

Editorial

The present special volume of *Geologica Balcanica* is dedicated to the 125th anniversary of Academician Strashimir Dimitrov, one of the true giants of Bulgarian and Balkan geology, who was also a highly respected and eminent Bulgarian scientist, beloved pedagogue and distinguished science organizer. In addition, this volume is dedicated to the 70th anniversary of the Geological Institute “Strashimir Dimitrov” of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Both anniversaries are closely related, since Acad. Strashimir Dimitrov was the Founding Patron and first director of the Geological Institute, who laid the basis of the institute’s structure and main lines of fundamental and applied research to be carried out. Thus, over the years, the Geological Institute has established itself as Bulgaria’s largest national research and expert scientific geologic organization, in which some of the best Bulgarian specialists in Earth sciences have worked and continue to work to date. For seventy years, the institute and its scientists have gone through many tribulations, but research activities have always been closely linked to the needs of the national economy and society. Today, the challenge lies in the conjunction between the classical geological disciplines and the current priorities in the field of geosciences.

On November 9, 2017, the Geological Institute organized a special scientific session on the occasion of these anniversaries. The session was possible thanks to the kind support of the companies GEOTECHMIN Ltd and Total E&P Bulgaria. The idea of this session was to recapitulate the studies that have been done in recent years, but also to identify key issues for future research. The submitted reports contributed with different views and new facts and were indicative of what is being done in the institute and what is forthcoming. This was the reason for the Editorial Board to decide to publish the present special volume of abstracts and short communications. The members of the Editorial Board made all efforts to provide assistance in all necessary activities and to ensure the good progress of both the meeting and the issue of this volume, but accept no responsibility for any possible disturbances that are beyond the reach of our duties as editors. The Geological Institute welcomed its 70th anniversary with satisfaction of the achieved results, and we hope that it will be able to cope with the upcoming challenges.

Editorial Board