Dear colleagues, On behalf of the Organizing Committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the

9th International Conference
Mineralogy and Museums (MM9)

August 24-26, 2021 Sofia, Bulgaria.

MM9 will deal with mineralogy, museums and related fields of science, with a special focus on archaeological mineralogy and minerals in cultural heritage. The conference intends to bring together both professionally oriented scientists and museum curators, providing them with an opportunity to share ideas and strengthen international links.


The French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography (SFMC) offers one travel grant (300 €) to a student either French or working in a French laboratory, and giving an oral or poster contribution as presenting author. Applications should be submitted electronically on the SFMC website (https://sfmc-fr.org/?page_id=2403&lang=fr).

The Online platform for registration: https://events.cmebg.com/mm9/203/

Important: We are monitoring the worldwide situation with different travel restrictions. Please, visit our website for final update on the scientific event in late March 2021.

Company in charge of registration:
Congress Management and Events Ltd.
17, Frederic Jolio-Curie Str., bldg. 2, fl. 5, office 9
Sofia 1113, Bulgaria
tel: (+359)29877422, 0896700951; www.cmebg.com

Contact: https://www.bgminsoc.bg/ E-mail: MM9@bgminsoc.bg
| Organizers                  | Bulgarian Mineralogical Society  
|                           | National Museum “Earth and Man”, Sofia |
| Organizing Committee       | Ruslan I. Kostov (University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, Sofia); Chair  
|                           | Radostina Atanassova (Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia)  
|                           | Kamen Bogdanov (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Sofia)  
|                           | Alexander Dikov (Intergeoresource Ltd., Sofia)  
|                           | Chavdar Nachev (National Museum “Earth and Man”, Sofia)  
|                           | Larisa Nesheva (National Museum “Earth and Man”, Sofia)  
|                           | Rositsa Nikolova (Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography “Acad. Ivan Kostov”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia)  
|                           | Pavel Stoev (National Museum of Natural History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia)  
|                           | Ognyan Todorov (Regional Natural History Museum, Plovdiv)  
|                           | Rossitsa Vassileva (Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia) |
| International Advisory Committee (IMA-CM) | Mike Rumsey (Natural History Museum, London, United Kingdom); Chair  
|                           | Stuart Mills (Victoria Museum, Melbourne, Australia)  
|                           | Kim Tait (Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto, Canada) |
| National Scientific Committee | Kamen Bogdanov; Chair  
|                           | Dobrinka Stavrakeva, Thomas Kerestedjian, Ognyan Petrov, Vassilka Mladenova |
| Venue                      | National Museum “Earth and Man”; Blvd. Cherni Vrah 4; Sofia 1421; BULGARIA |
| Time                       | August 22-23, 2021 (pre-conference field trip B)  
|                           | August 24-26, 2021 (conference)  
|                           | August 27-29, 2021 (post-conference field trips A and C) |
| Registration               | Starting January 1, 2021 |
| Contact                    | https://www.bgminsoc.bg/ E-mail: MM9@bgminsoc.bg |

**Patronage and Sponsorships**

**Sponsors:**
- Dundee Precious Metals
- Asarel MedeT AD
- Geotechmin OOD

**International Partners:**
- International Mineralogical Association (IMA)
- Society of Mineral Museum Professionals (SMMP)
- French Society of Mineralogy and Crystallography (SFMC)

**National Partners:**
- Geological Institute “Strashimir Dimitrov”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography “Acad. Ivan Kostov”, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- National Museum of Natural History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia
- Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Sofia
- University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, Sofia
- Regional Natural History Museum, Plovdiv
- Intergeoresource Ltd., Sofia
- Pensoft Publishers, Sofia
Scientific Program (oral and poster presentations will be organized in four sessions)

- **Session 1: Mineralogical research and museums**
  Systematic and regional mineralogy; nomenclature and classification; new minerals; symmetry and crystallography; crystal morphology; gem minerals and aggregates; meteorites; cave minerals; analytical techniques and methods.

- **Session 2: Archaeomineralogy and cultural heritage**
  Archaeological mineralogy; archaeogemmology; archaeometry.

- **Session 3: Collection management and development**
  Trends in mineralogical or complex geological and natural history museums; acquisition; conservation; unique samples; databases; computer and video applications.

- **Session 4: Museums, environment and society**
  History of mineralogical collections and museums; education; specific exhibits (archaeomineralogy; ecomineralogy; ethnomineralogy; biominerals; medical mineralogy; technical mineralogy); minerals and the arts; public relations; geoheritage and geotourism.

Keynote speakers:
Lee A. Groat (Canada); Guirec Querré (France); Vera M. F. Hammer (Austria); Marco Pasero (Italy)

Business Meetings of IMA Commissions: CNMNC

Field Trips

A. **Post-conference one day trip (27 August 2021 Friday; Stara Planina Mountain):** Sofia – Elatsite porphyry copper-gold deposit (the largest open pit mine in Bulgaria)

B. **Pre-conference trip 22-23 August 2021 Sunday-Monday; 2 days; Southern Bulgaria – Eastern Rhodopes:** Sofia – Plovdiv (European town of culture 2019; Regional Natural History Museum with largest mineralogical collection in Southern Bulgaria) – Haskovo (Alexandrovo Thracian tomb – Museum Center “Thracian Art of Eastern Rhodopes”) – Kardzhali (Regional Historical Museum including artifacts from the earliest Balkan nephrite culture, Natural Sciences Department; natural zeolite geosite; “Perperikon” rock-cut geoarchaeological site) – Sofia
Nephrite zoomorphic amulet from the Early Neolithic (early 6th mill. BC) Kardzhali site (Balkan nephrite culture); Regional History Museum, Kardzhali

C. Post-conference trip (27-29 August 2021 Friday-Sunday; 3 days; Northeastern and Central Bulgaria): Sofia – Veliki Preslav (Second Bulgarian capital; Archaeological Museum with Medieval jewellery and gem treasures) – Madara (rock-hewn “Madara Rider” UNESCO site and museum) – Varna (Archaeological Museum with the “Oldest Gold of Mankind” from the Varna Chalcolithic necropolis including first complex faceted carnelian beads; Aladzha Rock Monastery) – Stara Zagora (Museum “Neolithic Dwellings” and first copper for Europe; Regional Historical Museum) – Sofia.

The “Madara Rider” UNESCO site

“First gold of mankind” and mineral artifacts from the Varna Chalcolithic necropolis

Emeralds and pearls from the Medieval Preslav gold treasure (Veliki Preslav)

A field trip can be canceled if less than 7 persons are registered (prices are for transport and hotel – bed and breakfast).

Those who participate in the post-conference trip C to Varna have an opportunity not to return back to Sofia, but to make their own choice for a summer vacation at some of the well-known Black Sea resorts.
**Exhibition and company promotion**

Intergeoresource Ltd. (Bulgarian minerals); August 25-26, 2021.

**Conference language**

The official conference language will be English.

**Cultural program**

- **Welcome Party.** To be held on Tuesday, August 24, 2021 (for all conference participants).
- **Coffee-breaks** will be organized in the museum for all registered participants according to the program.
- **Conference Dinner.** Conference dinner will be held on August 25, 2021 (for conference participants who have booked it in their registration (50 EUR; can be paid also at the museum).
- **Special Conference Exhibitions in the National Museum “Earth and Man”:**
  First Bulgarian Geologists-Mineralogists; Minerals and Poetry; Minerals and Gems on Stamps; Gemstones in World Literature; History of Mineralogical Education in Bulgaria; Photo Gallery of Bulgarian Minerals.

- **Mineralogical collections in other museums in Sofia (optional: afternoon August 25, 2021).**
  The mineralogy collection of National Natural History Museum of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences is the oldest in Sofia. Collections with minerals from Bulgaria and abroad are on display in both university museums (Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”; University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”, including the Museum of Unique Crystals “Ilia Deleff”).

![National Natural History Museum](image1)

![Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”](image2)

![Museum of Unique Crystals “Ilia Deleff”](image3)

![University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”](image4)
**Museum for children “Muzeiko”**

*Muzeiko* (2015) is a 3500 m² space with over 130 interactive games created for children and curious adults. It is the largest science museum (including geology) for children in South-East Europe.

Location: next to the University of Mining and Geology “St. Ivan Rilski”; metro station “G.M.Dimitrov”.

**Sofia sightseeing and museums:** National Institute of Archaeology with Museum; National Museum of History; Boyana Church (UNESCO site); St. Alexander Nevsky Cathedral Crypt Icon Museum; Sofia History Museum; National Museum of Military History; National Polytechnical Museum; National Anthropological Museum; Kvadrat 500 (International and National Art Museum); Museum of Socialist Art; Sofia Arsenal Museum for Contemporary Art; Art galleries.

**Important deadlines**

- **March 1, 2021** Open online conference and field trip registration and submission of abstracts.
- **May 10, 2021** Deadline for abstract submission and early bird registration.
- **August 22-23, 2021** Pre-conference field trip.
- **August 24-26, 2021** Opening of conference; conference sessions.
- **August 27-29, 2021** Post-conference field trips.

**Registration fees**

The conference fee (regular, before May 10, 2021 – 300 EUR; late, after May 10, 2021 and at the museum – 350 EUR) includes admission to the scientific program of the conference, refreshments during the official program (coffee-breaks and two lunches at the museum), one first-author abstract in the book of abstracts (fee for a second abstract as first author is 20 EUR), welcome reception. Accompanying persons are welcome (150 EUR; attendance of all conference sessions; welcome party). The registration fee does not include any insurance for personal injuries sustained, or for loss or damage to property belonging to conference participants (or persons accompanying them) during the conference. Every attendee must wear her/his official conference badge to access the sessions. Student registrations (100 EUR) are required to upload a copy of student card or a scan of confirmation of student status from corresponding academic institution. The Conference Dinner on August 25, 2021 is not included in the registration fee (it can be booked for 50 EUR per person during the registration payment process; it can be paid also at the museum).

Fees can be refunded after the conference, according to the following policy: cancellations received before 10 May 10, 2021 – 100% refund less 30 EUR for bank and other charges; cancellations received before June 10, 2021 – 50% refund less 30 EUR for bank and other charges; cancellations received after June 10, 2021 – no refund can be made.
Online registration: [https://events.cmebg.com/mm9/203/](https://events.cmebg.com/mm9/203/)

Congress Management and Events Ltd. – CME Ltd. (www.cmebg.com) is appointed by the Organizing Committee in charge of registration. You may contact CME for information on registration.

Contact persons: Business development manager Mrs. Dilyana Potzkova (E-mail: dilyana@cmebg.com; tel. +359-896 700 951; +359-29877422); Mrs. Mira Bonova (E-mail: mira@cmebg.com).

Registration and submission of abstract (please copy, fill in and send to: MM9@bgminsoc.bg)

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**MM9 CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM**

Surname………………………. First name(s)……………………….Title…………………………..
Institution…………………………………………………………………………………………
Address…………………………………………………………..Country……………………
E-mail address…………………………………….
Phone number…………………………………….. Fax number………………………………..

I plan an oral □ or/and a poster □ presentation in session 1□ □, 2 □ □, 3 □ □, 4 □ □, entitled:
1……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………
2……………………………………………………………………………………………………
……………………………………………………………………………………………………

I will participate in:
Pre-conference trip A (one day)…………………□
Pre-conference trip B (two days)…………………□
Post-conference trip C (three days)………………□
I wish to book an exhibition area…………………□

Conference registration fee (in EUR):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Payment</th>
<th>Before May 10, 2021</th>
<th>After May 10, 2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference registration fee (1 abstract)</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference registration fee (2 abstracts)</td>
<td>320</td>
<td>370</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student</td>
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<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accompanying person</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conference dinner*</td>
<td>50*</td>
<td>50*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field trip A – 1 day</td>
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<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field trip B – 2 days</td>
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<td>Field trip C – 3 days</td>
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<td>Exhibition area for promotion*: per day for 1 m²</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>xxx</td>
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</tbody>
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*Can be paid also at the museum.

Date…………………..
Sample and guidelines for extended abstract (two A4 pages, including figures and references; top, bottom, left and right – 2 cm page margins). Please, send to: MM9@bgminsoc.bg

Title for the MM9 Conference (bold; left aligned; 14 pts; font Times New Roman; single line spacing; leave six lines 14 pts before and one line after title)

First Author¹, Second Author², Third F. Author³ (bold; left aligned; 12 pts; superscript numbers only for 2 or more co-authors with different addresses; underline the name of communicating author only if more than one authors)

¹Affiliation, City, Country; email@crystal.com (left aligned; 12 pts)
²Affiliation, City, Country; email@mineral.org
³Affiliation, City, Country; email@museum.bg (leave one line after the last co-author)

Example

Text (12 pts) should be simple spaced and justified; indent each paragraph by 1 cm; subtitles if any, must be left aligned and underlined.

References should be cited in the text as follows: one author (Stone, 2021); two authors (Goldsmith, Stone, 2021; Stone, Goldsmith, 2021); more than two authors (Smith et al., 2021).

Figures and Tables: size 12 pts for Figures (text below; centered) and Tables (text above; aligned left), but 10 pts in the Table; justified depending on number of columns if any; leave one blank line before and after figure or table; to be cited in the text as (Fig. 1) or (Table 1).

Fig. 1. IMA logo

References (leave one line before subtitle; text justified, 11 pts; paragraph hanging by 1 cm)


General information

Presentations. One or two extended abstracts (each 2 pages with references) by a single author and/or first co-author may be submitted as oral and/or poster presentation(s). Please note that the review committee also reserves the right to offer the opportunity for either a poster or an oral type presentation. All oral presentations (25 min. plenary; 15 min. normal) will be made using computers provided by the organizers. For your poster presentations, please print your posters in max. size A0 (~119 x 84 cm; portrait orientation) or smaller. Poster tables and fixing material will be provided. Your abstract(s) will not be published until your registration fee is received. By submitting an abstract, the author(s) attest that the abstract submitted has not been previously published elsewhere and transfers, assigns, or otherwise conveys the copyright for its publication.

Full texts of presentations can be published in the journal of the Bulgarian Mineralogical Society and the Geological Institute: Geochemistry, Mineralogy and Petrology (Sofia).
Transport

Taxis operate throughout the city (watch the front window for max. 2.00 Leva/km in day hours; from Sofia International Airport Terminal-2 to the conference venue it should cost you ~20 Leva or 10 EUR; if you use taxis at the airport, inside the airport turn to the right exit, where there is an official taxi stop). From the Sofia International Airport metro station (turn to the left and go to the end in the airport hall and then go in front the airport) to the conference venue it should cost you only 1.60 Lev (=0.8 EUR): ~50-60 minutes travel – you must transfer from the red metro line at the central Serdica Station to the blue metro line for two stops in direction Vitosha, to station European Union which is just in front of the National Museum “Earth and Man”. At the airport there is also bus N84 or N284 to downtown (tickets can be bought at the kiosk outside the airport or from the driver; also 1.60 Lev). If you arrive at Sofia International Airport Terminal-1 (low cost flights), you can take a bus to Terminal-2 to the metro station (~5 minutes travel), or you can take a bus or a taxi downtown. If you arrive by train or by bus at Sofia Central Railway Station or at the near-by International Bus Station, you can find your way to the metro station and you are can travel 4 stops on the blue metro line to the European Union station without any transfer (~15 minutes travel; also 1.60 Lev).

Visiting Bulgaria

Currency. The local currency is the Bulgarian Lev (1 Lev ~ 0.5 EUR). Credit/debit cards (VISA, MasterCard, Maestro) are frequently accepted in hotels and larger shops throughout the country. However, you should have some cash when travelling (to buy a metro ticket at the airport station or to take a taxi). Getting some cash from an ATM might be more convenient than using exchange offices.

Electricity. We use a 230-V/50-Hz electricity network. Make sure your appliances are compatible (or get a travel adapter).

Emergency numbers. If you need assistance from an ambulance or the police, call 112 from any phone (including your mobile phone while roaming).

Visa. Participants from certain countries must have a Bulgarian visa from a Bulgarian embassy or consulate. In this case one must send his names, birth date and international passport data to the hosting the conference institution and a standard invitation letter can be received.

E-mail: earth.and.man@gmail.com; office@earthandman.org

Conference venue

The MM9 conference will take place at the National Museum “Earth and Man” in Sofia, Bulgaria. Address: Sofia 1421; Blvd. Cherni Vrah 4;

E-mail: earth.and.man@gmail.com; office@earthandman.org;
http://www.earthandman.org/?page_id=951&lang=bg

The registration desk at the National Museum “Earth and Man” will be open during the following hours on August 24-25, 2021: 9.00-15.00 h.
Contact us

Conference website: https://www.bgminsoc.bg/
E-mail (general information queries): MM9@bgminsoc.bg

In case of specific queries please contact corresponding team member below:

- **Ruslan I. Kostov** – Chair, Organizing Committee
  (E-mail: rikostov@yahoo.com; phone: +359 889180137)
- **Larisa Nesheva** – Registration and finances, partners and sponsors
  (E-mail: larisanesheva@abv.bg; phone: +359 2 8661456)
- **Kamen Bogdanov** – Chair, Program committee
  (E-mail: kamen@gea.uni-sofia.bg ; phone: +359 2 9308256)
- **Radostina Atanassova** – Abstracts
  (E-mail: radi@geology.bas.bg; phone: +359 2 9792207)
- **Rossitsa Vassileva** – Exhibitions; public relations
  (E-mail: rosivas10@yahoo.com; phone: +359 2 9792273)