

Loess Fest 2026

Echoes of the past: Loess, climate and human interactions during the Pleistocene

September 7 – 11, Krapets, Bulgaria



Organizer: National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography (NIGGG) – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences; with support of the Loess and Pedostratigraphy Working Group INQUA

Funding support: Bulgarian National Science Fund

Organizing committee:

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Dear colleagues and friends,

The next Loess Fest meeting in 2026 will be held in Bulgaria, having 470 km of the Lower Danube river, carving Bulgarian and Romanian loess covered areas. Another important intra - continental regions, included in this realm are Southern Dobrogea and Ludogorie areas, known as typical for Southern Europe palaeoecological niches, which host numerous cave habitats of ancient hominins. To reveal the full potential of the loess palaeosol sequences as recorders of past global environmental changes during the Pleistocene glacial – interglacial cycles, it is critical to understand their genesis and the processes, involved in the acquisition and preservation of the environmental proxies. Thus, we would like to inspire lively interdisciplinary discussion on loess palaeosol sequences, looking at different scales in space and time, different carriers of environmental information and their interactions. Loessic steppes during the Pleistocene were the scene of hominin migration across Eurasia, thus embedding also numerous signs and remains of anthropogenic influence. This also calls for integration of Paleolithic to Early Neolithic archeological knowledge to build the true history of human – environment interactions.

Field trip, which is traditionally organized during the Loess Fest meetings, is planned in North Eastern Bulgaria, showing two important loess sites in this area – outcropping sequences in active open quarries for kaolin extraction near Kaolinovo / Kolobar and an outcrop at the Black sea coast near Bulgarian / Romanian border.

Important dates:

Opening of pre-registration – 15th of January 2026

25th of March 2026 – early bird (pre-registration) deadline

1st of June 2026 – abstract submission and payment deadline

15th of July 2026 – second circular and detailed program

Preliminary program:

7th September – arrival, ice breaker party

8th September – plenary / conference presentations and poster session

9th September - plenary/poster sessions, visit to Krapets (Black sea coast) loess section and conference dinner

10 of September – field trip to a quarry near Kolobar / Kaolinovo

11 of September – departure

Venue: Yanitza hotel complex in Krapets village, ~ 90 km from the city of Varna

<https://yanitza-hotels.com/en/>

Pre-registration is mandatory (due to requirements by the funding body for complementary funds acquisition) filling an on-line google form:

<https://forms.gle/WnkeHp46eZyJXhXs6>

If the link does not work, please copy and paste the link in your browser.

Registration: bank transfer after filling registration form, which will be provided upon pre-registration.

Registration fee: 150 eur + costs of the bank transfer; students registration fee - 100 eur

The registration fee covers conference materials, coffee breaks and light lunches, 3 dinners and official conference dinner.

The registration fee does not cover accommodation in Krapets.

Field trip – 50 eur – includes transport, lunch and visit to an archeological UNESCO heritage site - Sveshtari Thracian tomb

Detailed plan of the field trip will be given in the second circular.

Accommodation:

The organizers recommend to book accommodation at the conference venue. This option will be available if it is chosen in the registration form. Special prices for conference participants are negotiated: 25 eur/night per person in a double room; 30

eur / night per person in a single room at Yanitza hotel complex (www.yanitza-hotels.com). Various other hotels, hostels, apartments and camping sites are located near the conference venue and are available on booking.com.