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# DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLICATION OF A MULTILINGUAL CHEMICAL DICTIONARY: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO TERMINOLOGY STANDARDIZATION<sup>1</sup>

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The Chemical Dictionary, a collaborative effort by the Lexicographic Centre "Georgi Stardelov" at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia, is a significant contribution to the standardization and accessibility of chemical terminology. The dictionary comprises 3,743 entries, each featuring a lemma, a concise definition, translation equivalents in four languages, and, in some cases, illustrative content. This multilingual and multidisciplinary approach addresses the growing need for uniformity in chemical language across educational, research, and professional contexts.

Published in two volumes of approximately 500 pages each, the dictionary adheres to international standards, including IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) nomenclature, ensuring its global relevance and accuracy. Its development involved extensive efforts from a multidisciplinary team of chemists, terminologists, and linguists who collaborated extensively from 2019 to 2024. The rigorous process included terminology extraction, definition refinement, and linguistic harmonization.

In addition to the print edition, the dictionary will be available online at <a href="https://term.manu.edu.mk/chemistry">https://term.manu.edu.mk/chemistry</a>, utilizing the Lexonomy platform. This digital version offers advanced search capabilities, cross-referencing, and multilingual navigation, making it an indispensable resource for educators, researchers, and students.

**Keywords**: multilingual chemical dictionary; chemical terminology; Macedonian language; lexonomy; Macedonian Scientific and Professional Terminology

### РАЗВОЈ И ИЗДАВАЊЕ НА ПОВЕЌЕЈАЗИЧЕН ХЕМИСКИ РЕЧНИК: МУЛТИДИСЦИПЛИНАРЕН ПРИСТАП КОН ТЕРМИНОЛОШКА СТАНДАРДИЗАЦИЈА

Терминолошкиот речник Хемија, заедничко издание на Лексикографскиот центар "Георги Старделов" при Македонската академија на науките и уметностите и Сојузот на хемичарите и технолозите на Македонија, претставува значаен придонес кон стандардизацијата и достапноста на хемиската терминологија. Речникот има 3.743 одредници, а секоја одредница е составена од термин, дефиниција, преводни еквиваленти на четири јазици и, во некои случаи, илустрација. Овој повеќејазичен и мултидисциплинарен пристап ги исполнува барањата за усогласеност на јазикот на хемијата во образованието, истражувањата и професионалната примена.

<sup>1</sup> Dedicated on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of the Macedonian Journal of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering

Речникот е објавен во два тома, од кои секој има по околу 500 страници. Подготвен е според меѓународните стандарди, вклучувајќи ја номенклатурата од IUPAC (Меѓународна унија за чиста и применета хемија), со што се обезбедува глобална релевантност и точност. Од 2019 до 2024 година на речникот работеше мултидисциплинарен тим составен од хемичари, терминолози и лингвисти. Овој процес опфаќаше извлекување на соодветните термини, прочистување на дефинициите и јазично усогласување. Покрај во печатена верзија, речникот е достапен и на веб-адресата <a href="https://term.manu.edu.mk/chemistry">https://term.manu.edu.mk/chemistry</a>, на платформата Lexonomy. Оваа дигитална верзија содржи посовршени можности за пребарување, вкрстени референци и релација меѓу јазиците и претставува многу корисен ресурс за наставниците, истражувачите и студентите.

**Клучни зборови**: повеќејазичен хемиски речник; хемиска терминологија; македонски јазик; lexonomy, Македонска научна и стручна терминологија

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

The publication of the *Chemical Dictionary* by the Lexicographic Centre "Georgi Stardelov" at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia represents a significant academic contribution to chemical science. This comprehensive reference work, developed as part of the Macedonian Scientific and Professional Terminology macroproject, aims to standardize Macedonian chemical terminology and provide an accessible, multilingual, specialized dictionary for researchers, educators, and students across various scientific disciplines. With its structured format, comprising lemmas, definitions, multilingual equivalents, and illustrative content, the dictionary serves as a vital tool for fostering clarity and precision in scientific communication.

## 2. HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND COMPILATION OF THE CHEMICAL DICTIONARY

The development of Macedonian chemical terminology has a notable history, marked by systematic efforts to establish a standardized lexicon for scientific communication. Initial steps were taken in 1984 with the publication of the first text containing the names and symbols of chemical elements in Macedonian, authored by Dimče Tošev and Blagoja Topuzovski. This pioneering work laid the foundation for incorporating chemical terminology into the Macedonian language, setting the stage for subsequent advancements in the field.

Between 1999 and 2017, Bojan Šoptrajanov further advanced the field through his series of twelve articles titled *Notes on the Language of Chemistry*. <sup>12-13</sup> These papers explored the complexities of specific chemical terms, offering valuable insights and fostering the systematic development of chemical nomenclature in Macedonian. Šop-

trajanov's work represents a substantial intellectual contribution, addressing both linguistic and scientific dimensions of chemical terminology.

The *Chemical Dictionary* project builds upon these earlier efforts, with formal work commencing in 2019. The project was executed in several phases, underscoring a commitment to precision and interdisciplinary collaboration. During the initial stages, from 2019 to 2022, the focus was on collecting, extracting, and descripting relevant terminology. This phase involved extensive research to identify terms, document their usage, and categorize them within a coherent framework.

From 2022 to 2024, the project entered a phase of defining translation equivalents and harmonizing terms across multiple languages. This task required meticulous deliberation to ensure alignment with international standards while respecting the linguistic nuances of Macedonian. The rigor of this phase highlights the complexity of creating a multilingual resource that upholds both scientific accuracy and linguistic accessibility.

The dictionary is the result of a multidisciplinary effort. A team of twelve authors and one terminologist collaborated on the collection, extraction, description, and processing of terms. Their work was complemented by a team of five linguists, who undertook the critical roles of proofreading definitions and verifying the accuracy of translation equivalents. This collaborative approach ensured that the dictionary meets rigorous scientific standards while maintaining linguistic precision.

#### 3. CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The dictionary follows a systematic and user-centric structure, characteristic of the terminological dictionaries published in the Macedonian Scientific and Professional Terminology macroproject. Each entry begins with a lemma, representing a core term or concept in chemistry. The dictionary contains a total of 3,743 lemmas.

The definitions are succinct yet detailed, striving to balance technical accuracy with accessibility. Provided in Macedonian, they encompass a broad spectrum of chemical disciplines, including organic, inorganic, physical, and analytical chemistry, while also addressing intersections with fields such as biochemistry and materials science.

A distinctive feature of this dictionary is the inclusion of translation equivalents in four languages, broadening its utility for a global audience. These equivalents provide translators and interpreters access to standardized chemical terminology in their respective working languages.

Certain entries are accompanied by diagrams or other visual aids to clarify complex structures, processes, or concepts. While limited in number, these visuals enhance the comprehensibility of terms that might otherwise be difficult to convey through text alone. The selective use of illustrations is very useful for entries related molecular structures, reaction mechanisms, or apparatus.

The Chemical Dictionary, published in two volumes totaling approximately 500 pages each, will also be available online https://term.manu.edu.mk/chemistry, utilizing the advanced functionalities of the Lexonomy platform.<sup>14</sup> Lexonomy is a specialized web-based tool for managing and publishing lexical resources, offering users an intuitive and feature-rich interface for searching and exploring dictionary content. Through this platform, users can perform quick and advanced searches using specific terms, partial matches, or linguistic filters to locate entries efficiently. Additionally, Lexonomy supports crossreferencing, allowing users to navigate between related terms. The platform also offers multilingual search capabilities, enabling users to find translation equivalents and definitions in multiple languages.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

The Chemical Dictionary, developed by the Lexicographic Centre "Georgi Stardelov" at the Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts and the Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia, is a well-conceived and effectively executed resource that addresses key challenges in the communication and dissemination of chemical knowledge. Its structured format, multilingual translations, and alignment with international standards make it a valuable addition to the libraries of educators, researchers, and professionals.

While there is potential for improvement in areas such as the expansion of illustrative content and broader linguistic inclusion, the current edition provides a solid foundation for future iterations. The collaborative efforts of the Lexicographic Centre "Georgi Stardelov" and the Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia have resulted in a reference work that not only serves its immediate audience but also contributes to the broader goals of scientific education and global collaboration.

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