

Municipality of Belogradchik

Bulgarian Ministry of Energy

University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, Sofia



BELOGRADCHIK – BULGARIA

12–13 October 2018

***Dear Colleagues,***

*In a year with so many geoconservation activities we are pleased to invite you to the International Scientific Conference „Geoparks and Modern Society“, which will be held on 12-13 October 2018 at Belogradchik town, Bulgaria, including pre-conference (11 October) and post-conference (14 October) field trips. The meeting will be hosted by Aspiring Global Geopark “Belogradchik Rocks” and Municipality of Belogradchik.*

*The idea of this conference has arisen in relation to the 20th anniversary of the ProGEO'98 Meeting in Belogradchik when Margarete Patzak and Wolfgang Eder from UNESCO Division of Earth Sciences announced the UNESCO GEOPARK Programme to establish a global network of natural parks with significant geological features targeting conservation of healthy environment and socio-economic development. Initially we intended to mark this event with a regional meeting, but in the spirit of the hundred-year tradition of usage of the local geological phenomena for tourist purposes in Belogradchik area, we have decided that this event deserves wider promotion.*

*The aim of the Conference is to provide opportunity for geoscientists, public authorities and other stakeholders to share their experience and best practices in establishing, developing and managing geoparks in the past 20 years, and to discuss increased Earth heritage significance for the economy of the underdeveloped regions such as Belogradchik area. Papers representing experience in establishing aspiring geoparks and criteria for geodiversity identification in geopark environment will be of special interest.*

*We hope that the event will contribute to increasing the importance of geoparks as special sites of geodiversity protection, scientific researches, education, natural and cultural tourism especially in poor and underdeveloped regions with the potential to develop sustainable geotourism.*

***We are looking forward to welcome you in Belogradchik, Bulgaria***

***Organising Committee***

# Conference Committees

## Scientific Committee

1. Ivan Zagorchev	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	Bulgaria
2. Ezzoura Errami	Chouaib Doukkali University	Morocco
3. Alexandru Andrassanu	Bucharest University	Romania
4. Fabien Hoblea	University of Savoy	France
5. Dragan Milovanovich	Belgrade University	Serbia
6. Nataliya Kalutskova	Moscow State University	Russia
7. Afat Seriani	University of Tirana	Albania
8. Radoslav Nakov	Bulgarian Academy of Sciences	Bulgaria
9. Dimitar Sinnyovsky	University of Mining and Geology	Bulgaria

## Organising Committee

1. Boris Nikolov	Mayor of Belogradchik Municipality
2. Lozan Lozanov	Mayor of Dimovo Municipality
3. Ivan Kamenov	Mayor of Makresh Municipality
4. Nikolay Dimitrov	Association for Development of North-West (ADNW)
5. Dimitar Sinnyovsky	Director of Geopark “Belogradchik Rocks”
6. Ivan Dimitrov	Geologist of Geopark “Belogradchik Rocks”
7. Venislava Rangelovska	Ministry of Energy, Sofia
8. Lubomir Vesselinov	Municipality of Belogradchik
9. Ivaylo Krumov	Historical Museum, Belogradchik

## Conference Themes

- I. Geodiversity identification, assessment and protection in geopark environment.
- II. Geopark agenda – link between geological heritage and all aspect of natural and cultural heritage: interpretation, education and networking.
- III. Experience in establishing aspiring geoparks – establishment of management body, management plan, geopark infrastructure, etc.
- IV. Integrated geopark management – management structure, community involvement, partnership agreement and financial support.
- V. Geoparks towards sustainable tourism development – new approaches and trends.
- VI. Relation between geoparks and other categories of protected areas - National parks, Biosphere reserves, Natura 2000, etc.
- VII. Establishing National Geopark Committees according to the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme (IGGP) of UNESCO.
- VIII. Moveable geoheritage – municipal, university and national museums.

## Benefits of attending the Conference

- Hearing new ideas and trends in geoparks development, geodiversity protection and conservation
- Exchanging experience and increasing the visibility of your researches
- Establishing new contacts useful for future cooperation
- Opportunity to publish your papers in peer reviewed journals, indexed in international database
- Visiting interesting place with unique nature and customs

## Important Dates

- |  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| ➤ <b>Registration and abstract submission start:</b>     | <b>20.02.2018</b> |
| ➤ <b>Abstracts submission deadline:</b>                  | <b>15.05.2018</b> |
| ➤ <b>Notification of results of abstract reviews:</b>    | <b>30.05.2018</b> |
| ➤ <b>Deadline for early registration fee payment:</b>    | <b>30.06.2018</b> |
| ➤ <b>Deadline for standard registration fee payment:</b> | <b>30.09.2018</b> |
| ➤ <b>The opening of the Conference:</b>                  | <b>12.10.2018</b> |

# Preliminary Conference schedule

The programme comprises plenary presentations, oral presentations sessions and poster sessions. Presenters in oral sessions will have 15 minutes to present their researches.

## 11<sup>th</sup> October

### **Pre-conference field trip**

### **Welcoming and accommodating the participants**

- 16:00 Arrival and registration - Municipality Conference Hall
- 17:00 Visit the Belogradchik fortress
- 18:30 Welcome cocktail

## 12<sup>th</sup> October

### **Conference sessions**

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 - 09:30 Official opening
- 09:30 - 13:00 Plenary session; oral and poster sessions
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 - 17:00 Oral and poster sessions
- 20:00 Conference dinner

## 13<sup>th</sup> October

### **Conference sessions**

- 09:30 - 13:00 Oral and poster sessions
- 13:00 - 14:30 Lunch break
- 14:30 - 16:00 Oral and poster sessions
- 16:00 - 16:30 Conclusion

## 14<sup>th</sup> October

### **Post-conference field trip**

*Information about the field trips will be given in the second circular.*

## Participation Fee

REGISTRATION TYPE	EARLY until 30.06.2018	STANDARD from 01.07.2018
Regular	€100	€130
Students	€70	€100
Pre-conference field trip	€ 30	€ 40
Post-conference field trip	€ 30	€ 40

**Participation fee includes:** participation at the Conference, Abstract book, conference and promo materials, welcome cocktail, visit Belogradchik fortress, coffee breaks, and conference dinner.

**Field trip fee includes:** transport, entrance fees and lunch

Fees to be transfered on the following bank account of the Association for Development of North West:

**International Asset Bank**

**BIC:** IABGBGSF

**IBAN:** BG61 IABG 7496 1000 7246 00

**Beneficiary name (Bank account holder):** Association for Development of North West

**Please be aware that all bank transaction fees should be at the participant's expenses.**

*Please, indicate the Conference participation and/or Field trip on the payment document.*

After the payment, please send a copy of your bank transfer document to:  
[adnwgeopark@gmail.com](mailto:adnwgeopark@gmail.com)

## Abstracts and Papers submission

Abstracts should be formatted in Times New Roman 12 up to 2000 characters. Specific guidance for abstract formatting and submission will be available in the next announce. After consideration by Scientific Committee authors will be invited to submit their researches for reviewing and publishing in the relevant thematic journals, referred in international database such as Scopus, Web of Science, Crossref.



## Conference venue

The conference will be held in the Municipality of Belogradchik conference hall.

Belogradchik town is a beautiful place with remarkable geological heritage situated in NW Bulgaria. It is 200 km North-West from Sofia and 50 km South from Vidin.

The concept of Geopark Belogradchik Rocks is based on the famous natural monument “Belogradchik rocks”, and remarkable geodiversity including sedimentary, igneous, volcanic and metamorphic rocks from Precambrian to Recent.



There are dozens of caves in which artifacts of earliest settlements in Europe are preserved. The Magura Cave, which is in the tentative list of UNESCO, is known with its primitive prehistoric wall paintings and natural sparkling vine.



**Accommodation:** Information about hotels will be available in the Second circular

### How to get there?

➤ **From Sofia:**

- **by bus** to Belogradchik
- **by train** to Oreshets (you have to take the train Sofia – Vidin and get off at Oreshets, 10 km from Belogradchik). There will be organized transport to Belogradchik.

➤ **From Vidin:**

- **by bus** to Belogradchik
- **by train** to Oreshets (you have to take the train Vidin-Sofia and get off at Oreshets, 10 km from Belogradchik). There will be organized transport to Belogradchik.

➤ **By car** - through cross-border checkpoints:

- Bregovo – Negotin and Vrashka chuka – Zajechar on the border **Bulgaria – Serbia**
- Vidin – Kalafat on the border **Bulgaria - Romania**

For contact: [adnwgeopark@gmail.com](mailto:adnwgeopark@gmail.com)

