Announcement 1:

SCOSTEP 2025 Distinguished Service Award

SCOSTEP is pleased to announce that the

2025 Distinguished Service Award is given to

Katya Georgieva

Professor Katya Georgieva

Space Climate Department, Space Research and Technology Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria

Citation: For her unique and continuous service to SCOSTEP activities at an international level, particularly for her work in the position of the co-chair of the SCOSTEP's VarSITI program.

Katya Georgieva is the professor of the Space Climate Department the Space Research and Technology Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Her SCOSTEP-related activities began in 2005 during the preparations for the International Heliophysical Year (IHY, 2007). She was the initiator and first chair of the Balkan, Black Sea, and Caspian Sea Regional Network for Space Weather Studies (BBC Network), and organized its kick-off meeting in Bulgaria in 2005. The BBC Network remains active, and this year it will celebrate its 20th anniversary. The network publishes its own peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Sun and Geosphere*, which has an international editorial board and has released 15 volumes, all freely available online.

During IHY, she served as the Bulgarian representative and the regional coordinator for the BBC Network. She was also involved in organizing the UN/ESA/NASA/JAXA workshop on the IHY and basic space science "First Results of IHY 2007" held in Bulgaria.

As a top of her service to SCOSTEP, she co-chaired the SCOSTEP scientific program VarSITI (*Variability of the Sun and Its Terrestrial Impacts*) together with Dr. Kazuo Shiokawa from 2014 to 2019. She played important role in management of the program and she was the main organizer of several meetings, including the First VarSITI General Symposium in 2016 and the VarSITI Closing Symposium in 2019, both held in Bulgaria.

As a part of the implementation of VarSITI's *Solar Evolution and Extrema (SEE)* project, she led an International Space Science Institute (ISSI) forum on *Expected Evolution of Solar Activity in the Following Decades*. After the completion of VarSITI, she and Dr. Kazuo Shiokawa organized the publication of a special issue of *Progress in Earth and Planetary Science (PEPS)* reviewing SCOSTEP's five-year VarSITI program, in which both served as guest editors.

Since 2009 until now, she has been organizing the annual international workshop *Solar Influences on the Magnetosphere, Ionosphere, and Atmosphere* as the chair of the Scientific Organizing Committee, traditionally held during the first week of June in Bulgaria (https://www.spaceclimate.bas.bg/ws-sozopol/). The proceedings of the workshop are indexed in the Astrophysical Data System, Crossref, Google Scholar, and, since 2020, SCOPUS with IF and Q indices.