

## EVENTS

### International meeting of the SGA Council as part of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union

On 31.03–02.04.2025, the Polish Geological Institute – National Research Institute (PGI-NRI) organized an international hybrid meeting as part of the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. It was a working meeting of the SGA Council (The Society for Geology Applied to Mineral Deposits) in Wrocław. The meeting was opened by S. Mikulski, President of the SGA, who warmly welcomed the members of the SGA Council, present in the hall and participating online from other continents. He thanked the members of the Council for coming to Poland, right now, while Poland holds the Presidency of the Council of the European Union and policy in the field of critical raw materials is an economic priority. He emphasized that 2025 is a special year for the SGA, as it celebrates the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence. He thanked the members of the Council for their work for the organization in the past year, as well as the members for their support and students from the SGA Student Chapters for their active engagement around the world.

Then, the representative of the Ministry of Climate and Environment, Mr. M. Nowosielski, read an address from the Chief National Geologist, Mr. Krzysztof Galos. The minister emphasized “the critical role that geoscience and responsible resource management play in ensuring Europe's economic resilience and strategic autonomy.” Moreover, he stated that “The adoption of the Critical Raw Materials Act marks a turning point in our approach to the security of supply of critical raw materials, essential for the green and digital transformation, defense, and high-tech industries. Growing geopolitical uncertainty underlines the urgent need to diversify supply chains and strengthen Europe's capacity to extract, process and recycle these valuable resources in a sustainable way”. The letter also emphasized the importance of the association “I believe that this forum will provide an excellent platform for exchanging ideas, fostering cooperation, and advancing scientific and policy-driven solutions”.

SGA is an international non-profit scientific organization registered in Switzerland. It currently brings together over 1,300 members from across the world representing scientists, specialists from industry, government organizations and PhD students and students from universities dealing with issues of metal ore deposits. SGA promotes exchange of the latest knowledge in the research and exploration of metal ore deposits. The aim of the organization is to promote the profession of ge-

ologist in science and industry, and the protection and improvement of professional and ethical standards among its members ([www.e-sga.org](http://www.e-sga.org)).

The SGA Council meeting was attended by over 30 permanent members of the association operating on all continents (Fig. 1–3). In accordance with the Agenda, current matters related to the functioning of the SGA were discussed, such as financial reports, scientific conferences both planned and held, reports on the implementation of SGA Educational Funds, publication activities and the activities of our Student Chapters, as well as personnel proposals for the autumn elections of the new SGA Council for the term of office 2026–2027. SGA cares for the constant flow of information and promotion of the events we organize. From our website (<https://e-sga.org>) and social media (Facebook, and X, formerly Twitter) one can find out about upcoming events and read reports from completed SGA events. We also encourage following information within



Fig. 1. The first day of the SGA Spring Council meeting. Photo by: M. Banasiewicz



**Fig. 2.** A group photo of SGA Council members and co-organizers arriving at the spring meeting in Wrocław; from the left: K. Kelley (USA), B. Lehmann (Germany), D. Holwell (UK), L. Waitsischeck (Germany), D. Banks (UK), A. Vymazalová (Czechia), M. Bansiewicz (Poland), C. McCuaig (Australia), S. Mikulski (Poland), N. Jansson (Sweden), A. Scencerek (Poland), G. Bozkaya (Turkey), M. Nowosielski (Poland), S-Y Jiang (China), sitting in front: H. Frimmel (Germany/South Africa) and J. Pašava (Czechia). Photo by: M. Banasiewicz



**Fig. 3.** S. Mikulski during the cutting of the cake on the occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SGA. Photo by: M. Banasiewicz

SGA News, which has been published twice a year since 1996 in print and online (<https://e-sga.org/publications/sga-news/news-archive>). We describe the latest information on SGA work, and provide dedicated thematic articles, a calendar of events, as well as reports on the activities of the SGA Student Chapter. Since 2002, when the first Student Chapter was established in Prague, we have established 25 Student Chapters, in 21 countries on 6 continents.

During the deliberations, it was repeatedly pointed out that the key to achieving and maintaining a very high scientific position in the field of Economic Geology is the high substantive level of our SGA Biennial meetings and flagship journal *Mineralium Deposita* and other of our publications (<https://e-sga.org/publications>). We thank the many referees and Chief Editors and members of the Editorial Board for their insights in steering submissions through the peer-review process. The scope of preparations for the 18<sup>th</sup> SGA BM, which will take place on August 3–7, 2025 in Golden (USA), was discussed in detail. Many outstanding economic geologists from around the world will participate in it, presenting the results of their work in the field of research and exploration of mineral resources, including the critical raw materials so important for the sustainable development of modern technologies and green energy transformation in the modern world. SGA has very important tasks in the field of support and transformation of scientific knowledge and sharing experiences between experts from around the world. As an organization, we sponsor many scientific conferences, courses and field trips, and we also co-organize various periodic scientific conferences on raw materials issues around the world (<https://e-sga.org/meetings/sga-sponsored-international-meetings/>).

As an organization, we will try to co-finance the largest possible participation of students from various countries. The best opportunity will involve wide participation in the 18th SGA BM organized on August 3–7, 2025 in Golden, Colorado (USA). We want as many students as possible to take part not only in the conference, but also in workshops and field trips. Many outstanding economic geologists from

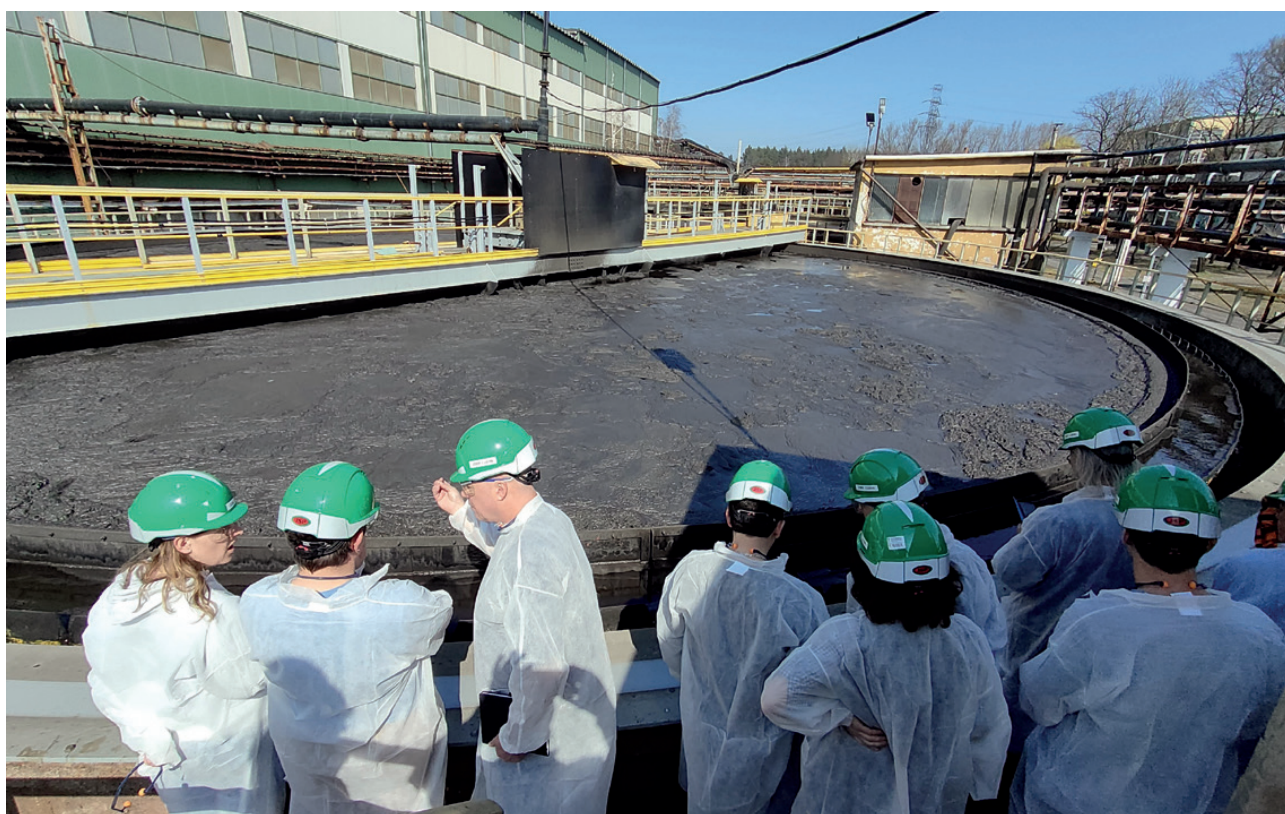
around the world will participate in it, and will present the results of their work in the field of research and exploration of mineral resources, including critical raw materials. SGA has very important tasks in the field of support and transformation of scientific knowledge and experiences between experts from around the world. At the end of the meeting, the President appealed for even greater activity of SGA council members in promoting our events and encouraging them to join the ranks of SGA. The President ended the meeting with an invitation to Golden during which we will celebrate the SGA's 60th anniversary.

The SGA Council meeting, apart from the official Agenda of current organizational matters to be discussed, made it possible to familiarize the participants with the issues of work carried out by PGI-NRI in the field of research and exploration of mineral resources and National Exploration Programme. The sessions lasted the whole day and ended with an official dinner for the participants. On the second day, trips to KGHM were held, during which one group went to the mine in Lubin and the other to the mine in Rudna (Fig. 4). The guests had the opportunity to go down to the underground Cu-Ag mine and familiarize themselves with the full ore deposit profile. In the afternoon, the participants of the trips visited the processing plants in Lubin or Rudna (Fig. 5). Thanks to the courtesy of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A., this experience was an extraordinary experience for our geologist guests, for whom the chance to see the entire process with their own eyes was a long-awaited opportunity. We would like to thank Dr. W. Kaczmarek for the excellent organization of this trip and all the mining geologists and engineers from the mines and processing plants in Lubin (M. Fendrych, T. Spryńca and R. Kaleta) and in Rudna (D. Skalski and R. Stelmach), who introduced us to the interesting geology





**Fig. 4.** Visits of SGA Council members to the Cu-Ag mine in Lubin; from the left: N. Jansson (Sweden), B. Kern (Sweden), I. Pitcairn (Sweden), J. Pařava (Czechia), G. Beaudoin (Canada), S. Mikulski (Poland), M. Fendrych (Poland), D. Holwell (UK), C. McCuaig (Australia), L. Waitsischeck (Germany), B. Lehmann (Germany). Photo by S. Mikulski



**Fig. 5.** Visit to the processing plant (ZWR) in Lubin. Photo by S. Mikulski

of the Cu-Ag ore deposit and to the ore processing. The guests were impressed by the places they saw and satisfied with the professional information they received. The trip ended with a joint dinner in Lubin.

The SGA Council meeting was an excellent opportunity to promote the achievements of PGI-NRI in the field

of research and exploration of mineral resources, especially critical raw materials, and an excellent presentation of the achievements of Polish copper mining in the Fore-Sudetic Monocline in the mining areas of KGHM Polska Miedź S.A.

*Stanisław Z. Mikulski, Marta Banasiewicz*