

Preface



The 18th edition of the International Conference on Heavy metals in the Environment was held from 12 to 15 September 2016 in Ghent, Belgium. It attracted 300 participants, who contributed their recent findings in the multidisciplinary field of metals in the environment.

A long time ago, in 1975, the International Conference on Heavy Metals in the Environment was the first major conference on the then fully emerging topic of trace elements in the environment. Related research has largely expanded and broadened in the meantime. These proceedings reflect this.

The maintained interest for the two-yearly editions over the last decades indicates the importance of a broader conference on the topic of heavy metals in the environment. It allows researchers in trace element research to meet and explore across different disciplines. As such, unlike more specific events, this conference is likely to inspire new and different perspectives on the science and to initiate unexpected collaborations

The conference was hosted in the facilities of Ghent University. A major Flemish University with a strong international ranking, the campuses of Ghent University are scattered throughout the charming city of Ghent. The conference participants were very pleasantly surprised by this hidden secret of Europe that maintains a historic backdrop seamlessly blended into modern life and a vibrant culture.

These proceedings reflect that the conference has been fruitful. I hope to see you again on future editions of this conference.

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