



## The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and the development of geosciences in Bulgaria

### Българската академия на науките и развитието на геонауките в България

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Founded in 1869 as Bulgarian Literary Society, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences played an important role in the development of Bulgarian geosciences. The first Bulgarian geologists Georgi Zlatarski, Georgi Bonchev, and Lazar Vankov who graduated at Zagreb University, became full members of the Academy, and published their important contributions to the geology of Bulgaria in the Periodic Journal of the Bulgarian Literary Society (since 1911 – of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences). They became also the first professors of geology in the Sofia University, and (Zlatarski and Vankov) the first State geologists.

After WWII, the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences has been reorganized. Several research institutes have been founded in 1947, one of the first being the Geological Institute. The full members of the Academy G. Bonchev, S. Dimitrov, and E. Bonchev established a modern research institute which developed on European level the principal geosciences, and paid particular attention to the application of the geosciences to the needs of

the ore, coal, oil and gas prospecting, the hydro-technical construction projects, and the geotechnical research for large-scale construction of roads, plants and electric stations. The Institute developed during the past 70 years as a complex geological institution of national scientific and social importance.

The Institute of Mineralogy and Crystallography (founded first in 1984) developed with the special attention and care by Academician Ivan Kostov, and became an important center for research of the natural and artificial minerals and mineral systems. Its research is focused on the study of new materials, and the geochemistry and ecology of the environment.

The Bulgarian Academy of Sciences develops 150 years after its foundation, as a modern national academy and a national center for complex scientific research. The geosciences have a prominent place in its structure, and substantially contribute to the role of the Academy in the scientific and social progress of Bulgaria.