## **PREFACE**

The Fourth International Scientific Conference "Alternative Energy Sources, Materials & Technologies AESMT'21" was held between 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> June 2021 in Ruse, Bulgaria. Representatives of 34 countries (Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Macedonia, Nigeria, Norway, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Tajikistan, Turkey, United Kingdom, Yemen) sent their works to the conference. Some of the reports (9 works) have been selected and are published after international peer-review in the present Special Issue of the journal "Bulgarian Chemical Communications".

It is our pleasure to be guest editors of the presented articles, which focus on new international scientific results in the field of Alternative Energy Sources, Materials and Technologies (Energy Materials Science, Storages with Phase Change Materials, Shallow Geothermal Energy Applications, Energy Efficiency, Solar Photovoltaic Systems, Low-Carbon Technologies, Mechanical Engineering and Technologies, and Electrical Engineering).

Prof. Aleksandar Georgiev, DSc (Institute of Chemical Engineering, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria)

Assoc. Prof. Daniela Dzhonova-Atanasova (Institute of Chemical Engineering, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria)

**Guest editors** of the present Special Issue