



**BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography**

*Protected Karst Territories – Lifelong Learning*

**International Scientific and Practical Forum**

**PROTECTED KARST TERRITORIES –  
EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**Sofia, Bulgaria**

**23-26 September 2015**

This forum is in memory of the distinguished Polish Geographer,  
World-wide recognized Karstologist and great friend of Bulgaria,

**Professor Marian Pulina**

(1936-2005)

**INVITATION**



Dear colleagues,

For the third time Bulgaria hosts an International Scientific-Practical Forum discussing protected karst territories. This time it is dedicated to their role in education, training and promotion of karst – a natural phenomenon of wide spread and great, but still underrated educational potential. It can be discovered and efficiently realized through integration between the modern educational strategy of “Lifelong Learning” and the latest scientific achievements in Karstology and Speleology. This ensures lasting public interest, especially among young people, who will be motivated for sustainable development of karst regions.

Achievement of these ideas lies in tackling a number of problems and solving many issues. They are summarized in the topics of this forum, which we offer to your attention and kindly invite you to discuss them together in September in Sofia. All of us who are dedicated to Karst and Speleology have rich expertise, interesting ideas and best practices - let us share them in our desire to make karst and caves more familiar and understandable to people.

In turn we will offer initiatives that we have been developing within the specialized educational strategy ProKARSTerra-Edu. One of them deserves special attention and will make the focus of this forum, namely declaring the **International Year of Karst and Caves**. If we join our efforts and it becomes our common cause, it will surely do much more to make the contemporary globalizing World know better and appreciate the importance of Karst and knowledge about it.

Looking forward to greet you in Sofia!

Petar Stefanov

## **FORUM COMMITTEE**

(Alphabetically)



**Petar STEFANOV** (National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria) - Chairman

**Wieczeslaw ANDREJCZUK** (University of Silesia, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Sosnowiec, Poland)

**Danaïela BORISSOVA** (Institute of Information Technologies – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Romeo EFTIMI** (ITA Consult, Tirana, Albania)

**Jaroslav HROMAS** (Cave Administration of the Czech Republic, Prague, Czech Republic)

**Nickolay MAXIMOVICH** (Institute of Natural Science of Perm State National Research University, Perm, Russian Federation)

**Dimitrina MIKHOVA** (Yamaguchi University, Japan)

**Nickolay MILOSHEV** (Bulgarian Academy of Science, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Yoshihisa NAKANO** (Yamaguchi University, Japan)

**Dorota OKOŃ** (Natural Landscape Park Complex of Silesian Voivodeship, Będzin, Poland)

**Diliyana STEFANOVA** (National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Ivo SVETLIK** (Nuclear Physics Institute - AS CR, Prague, Czech Republic)

**Svetoslav SIMEONOV** (National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Hynek SKOŘEPA** (Gymnasium of Ústí nad Orlicí, Czech Republic)

**Leoš ŠTEFKA** (Administration of Moravský kras Protected Landscape Area, Czech Republic)

**Antonin TUMA** (Administration of Moravský kras Protected Landscape Area, Czech Republic)

**Andrzej TYC** (University of Silesia, Faculty of Earth Sciences, Sosnowiec, Poland)

**Marina YORDANOVA** (National Institute for Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography – BAS, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Alexey ZHALOV** (Balkan Speleological Union, Bulgaria)

## **TOPICS**



### **Main topics:**

Karst and integration between science and education

Place and role of protected karst territories in education and training

Didactic and pedagogical significance of karst in school education

Karst in the legal framework of schooling

Karst in University education

Training about karst in systems of speleological organizations

Training about karst in management and control of karst territories

Application of Information and Communication technologies in education and training about karst

Karst and UNESCO

Promotion of karst

## Special topics:

Karst in preschool education – challenges, opinions, practices

Integrated education of disabled people in karst environment

## Round table:

International initiatives:

- Karst Olympiad
- **Year of Karst and Caves**

## FORUM EVENTS



### **International Scientific and Practical Conference „Protected karst territories – education and training”:**

- September 23 to 26 - business work
- September 27 to 30 - scientific field trip

### **International Competition “Karst under protection – gift for the future generations”** (third edition). For details please visit the website of the competition:

<http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/forum2015/competition>

### **Specialized Exhibition ProKARSTerra`2015 (September 23 to 26):**

- Exhibition-bazaar
- Art Salon
- Technical Exhibition

## CONFERENCE WORKING LANGUAGE



Bulgarian, English, Russian

## PARTICIPATION IN THE FORUM



Requests for participation in the Forum should be submitted until **May 30, 2015** by using the Application Form available on its website (Request for Participation). Please send the filled in request form to the address of contact. Within one week after this date the forum committee will notify you about acceptance of your proposals.

### **Forms of participation:**

- Paper delivered at the Conference
- Corporate presentation at the Conference
- Presentation in the specialized exhibition ProKARSTerra`2015
- Participation in the International Competition “Karst under protection – gift for the future generations”

For Conference participants with papers 2 ways of presentation will be offered:

- **Oral presentation** up to 20 minutes (last 5 minutes for discussion)
- **Poster** presented at a special poster session.

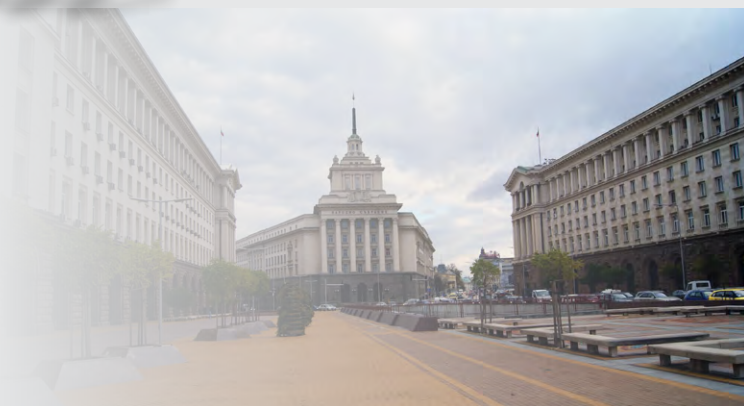
Papers full texts should be submitted **until 23 August**. They should be original (unreported and unpublished). Contents should comply with at least one of the topics of the Forum and papers should be delivered by at least one of the authors.

Papers will be published in:

**1. Proceedings** (in full color, with ISBN number). The proceedings will be issued in digital form and will be included into the Conference materials. Papers (up to 10 pages, including summary, graphs, tables, references) will not be reviewed and edited. They should be submitted in one of the working languages, with summary in English. Paper template will be offered, published at the Conference web site.

**2. A book “Protected Karst Areas – Lifelong Learning”** (in English). The authors of some papers, selected by the Forum Committee will be invited to submit them for publication in this special edition. They will be refereed by independent anonymous reviewers. About further requirements and layout the authors will receive additional instructions. The book will be published after the Conference and will contain the documents adopted by the Forum.

## FORUM VENUE



The international forum will be held in **Sofia**, the capital of Bulgaria, which is a member of the European Union (2007). Sofia (1.3 million) is the largest city in Bulgaria and its capital. It is the most important academic and cultural center in this country and city of rich archaeological and historical heritage, visited by many tourists.

Host of the forum is the **Bulgarian Academy of Sciences** – the oldest and most authoritative Bulgarian academic institution, which celebrated its 145 anniversary in 2014. The Conference sessions will be held in Central building of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, located in the city center, next to the Bulgarian Parliament.

## PROVISIONAL PROGRAM



**September 22, 2015** (Tuesday):  
Arrival and accommodation

**September 23, 2015** (Wednesday):  
Registration of participants. Opening ceremony. Greetings. Plenary session

Ceremonial session for awarding the winners of the Contest. Opening an exhibition with the awarded works of the Competition. Opening of the specialized exhibition “ProKARSTerra`2015”.  
Cocktail for the participants and guests of the Conference

**September 24, 2015** (Thursday):

Working meetings by sections. Poster session. Corporate presentations.

Working meetings. Cultural program.

**September 25, 2015** (Friday):

Thematic one-day trip to the karst regions in North Bulgaria. Field session and discussions

**September 26, 2015** (Friday):

Working meetings by sections. Round table – new international initiatives. Closing plenary session: general discussion on adoption of the conference documents. Closing the Conference

Social program. Gala dinner for the Conference participants and guests

**September 27 to 30 2015** (Sunday - Wednesday):

Field trip „Karst Pearls of the West Rhodopes in Bulgaria”

### SCIENTIFIC FIELD TRIP



The field trip “*Karst Pearls of the West Rhodopy in Bulgaria*” will take place after closing of the Conference. It will be 4-days trip by bus. The route covers the most interesting regions of Rhodopean marbles. Besides the natural phenomena, participants will see a variety of historical and cultural sites, as well as national traditions typical for the respective regions.

### REGISTRATION FEES

(in EUR)

#### Participants with paper/poster:

- Standard fee	180
- Reduced fee for students/postgraduates and retirees	100

#### Participants without paper/poster:

- Standard fee	100
- Reduced fee for students/postgraduates and retirees	60

The registration fee for **corporate presentations** and participation in the specialized **exhibition ProKARSTerra`2015** will be announced in the third circular.

**Way of payment:** Bank transfer in the period 8 June to 23 August. At early payment (8 June – 10 July) 25% fee discount is provided. The registration form will be available on the website of the Forum. Participants without papers may pay the fee on the spot, when registering in Sofia.

**The registration fee includes:** conference materials, incl. collection of reports on digital carrier, cocktail, refreshments during the conference (coffee breaks), transportation and lunch during the 1-day excursion envisaged in the Conference program, entrance fees and guidance during the respective visits along the cultural program, VAT 20%.

The registration fee does **not include** the cost of stay in Sofia, as well as the gala-dinner and the scientific field trip after the Conference, the prices of which will be announced in the third Circular.

## IMPORTANT DEADLINE DATES



**April 30** – Closing the Competition  
**May 31** – Application for participation in Conference  
**June 30** – Application for participation in Exhibition  
**8 June - 10 July** – Early registration  
**13 July - 23 August** – Late registration  
**August 23** – Deadline for submission of papers  
**September 23 to 26** – Conference and Exhibition  
**September 24** – Awarding the winners of the Competition  
**September 27 to 30** – Field trip

## ADDRESS FOR CORRESPONDENCE



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The third Circular will be distributed after May 31st.

For more detailed and updated information please follow the Forum website:

<http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/forum2015>

**We will be grateful, if you disclose this information to those interested in the topic of the Forum.**

