

**12 BOYS AND THEIR COACH IN THAILAND  
THE MOST INTERNATIONALLY  
FOLLOWED CAVE RESCUE IN HISTORY**

**ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

- **UIS engaged in “UN Global Sustainable Development Goals”**
- **New UIS Support for Speleological Events, and Expeditions**
- **Agreement between the UIS and ISCA is signed**
- **Film about caving rope fall tests is available**
- **International Cave Rescue Training Courses in France - coming soon**

*and more...*



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**Union Internationale de Spéléologie**

Founded in Postojna, Slovenia, 1965

The UIS is a non-profit, non-governmental worldwide speleological organization that promotes the development of interaction between academic and technical speleologists of a wide range of nationalities to develop and coordinate international speleology in all of its scientific, technical, cultural and economic aspects.

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**Deadline for submissions for the next issue (N° 60-2): November 20, 2018**

**COVER PHOTOS:**

- The twelve Thai boys and their football coach at the hospital some days after being rescued from the Tham Luang Nang Non, in Thailand, where they had been trapped by flooding for 18 days. They hold a portrait of Saman Gunan, a former Thai Navy Seal diver who died trying to rescue them, where they wrote messages of thanks

PHOTO AP: THAILAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH

- The last photo taken of Saman Gunan.

PHOTO © FACEBOOK: POOM PUI

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**REMEMBER  
SAVE A TREE; DO NOT  
PRINT IF UNNECESSARY**

## Editorial

# FROM TEARS, HOPE AND SUCCESS: THE WAY WE LEARNED

By Efraín MERCADO (Puerto Rico)  
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To all cavers around the world, the events of July 10th, 2018 in Tham Luang Nang Non, in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, in northern Thailand will remain deep in their hearts. This was one of, if not the most, difficult and successful cave diving rescue of this decade.

To most of the locals, in almost every country, it's quite a normal thing to go "caving" as opposed to what we cavers usually do with a lot of planning and equipment. Our human essence is built to go, to discover, to enjoy and to remember. What an impressive experience is when things go wrong.

With our hearts, prayers, help, good will and endurance strongly committed, professionals, from the caving community, the military, the medical services and strong support from the Thailand government, this event ended in a glorious success, but not without the deep pain that remain for the loss of a volunteer diver.

Tears were many, because of the seriousness of this event and the so many difficult factors that represent the incoming monsoon season. Hope was present every day with the endless efforts done minute by minute to solve the situation.

At the end the rescue was done, kids and their adult coach successfully rescued alive and families reunited. Then, we must ask critically, what should be done to avoid this happen again?

Certainly, the presence of highly skilled cave divers and personnel plus the government response was a key to the success of the rescue operation. Meanwhile there is a common factor that permeates every accident: safety precautions.

A lot of work has been done in several countries, training personnel to respond. That's fine. On the other hand, community education on the hazards involved during caving trips and the ways to overcome them is a must for all caving organizations in the world, from local to international.

Caving is very attractive, especially when the resources are abundant. What is normal and attrac-

tive to some could be dangerous to others. The right time has come to present direct and straightforward education to as many possible communities in our countries.

Being part of UIS is one way, but in the same line being part of every local caving club, association, union, federation is also the way. United we could develop simple guidelines, tuned to reflect local costumes to teach the right message: caving is a serious practice. If you want to go in, prepare first.

There are hard ways to learn lessons. Evidently the Tham Luang Nang Non event was one. There is something that we shall know: *"knowledge that is not shared does not add value and is not useful."*

Think again, how would you like to learn?

On page 14 of this UIS Bulletin you will read some more comments about the rescue in Thailand. This issue brings also important news about the UIS itself, which activities, as shown on page 6, for example, have been taken to new levels by connecting with important international non-speleological organizations.

On page 17 is the new document the Bureau recently approved in order to define the conditions necessary for UIS to support various speleological events, including international expeditions. Grants are now available for specific purposes.

One example is the film produced in France that focus on technical data on caving rope fall tests (*see article on page 22*), which direct measurements were taken with various types of real situations on speleologists and not mannequins or weights. The UIS supported the final works of edition and now it is available for the whole speleological community.

That's the UIS. Working hand in hand with the member countries for the development of speleology and protection of the speleological heritage.

Enjoy the reading.



## The President's Column

# THE UIS GOES INTERNATIONAL

By Dr. George Veni (USA)

UIS President

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For the past 53 years, the UIS has been the international union for speleology with member countries around world. This year, the UIS is taking its international activities to new levels by connecting with important international non-speleological organizations to help us teach the world about the importance of caves and karst areas.

The most important new thing we have accomplished began late last year when we started working with the United Nations (UN), along with the German Speleological Federation, as members of the [Non-Governmental Organizations \(NGO\) Major Group](#). Working together with many other NGOs, we hope that caves will find new voices and champions through millions of non-cavers who will learn to appreciate the values of caves and karst, and support our efforts to better explore, study, and protect them around the world.

This summer, the words “cave” and “karst” will be heard for the first time at the UN as we participate with many other organizations in the UN’s [High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#). The UN has created 17 Sustainable Development Goals and caves are directly or indirectly important to 12 goals by my count.

This year the UIS will make its first presentations by focusing on Goal 6, “Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all,” and Goal 15, “Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.” These presentations will also introduce connections to other UN goals. I thank UIS Adjunct Secretary Bärbel Vogel for taking the lead in these efforts; see her article on page 6 of this Bulletin for more information.

Another important international connection was created this year when UIS was accepted as a member of the [International Union of Geological Sciences](#). As UIS becomes a member of this and other

internationally respected scientific organizations, the respect and support for cave exploration and science will continue to grow. UIS Treasurer Dr. Nadja Zupan Hajna was instrumental in making this connection.

For UIS to grow internationally also requires us to grow internally. Many people have been helping in that regard. Caves are often considered unimportant and speleology is sometimes not seen as a serious science or activity. We all know that is very wrong, but we need to be better in showing the value of speleology to the world.

The Proceedings of the UIS International Congresses of Speleology (ICS) are incredibly rich records of speleological exploration, science, management, and education dating back 65 years, but very few people have complete collections of those volumes.

At the end of 2017, I started a project for digital scanning of the proceedings of all congresses and posting them on the [UIS website](#) and on our cooperative international project, the [Karst Information Portal](#). With the help of many good people around the world, and our excellent UIS webmaster Jasmina Rijavec, we have now posted or will soon post the proceedings of:

- Italy’s 1958 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Michele Sivelli*);
- Austria’s 1961 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Christoph Spoetl*);
- Yugoslavia’s 1965 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Nadja Zupan Hajna*);
- Great Britain’s 1977 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Andy Eavis*);
- Spain’s 1986 ICS (*scanning coordinated by José María Calaforra*);
- Hungary’s 1989 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Gyula Hegedus*);
- China’s 1993 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Junbing Pu*); and
- Switzerland’s 1997 ICS (*scanning coordinated by Philipp Häuselmann*).

Also, the first digital proceedings, from Brazil's 2001 ICS, were formatted by Marcelo Rasteiro for posting on the UIS website. The digital proceedings from the 2009, 2013, and 2017 ICSs that we held in the US, Czech Republic, and Australia, are also posted. Teams in other countries are scanning the thousands of pages of the remaining proceedings, which will be posted as soon as possible to share our long history of excellent exploration and research with the world.

Another important and high level speleological project is being conducted by the [International Organization for Standardization](#), which is developing a technical committee to create standards for karst. The exact scope and purpose of this committee is still being defined, but the UIS, working with the [International Show Caves Association](#), sent recommendations to ISO on how the committee could be most effective. Look for more information in the next UIS Bulletin.

Of course, the UIS Bureau is still working on developing the International Year of Caves and Karst that we proposed in 2015. I don't have much information to share at this time because the Bureau will discuss it and make specific plans when we meet this summer at [EuroSpeleo](#) in Austria. My report in the next UIS Bulletin will have those details.

While everyone on the Bureau hopes to see many of you at EuroSpeleo, there are many other excellent conferences planned around the world and so far this year the UIS has agree to sponsor the following:

- [International Symposium, Inside and Outside the Mountain](#), 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, Karst Geosites: Protection and Fruition, 7-10 June 2018, Custonac, Sicily, Italy.



GEORGE VENI

*The UIS is now working with partners at the United Nations to increase support and understanding of caves and karst areas globally.*

- [I Seminário de Bioespeleo do Carste do Alto Rio São Francisco and I<sup>a</sup> Mostra Epaneana do Carste do Alto Rio São Francisco](#), 13-16 June 2018, Formiga, Brazil (*see report on pages 24-26 in this Bulletin*).

- [IV Encontro Nordestino de Espeleologia](#), 28 June to 1 July 2018, Ituaçu, Bahia, Brasil.

- [EuroSpeleo](#), 23-26 August 2018, Ebensee, Austria.

- [IV Middle East Speleology Symposium and 8<sup>th</sup> Turkish National Cave Science Symposium](#), 29 September to 6 October 2018, Antalya, Turkey.

- [XIV National Mexican Congress of Speleology](#), 1-4 February 2019, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.

UIS sponsorship is often helpful for conferences to better promote their activities and gain funding and support from many possible sources. If you would like UIS support for a symposium, conference, meeting, or other event you are organizing, please read the [UIS Speleological Event Support Guidelines](#) and send us your proposal.

The UIS also provides sponsorship and occasional financial support for other projects and activities. We give up to 2,000 euros each year to help our commissions. As I write this report, the Bureau is reviewing requests for expedition support. UIS Vice President of Administration Zdeněk Motyčka has developed a UIS program to provide up to 3,000 euros each year to support international expeditions (*see his report on pages 17-19 in this Bulletin*).

Support is also sometimes given by UIS for special projects. For example, the [French Federation of Speleology](#) conducted a series of important rope fall tests and UIS supported Gaël Monvoisin's creation of instructive videos on the tests so everyone can learn and benefit from their results. The videos are posted on the [UIS website](#) and discussed on pages 22-23 in this Bulletin.

Speleology is reaching higher levels of international cooperation and appreciation. This is part of the UIS Bureau's work this year. But that work stands on the achievements of all cavers, speleologists, and speleological organizations around the world. Without your explorations, studies, reports, conferences, training, testing, scanning, and working together, UIS could not be successful. Thank you. Together, we all are the UIS.

Please contact me at any time at [gveni@nckri.org](mailto:gveni@nckri.org) to explore ways to promote and grow speleology.

## Cave Protection at the Highest Level:

# UIS ENGAGED IN “UN GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS”

By Bärbel Vogel (Germany) - *UIS Adjunct Secretary*  
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**T**he **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)** are a collection of 17 global goals set by the United Nations (UN) in 2015. Each year some of the goals are highlighted. For 2018 they are goal numbers:

6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;

7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;

11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;

12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; and

15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

For more information on the SDGs, visit <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org//>

As water and life on land are very much related to speleology, the UIS Bureau decided to become a member of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Major Group of the United Nations. A small speleological SDG working group attended monthly web meetings and were involved in thematic clusters on animals and water. As all of us are very new to these UN activities, we were very happy that some

of our suggestions made it into the final paper of the NGO Major Group for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), which was held in New York City, USA, in July 2018.

The final paper of the NGO Major Group was revised by experts all over the planet simultaneously. In SDG 6 on water we added “groundwater ecosystem,” and in SDG 15 we added “geodiversity” to underpin biodiversity. The HLPF is the most important conference on sustainable development in the world. The NGO Major Group asked for short, 30-second, videos to present the work of its members during the HLPF in New York. German filmmaker Uwe Krüger produced two excellent clips on subterranean biodiversity and groundwater.

The Animal Cluster was very active for the HLPF as well and produced a presentation and bookmarks to give away. Speleology participated with a slide on groundwater animals. The best news is that UIS will be visible for the first time at the UN and will send a representative to the 2018 HLPF.

All in all, this is a very good outcome for our first year. Our group had very busy months but we will stay engaged in the topics where speleology is important and UIS has expertise. In 2019, the main goal which will be related to the work of the UIS is education. So next year, and with more experience, we can focus better on UIS SDG involvement.



UIS slide for the presentation distributed by the NGO Major Group for the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) - New York City, USA, July 2018

### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Thanks to the NGO Major Group, especially to Dan Perell, Rosario del Pilar Díaz Garavito, and Bonnie Wyper, and to the speleo SDG team: Robert Brinkmann, Jörg Dreybrodt, Christof Ellger, Ana Komericki, Uwe Krüger, George Veni, Bärbel Vogel, Alexander Weigand,

The link to Non-Governmental Organizations Major Group Position Paper for High-Level Political Forum 2018 is: <http://nebula.wsimg.com/d03c4383dcb3efb60dbf9eb636968d64?AccessKeyId=E3A2183630CD52C7534E&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>



## BILAN D'ACTIVITÉS 2010-2013 / REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2010-2013

# DÉPARTEMENT ENSEIGNEMENT

## EDUCATION DEPARTMENT \*

\* *Noms Actuels / Current Names:*

***Commission de l'Enseignement Spéléologique / Education Commission***

By Marcel Meyssonier (France), *President in the period 2010-2013*

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**P**our mémoire, trois principaux axes de travail ont été défini lors des dernières assemblées générales de l'U.I.S., pour la mise en oeuvre d'un programme d'action du département enseignement U.I.S., avec intégration des activités du groupe de travail "Enfants et spéléologie":

- 1) Rencontres régulières;
- 2) Mise en œuvre et développement d'actions de formations entre les structures des différents pays (avec ou sans accord bi-gouvernementaux);
- 3) Regroupement des données bibliographiques sur l'enseignement et la didactique. Le bilan succinct de nos dernières activités a été publié dans l'U.I.S. Bulletin (vol. 51, n° 1, 2005, p. 8-10; n° 2, 2008, p. 5).

+ Il n'y a pas eu de nouvelle "Rencontre internationale enseignants en spéléologie" après la douzième qui s'est tenue en France les 25-26 août 2008, ainsi qu'une réunion de travail spécifique au département Enseignement, lors du 4ème congrès européen de spéléologie (F.S.U.E., Fédération Spéléologique de l'Union Européenne) organisé par la F.F.S., Fédération française de Spéléologie, à Lans-en-Vercors, Isère du 23 au 30 août 2008.

Nous nous sommes limités à des rencontres ou contacts personnels. Cependant en 2009, n'ayant pas la possibilité matérielle de nous rendre au congrès international de spéléologie aux Etats-Unis, une réunion "enseignement" a été organisée par Christian Dodelin (cf. compte rendu / seulement 5 pays représentés).

+ A la demande des enseignants concernés par la plongée souterraine, en 2011, une enquête conjointe UIS Commission enseignement / et plongée souterraine a été réalisée mais seulement diffusée sur les messageries internet. En l'absence de réponse, nous nous sommes proposé de la rediffuser avec un formulaire papier en 2013 (ci-joint).

**F**or the record, three main working themes were defined during the last UIS General Assemblies, for an action plan of the UIS Teaching Department, with integration of the "Children and Speleology" working group: 1) Regular Meetings; 2) Implementation and development of training initiatives between the structures of the various countries (with or without bi-governmental agreement); 3) Bibliographic data on teaching and didactics. A brief assessment of our last activities was published in the UIS Bulletin (Volume 51, N° 1, 2005, p. 8-10, and N° 2, 2008, p. 5).

+ There was no new "International Meeting of Teachers in Speleology" after the twelfth which was held in France on August 25-26<sup>th</sup>, 2008, as well as a meeting of specific work in the Education Department during the 4<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Speleology (F.S.E.) organized by F.F.S., French Federation of Speleology, at Lans-en-Vercors, Isère from 23 till 30 August 2008.

We limited ourselves to meetings or personal contacts. However in 2009, having no material possibility of returning to the international congress of speleology in the United States, a teaching meeting was organized by Christian Dodelin (cf. report/with only 5 represented countries).

+ At the request of the teachers concerned with cave diving, in 2011, a joint survey UIS Education Department and Cave Diving Commission was realized but only through the internet. In the absence of answers, we suggested rerunning it with a paper form in 2013.

+ Le département Enseignement UIS s'est plus particulièrement investi ces 3 dernières années sur des actions labellisées "SpéléOfeminin"! Pourquoi? Cela répondait à une demande de pratiquantes... et le contexte politique sportif de plusieurs pays européen a permis d'obtenir des subsides pour l'organisation de telles manifestations:

- 1ère rencontre internationale "SpéléOfeminin", organisée par le Comité Spéléologique Rhône-Alpes les 3-5 avril 2010 (Lagorce, Ardèche, France) avec près de 250 participants, et 9 pays représentés (Belgique, Espagne, France, Hongrie, Liban, Roumanie, Serbie, Suisse, Tchèque)- CR ci-après.

- 2e rencontre internationale "SpéléOfeminin", co-organisée du 3 au 9 septembre 2011 (Rosia, Bihor, Roumanie), dans le cadre d'un stage de perfectionnement technique/ et de formation TSA, niveau 1 et 2 (Techniques spéléo-alpine) par les fédérations et les écoles françaises et roumaines de spéléologie (participantes de France, Roumanie, Turquie) avec validation des premiers brevets d'encadrement d'initiatrice pour des femmes en Roumanie.

- 3e rencontre internationale "SpéléOfeminin", co-organisée du 2 au 9 septembre 2012 (Valjevo, Serbie), dans le cadre d'un nouveau stage de perfectionnement technique / et de formation TSA, niveau 1 et 2 par les fédérations et les écoles françaises, roumaines et serbes de spéléologie (12 participants et 8 encadrants de France, Roumanie, Serbie).

+ Et toujours dans le contexte de favoriser le développement de la pratique sportive féminine, nous avons participé à l'organisation de plusieurs rencontres sur le terrain :

- "Expeditia feminina Berger-1000", en septembre 2010 par une équipe de spéléologues roumaines au delà de la profondeur de 1000 m au Gouffre Berger (Engins, Autrans, France), invité par le Spéléo-club de Villeurbanne.

- Rencontre féminine franco-libanaise à Beyrouth, avec l'exploration des cavités majeures des massifs karstiques libanais en octobre 2011... ce qui a permis de réaliser un stage de formation d'initiateur pour les spéléologues libanais, avec encadrement de l'Ecole française de spéléologie dès l'année suivante

A noter que des textiles (Tee-shirt) ont été réalisés pour promouvoir ces actions par les équipes organisatrices (SPELEO FEMININ, 1ère rencontre internationale 2010 / Spéléo-féminin, International Female Caving School 2012). Nous remercions tous les participants et encadrants qui ont réalisés ces manifestation.

+ The UIS Education Department more particularly invested a lot these last 3 years in certified actions "SpeleOfeminin"! Why? It answered followers' requests and the sports political context of several European countries allowed us to obtain subsidies for the organization of such events :

- 1<sup>st</sup> international meeting "SpeleOfeminin", organized by the Speleological Committee Rhône-Alpes on April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 (Lagorce, Ardèche, France) with about 250 participants, and 9 countries represented (Belgium, Spain, France, Hungary, Lebanon, Romania, Serbia, Switzerland, Czech republic) - CR below.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> international meeting "SpeleOfeminin", co-organized from 3 till 9 September 2011 (Rosia, Bihor, Romania), within the framework of a technical advanced training course.

- 3<sup>rd</sup> international meeting "SpeleO-feminin", co-organized from 2 till 9 September 2012 (Valjevo, Serbia), within the framework of a new technical advanced training course, and of training (formation) TSA, level 1 and 2 by federations and French, Rumanian and Serbian schools of speleology (12 participants and 8 instructors of France, Romania, Serbia).

+ And always in the context to favor the development of the feminine sports practice, we participated in the organization of several meetings on the ground:

- "Expeditia feminina Berger-1000", in September, 2010 by a team of Romanian cavers beyond the depth of 1000 m in the Gouffre Berger (Vercors, France), invited by the Caving-club of Villeurbanne.

- French-Lebanese feminine meeting in Beirut, with the exploration of the major caves of the Lebanese karstic massifs in October, 2011 which allowed to realize a training course of initiator for the Lebanese cavers, with supervision of the French School of Speleology beginning in 2012.

To note that T-shirts were made to promote these actions by the organizing teams (SPELEO FEMININ, 1<sup>st</sup> International Meeting 2010/ SpeleOfeminin, International Female Caving School in 2012). We thank all the participants and the organisation teams.



+ *Nous diffusons régulièrement une liste des manifestations internationales pouvant intéresser les cadres et enseignants des pays membres de l'UIS.*

+ *En ce qui concerne la recherche documentaire, nous collaborons aux activités de la commission documentation/bibliographie de l'U.I.S., avec en particulier les analyses des revues portant sur l'enseignement spéléologique, revues didactiques et de vulgarisation.*

*Pour les formations spéléologiques et les stages, nous ne pouvons que nous féliciter de la diffusion du dictionnaire multilingue initié par la commission Informatique de l'UIS.*

+ *Le groupe de travail "Enfants et spéléologie" initié par nos collègues des Etats-Unis est en sommeil. Le projet de réalisation par l'UIS d'un ouvrage didactique destiné aux jeunes, d'âge scolaire n'a pas eu de suite, en l'absence des financements, mais nous devons signaler la parution récente (décembre 2012) d'un livret édité par l'Ecole française de spéléologie ayant pour titre "Les petits sportifs découvrent la spéléologie", et qu'il serait probablement intéressant de diffuser en plusieurs langues. La France développe de plus en plus ses EDS, Ecoles départementales de spéléologie et chaque année, en Allemagne est organisé le camp Jeunes Spéléos Européen (Alpes Souabes) en co-organisation avec la fédération européenne (FSE), ouvert à tous les spéléos européens de 16 à 25 ans (Petra Boldt).*

+ *Nous avons reçu assez peu d'information du fonctionnement des écoles de spéléologie des différents pays, mais les rapports d'activités se trouvent dans les publications nationales. Un regroupement portant sur l'enseignement de la spéléologie auquel nous n'avons pas pu participer a été organisé en 2012 en Argentine (Carlos Benedetto); les écoles de spéléologie / karstologie organisées aux Etats-Unis et en Slovénie, sont toujours ouvertes à un public international. Et en ce qui concerne l'enseignement, de nombreux stages internationaux sont organisés avec l'appui des commissions UIS, tant dans le domaine du spéléo-secours que de la plongée souterraine.*

*Nous avons par contre participé aux manifestations du cinquantenaire de l'Ecole française de spéléologie 1959-2009 (Salavas, Ardèche, France, les 14-15 novembre 2009), au congrès national de la Fédération roumaine de spéléologie (10-11 septembre 2011) ; à l'EuroSpeleo Forum 7 - 13ème congrès national de spéléologie sur le thème "Spéléodiversité", à Muotathal (Suisse) les 28-29 septembre 2012.*

+ We regularly publish a list of the international events which can interest executives and teachers of the UIS members countries.

+ We collaborate in the activities of the UIS Bibliography Commission, with in particular the analyses of reviews concerning speleological education, didactic and popularization magazines.

For the speleological training courses, we can congratulate ourselves on the distribution of the multi-lingual dictionary introduced by the UIS Informatic Commission.

+ The working group "Children and Speleology" introduced by our colleagues from the United States is dormant. The project by the UIS of a didactic work intended for young people of school age, did not succeed due the lack of funding, but we have to indicate the recent publication (in December, 2012) of a notebook edited by the French School of Speleology entitled "The small sportsmen discover speleology", and that it would probably be interesting to translate it into several languages. France develops more and more its EDS (Departmental Schools of speleology) and every year, in Germany is organized the Young caving european Camp in co-organization with the European federation (FSE), open to all european cavers from 16 to 25 years.

+ We received not much information of the functioning of the schools of speleology of various countries, but annual reports are in national publications. A meeting about teaching in which we were not able to participate was organized in 2012 in Argentina (Carlos Benedetto); the karstological / speleological schools organized in the United States and in Slovenia are always open to an international public. And as regards education, training courses are organized with the support of the UIS Commission, both in the field of cave rescue and cave diving.

We participated in the meeting of the fifteenth anniversary of the French School of Speleology 1959-2009 (Salavas, Ardèche, France, on November 14-15<sup>th</sup>, 2009), in the national congress of the Romanian Federation of Speleology (in September 10-11<sup>th</sup>, 2011); in EuroSpeleo Forum 7-13<sup>th</sup> national congress of speleology on the theme "Speleodiversity", at Muotathal (Switzerland) on September 28-29<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Participation également à l'encadrement des stages annuels d'équipier scientifique, organisés en France, qui n'attirent malheureusement plus de participants d'autres pays. Le projet d'organisation d'un stage similaire en Roumanie n'a pu se concrétiser, mais nous participons activement depuis trois ans aux recherches franco-roumaines conduites dans le domaine spéléologie-archéologie-préhistoire tant en France qu'en Roumanie (missions "Coliboaia").

### + PROJETS À VENIR 2013-2017 ?

- Possibilité d'une nouvelle "Rencontre internationale enseignants en spéléologie" si un pays se propose de l'organiser.

- Possibilité d'aides aux actions labellisées "Spélé-Oféminin" (Rencontres, stages... ?) et relance du groupe de travail "enfants et spéléologie".

- Poursuite de la compilation des publications concernant l'enseignement / Initiatives à prendre pour aider la réalisation et la diffusion d'ouvrages multilingues?

- Il serait enfin souhaitable qu'une nouvelle équipe se constitue et envisage de prendre la suite pour animer le Département Enseignement et la commission Education de l'UIS d'ici la fin de la décennie.

Malheureusement, il semble que - comme déjà signalé dans notre précédent rapport d'activité -, pour les années à venir, dans un contexte économique général très difficile, les moyens financiers accordés aux échanges internationaux, pour tous les pays, ne soient plus du tout à la hauteur de nos souhaits, des besoins exprimés ... et que nous soyons contraints de limiter nos activités bénévoles, ou trouver d'autres pistes de financement.

**Marcel Meyssonier**

Responsable du

Département Enseignement U.I.S. 2009-2013

We also participated also in the supervision of the annual training courses of scientific team members, organized in France, which unfortunately attracted no more participants from other countries. The project to organize a similar course in Romania was not able to become a reality, but we participate actively for three years in the French-Romanian prehistoric and archeological research both in France and in Romania (missions "Coliboaia").

### + PROJECTS TO COME 2013-2017 :

- Possibility of a new "International meeting of teachers in speleology" if a country suggests organizing it.

- Possibility of help in the certified actions "SpeleOfeminin" (meetings, training courses)? and relaunching of the workshop "Children and caving".

- Pursuit of the compilation of publications concerning education/Initiatives to help produce and distribute multi-lingual works?

- It would be finally desirable that a new team intends to manage the Education Department in the future.

Unfortunately, it seems that, as already indicated in our previous annual report, for years to come, in a very difficult general economic environment, financial means granted to the international exchanges, for all the countries, are no more up to our wishes, and our needs and we are forced to limit our voluntary activities, or to find other sources of funding.

**Marcel Meyssonier**

Responsible for the UIS Education Department 2009-2013

(Thanks to Natalie Uomini for English translation review)

# SpéléOféminin



## 1ÈRE RENCONTRE INTERNATIONALE

3-4-5 AVRIL 2010 EN ARDÈCHE

Domaine de Chaussy - Lagorce

F 07150 Vallon-Pont-d'Arc

**Une très bonne idée... !**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> INTERNATIONAL MEETING

APRIL 3-4-5<sup>TH</sup> 2010 IN ARDÈCHE

Domaine de Chaussy - Lagorce

F 07150 Vallon-Pont-d'Arc

**A very good idea!**

*L'idée de cette rencontre est née lors du Congrès national de spéléologie de la F.F.S. à Melle (Deux-Sèvres) en 2009. Au cours d'un apéritif, nous avons découvert que nous étions plusieurs à organiser, depuis plusieurs années, des sorties "féminines" et ce, dans différentes régions françaises. Nous avons déjà organisé un inter-club Savoie/Isère/Rhône (14 participantes)... donc, pourquoi ne pas imaginer un "inter-club national"? La date fut fixée rapidement, en fonction du peu de congés de 3 jours que nous avons pu trouver en 2010.*

*L'équipe organisatrice, au départ réduite, s'est peu à peu étoffée. De 3, nous sommes passées à 5, puis à 8 ! Sans compter les personnes, autour de nous, qui ont bien voulu nous donner un coup de main. Et le rassemblement national est devenu international, car placé sous les auspices du département Enseignement de l'Union Internationale de Spéléologie!*

*Nous avons pu ainsi accueillir au moins 24 représentant (e) s de 9 pays étrangers, avec une forte participation de roumains (8), et de serbes (4), une spéléologue de la "Tchèque République", des Allemands, des Espagnoles (avec la représentante de la Commission Nationale Féminine de la Fédération Espagnole de Spéléologie F.E.E.), des Suisses, des Belges (de l'Union Belge de Spéléologie), une représentante de la Société Hongroise de Spéléologie, et même une spéléologue libanaise venue tout exprès de Beyrouth pour cette manifestation.*

*Au total, ce sont entre 250 et 300 personnes qui ont répondu présentes à cette invitation, provenant, pour une petite partie de Rhône-Alpes, mais surtout, des 4 coins de France.*

#### **Au programme:**

+ Des cavités équipées avec 7 réseaux différents situés en Ardèche et dans le Gard:

- Traversée de l'aven Despeysse/ grotte de St Marcel;
- Aven Cordier / événements supérieur et inférieur de Foussoubie,
- Aven de Rochas,
- Aven de la Buse,
- Aven de la Salamandre,
- Grotte des Deux-Avens,
- Aven de Bizac / grotte école de Labeaume).

+ Un cycle de 5 conférences en lien avec le département de l'Ardèche et ouvert à tout public:

- Adaptation de la vie aux reliefs karstiques des gorges de l'Ardèche (par Denis Doublet)
- L'importance de l'Ours des Cavernes dans la grotte Chauvet/Ardèche (par Michel Philippe)
- La vie, en milieu aquatique souterrain (par Céline Colson-Proch)

The idea of this meeting was born during the national French Congress of speleology in Melle (Deux-Sèvres) in 2009. During an apéritif, we discovered that we were several to organize, for several years, "feminine" activities and it is true in various French regions. We had already organized a Savoie inter-club/Isère/Rhône (14 participants) thus, why not imagine a "national inter-club"? The date was quickly fixed, according to the little vacation of 3 days which we had been able to find in 2010.

The organizing team, at first reduced, filled out little by little. From 3 we went 5 then 8! Without counting the persons around us who were kind enough to give us a hand. And the national gathering became international, because placed under the aegis of the UIS Teaching department.

We were thus able to welcome at least 24 representatives of 9 foreign countries, with a strong participation of Romanian (8), and Serbian (4), one caver of the Czech Republic, German, Spanish (with the representative of the feminine national commission of the Spanish Federation of Speleology/F.E.E., Swiss, Belgians (from the Belgian Union of Speleology), a representative of the Hungarian Caving Society), and even a Lebanese speleologist who came expressly from Beirut for this event.

In total, between 250 and 300 people responded to this invitation, coming from a small part of Rhône-Alpes, but especially from the four corners of France.

#### **The program:**

+ 7 different cave systems rigged in Ardèche and in the Gard:

- + Thought-trip of Despeysse pit and St-Marcel's cave.
- Aven Cordier/upper and lower parts of Foussoubie system,
- Aven Rochas, Aven de la Buse, grotte de la Salamandre, grotte des Deux-Avens, Aven de Bizac/Labeaume cave school).

+ A series of 5 conferences in connection with the department of Ardèche and open to the public:

- Adaptation of life to the karstic reliefs of Ardèche Gorges (by Denis Doublet)
- The importance of Cave Bear in the Chauvet cave/Ardèche (by Michel Philippe)
- Life in underground aquatic environments (by Céline Colson-Proch)

- *Un survol de la préhistoire en Ardèche (par Bernard Gély)*
- *Géologie en Ardèche : un aperçu de l'évolution de ce territoire de l'ère primaire jusqu'à nos jours, à travers l'étude des roches et des fossiles (par Cécile Souleau).*

*Ces conférences ont été suivi de visites sur le terrain (Visite de la grotte ornée de la Tête du lion, "A la découverte de l'ours des cavernes" dans les grottes de Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, introduction à l'étude de la faune souterraine à l'événement de Foussoubie).*

*Conférences et animations ont été assurées par des intervenants / experts de la région Rhône-Alpes.*  
+ *Une soirée de projection (double présentation ... !) relatant les explorations en Patagonie chilienne nous a été aimablement présentée par Serge Caillault, au nom de l'équipe "Ultima Patagonia".*

- + *Des sorties d'initiation à la spéléologie, encadrées par des diplômées de la fédération (30 personnes ont bénéficié d'un encadrement fédéral, et nous avons dû refuser du monde, suite à des inscriptions trop tardive!).*
- + *Une table ronde intitulée "Regards de femmes" a regroupé les représentantes des différents pays pour évoquer la pratique féminine en spéléologie.*
- + *Un jeu de piste de 15 étapes (avec une trentaine de participants).*
- + *Un concours photo.*
- + *Une salle d'exposition pour le matériel de spéléologie, et les publications (Idées Plein-Air, Spéléo Magazine, Lycée agricole Olivier de Serres, Jean-Marc Mattlet, ...).*
- + *Une soirée festive, avec repas de gala et soirée dansante (207 participants), dans une salle décorée aimablement par les soins du syndicat régional des fleuristes.*

*... le tout dans un cadre très sympathique (piscines, sauna, parcours de santé, mini golf...) dont nous n'avons pu profiter, faute de soleil ! Malgré la pluie, nous avons reçu beaucoup de témoignages de personnes enthousiastes !*

*"SpéléOféminin" 1ère édition en 2010 ... et la suite ... !*

*Ce fut une première mondiale, et ce fut également une première pour l'équipe organisatrice ... Un site Web a été créé à cette occasion, sur lequel il est encore possible de visionner les photos qui nous ont été envoyés à l'issue de la manifestation.*

*La presse régionale (2 articles en France, un en Belgique et un court reportage de la télévision*

- *A summary of prehistory in Ardèche (by Bernard Gély)*
- *Geology in Ardèche: an outline of the evolution of this territory from the primary era until the present day, through the study of rocks and fossils (by Cécile Souleau).*

*These conferences were followed by cave visits (decorated cave "La Tête de Lion"; "discovering cave bears" in the caves of Vallon-Pont-d'Arc, introduction to the study of the subterranean fauna in the Foussoubie system.*

*Conferences and events were led by speakers/experts of the region Rhône-Alpes.*  
+ *An evening of films (double presentation) telling the explorations in Chilean Patagonia was kindly presented to us by Serge Caillault, in the name of the team "Ultima Patagonia".*

- + *Speleological initiation into some caves supervised by graduates of the federation (30 persons benefited), and we had to turn down people due to late registrations!).*
- + *A Round Table entitled "women's view" with the representatives of the various countries to evoke the feminine caving practice.*
- + *A treasure hunt of 15 stages (with around thirty participants).*
- + *A photo exhibit.*
- + *A showroom for caving equipment and publications (Idées Plein Air, Spéléo-Magazine, Olivier de Serres agricultural high school, Jean-Marc Mattlet).*
- + *A festive evening, with gala dinner and dance (207 participants), in a room decorated kindly with the aid of the regional labor syndicate of florists.*

*The whole in a very nice setting (swimming pools, sauna, fitness trail, mini golf) of which we were not able to take advantage, for lack of sun! In spite of the rain, we received much excellent feedback!*

*"SpeleOfeminin" 1<sup>st</sup> edition in 2010 and the continuation!*

*It was a world premiere, and it was also the first one for the organizing team. A Web site was created in this occasion, on which it is still possible to view the photos which were sent to us at the end of the activities.*

*The regional press (2 articles in France, one in Belgium and a short report of the regional television*

régionale FR 3) a rapporté cet évènement et a permis de promouvoir la spéléologie.

*Les suites de ces rencontres... pour l'heure, c'est un projet avec la Roumanie, en vue d'organiser en 2011, un stage de formation de cadres initiatrices roumaines (il n'existe aucune femme "cadre" en Roumanie), avec un encadrement mixte, des femmes monitrices françaises et des cadres moniteurs roumains... mais déjà, nous imaginons un stage international. C'est également une rencontre internationale au Liban ... en Belgique (?), et tout une série de projets interclubs pour la visite de cavités prestigieuses !*

*Un grand merci à toutes les personnes qui nous ont aidé ou soutenu lors de l'organisation et de la réalisation de cette manifestation ... De nombreux sponsors ont répondu présent, et quelques exposants ont bien voulu présenter leurs produits (matériel et publications). Le conservateur de la Réserve naturelle des Gorges de l'Ardèche (R.N.G.A.) est à remercier tout particulièrement, ainsi que le Service régional de l'Archéologie (D.R.A.C. Rhône-Alpes), l'équipe d'Hydrobiologie et d'écologie souterraines H.B.E.S. de l'Université Lyon I, et l'équipe du Grand site d'Orgnac (Grotte et musée régional de préhistoire d'Orgnac).*

*Pour cette première manifestation "SpéléO féminin", un financement spécifique a été accordé par la Région Rhône-Alpes dans le cadre de ses contrats d'objectifs 2010, et des aides ont été promises de la part des structures fédérales concernées (principalement le Comité spéléologique régional Rhône-Alpes qui assurait le support financier, la FFS- CREI / relations internationales, la Fédération Spéléologique Européenne (F.S.E.), le Département Enseignement de l'Union internationale de spéléologie ...).*

*Merci aussi à l'équipe du Domaine de Chaussy qui a participé très activement à l'accueil de cette manifestation, et surtout à tous les participants, car sans eux, tous ces efforts auraient été vains. La publication d'un compte rendu détaillé de la 1ère rencontre internationale "SpéléO féminin" est également prévue.*

*Pour l'équipe organisatrice: Béatrice, Cécile, Françoise, Laurence, Marcel, Nathalie, Roxane, Valérie. Le logo "SpéléO féminin" a été réalisé par Françoise Magnan. le poster de "SpéléO féminin" par Gap-Editions. Pour en savoir plus... se connecter sur le site internet [speleo.e-monsite.com](http://speleo.e-monsite.com) créé par Valérie et géré par Cécile... et qui présente le programme détaillé des rencontres et sorties "SpéléO féminin" ainsi que des albums photos.*

FR 3) covered this event and allowed to promote speleology.

The consequences of these meetings for the moment is a project with Romania to organize in 2011 a training course of Romanian initiators (there is no woman leader in Romania), with a mixed supervision, women French instructors and Rumanian monitors, but already, we imagine an international training course. It is also an international meeting in Lebanon or in Belgium (?), and a whole series of interclub projects for the visit of prestigious cavities!

A big thank-you to all the persons who helped us or supported during the organization and during the realization of this meeting. Numerous sponsors helped, and some exhibitors were kind enough to present their products (equipment and publications). The conservator of the Nature Reserve of the Ardèche Gorges (R.N.G.A), the Regional Service of the Archaeology (D.R.A.C) are to be quite particularly thanked, as well as Rhône-Alpes Region, the team of subterranean Hydrobiology and ecology H.B.E.S. of the University Lyon I, and all the team of Orgnac (Cave and regional museum of prehistory of Orgnac).

For this first meeting "SpeleOfeminin", specific funding was granted by the Rhône-Alpes Region within the framework of its contracts of objectives 2010, and aids was promised on behalf of the federal concerned structures (mainly the regional speleological Rhône-Alpes committee which ensured the financial support, the FFS-CREI/ international relations, the European speleological Federation (F.S.E.), the UIS Education Department.

Thank you also to the team of the Domaine de Chaussy which participated very actively in the welcome of this meeting and especially to all the participants, because without them, all these efforts would have been in vain. In the future a publication of a detailed report of the 1<sup>st</sup> international "SpeleOfeminin" meeting will be done.

For the organizing team: Béatrice, Cécile, Françoise, Laurence, Marcel, Nathalie, Roxane, Valérie. The logo "Speleo feminin" was realized by Françoise Magnan, the poster by Gap-Editions. To know more about it go to [speleo.e-monsite.com](http://speleo.e-monsite.com) web site created by Valérie and managed by Cécile and which presents the detailed program of the activities as well as the photo albums.

*(Thanks to Natalie Uomini for English translation review).*



# THAILAND AND INTERNATIONAL CAVE RESCUES: A CALL FOR HELP

By Dr. George Veni (USA)  
UIS President  
[gveni@nckri.org](mailto:gveni@nckri.org)

On July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the world breathed a collective sigh of relief when the last of the boys and their soccer coach, who had been trapped by flooding for 18 days in Tham Luang Nang Non, in Mae Sai, Chiang Rai province, in northern Thailand, were all safely out of the cave. The rescue in Thailand is the most internationally followed cave rescue in history. I am delighted that the soccer team is out and safe. On behalf of the UIS, I send my deepest condolences to the family of former Thai Navy Seal diver, Saman Gunan, who died as a volunteer assisting with the rescue.

This report includes some media photos, but

this is not an analysis of the rescue. It is too soon for that and a full report will appear in the next issue of the UIS Bulletin when all of the facts are known. Instead, this report shares some thoughts about the rescue in Thailand and the steps needed to minimize cave rescues in general.

A large part of the success of the rescue from Tham Luang was due to its international nature. Certainly the presence of experienced British cave divers nearby was crucial in finding the soccer team and getting them out of the cave before heavier rains arrived. But the rescue was more than just the Thai and British. Support also arrived in many forms from Australia, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Mexico, and the USA—listing only the countries I know about. Others may have been involved and I apologize for any omissions. The combined resources of equipment, knowledge, experience, and simple physical energy were critical to the effort.

One thing missing from the rescue, at least directly, was the UIS. Thailand is not a UIS member country, and we have no official relationship with Thailand. I wanted to contact the Thais, but learned they were overwhelmed with offers of support and



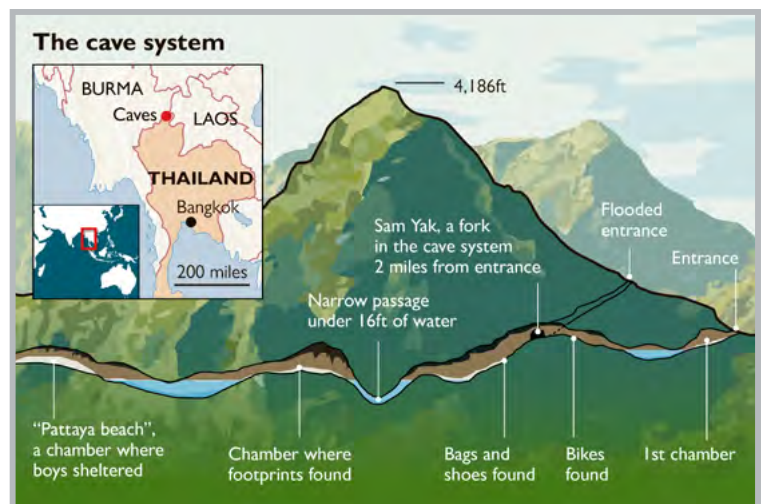
© FACEBOOK

The Thai soccer team and their coach are seen in this undated Facebook post in which the coach urged players “to keep practicing.”



ROYAL THAI ARMY HANDOUT/ EPA

**JULY 2, 2018:** The 13 boys aged between 11 and 16 when they were discovered with their 25-year-old coach, huddled together on a ledge surrounded by water, nine days after becoming trapped in the cave by floodwaters.



Map of the location of the cave and the section where the rescue took place. SOURCE: <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/thai-boys-football-team-rescued-after-nine-days-in-flooded-cave-tn2766ch8>

not accepting unsolicited assistance. Maybe if Thailand were a UIS member, we could have assisted directly.

However, I believe the UIS was involved with the rescue indirectly. The UIS Cave Rescue Commission is excellent in training cavers around the world in the noble work of cave rescue. As a result, through those training programs, international collaborations, and exchange of new techniques and ideas, I feel certain the UIS contributed to the rescue's success.

In many ways, the most important part of any cave rescue happens after the rescue, during its analysis. It is vital to examine what went right, what went wrong, and how both can be improved. In my analysis of the UIS' role in the rescue at Tham Luang, I find that more countries like Thailand need to become UIS members. If the experienced British cave divers were not near that cave, the results could have been tragically different, not just because of their diving skills but through their experience and connections to important resources that the local officials may not have had.

UIS membership is based on the presence of ac-

tive speleological organizations in a country. Some countries have many caves but no local cavers; most caving trips are casual, by local visitors like the soccer team. UIS needs your help to identify countries that can become members and to educate them about the current best cave rescue techniques.

But cave rescue is not only about ropes, pulleys, and medicines, but also education to avoid the need for rescues. We need to be better at teaching people to avoid caving without proper training. We need better warnings; the sign at Tham Luang forbids entry to the cave during the monsoon season, when it should forbid entry whenever there is a chance of heavy rain.

I am asking myself, does the UIS Cave Rescue Commission have an international call system for rescue? I'm traveling as I write this report and can't check. If we don't, we need to look into developing one. If we do, we need to see how we can make it better.

The most important purpose of this report is to ask for your help. Please contact me at [gveni@nckri.org](mailto:gveni@nckri.org) if you know of countries that could become UIS members. Also, if you are interested in cave rescue, have ideas on how to improve cave rescues internationally, and how to better educate the public and prevent rescues in all countries, then please contact the UIS Cave Rescue Commission through [www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org).

Finally, please join the UIS in honoring the memory of Saman Gunan and all people who risk their lives bravely to save others, by helping us improve cave rescue methods and in minimizing the need for cave rescues in the future.



AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Oxygen tanks near the cave. Hundreds of them were used in the rescue.



CREDIT: SWMS

British divers Rick Stanton, 56, and John Volanthen, 47, the first to reach the stranded group in the cave, have established a reputation as being among the greatest cave rescuers on the planet.



REUTERS: SOE ZEYA TJUN

Last ambulance leaves the Thai cave rescue site on July 10, 2018.



source: <https://storify.com/services/>

Another ambulance rushes to a hospital from a military airport in Chiang Rai, Thailand.

The photos on this page show a small portion of the monumental effort organized to save the soccer team. It is dedicated to the hundreds of volunteers and organizations who donated diving equipment, ambulances, pumps, helicopters, and food, as well as their time to transport water, cook and serve meals, washing equipment and toilets, and comforting the fa-

mily members as they waited for news of their loved ones.

Local Governor and head of the rescue, Narongsak Osatanakorn, described the rescue as a symbol of unity among humanity: ***“Everyone worked together without discrimination of race or religion as the ultimate goal was to save the youth football team.”***



LINH PHAM/GETTY IMAGES



AP: ROYAL THAI NAVY

Rescuers work on the water pump (left) and a pump hose near the entrance of Tham Luang (right). Drainage of water from the cave was crucial to the success of the rescue.



SOURCE: <https://pagina20.net/v2/>

Volunteers preparing food for everyone.



ABC NEWS: BILLY COOPER

The cameras of the world's media set up and ready for the latest details of the rescue.



© FACEBOOK: POOM PUI

The last photo taken of Saman Gunan, 38, who died as a volunteer while diving to deliver oxygen tanks



AP: THAILAND MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The twelve Thai boys and their football coach, at the hospital, with a portrait of Saman Gunan in which they wrote messages. Before going back home on July 18 they appeared in front of the world's media at a specially arranged press conference.





UIS DOCUMENTS

# NEW UIS SUPPORT FOR SPELEOLOGICAL EVENTS, AND EXPEDITIONS

By Zdeněk Motyčka (Czech Republic)

*UIS Vice President of Administration*

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The UIS Bureau recently approved new guidelines to support speleological events. These guidelines define the conditions necessary for UIS to support various speleological events. The guidelines define the types of supported events, levels of support, and necessary conditions and obligations that must be met. As a new type of support, the guidelines now define financial support for speleological expeditions.

Grants are now available for international expeditions or other projects focused on exploration, study, or protection of caves and karst, with emphasis on educational, technical and/or scientific coopera-

tion with the local speleological community. The UIS Bureau decided that for 2018, up to three grants will be given with a combined total funding cap of 3000 euros. All requests should show explicitly that the proposed expedition is in agreement with the Statutes, Internal Regulations, and Code of Ethics of the UIS.

The next deadline for submitting grant proposals is November 30, 2018. Requests must be sent to the UIS via Secretary General Fadi Nader at [secretary@uis-speleo.org](mailto:secretary@uis-speleo.org).

Complete details are available below in the Speleological Events Support Guidelines, and all UIS documents are available on the UIS website at [www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org).



Union Internationale  
de Spéléologie  
[www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org)

## SPELEOLOGICAL EVENTS SUPPORT GUIDELINES



Version 1.0 - April 2018

### ARTICLE 1: INTRODUCTION

All speleological events which are related to the aims and objectives of the UIS, whether of a general, international, national or even regional nature, are of interest to the UIS. This document defines details for possible UIS support of such events.

### ARTICLE 2: CLASSIFICATION OF EVENTS

#### 1. Congresses, symposia, meetings, workshops and similar events

These events involve technical, scientific and/or cultural presentations, and associated excursions, or practical or educational activities that relate to speleology.

#### 2. International Speleological Expeditions

International expeditions (projects) focused on exploration or study or protection of caves and karst, with emphasis on the educational, technical or scientific cooperation with the local speleological community.

### ARTICLE 3: LEVELS OF SUPPORT

#### 1. Formal support

Basic level of support authorizing use of the official UIS logo for promotion and advertising of the event. The logo of the UIS should be used on all materials like posters, folders, banners, website and any other printed or electronic matters. The logo should be accompanied by a phrase that the event is supported by UIS.

## 2. Patronage of UIS

Advanced level of support, authorizing use of the official UIS logo for promotion and advertising of the event and a requirement to provide space for a UIS stand and speech during the opening ceremony or other similarly major activity.

The logo of the UIS should be used on all materials such as posters, folders, banners, website, and any other printed or electronic materials. The logo should be accompanied by a phrase that the event is organized under patronage of UIS.

The event organizers should provide relevant exhibit space for use by the UIS. The official speech should be reserved for the UIS President or UIS official representative.

## 3. Financial support

This type of support requires the same obligations as for Patronage from the organizers, but the logo should be accompanied by a phrase that the event is organized with financial support of UIS and official UIS representation (usually participating UIS Bureau members) will also be exempt from paying the registration fee. The amount of financial support from the UIS depends on the importance of the funds to the project and the financial capabilities of the UIS.

## ARTICLE 4: CONDITIONS AND OBLIGATIONS

### 1. General conditions

Requests for support must be submitted digitally or physically by the person who is leading, organizing, or coordinating the event. It should contain a short description of the event including its purpose, scope, location, date, organizers, expected outcome, and the level of support requested.

Official documents of the event should be attached. Requests for support have to be addressed to the UIS Bureau via the Secretary General. Requests should be sent as early as possible to allow enough time for review, consultation and responsible decision.

### 2. Agreement with Regulations of the UIS

The request for support should explicitly show that the proposed event is in agreement with the *Statutes, Internal Regulations*, and *Code of Ethics of the UIS*.

### 3. Special conditions for financial support

Request for financial support has to define the requested amount, and specify the expenses that would be paid with UIS money.

Financial support may not be used for indirect costs and other expenses not directly related to the event. Fringe benefits (salaries, legal actions, land acquisition, endowments, construction of permanent field stations, etc.) are also excluded.

## 4. Obligation of event outcomes

Any kind of official electronic or printed outcomes of the supported event, including but not limited to proceedings, reports, posters, videos, etc., has to be provided to the UIS Archive via the UIS Vice President of Administration no later than 6 months after the conclusion of the event.

The UIS reserves the right to publish any reports, photographs, or other obligated materials received on the UIS website, in the *UIS Bulletin*, or for any UIS promotional activity. If the event includes any media outcomes, one copy has to be also provided for UIS Archive. All other kinds of electronic or printed material related to the event are welcome.

## 5. Special conditions for speleological expeditions

Expedition participants have to be from at least from 3 different countries, one of which is recommended to be the host country where the project will be conducted.

Where UIS funds are limited, preference will be given to projects that include local cavers and include participants from greater numbers of countries. The *Code of Ethics of the UIS* states:

*In many cases it will be necessary to obtain prior official permission in the country to be visited. In addition, as a matter of courtesy it is necessary to inform one or more of the following: the national speleological organisation; the UIS national delegate; local caving club(s); and relevant individuals from whom cooperation is sought.*

UIS support will not be provided if this important condition is not met.

The official expedition report, including photographs and maps, has to be provided in electronic, fully edited form, to the UIS Archive via the Vice President of Administration no later than 1 year after the expedition.

## ARTICLE 5: GRANT OF SUPPORT

The UIS has no legal or moral obligation to provide support for an event.

If an event is supported, an official letter of support will be issued by the Secretary General and the event will be included on the UIS website calendar of international speleological events and other UIS social media. Other details can be communicated between the event Organizers and the UIS Bureau. Proper use of UIS logo is defined in *UIS Visual Identity Guide*.

If the organizers of an event that receives UIS support do not meet the requested obligations, or provide any untrue information, they automatically lose UIS support and must return all money provided by the UIS back to UIS account immediately. In case any of any fraudulent behavior, the UIS Bureau is justified to use all necessary legal means to protect UIS rights.

## SOME EXPEDITIONS SUPPORTED BY THE UIS

INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO TANZANIA (ISET 2004-2005)

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION OF SPELEOLOGY (UIS)

EXPEDITION TO  
NCHI YA PWANI NA NYIKA  
Tanzania  
Tanzania  
Tanzanië  
Tanzanie  
タンザニア

**Tanzania 2004-2005**

© UIS

INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO IRAN 2008  
23 September - 7 October  
اردوی بین المللی غارنوردی ایران  
۱۶ مهر ماه ۱۳۸۷

Ghale Kord Cave - Iran

FADI NADER

© UIS

Cave Photography/Film Training

J. TAOK

International Speleological Expedition to Lebanon  
Lebanon  
2014

البعثة العالمية لدراسة المغاور والهوات في منطقة ارز جاج  
28 August (أب) - 5 September (ايلول) 2014

© UIS

## UIS DOCUMENTS

# UIS SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ISCA

By Dr. George Veni (USA)

*UIS President*

[gveni@nckri.org](mailto:gveni@nckri.org)

During the International Congress of Speleology last year in Australia, the UIS General Assembly approved signing a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Show Caves Association (ISCA). However, we did not announce it in the last issue of the UIS Bulletin be-

cause ISCA needed to first meet and sign it. Now that both organizations have signed, we look forward to increasing and closer cooperation—which has in fact already begun. The MOU is below, and future issues of the UIS Bulletin will include updates on how we are working together.



## MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE INTERNATIONAL SHOW CAVES ASSOCIATION AND THE UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLEOLOGIE



### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to provide a mechanism to foster interaction, cooperation and coordination between the International Show Caves Association (ISCA) and the Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS). Each organization recognizes the importance of the other in achieving their goals to support effective cave and karst research, public education, and management.

### 2. Background

#### a. Purpose and Mission of ISCA

The purpose of ISCA is to:

- i. promote and maintain an international organization of persons, associations, corporations and government agencies who own, manage or operate recognized show caves or caverns;
- ii. promote proper management to ensure the conservation and preservation of show caves;
- iii. promote and increase public awareness and interest in show caves;
- iv. promote a concern in show cave management for the safety of visitors and guests in the use and enjoyment of show caves;
- v. compile, preserve, publish and share cooperative data, both technical and promotional, for members; and
- vi. promote and encourage the development of a spirit of cooperation and courtesy among show cave operators.

ISCA was formed in 1990 and is headquartered and legally registered in Ancona, Italy.

#### b. Purpose and Mission of UIS

The purpose of UIS is to promote fellowship among speleologists and cavers around the world, develop all aspects of speleology (scientific, technical, cultural, sporting, social, and

economic), and to promote the protection and management of the world's speleological and karst heritage in ways conducive to sustainable development in all locations where caves or speleological activities occur. UIS was created in 1965 and is headquartered and legally registered in Postojna, Slovenia. It is comprised of member countries whose delegates comprise the UIS governing body, the General Assembly. UIS business is primarily conducted through its elected Bureau.

### 3. Cooperation and Communication

a. Cooperation and communication with a broad spectrum of associates and partners are fundamental components of the ISCA and UIS missions. An exchange of program priorities and project information between ISCA and UIS will foster cooperative planning efforts to the mutual benefit of these organizations and their associates and partners.

b. Both ISCA and UIS will benefit from a mutual exchange of information on projects as an aid to understanding each other's priorities and programs.

c. All media-related communications related to this MOU will be approved in advance by the ISCA and UIS presidents or their designees.

### 4. Agreements

**a. ISCA will recognize the UIS as an Affiliate Member Organization and UIS will recognize ISCA as a Cooperative Organization under the conditions required in their respective regulations, including:**

1. the right to attend and be heard at each organization's business meetings but without the right to vote;
2. the right to attend each organization's conferences

and congresses, but without obligation to receive discounted registration or other fees;

3. to respect each organization's goals and primary guidance documents, such as their organizational statutes and regulations, including the Recommended International Guidelines for the Development and Management of Show Caves and the UIS Code of Ethics;

4. the waiver of affiliation fees;

5. the publishing of information, with proper credit, from each organization in the other organization's publications and social media;

6. providing the governing board and bureau members of each organization with digital copies of the other organization's newsletters or other pertinent information;

7. meeting as appropriate to discuss their programs and priorities;

8. posting links on their websites to the other organization's website;

9. providing information to each other as appropriate on projects and changes in guidance documents for informal review and comment to facilitate information sharing, increase opportunities for cooperative activities, and minimize conflicts and misunderstandings; and

10. not holding each other responsible for the actions of their members acting outside the purview of and without the support of ISCA or UIS.

**b. ISCA agrees as follows:**

i. To provide UIS digital copies of its open access publications for posting on the Karst Information Portal, a digital library project of the UIS with other partners.

ii. To encourage its members to distribute appropriate information provided by UIS.

**c. UIS agrees as follows:**

i. To provide ISCA digital copies of its open access publications for posting on the ISCA website or re-publishing in the ISCA e-newsletter.

ii. To encourage its members to distribute appropriate information provided by ISCA.

**5. Effective Date, Continuation, and Termination**

a. This MOU will become effective upon signing by both parties. The MOU will continue in effect until either party chooses to terminate the MOU after having provided 90 days' notice in writing to the other party.

b. At the conclusion of 10 years, this MOU will be reviewed to determine whether it should be renewed, modified, or terminated. If this MOU is modified and the ISCA Board and UIS Bureau agree the changes are not significant, it may be renewed by signature of the presidents of each organization for an additional period of 10 years. If one organization feels the modifications are significant and require approval of its General Assembly, it does not require approval of the MOU from the other organization's General Assembly if approved by its Board or Bureau.

c. Annexes will continue in effect per mutual agreement as described in each annex.

d. It is the intent that all future negotiated agreements between the ISCA and UIS will become annexes of this MOU, when signed. Copies of all annexes shall be presented to the presidents of each organization.

**6. Administrative Provisions**

a. This MOU will not require changes in any funding obligations, nor require either organization to assume new funding obligations nor affect their funding decisions, although this MOU may provide a means for interaction between ISCA and UIS that may require and/or raise funding via new and existing programs.

b. This MOU does not create an actual or implied intention or requirement for either organization to enter into a contract or other agreement with the other organization.

c. This MOU in no way restricts either organization from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

d. Neither organization will claim the other organization endorses its products, services, or policies without the prior written endorsement of that organization.

e. Annexes may be developed under this MOU expressing mutual agreements for cooperation and communication between ISCA and UIS.

f. This MOU will be in effect in good faith upon signature, but cannot be officially recognized by ISCA until approved by the ISCA General Assembly and by UIS until accepted by the UIS General Assembly.

**7. Notices**

The presidents of each organization will serve as the points of contact for this MOU. Their direct addresses may be sought and used for communications. Unless otherwise instructed, other general or official written notices shall be addressed to each organization's permanent address as follows:

**a. President International Show Caves Association**  
*Largo Leone XII - 60040 Genga, Ancona, Italy*

**b. President International Union of Speleology**  
*Titov trg 2 - 6230 Postojna, Slovenia*

**8. Signatories**

The presidents of each organization sign and date their signatures below to affirm this MOU.

	
_____ <b>Brad Wuest,</b> President International Show Caves Association	_____ Date
	
_____ <b>Dr. Kyung Sik Woo,</b> President Union Internationale de Spéléologie	_____ Date

## VIDEOS AS EDUCATIONAL TOOLS FOR SPELEOLOGY

# TECHNICAL DATA ON CAVING ROPE FALL TESTS

*A film directed by Gaël Monvoisin*

By Gaël Monvoisin (France)  
[gael.monvoisin@ffspeleo.fr](mailto:gael.monvoisin@ffspeleo.fr)

Translated into English from  
[https://info-efs.ffspeleo.fr/2017info\\_efs\\_64.pdf](https://info-efs.ffspeleo.fr/2017info_efs_64.pdf)  
 with the collaboration of Fadi Nader

Speleology is practiced partly on ropes and associated equipment. Many tests have been done on rope falls, but few with direct measurement on speleologists and not mannequins or weights. This film shows such measurements with various types of real situations (slips, falls, and mooring ruptures). Each chapter can be viewed individually and used to support training.

Videos are used today in many domains, such as course support, work or communication, media tool or didactic. Numerous cave exploration and fiction movies are available, but almost no appropriate movies for technical training are easily found. Though considerable work on speleology techniques is promoted on paper, articles and books, even if illustrations and photos are not enough for demonstrations of particular gestures or to explain complicated techniques by their sequence of movements.

In 2010, the initial work started during a training camp with Charles Decaudin and Arnaud Garlan, two videographers from Paris, to make a simple film on basic techniques. Yet, video-making remains an art by itself and a professional undertaking. Filming one simple frame to explain technical steps, even if under relatively relaxing conditions (e.g., outdoors and in day-time, during usual speleo training camps), is seldom useful. Such endeavor, could nevertheless provide a very efficient tool for (auto)evaluation during official teaching courses. In addition, it could demonstrate that a precise and specific technical discourse remains complex and may yield wrong or confusing interpretations. This type of video and film-making is not presented here, and it would make an interesting, future project...

We wanted to fill in the missing gap and provide tutorial videos for speleo-training. Between 2010 and 2012, we made of ourselves writers and producers. Franck Humbert became the co-director/actor/screenwriter, while Charles and Arnaud videographers. First, we had to look at a tutorial explaining clearance technique by pendulum

(“pendulum - large lanyard” and “pedal - croll techniques”) with a sequence of actions and a text respecting the techniques described in manual of the EFS – French School of Speleology). This manual can be accessed following this link: <http://efs.ffspeleo.fr/index.php/documentation/videos/275-decrochage-bas-bas>.

We have also chosen to add in the introduction the technique of releasing a caver from the rope and its context, based on the Medical Commission of the French Federation of Speleology work on the risks of suspension in a harness. This actually explains the importance of knowing well and being able to apply such techniques of clearances. Accordingly, this film was not the easiest to achieve. To picture two persons, in motion, with zoom shots to do, from different angles, resulted in a lot of difficulties. In addition, once the shot sequences are done, following the script, it is very difficult to go back to fix details. Despite all the attention given to details, there are always errors in video montage. In fact, tedious montage had to be achieved sometimes with only the filmed rushes (shot sequences) without the possibility to film again the whole sequences. Hence, all preparation work ahead of shooting was crucial.

After this first work, and in keeping with our goal to film and make a real video tutorial, we embarked on a new project between 2011 and 2013. This time we selected the rope descent technique, which also allowed us to play both on the screenplay and on the images and try to make a more entertaining documentary while remaining of technical significance (check: <http://efs.ffspeleo.fr/index.php/documentation/videos/257-down-chute>).

This work is cut into different sequences that can be viewed independently of each other. Then, in 2013, during an EFS meeting, we had evoked questions related to the behavior of some equipment/materials in various configurations. Such questions and discussions led to the third and present project. This project turned out to be the most successful but also the most demanding in terms of work and means. Therefore, we needed also much more help and support.

The team has greatly increased since we had to think about a list of topics, which needed to be investigated, processed, and organized, before presenting them to Petzl and at the Petzl Foundation (major worldwide manufacturer of speleo equipments).

Convinced with our project and its set objectives, these two entities provided us with further technical, human and financial resources. And then, we had to find the people ready to become guinea pigs and throw themselves into the void on ropes in the chosen configurations. We had to collect data, analyze them and write articles based on the retrieved information before we can edit the script, write the text, save it and edit the associated images (shot almost blinded by professional videographers involved in the project). In total, three years of work, about fifteen people involved, 160 measurements carried out over two weeks of tests, nine published articles and a concluding synthesis published in *Spelunca* (Spring 2017 volume) and this film of 24 minutes which details all the results of these two test campaigns: [http://techniques.speleos.fr/tests\\_GET\\_EFS\\_PETZL.php](http://techniques.speleos.fr/tests_GET_EFS_PETZL.php).

Finally, this project has also been supported by the International Union of Speleology



Shooting during test "fall on lanyard."

(UIS, [www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org)), covering the expenses for English-translations and subtitles. Henceforth, the movies can be used for training the broader community of international cavers.

But to make these films and to make out of them proper tools for training are two different things. Now that the films exist (and there will most probably be others in line, since this work is far from finished or exhaustive), it is important that speleologists use them for training and include them in their courses. The format of use, and appropriation, can be varied: projection without comment, entire visualization with or without an introduction to a specific context or about a particular question with discussion afterwards, view by chapter and discussion after each chapter, commented visualization with stops on image during viewing, or any other method. It is up to you to decide.

When you show these videos, do not forget the initial questions at hand, or what debate you want to bring on the table. The movies should be regarded as tools to stir discussions and as an educational support. Obviously, it is important to watch these films entirely before presenting them in order to succeed in introducing the displayed techniques. This is in particular the case of the latest film about tests that awakens some of the never-ending doubts of all speleologists. In other words, frequently asked questions such as:

- *"Is the chest jammer – croll – a vital security element?"*;
- *"Must the last belay/anchor on a rope descent always be perfect (and doubled)?"*;
- *"Must the cow's tail carabiner always be fixed around the rope when moving with my hand-jammer?"*, and other questions which are not addressed in these films (e.g. *"Is the double bowline knot dangerous?"*, *"What is the maximum angle usable on a double Y belay?"*).

Whatever approach you undertake with these films and feedbacks that you will have, thank you for sharing them with us ([gael.monvoisin@ffspeleo.fr](mailto:gael.monvoisin@ffspeleo.fr)). Of course, any question, comment or criticism, are also more than welcome. Presently new articles and video projects are under way, so if you would like to propose specific topics, working sessions, or simply if you would like to contribute as Videographer, Technician or Director, our group (Federal Group on Technical Studies Office, FFS) is open to all propositions.

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EVENT SUPPORTED BY THE UIS

# 1<sup>ST</sup> SEMINAR AND BIOSPELEOLOGY EXHIBITION OF THE KARST OF THE UPPER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER/BRAZIL

By Paulo José de Oliveira (Brazil)  
*Director of Communication, Events and Projects  
of the Pains Speleo Team (EPA)*  
[pajo121@yahoo.com.br](mailto:pajo121@yahoo.com.br)

**Photos:**  
Paulo José de Oliveira (Pajo), Joe Basílio,  
Gustavo Gondim, Lucélio Nativo Assunção, and  
Henrique César.



**W**ith a great success, the Pains Speleo Team (EPA) held at the University of Formiga (UNIFOR-MG), eastern region of Brazil, from June 13 to 16, 2018, the **1<sup>ST</sup> SEMINAR AND BIOSPELEOLOGY EXHIBITION OF THE KARST OF THE UPPER SAN FRANCISCO RIVER (I SEBIOCASF and I MECASF)**.

The event was organized by the AG Cluster Services Agency and co-hosted by the Regional Council of Biology of Minas Gerais State (CRBio-04) and Centro Universitário de Formiga (UNIFOR-MG), was attended by almost two hundred people, including

the Organizing Committee, special guests, exhibitors and participants.

New species revealed in the context of sexual gender as well as the project to create a Nucleus of Speleology in the UNIFOR-MG are among the good announcements during the event.

## JUNE 13 - FIRST DAY

On June 13, at the Food Court of the University of Formiga (UNIFOR-MG), the 1<sup>st</sup> Exhibition of the Karst of the Upper San Francisco River - I MECASF was inaugurated, which continued until June 15.

The audience of the event and the students of the University could appreciate the material exhibited in the stands, made available by the Upper San Francisco Archaeological Museum (MAC) and CODEMA de Pains /MG, by Spelayon Consultoria (from BH/MG), by the Corregofundense Association of Orquidófilos (ACO),



### OPENING CEREMONY OF THE EVENT

Left to Right: **Professor Mariana Yankous** (Speaker), **Dr. Leandro Willi** (Justice Prosecutor), **Dr. Marco Leão** (Rector of the UNIFOR-MG), **Paulo José** (President of the Organizing Committee), **Dr. Anderson Aguilár** (Secretary of State for the Environment of Minas Gerais), and **Marcelo Guimarães** (IBAMA).



*Dancers of the Corpo & Movimento Academy performing during the Opening Ceremony.*



by the State Institute of Forests (IEF), by the Department of Mineralogy of UNIFOR-MG, among others.

In the Eunézimo Lima Auditorium, Building 1 of the Centro Universitário de Formiga/UNIFOR-MG, the Seminar was opened at 7:00 pm. After the presentation of EPA and CRBio-04 institutional videos, the public attended a beautiful performance of dances entitled “Pas de Harlequinade”, of the Ballet Carnival of Venice, with the dancers Pablo Henrique and Maria Clara Gimenes, and “Pas de Deux”, of the Ballet of Coppella, with the dancers Lucas Costa and Sofia Carvalho, from the Corpo & Movimento Academy.

At 7:30 pm, the Official Opening of the Event was held, with the composition of the Table of Honor, which was chaired by the organizer and general coordinator of the event and director of the EPA, Mr. Paulo José de Oliveira, by the Rector of UNIFOR-MG, Professor Dr. Marco Antonio de Sousa Leão, by the Assistant Secretary of State for the Environment of Minas Gerais, Dr. Anderson Silva de Aguiar, who spoke about the State’s performance in environmental policy, by the speaker sent by SISEMA, Prof<sup>a</sup> Dr. Mariana Yankous Gonçalves Fialho who also spoke about the “Interfaces of SISEMA with a focus on the sustainability of Bio Speleology”, the representative of IBAMA, Mr. Marcelo Ferreira Guimarães and also the speaker and representing the Public Prosecutor of Minas Gerais and the Environmental Curatorship of High San Francisco, Dr. Leandro Willi who spoke on the “Legislation incident on the licensing of caves”.

The EPA felt honored and happy to have registered the presence of numerous other authorities and representatives of entities and bodies at the opening ceremony, to whom he thanked the presence.

At the end of the first day, a cocktail was sent to those present.

## JUNE 14 - SECOND DAY

On the second day of the event, after the EPA and CRBio-04 institutional videos were screened, the Panel of Honor was composed by the speakers: Bio-



Part of the Organizing Committee and Speakers.

logist and Professor Mestre Lucélio Nativo Assunção (EPA) and by the Biologist MsC Robson de Almeida Zampaulo (Federal University of Lavras-UFLA), who spoke about “**Diversity of cave invertebrates in the karst region of Arcos, Pains and Doresópolis/MG**”, besides the illustrious presence of Mr. Nivaldo Colzato (from Pedreira/SP), member of the Monte São Speleoteam and Adjunct Secretary of the International Union of Speleology (UIS), which supports the event.

## JUNE 15 - THIRD DAY

In an unparalleled opportunity, on Friday, June 15, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, in the rooms of UNIFOR-MG the following mini-courses were ministrated:

- **Biospeleology of Karst**, by the Professor Dr. Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira (UFLA);
- **Cave Bats**, with Professor Renato Gatti Fernandes (Master’s degree from UFLA), and
- **Soils of Cerrado and Karst of the Upper San Francisco River/Mineralogy**, by the Professor Anísio Cláudio Rios Fonseca (UNIFOR).

At the evening, after the presentation of the EPA and CRBio-04 institutional videos, the Opening Table was composed by the following speakers: Professor Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira (UFLA), who lectured on **Speleology in the Karst of the Upper San Francisco River**, and Professor Dr. Marconi Sousa Silva (UFLA) who spoke on the topic: **Biospeleological Researches carried out by the UFLA in the Karst of the Upper San Francisco River, Specially in the Region of Arcos, Pains and Doresópolis**.

It is important to highlight that in the lecture on Biospeleology in Karst ministrated by Professor and researcher Dr. Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira (Drops), he revealed the most important recent discovery by his team of a new species where the female owns the reproductive system introductory and the male has the inverse. The EPA will make a special disclosure note thereon.

## FUTURE NUCLEUS OF SPELEOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF FORMIGA-UNIFOR

At the end of the lecture series, the coordinator of the event put in approval the claim made by the entity to UNIFOR-MG on the creation of a Speleology Nucleus in that University, under the coordination of the EPA, which was approved by all, being the coordinator of the Biology Course, Prof. Dr. Lilia Rosário Ribeiro, in charge of bringing the claim to the Rectory. In such environment, the EPA appreciates the attention and the special affection dedicated by Prof. Dr. Lilia Rosário, who was at the forefront of the work with the team of the organizing group.



Field trip to the Brega Cave, with a major focus on cave biodiversity.

During the break between lectures, as part of the event, it was held in the Food Court of UNIFOR-MG, warming the audience around three thousand students and guests, another magnificent dance choreography with the Corpo e Movimento Academy that presented: the little dancer Taina Arantes dancing a freestyle solo entitled “A Better World”, and the choreography “Time to Dance”, with a team of fifteen dancers from the group, drew warm applause from the audience

## JUNE 16 - FOURTH DAY

On Saturday, the last day of the event, the “Field Trip” - “Technical Visits”, which began with a visit in Pains/MG, to the “Archaeological Museum of Upper San Francisco - MAC” and then participants visited the Brega and Santuário caves, where they had classes with Professors Dr. Rodrigo Lopes Ferreira, Dr.



Group of participants gathered at the entrance of the Brega Cave.

Marconi Sousa Silva, Robson de Almeida Zampaulo, and Professor Lucélio Nativo Assunção (EPA).

At the end of the day, the participants celebrated at Chef’s Bar, in Pains/MG.

Among the public registered for the Seminar, in the number of 181 people, in addition to EPA members, we had students from the Biology, Environmental Engineering and Agronomy courses of UNIFOR-MG; students from the Iguatama High School of Environment (ESMA); students of Geology and related courses of the Ouro Preto Federal University (UFOP); members of the Excursionist and Speleological Society (SEE), from Ouro Preto/MG; students of the Federal University of Lavras (UFLA), from Lagoa da Prata/MG, and from several other places. At the opportunity, the EPA thanks the supporters, partners and sponsors:

Centro Universitário de Formiga-UNIFOR-MG; Regional Council of Biology-CRBio-04; AG Cluster, Advisory, Consulting and Services; Public Ministry of Minas Gerais-MPMG; IBAMA; Brazilian Speleological Society-SBE; International Union of Speleology-UIS; Newspaper A Gazeta-Formiga; Body & Movement Academy; Corregofundense Association of Orquídeas-ACO; Club of Orquídeas Associations of Brazil-CAOB; Commission for Environmental Protection of Pains-CODEMA; Archaeological Museum of the Karst of Upper San Francisco-MAC; COLECULT Atelier of Arts and NGOs; Associação Pró Pouso Alegre-APPA; Upper San Francisco Bird Watchers Club-COASF; Environment State System-SISEMA with its organs: FEAM, IEF, IGAM, SEMAD; Environmental Action Group Raccoon; Regional Association for Environmental Protection-ARPA I, and Excursionist and Speleological Society-SEE.



Official poster of the event with the Sponsors and Supporters.

IN MEMORIAM

# Gordon William Kirk MACGREGOR

*Canada, 1946-2017*

MACGREGOR, Gordon William Kirk, 71, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada, passed away suddenly in Toronto from a heart attack on December 5, 2017. He was born in Toronto in November 8, 1946 to Keith and Josephine (Ley) MacGregor. His father (B.Gen Retired) served in the Canadian Army (PPCLI) and the family moved extensively during his school years, including stays in several provinces of Canada and overseas in England.

Kirk had a great interest in mechanical and scientific subjects, first with wiring electric train transformers to his bedroom door knob to shock entrants and later to mapping cave systems in several parts of the world. After graduating from high school he moved to Toronto in 1964 to work for the Atmospheric Environment Service of Environment Canada. It was here his lasting passion for caves and caving started and he had been a member of the Toronto Caving Group ever since, of which he was past President as well as Delegate from Canada in the International Union of Speleology (UIS).

In the late 1960s, Kirk appeared on the caving scene cutting the record times for prussiking 100' and 300' just about in half. He was also in the team that in July, 1982, successfully completed the world's longest rappel (an uninterrupted pitch of 985 meters) off the west face of Mt. Thor on Baffin Island, Canada. On the same occasion one tandem rappel was also achieved using Kirk's squeeze plate device that functioned independently of the rope weight .

In 1990 he retired from Environment Canada and devoted much of his time to training other cavers with frequent trips to Moira Cave, West Virginia, USA, and storm drains of Toronto. He travelled to many other locations around the world (China, Mexico, Australia, etc.) for caving and rappelling off cliffs both above and below ground.

The family would like to thank the staff and residents at Parkview Arms where Kirk resided and members of the Toronto Caving Group for their decades of friendship to Kirk.



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PETER POWER / FOR THE TORONTO STAR

AUGUST 2016 - MacGregor emerges from the Rattlesnake Point Cave One, Ontario, Canada.

©: <https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2016/08/02/conquering-the-rocky-darkness-with-the-toronto-caving-group.html>

SEARCHES:

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/thestar/obituary.aspx?n=gordon-william-kirk-macgregor&pid=187616287>

<http://www.caver.net/pbss/holenews/pbss6-95.pdf>

[The American Alpine Journal-1983, page 179](#)



# Calendar of Events **2018**

## 24<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Subterranean Biology

**20-24 August 2018** (University of Aveiro, Portugal) - <http://24icsb.web.ua.pt/>

## EuroSpeleo Forum 2018

**23-26 August 2018** (Ebensee, Austria)

<http://www.eurospeleo.at/expo.html>

## Speleology and Environmental Legislation Symposium

**24-26 August 2018** (Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil) - <http://www.salamop.com/>

## International Association of Hydrogeologists Congress, with Topic 7: Advances in Karst and Fractured-rock Hydrogeology

**9-14 September 2018** (Daejeon, South Korea) - <http://iah2018.org/>

## Speleo Photo

**23-29 September 2018** (Western Ukraine)

<https://www.facebook.com/Speleophoto/>

## Biospeleology and Theoretical and Applied Karstology Symposium

**27-30 September 2018** (Băile Herculane, Romania)

<http://www.btak.iser.ro/index.html>

## 24<sup>th</sup> International Cave Bear Symposium

**27-30 September 2018** (Chepelare, Bulgaria)

<http://icbs2018.at/icbs-2018/>

## 4<sup>th</sup> International Anchialine Ecosystems Symposium

**1-7 October 2018** (Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain)

<http://www.4isae.es>

## 1<sup>st</sup> International Workshop for Women Speleologists in Latin America: Challenges and Perspectives

**2-6 October 2018** (Comunidad el Moncada, Viñales, Pinar del Río, Cuba)

[http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Havana/Taller\\_mujeres\\_espeleologas\\_2018.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/FIELD/Havana/Taller_mujeres_espeleologas_2018.pdf)

## 4<sup>th</sup> Middle-East Speleology Symposium (MESS4)

**3-6 October 2018** (Antalya, Turkey) - <http://www.mess4.com>

## 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Show Caves Association (ISCA)

**12-18 October 2018** (Genga, Italy)

<http://www.i-s-c-a.com/event/68-8th-isca-congress>

# Calendar of Events

2018  
2021

## British Cave Research Association 29<sup>th</sup> Cave Science Symposium

**13 October 2018** (Bristol, United Kingdom)

Contact: Gina Moseley - [gina.moseley\[at\]-juibk.ac.at](mailto:gina.moseley[at]-juibk.ac.at)

## 16<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Speleotherapy

**24-28 October 2018** (Zlate Hory, Czech Republic)

<https://speleotherapycommission.webgarden.com/menu/events/16th-international-symposium-of>

## CASOLA 2018 - International Meeting of Caving

**1-4 November 2018** (Casola Valsenio - RA - Italy) - <http://speleopolis.org/en/casola2018>

## 1<sup>st</sup> Colombian Speleological Congress and 8<sup>th</sup> Congress of FEALC (Federation of Latin American and Caribbean Speleology)

**6-10 November 2018** (San Gil, Columbia)

<http://sociedadcolombianadegeologia.org/8cealc/>

## International Cave Rescue Training 2018 (see details on the next three pages)

International Cave Rescue Training 2018/Transmission

International Cave Rescue Training 2018/Casualty Assisting

**10-18 November 2018** (Lozère, France) - [dodelinchristian@gmail.com](mailto:dodelinchristian@gmail.com)

## XIV National Congress of Speleology

**1-4 February 2019** (Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico) - <http://umae.org/congreso2019/>

## 1<sup>st</sup> Colloquium on the Caves of Azé

**9-10 March 2019** (Saône-et-Loire, France) - [lionel.barriquand@wanadoo.fr](mailto:lionel.barriquand@wanadoo.fr)

## Hypogea 2019: The International Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities

**20-25 May 2019** (Dobrich, Bulgaria) - <http://www.hypogea2019.org/>

## National Speleological Congress of Switzerland

**9-12 August 2019** (Interlaken, Switzerland) - <https://www.facebook.com/events/127209681328664/>

## ArmConference 2019: Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments

**11-13 September 2019** (Yerevan, Armenia) - <http://armconference2019.com/>

## National Cave and Karst Management Symposium

**7-11 October 2019** (Bristol, Virginia, USA)

<http://nckms.org/2019-symposium>

## 18<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology

**23-29 July 2021** - (Lyon, France)

<http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>



# Fédération Française de Spéléologie

## SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS



### INTERNATIONAL CAVE RESCUE TRAINING COURSE 2018

Agreed by the UIS  and the FSE 

- **Organizer:** **SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS**
- **Training course responsible:** Bernard TOURTE. 25 rue Louis de Broglie 31100 - TOULOUSE, FRANCE  
Tel : +33.5.34.60.95.63 - Mobile: +33.6.08.75.95.29 - Email: [btourte@wanadoo.fr](mailto:btourte@wanadoo.fr)
- **Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> November (18 h) – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (14 h)
- **Place:** Lozère, center of France
- **Languages, translations:** Spanish, English, French
- **Price:** 8 days x 170 € = 1360 € (negotiable following procedure or number of cavers coming from the same country - Price including food, accomodation, training and collective gear)
- **Inscriptions:** before 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

#### CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

- Technical practices in caves with stretcher (4-5 days)
- Technical information about mechanical tests carried out by S.S.F.
- Information about specific evacuation techniques:
  - Diving stretcher (video).
  - Blasting works (theory and practice).
  - Preparation of a victim (theory and practice)
- Different systems of underground communications (theory and practice)
  - Phone
  - Radio
  - Pimprenelle (ground transmission system)
- Technical's information's about the French Cave Rescue Service, its direction, and the way cave rescues are organized in France.
- Participation at a large rescue exercise (1 day).

**TO ASK FOR INSCRIPTION FORMS:** [dodelinchristian@gmail.com](mailto:dodelinchristian@gmail.com)

*I ask inscription form for the international course in Lozere, France, in November 2018.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL AGREEMENT of the Cave Rescue responsible in the country's national federation:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Fédération Française de Spéléologie

## SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS



## INTERNATIONAL CAVE RESCUE TRAINING COURSE 2018 - CASUALTY ASSISTING (ASV) -

Agreed by the UIS  and the FSE 

- **Organizer:** **SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS**
- **Training course responsible:** Dominique Beau  
Mobile phone: +33.6.72.24.19.00. Email: [dbeau.monts@gmail.com](mailto:dbeau.monts@gmail.com)
- **Dates:** 10<sup>th</sup> November (9 h) – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (18 h)
- **Place:** Lozère, center of France
- **Languages, translations:** Spanish, English, French
- **Price:** 4 days x 170 € = 680 € (negotiable following procedure or number of cavers coming from the same country - Price including food, accomodation, training and collective gear)
- **Inscriptions:** before 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

- The goal of ASV.
- The material ASV.
- The survival point and hypothermia.
- Check-up of the casualty and communication with the outside by radio or phone.
- First aid techniques that we can use in underground conditions.
- The coordination ASV / Medical team.
- The installation of the casualty inside the stretcher for evacuation.
- Medical supervision of the casualty during the underground transport.

**TO ASK FOR INSCRIPTION FORMS:** [dodelinchristian@gmail.com](mailto:dodelinchristian@gmail.com)

*I ask inscription form for the international course Casualty Assisting in the Lozère massif, France, in November 2018.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL AGREEMENT of the Cave Rescue responsible in the country's national federation:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



# Fédération Française de Spéléologie

## SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS



## INTERNATIONAL CAVE RESCUE TRAINING COURSE 2018 - TRANSMISSIONS -

Agreed by the UIS  and the FSE



- **Organizer:** **SPELEO SECOURS FRANÇAIS**
- **Training course responsible:** François de Felix - [speleo@defelix.fr](mailto:speleo@defelix.fr)
- **Dates:** 14<sup>th</sup> November (14 h) – 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018 (14 h)
- **Place:** Lozère, center of France
- **Languages, translations:** Spanish, English, French
- **Price:** 4 days x 170 € = 680 € (negotiable following procedure or number of cavers coming from the same country - Price including food, accomodation, training and collective gear)
- **Inscriptions:** before 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018

### CONTENTS OF THE COURSE:

- Different systems of caving's communications (theory and practice)
  - Phone
  - Radio
  - Pimprenelle (ground transmission system)
- Participation at a large rescue exercise (1 day).



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**TO ASK FOR INSCRIPTION FORMS:** [dodelinchristian@gmail.com](mailto:dodelinchristian@gmail.com)

I ask inscription form for the international course Transmission in Lozere, France, in November 2018.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

**OFFICIAL AGREEMENT of the Cave Rescue responsible in the country's national federation:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



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# 18<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

<http://uis2021.speleos.fr/>



Fédération Française de Spéléologie



## Lyon, France, 23-29 July 2021

Welcome to Lyon, city of heritage and gastronomy,  
in the heart of a famous caving area

Exceptional pictures of Lyon taken from a drone

<https://youtu.be/53q2WOeUW9U>

Video "Welcome to Lion"

<https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x5s5itf>

## ACCOMMODATION & CONVIVIALITY

Opening July 2020



### HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

**HOTEL CAPACITY OF GREATER LYON IN 2016**

More than 18.000 rooms:

Hotel 5*	343 rooms
Hotel 4*	4.319 rooms
Hotel 3*	4.308 rooms
Hotel 2*	3.507 rooms
Hotel 1*	969 rooms
Hotel NC	898 rooms

Apartment hotels (all categories):  
3.467 apartments

### ON-SITE STUDENT ACCOMMODATION

500 double or single rooms available on campus



# UIS BUREAU 2017/2021

## President:

George VENI (*USA*)

## Vice-President of Operations:

Efraín Mercado (*Puerto Rico*)

## Vice-President of Administration:

Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Czech Republic*)

## Secretary General:

Fadi NADER (*Lebanon*)

## Treasurer:

Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Slovenia*)

## Adjunct Secretaries:

Nivaldo COLZATO (*Brazil*)

Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Croatia*)

Bernard CHIROL (*France*)

Satoshi GOTO (*Japan*)

Gyula HEGEDUS (*Hungary*)

Tim MOULDS (*Australia*)

Bärbel VOGEL (*Germany*)

## UIS Past-Presidents

Arrigo A. CIGNA (*Italy*) - 1973-1981

Adolfo ERASO ROMERO (*Spain*) - 1981-1986

Derek C. FORD (*Canada*) - 1986-1989

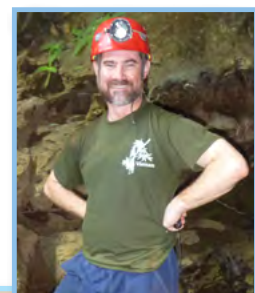
Paolo FORTI (*Italy*) - 1993-1997

Julia Mary JAMES (*Australia*) - 1997-2001

José Ayrton LABEGALINI (*Brazil*) - 2001-2005

Andrew EAVIS (*United Kingdom*) - 2005-2013

Kyung Sik WOO (*Republic of Korea*) - 2013-2017



## UIS BUREAU 2017/2021 in Sydney, Australia, August 2017.

**Left to right (behind):** Gyula HEGEDUS (*Adjunct Secretary/Hungary*); Mladen GARAŠIĆ (*Adjunct Secretary/Croatia*); Zdeněk MOTYČKA (*Vice-President of Administration/Czech Republic*); George VENI (*President/USA*); Bärbel VOGEL (*Adjunct Secretary/Germany*); Bernard CHIROL (*Adjunct Secretary/France*) and Nivaldo COLZATO (*Adjunct Secretary/Brazil*).  
**Left to right (in front):** Satoshi GOTO (*Adjunct Secretary/Japan*); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (*Treasurer/Slovenia*) and Fadi NADER (*Secretary General/Lebanon*). **Inset photos above, from left to right:** Efraín MERCADO (*Vice-President of Operations/Puerto Rico*) and Tim MOULDS (*Adjunct Secretary/Australia*).



Union Internationale  
de Spéléologie  
www.uis-speleo.org

# LIST OF MEMBER NATIONS as reported by the UIS Treasurer

**54 Member Nations in August 2017**

*(with debts for than 2-3 years marked with \*  
and for 4 years marked with \*\*)*

Algeria **	Hungary	Puerto Rico
Argentina	Indonesia	Romania
Australia	Iran IR	Russia
Austria	Israel	Serbia
Belgium	Italy	Slovakia
Bosnia & Hercegovina	Japan	Slovenia
Brazil	Kyrgyzstan	South Africa
Bulgaria	Lebanon	South Korea
Canada	Lithuania	Spain
China	Luxembourg	Sweden
Colombia *	Mexico	Switzerland
Costa Rica *	Mongolia **	The Netherlands
Croatia	Norway	Turkey *
Cuba	New Zealand	Ukraine
Czech Republic	Paraguay **	United Kingdom
France	Philippines	USA
Germany	Poland	Venezuela
Greece	Portugal	Vietnam

*Some countries have paid their annual fees up to 2022. Some haven't paid for 2 years or more!*

*Please indicate WHO is paying for your country - especially if there are two or more speleological associations in your country. The UIS Bureau can't select the payer for your country and we don't return money!!!*

*If you have a new treasurer or responsible person for payments, please send the new name and e-mail address to [zupan@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:zupan@zrc-sazu.si).*

*We do not know who to contact in some countries or we do not have their proper address.*

## **PAYMENT VIA UIS WEBSITE**

Now the payment of the annual fees can be done directly via UIS Web Page through PayPal service.

[http://www.uis-speleo.org/index.php?option=com\\_content  
&view=article&id=67&Itemid=383](http://www.uis-speleo.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=67&Itemid=383)

*Have not found your  
country in this list?*

[Ask the UIS Treasurer](#)

**UPDATE your status now!**

**CONTACT UIS**

**UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE**

Titov trg 2, 6230 Postona, Slovenia

[www.uis-speleo.org](http://www.uis-speleo.org)

# FINANCE

# ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia), *UIS Treasurer* - [zupan@zrc-sazu.si](mailto:zupan@zrc-sazu.si)



*Prof. Dr. Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia)  
in United Arab Emirates*



*Headquarters of the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia, where the offices of the UIS are located. In the detail, the bronze plaque with the emblem of the UIS affixed below the name of the institute.*

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The UIS General Assembly at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Speleology (*Sydney, Australia, 2017*), approved the amended fee categories of member countries, which are based on the number of speleologists in the national organization or organizations that represent the country to the UIS.

The new annual contributions are as follows, starting after the 17<sup>th</sup> ICS, Sydney, Australia:

- Category A:** 2,000 speleologists or more ..... **480 Euros**
- Category B:** at least 1,000 but fewer than 2,000 .... **360 Euros**
- Category C:** at least 100 but fewer than 1,000 ... **240 Euros**
- Category D:** less than 100 ..... **60 Euros**

If the fees are not paid for more than five years, the Member Country will lose its membership in the UIS.

The UIS Bureau may reduce or waive the fee of a Member Country if the Member Country makes a written request describing the reasons why it is having difficulties making its payments and how long those difficulties are expected to continue. All fee payments and related communications are conducted between the UIS Treasurer and the Member Countries.

### UIS BANK ACCOUNT

<b>Account name</b> Mednarodna speleološka zveza-UIS Titov trg 2 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	<b>Account No.</b> IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520
<b>Bank (name and address)</b> Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d. Traška 2 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	<b>SWIFT Code:</b> BAKOSI2X
	<b>Accepted Currencies:</b> EUR (Euros)

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# EDITOR'S DISCLOSURE

Before submitting articles, please, refer to the  
**Guide for Submitting and Publishing Articles in the UIS Bulletin**

**[CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE FILE](#)**

UIS Bulletin, nor its editors are responsible for:

- misspellings
- wrongly written names
- incorrect articles
- typographical mistakes

Every effort possible has been made to keep all articles as close to the original version.

In some cases, the editors review the structure in order to present the article in a clear and consistent manner and obvious errors are corrected if found.

We appreciate your understanding.

Should you have any question or comments, please send them to:

***[uisbulletin@uis-speleo.org](mailto:uisbulletin@uis-speleo.org)***



**UIS BULLETIN**



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