



# ISRM Workshop on Soft Rocks

Porto, Portugal, 15-16 May 2025

<https://fe.up.pt/isrm-wsr2025/>

## Bulletin No. 1

### Introduction

Soft rock, with its intricate mechanical behaviour, poses significant challenges in rock engineering, particularly as projects in coal mining, water conservancy and transportation extend into deeper territories. The encounter with weak and fractured strata in complex geological settings, characterized by high in-situ stress, geothermal gradients and the presence of groundwater, necessitates innovative approaches to ensure safety and manage construction costs effectively. The comprehensive understanding of soft rock's physical properties and classification, and the development of novel design methods for engineering in such environments is crucial for the advancement of the field.

The Soft Rocks Commission of the International Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering (ISRM) is proud to announce the organization of the ISRM Workshop on Soft Rocks, to be held in Porto, Portugal, in May 2025. We look forward to receiving your groundbreaking research and to a fruitful exchange of ideas at the ISRM Workshop on Soft Rocks in 2025.

### Organisers

- ISRM Commission of Soft Rocks
- Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP)
- China University of Mining and Technology, Beijing
- Chinese Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering (CSRME)
- Portuguese Geotechnical Society (SPG)

### Themes & Topics

- Concept and classification of soft rocks
- Physical and mechanical characterization of soft rocks
- Stability analysis, monitoring and control technology of soft-rock slopes
- Deformation mechanism and control technology of soft-rock tunnels
- Design measures of soft-rock engineering

### Honour Commission

- Seokwon Jeon, ISRM President
- Ki-Bok Min, ISRM Vice President for Asia
- Muriel Gasc-Barbier, ISRM Vice President for Europe
- Luis Lamas, ISRM Secretary General
- Manchao He, CSRME President

### Organizing Committee

The Organizing Committee includes all the members of the ISRM Commission of Soft Rocks and specialists from Portugal:

- Luis Ribeiro e Sousa (Chairman), Portugal
- Xiaoming Sun (Co-Chairman), China
- António Fiuza, Portugal

- Cuiying Zhou, China
- Giovanni Grasselli, Canada
- Hui Zhou, China
- Joaquim Sousa Góis, Portugal
- Luís Lamas, Portugal
- Manchao He, China
- Mostafa Sharifzadeh, Australia
- Nuwen Xu, China
- Pham Quoc Tuan, Vietnam
- Pingye Guo, China
- Qi Wang, China
- Quansheng Liu, China
- Sérgio Fontoura, Brazil
- Wei Wu, Singapore

### **Secretariat and Information**

- Manuel Carvalho, University of Porto, Portugal ([manuel@fe.up.pt](mailto:manuel@fe.up.pt))
- Danting Hu, Chinese Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering, China ([dantinghu@126.com](mailto:dantinghu@126.com))

### **Publication**

- Special issue: Soft Rock Engineering of the International Journal of Coal Science & Technology
- Submission Open Date: 15 October 2024
- Manuscript Submission Deadline: 20 March 2025

### **Registration Cost**

- Members of ISRM, CSRME, SPG and FEUP: 200 EUR; Students: 100 EUR
- Other members 250 EUR
- The registration cost includes the proceedings, participation in the sessions, and coffee breaks

### **Venue**

The venue will be the Auditorium of the School of Engineering of the University of Porto. Porto is a coastal city in northwest Portugal known for its bridges and Port wine production. In the medieval riverside district, narrow cobbled streets wind past merchants' houses and cafés.



Porto - view of the old city