



*NECLIME Workshop 2018: Climate and vegetation evolution in the Paratethys and Eastern Mediterranean*

Sofia, July 10, 2018

**Extended NECLIME Workshop 2018:  
"CLIMATE AND VEGETATION EVOLUTION  
IN THE PARATETHYS AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN"**

**Second Circular**

Dear Colleagues and NECLIME members,

We are pleased to announce the Second Circular of the **Extended NECLIME Workshop 2018: "CLIMATE AND VEGETATION EVOLUTION IN THE PARATETHYS AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN"** and joint meeting of the NECLIME working groups on **taxonomy of the Neogene macrobotanical record of Eurasia, taxonomy of Neogene palynomorphs, and the working group on fossil woods** which will be held in **Sofia (Bulgaria) from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018**.

***The extended NECLIME workshop***

The extended NECLIME workshop in Sofia will focus on **climate and vegetation evolution in the Paratethys and Eastern Mediterranean, including Black Sea area, and Turkish lacustrine basins**.

Main topics were already introduced in First Circular and include: palaeobotanical records (micro/macro) of the Paratethys; reconstructing vegetation and climate dynamics; taxonomical basis and methodological standards; vegetation modelling; higher resolving reconstructions; plant diversity patterns in pollen records; the application of digital data on plant distribution in biodiversity reconstruction; Neogene climate and vegetation gradients from the Eastern Mediterranean to the Eastern and Central Paratethys; aridification trends ; the Plio-Pleistocene transition – evidence from the Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea, and surrounding lacustrine basins; multi-proxy approaches in continental palaeoclimate reconstruction; evolution and dynamics of lacustrine systems.

In the frame of the given regional focus we invited contributions on vegetation and climate interactions, plant and animal migration and evolution, driving mechanisms, development of open landscapes, evolution of wetlands, and climate change and variability in time and space.



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The extended NECLIME Workshop 2018 proposes a joint meeting of the Macro- and Micro- working groups of NECLIME. The idea was launched at the 8<sup>th</sup> workshop of the “micro” group held last year in Brno. The need of close co-operation between colleagues working on macro- and micropalaeobotany has been emphasized several times. The NECLIME network provides multiple possibilities for joint studies, e.g., integration of diverse plant records and proxies.

After oral presentations we propose a round table discussion with the following topics proposed (suggestions are welcome!):\_new updates for the improvement of the NECLIME NLR database; methods and ways/possibilities of the integration of the macro- and micropalaeobotanical records (e.g., taxa complexes); recent advances in plant molecular genetics, potential to improve/update the current NLR data; advances in pft classification and pft-based vegetation reconstructions; palynomorph taxa critical with respect to taxonomy, botanical affinity and climatic evaluation; re-evaluation of Neogene palynomorph records using TLM/SEM in combination; activities and information on ongoing research; relevant resources available to palynologists for botanical identification of palynomorphs.

#### **Venue**

**Scientific Sessions** will be held in the Conference Hall of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research (former Institute of Botany), 23, Acad. G. Bonchev Str. The institute building is at 5-10 min walking distance from the hotel.

The technical equipment for presentations includes laptop and beamer. Please let us know if you need some specific equipment. The wireless Internet connection is available on place.

#### **The NECLIME Fieldtrip**

Three day fieldtrip to Paleogene and Neogene Basins in Southwest Bulgaria, visiting Pernik, Gotse Delchev and Satovcha Basins, some outcrops with macroflora, diatomites, as well as some historical and archaeological sites.

The Duration of the lectures is expected at 20 min.

#### **Conference fee**

As we announced in the first circular the conference fee is **70** Euro per Person to cover costs for welcome dinner, lunches, coffee breaks, conference facilities, abstracts, etc.

#### **Field trip fee**

The field trip fee is **260** Euro and covers transportation, accommodation, meals and other facilities.



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You can make payment in two different ways:

**1)** By bank transfer to the bank account of the Institute of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Research, BAS:

Bank name: UniCredit Bulbank  
Branch: Battenberg, Sofia  
Account No: BG44UNCR96603120718711  
BIC - UNCRBGSF

Payment should be made without charges to the beneficiary (recipient). Please indicate NECLIME conference as transfer purpose. Please, ensure to send a copy of your transfer form.

**2)** Payment in cash is also possible on arrival, at the registration desk.

### **Accommodation**

There are several reasonably priced hotels within short walking distance of the Venue, offering a good service and familiar atmosphere. The international airport of Sofia is ca. 8 km from the hotels and venue and good connections to the City Centre by public transport.

1. **Hotel Kibella** \*\* <http://www.hotelkibella.com/>
2. **Hotel Rotasar** \*\* <http://www.rotasar.com/prices.php?lang=eng>
3. **Hotel Europe** \*\*\*\* <http://www.hotel-europe-bg.com/en/>

Based on our experience and impressions we can recommend **Hotel Kibella** as good ratio between service and price, e.g. single room from 31 Euro, double room – from 36 Euro.

Reservations could be done from the web site of the hotels, through e-mail of the hotel, or via [www.booking.com](http://www.booking.com).

If you need assistance, we can make reservation for you. Just specify dates and type of room and hotel.

### **General schedule:**

#### **September 25th**

Registration and welcome dinner

#### **September 26th**

Oral and poster presentations



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### **September 27th**

Oral and poster presentations and round table discussion

**September 28<sup>th</sup>** - Departure

### **The NECLIME Fieldtrip**

September 28th - September 30th – 3-day field trip to the SW Bulgarian Palaeogene and Neogene Basins.

**Departure:** Friday, September 28th

**Return:** Sunday, September 30th, late afternoon

### **Monday, October 1st**

Departure of participants

### **Short information about Sofia**

The city of Sofia, the capital of Bulgaria, has a history that goes back thousands of years. Through the centuries, many peoples have inhabited it and added to its rich and diverse history. Numerous Neolithic villages have been discovered in the area, while a chalcolithic settlement has been recently discovered in the very centre of modern Sofia. Today there are many archaeological sites in Sofia, that display the city's diverse history - the castle gates and towers of Serdica, public buildings and streets thousands of years old.

**Transport.** Sofia is easily accessible by air, train, bus or car and the proper transportation mean is your choice.

**Public transportation.** The bus lines No 84 and 184 operate on the following route: Gen. Gurko Str. –Tzarigradsko shose Blvd. – Christopher Columbus Blvd. – Airport Terminal 2 and Terminal 1. The reverse route is from Terminal 1, along Christopher Columbus Blvd, towards Gen. Gurko Str. You need to stop at bus station **Pliska**. You can buy tickets at airport (see kiosk) or from the driver. The price is 1.60 BGN (= 0.80 Eur). Both bus routes operate under an all-day timetable. The exact times, including the first and last buses, are published at the Urban Mobility Center (<https://www.sofiatraffic.bg/en/common>). Duration of the travel to Pliska station is ca. 20 min depending on the traffic. In case you want to use public bus transport from Terminal 2, the floor marking in red in the public area will show you the way to the bus stops.

**Taxi.** For your comfort and safety, we recommend the services of the taxi operator OK Supertrans AD as contractual partner of Sofia Airport. You can request the service at the offices of OK Supertrans in the Arrivals of Terminal 1 and Terminal 2., tel. +359 2 973 2121 and [www.oktaxi.net](http://www.oktaxi.net),



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or simply follow the floor markings in yellow will lead you to the taxi stand area. The price of taxi from airport to the hotel is ca. 4-5 Euros. For your comfort and safety, Sofia Airport recommends that you take a taxi at the designated taxi stands in front of the western exits from Arrivals at Terminal 1 and Terminal 2. Duration of the travel is ca 10-15 min depending on the traffic.

Below are maps with the location of airport, hotels and Conference (Building of former Institute of Botany, 23, Acad G. Bonchev Str.)

**Weather.** The end of September is usually warm and sunny, with daily temperatures 22-25 degrees, and night temperatures about 10-12 degrees. Let's be in hope of having a wonderful "indian summer" but please don't forget your umbrella.

**Currency.** The unit of currency in Bulgaria (BGN) is the lev, divided into 100 stotinki. The official exchange rate of National Bank is 1 Euro = 1.955830 BGN.

**Visa requirements.** The entry formalities for Bulgaria vary according to the country of origin. For EU countries visa is not required. We hope that you've already organized all formalities.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Sofia.

Yours,

Dimiter Ivanov, Torsten Utescher, Vladimir Bozukov, Marianna Kovacova, and Angela A. Bruch

Please, do not hesitate to contact us for any concern or with any suggestions.

