



**International Conference on Challenges and Achievements in Geotechnical Engineering**  
**March 31–April 2, 2021**  
**Tirana, Albania**

**Welcome**

The Albanian Geotechnical Society (AGS) is pleased to invite you to the International Conference on Challenges and Achievements in Geotechnical Engineering, to be held at POLIS University (Tirana, Albania). This conference is organized on the occasion of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Albanian Geotechnical Society. This is the 5th international event organized by AGS, following the two conferences held in 2011 and 2015, and the two workshops held in 2004 and 2007. The event is organized in collaboration with POLIS University and is supported by the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE).

The conference aims to highlight various aspects of geotechnical engineering problems and challenges faced by geotechnical professionals in their everyday practice. We hope to provide an international interactive platform for discussion and collaboration for geotechnical professionals and applicants from all countries are welcomed. Practicing engineers, researchers and students are invited and encouraged to participate, to submit written contributions and also to present their works.

**About Tirana**

Tirana is the capital and also the largest city in Albania. It lies in between the Dajti mountain (1620 m high and accessible with cable car within 15 – 20 minutes) and the Adriatic Sea (35 km in the west of the city). The city can be reached by flight using the Tirana International Airport (located 25 km from the city center), by ferry using the Durres Harbor (located 40 km from Tirana), or by means of driving through Kosovo (custom point of Morinë), Montenegro (custom points of Hani i Hotit and Murriqan), Greece (custom points of Kapshticë and Kakavijë), and North Macedonia (custom point of Qafë Thanë).

After the '90s the city has enlarged and developed in infrastructure and buildings, and now around 700,000 habitants reside there. Being the major city in the area, industry, administration, economic activity, cultural and educational facilities have long been centered here. In the last years particularly, Tirana has been identified as an academic area, by locating many universities, academic institutions and research units.

Tirana has a Mediterranean climate which has contributed in having rich and diverse vegetation. The average low and high temperatures in the period June are respectively around 16°C and 28°C. The city is also home of many historical and cultural landmarks such as the Tirana Castle, Clock Tower of Tirana, Petrelë Castle, National Historic Museum, etc. Also, many touristic sites are within a practical reach from the capital or from the conference venue location. For more information on touristic attractions in Tirana and the country please visit <http://albania.al/>.

## Venue

The conference will be held at POLIS University (<http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/>) which is located in the Tirana-Durrës highway, 12 km from the city center. The university campus is accessible by several bus lines (20 minutes) or by taxi (10 minutes).

## Themes

Papers covering a wide spectrum of geotechnical engineering will accepted. The Conference Scientific and Organizing Committees are responsible for selecting papers and for conducting peer review. After receiving all abstracts, the Conference Organizing Committee will specify the form of preparation of the final paper and with the help of the abstracts will define the detailed conference program and sessions. The official language of the conference is English.

The following is a list of the conference themes:

- Laboratory testing
- Site investigation/Field testing
- Foundations
- Ground improvement
- Seismicity and mitigation
- Numerical and analytical modeling
- Tunneling
- Rock mechanics
- Geo-environments
- Landslides and slope stability
- Underground construction and deep excavations

## Local Organizing Committee

Prof. Emeritus Luljeta Bozo	Chair, Albanian Geotechnical Society
M. Sc. Laureta Sharra	Polytechnic University of Tirana
M. Sc. Endri Duro	POLIS University
M. Sc. Erdi Myftaraga	Green Geotechnics
M. Sc. Altin Ahmeti	Garden Line
Eng. Geol. Skënder Allkja	A. L. T. E. A. & GEOSTUDIO 2000
M. Sc. Ilda Rusi	POLIS University

## Scientific Committee

Prof. Emeritus Luljeta Bozo	Chair, Albanian Geotechnical Society
Prof. Besnik Aliaj	POLIS University
Prof. Charles W. W. Ng	President, ISSMGE
Prof. Emeritus Heinz Brandl	TU Wien
Prof. Emeritus Ikuro Towhata	University of Tokyo
Prof. Roger Frank	École des Ponts ParisTech
Prof. Mario Manassero	Vice president for Europe, ISSMGE
Prof. Pedro Simão Sêco e Pinto	University of Coimbra
Prof. Vlatko Sesov	Ss. Cyril & Methodius University in Skopje
Dr. Lindita Këllezi	Geo
Dr. Erion Bukaçi	Polytechnic University of Tirana
Dr. Ervin Paçi	Polytechnic University of Tirana

## Registration fee

In order to accommodate a wide variety of participants the following categories for the conference registration fee are included:

Regular participant	Euro 150
Students	Euro 50

The registration fee covers conference participation, conference banquet, coffee & tea, meals, and a copy of the proceedings (including an electronic copy). Please note that the cost for the technical visit and gala dinner (to be estimated) are not covered by the conference fee. More information on these two events will be given in the 2<sup>nd</sup> bulletin.

Further details on the registration procedure, including registration deadline, will be given in a later moment.

## Important dates

Abstract submission	September 30, 2020
Abstract acceptance	October 10, 2020
Paper submission	January 10, 2021
Paper acceptance	January 31, 2021
Registration opening	February 1, 2021
2 <sup>nd</sup> bulletin distribution	February 15, 2021
Conference	March 31-April 2, 2021

## Program

A preliminary program for the conference is shown in the following:

Time	March 31 (Wed)	April 2 (Thu)	April 3 (Fri)
09:30	Opening		
10:00	Session 1	Session 5	Technical visit
11:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	
11:30	Session 2	Session 6	
12:30	Lunch break	Lunch break	
13:30	Session 3	Session 7	
15:00	Coffee break	Coffee break	
15:30	Session 4	Session 8	
17:00	Conference banquet		
19:00		Gala dinner	

### **Sponsorship and exhibition**

Exhibition areas will be provided, against very convenient payment, for companies and institutions who would like to promote their products, software and services. For further details on this, please contact the Local Organizing Committee.

### **Contact**

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