



## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ELECTROCHEMISTRY

### REPORT for the ISE Sponsored Event “Sofia Electrochemical Days” 2026 (SED’26)

The tenth jubilee edition of the Sofia Electrochemical Days (SED’2026) was held from September 8 to 12, 2026, in Varna, Bulgaria.

The conference was organized by the Institute of Electrochemistry and Energy Systems “Acad. Evgeni Budevski” at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (IEES-BAS), with the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (UCTM), Sofia, as a long-standing co-organizer, and with the support of the Joint Innovation Centre of BAS. SED’2026 brought together 75 participants from Bulgaria and abroad, representing seven countries: Bulgaria, Germany, Portugal, Italy, Slovenia, Poland, and the Czech Republic. Members of the International Society of Electrochemistry also participated in the conference, further strengthening the connection between SED and the international electrochemical community. The event provided a valuable forum for the exchange of recent scientific results and ideas in electrochemistry and materials science.

The official opening was led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vanya Ilcheva, Chair of the Organizing Committee. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Plamen Nikolov, Director of the Institute of Electrochemistry and Energy Systems “Acad. Evgeni Budevski” – BAS (IEES-BAS), the organizing institution, welcomed the participants. Prof. DSc Vessela Tsakova, Representative of the International Society of Electrochemistry (ISE) in Bulgaria, also addressed the participants with greetings and wishes for a successful and productive conference. A congratulatory address from Prof. Dr. Nikolay Karev, Rector of the University of Chemical Technology and Metallurgy (UCTM), was also presented.

The scientific program featured a broad range of presentations, including seven plenary lectures, ten invited talks, thirteen regular oral presentations, and thirty-five poster presentations. The sessions addressed topics including advanced batteries and supercapacitors; hydrogen production, storage and conversion technologies; materials for modern electrochemical applications; fundamental electrochemistry, corrosion and bioelectrochemistry; as well as innovative solutions with potential for practical and industrial applications.

A highlight of the jubilee edition was the plenary lecture delivered by Corr. Mem. Prof. DSc Evelina Slavcheva, President of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. The program also featured distinguished plenary and invited speakers from Bulgaria and several European countries, whose presentations stimulated fruitful scientific discussions and exchange of expertise.

The conference included a dedicated Young Scientists’ Session, providing an opportunity for early-career researchers to present their work and receive feedback from an international scientific jury. Awards were presented for the best oral and poster presentations. A special distinction was also presented by the Department of Inorganic and Electrochemical Production at UCTM-Sofia for the best oral presentation in the Young Scientists’ Session, in memory of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eng. Lyubmil Fachikov.

Particular attention was also given to the links between science and industry through a dedicated session emphasizing the importance of transferring scientific achievements into practical and technological applications and encouraging interaction between researchers and industrial partners.

The scientific program was complemented by social activities, which provided opportunities for informal communication and networking among the participants. The friendly atmosphere and the

coastal setting of Varna further contributed to establishing new professional contacts and strengthening existing collaborations.

The organizers would like to express their sincere gratitude to the International Society of Electrochemistry for its financial support, which contributed to the successful organization of the jubilee edition and to the dissemination and exchange of scientific knowledge within the electrochemical community.

The organizers look forward to the next edition of Sofia Electrochemical Days and to continuing this successful tradition with the valuable support of the International Society of Electrochemistry.



*Group photo of the participants in the 10<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Sofia Electrochemical Days (SED'2026), Varna, Bulgaria, September 8–12, 2026.*