

Editorial

Report on the XXII International Congress of the Carpathian Balkan Geological Association (CBGA) in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, September 7–11, 2022

The 22nd Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association (CBGA) was held in Plovdiv on September 7–11 (CBGA2022; <https://cbga2022.geology.bas.bg>) and celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Association. CBGA2022 was jointly organized by the CBGA Council and the National Organizing Committee (NOC), including the Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (lead partner), the Agricultural University in Plovdiv (host institution), Faculty of Geology and Geography of Sofia University, University of Mining and Geology, Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography (Bulgarian Academy of Sciences), Earth and Man National Museum, the Bulgarian Geologi-

cal Society, and the University of Food Technologies (Plovdiv).

More than 330 researchers from over 30 countries attended the congress, making the CBGA2022 the most important scientific geological forum of the region in the last 30 years. Thanks to the sponsors and organizers, NOC supported over 50 participants, among them 16 Ukrainian researchers and nine students from five countries.

Roughly, 300 abstracts were published in the special volume of *Geologica Balcanica* (<https://www.geologica-balcanica.eu/abstract-books>); ten peer-reviewed full papers and scientific communications were published in the official journals of



Group photo of participants at CBGA2022

CBGA *Geologica Balcanica* and *Geologica Carpathica*; a few more papers are in preparation. All contributions were presented as talks or posters in 18 general and 11 special sessions. The researchers presented and discussed their results in three, respectively two, parallel sessions, mainly on-site, or hybrid (with live streaming in the biggest room), and in poster sessions. Posters were on display all four days. Successful sessions, among others, were those related to Stratigraphy, Paleontology and Paleogeography, Economic Geology, Magmatism and Tectonics. Most Special Sessions (a few of them merged) earned high interest and were marked by presentations of high scientific quality. Only a few contributions were submitted to some applied geological fields (*e.g.*, engineering geology). Particular attention should be paid in future conferences to how to reach these communities, whereas merging of some sessions should also be considered. One session (Agrogeology, Environmental Geochemistry and Resilience) was added to reflect the focus on multidisciplinary topics.

Academician Ivan Zagorchev, DSc, (Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) was the first plenary lecturer with a presentation during the opening ceremony, called “The Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association – A successful geoscientific project”. He put emphasis on the main topics of CBGA and the changes through the 100 years of history but also shared memories from the attendance in 11 previous CBGA congresses. Four more plenary speakers gave reports on recent advances in major fields and important input for future research directions: Nikolaus Froitzheim (University of Bonn, Germany) gave an overview on the reconstruction of the structure and evolution of the Rhodopes; Mihai Ducea (University of Arizona, Tucson, USA/University of Bucharest, Romania) explained the application of Chemical Microanalysis for assessing the crustal thickness and paleo-elevation of ancient orogens using geochemical and isotopic data; Christoph Heinrich (ETH Zurich, Switzerland) discussed the chain of processes leading to metal enrichment in porphyry copper deposits focusing on the role of the magmatic sulfides; and finally, Svetoslav Georgiev (Geological Institute, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences) presented the advantages of the rhenium-osmium (Re-Os) geochronology of sedimentary rocks and oils as novel insight into the paleoenvironment and formation of petroleum systems.

Seven pre-, syn- and post-conference field trips/field workshops were held. One of the field trips combined the geology of Plovdiv with a description of geological sites and was provided as a field guide and mobile application to all participants.

CBGA2022 was in a friendly and open atmosphere, and the mild and sunny late-summer weather was in support of the success of the meeting as well as the offered cultural program in the ancient but modern Plovdiv. Exhibition sites of the sponsors contributed to the live atmosphere also during the breaks. The organizers wish to express their sincere thanks to the main sponsors for their support of the conference: Dundee Precious Metals Inc., Geotechmin OOD, Aurubis AG, Assarel Medet JSC, and TotalEnergies EP Bulgaria B.V., to both local partners in Plovdiv, the Agricultural University and the University of Food Technology, and also to the Editorial Boards of *Geologica Balcanica* and *Geologica Carpathica*, and to all technical helpers of the congress. CBGA2022 resulted in many fruitful discussions and, we hope, triggered many new collaborations. Thanks are given to all CBGA2022 attendees who enjoyed and shared science together.

The CBGA Council decided that the next congress will be held in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, in late summer 2026. We wish grand success to the next organizers presided by the new president of CBGA, Călin Gabriel Tămaș (Babeș-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania; calin.tamas@ubbcluj.ro).

Irena Peytcheva
(CBGA 2022 Organizing Committee Chair;
past president of CBGA)
Rositsa Ivanova
(CBGA 2022 Organizing Committee Secretary)

Available conference articles and products

- Editorial Board of *Geologica Balcanica*. 2022. 22nd Congress of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association (CBGA2022), 7–11 September 2022, Plovdiv (Bulgaria). *Geologica Balcanica* 51 (1), 67–72, <https://doi.org/10.52321/GeolBalc.51.1.67>.
- Peytcheva, I., Lazarova, A., Granchovski, G., Ivanova, R., Lakova, I., Metodiev, L. (Eds). 2022. *100th Anniversary of the Carpathian-Balkan Geological Association. XXII International Congress of the Carpathian Balkan Geological Association (CBGA) Abstracts. Geologica Balcanica*, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, 398 pp. ISBN: 978-619-91305-4-4; e-ISBN: 978-619-91305-5-1, <https://www.geologica-balcanica.eu/abstract-books>.