

## Is organizing a WBC Congress a success story?

Wondering what story to tell as a success one, I've chosen the organizing of a chemical Congress.

This September, 5<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, *The Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia* (SCTM) had its 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress in the Ohrid lake beauty and medieval town-pearl. No matter that nominally Macedonian, the event was international. Not only that two out of three of total 240 attendants were foreigners from 26 countries, but so were the lecturers (Plenary, Invited and Key-Note). UK, USA, Serbia, Germany, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Bulgaria, Italy, Croatia, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina were presented with one or more lecturers. Besides the 20 oral presentations, some 300 posters were presented, divided into sections such as analytical chemistry, bio-, food- and pharmaceutical chemistry and technology, electrochemistry, environmental chemistry, inorganic chemistry and technology, metallurgy, nanomaterials, organic chemistry, polymers and polymer materials, process engineering, spectroscopy and structural chemistry, etc.

It is not a custom for the Organizer to judge the quality of presented Congress contributions. This is a privilege of the participants and guests. In general, we believe they were satisfied. In few words, that was our Congress story.



Normally you could ask yourself: Congress as so many others, what is extraordinary in this one?

The peculiarities of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Congress of SCTM were as follows:

- Congress was organized in the middle of an economic crisis, so that a number of financial and organizational issues were to be solved, practically without funding.
- In contrast to many others, this Congress did not cost a lot. The registration fee was only EUR 65, and an *All-in-one* package (attendance, 3 half board accommodation, welcome party, congress dinner and boat trip to a medieval monastery, see photo) was offered at a price as low as EUR 140.
- All Congress events took place in an exclusive Lake Resort complex.
- Not to mention that the weather was wonderful, and local food and wines were delicious.

Having in mind that nowadays Congresses are expensive (only the registration fee is EUR 300 or 500) and out of reach of WBC people employed in the academic sector, don't you find that this was a success story?



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