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- **News about the 18th International Congress of Speleology in Lyon 2021**

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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Before submitting articles for the UIS Bulletin, please

CLICK HERE!

Deadline for submissions for the next issue (N° 61-2): November 20, 2019

COVER PHOTO:

- **Upper section of Abismo Miranda 1 ("Moshpit")**, Serra da Bodoquena (*Bodoquena Ridge*), State of Mato Grosso do Sul, SW Brazil.

Discovered in July 2019 during an international expedition supported by the UIS, it is now the deepest cave of the Serra da Bodoquena and apparently one of the deepest direct vertical drops in a limestone cave in all Brazil.

Photo by Bertrand Valentin

The UIS Bulletin as a complete issue can be distributed freely.



REMEMBER
SAVE A TREE; DO NOT PRINT IF UNNECESSARY

Editorial

THE IMPORTANCE OF UIS IN WORLDWIDE SPELEOLOGY

By Efrain MERCADO (Puerto Rico)
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Among those important things for speleology, in general, is the ability to get united and to share its most significant experiences with other knowledgeable people in the field. We need to recognize the important challenges through the times' many individuals and organizations must take to convince the public opinion on how caves are an important issue and their benefits to the scientific mainstream in their space and time.

The fact is that as much knowledge is shared, more motivation is provoked to research, to test, to understand and to get in contact with more people who do speleology in their own countries or outside. This type of motivation reach a peak when 54 years ago, a huge mass of wise people, cavers, scientists, entrepreneurs and skillful explorers, people full of science and knowledge, excited to exchange their experiences, met in a great room of Postojna Jama and decided to put in effect the most extraordinary project for speleology: the UIS.

Many years before, extraordinary explorers set the route for this newborn science: speleology. In 1885 Edouard Alfred MARTEL, a recognized French cave explorer, sets the modernity of the new science and in 1894 published the book *The Abysses*. Meanwhile, the term speleology was proposed around 1890 by Emile RIVIERE, as recalled by René JEANNEL, a member of the organizing committee in his speech during the 1st Congress of Speleology in France (*Labegolini J.A., 2015, History of the UIS—1965-2015*).

Speleology has many advocates throughout the world, some with little or no knowledge at all, entrepreneurs, freelancers, hardcore cavers, professional speleologist and scientists. Their most

prevalent desire is to explore the underground world. Due to the effort and sacrifice of many, this science has grown up and expanded solidly. We must thank them for promoting and researching, for teaching and sharing their knowledge. Here is when the UIS gets its importance.

Every time speleology is discussed in the world one must know that there are many organizations which paved the road with knowledge—an extremely important work. In modern times we should mention UIS as a gathering point where countries with organized speleology met. When a caver from the Peoples Republic of China meets with a caver from Argentina, Pakistan, India, Costa Rica, Philippines, Australia, England, Bulgaria, just to mention some of this diverse speleological cumulus, means that there is a strong organization behind that.

One must see with pride what the founding fathers of this great science had provoked worldwide: getting united through the same objective, speleology. UIS is important because it became the connecting point among more than 60 countries throughout the world. Keep reading and you, respectable caver, should notice how important is to share knowledge and to prepare to declare with one voice: we are cavers and we deserve the privilege to have our International Year of Caves and Karst.

It is a way to recognize the hard labor of those we respect and the ones that continue doing their best to have a better world, through speleology, having UIS as our flag. One speleological world proudly represented. It is important to let everybody know.



The President's Column

QUIET PREPARATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF CAVES AND KARST AND OTHER ADVANCES IN SPELEOLOGY

By Dr. George Veni (USA)

UIS President

gveni@nckri.org

You may have noticed that this UIS Bulletin is much shorter than other recent issues. That is because of the great deal of work the UIS is doing quietly to advance speleology, most of which will be reported in future Bulletins. The majority of work now is preparation for the greatest speleological activity ever—the **International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK) in 2021**.

A lot has happened with the IYCK since the previous UIS Bulletin where it was announced. A detailed and fabulous website will soon be ready. It will contain all of the latest news, as well as in-depth information on caves, karst, and their importance and needs for study and proper management.

Jasmina Rijavec is doing a masterful job creating the website. She thanks the many cave photographers around the world for sending hundreds of spectacular photos for the website and other IYCK promotions. It is too soon to know exactly when the website will be ready, but save www.iyck2021.org and watch for announcements of when it opens.

Meanwhile, UIS member countries around the world are starting to plan for the IYCK. Costa Rica's [Grupo Espeleológico Anthros](#) has created a list of activities that will promote the value of speleology to people in different parts of the country every month in 2021. About a week ago as I write this, the USA's [National Speleological Society](#) created its own IYCK Committee to organize events around the United States. Of course, the [Fédération Française de Spéléologie](#), is preparing to host the [International Congress of Speleology](#) in 2021, which will be the major international IYCK event.

As these and other activities develop, and as other UIS countries are thinking how they will organize events for the IYCK, I send this reminder that your events should be for the general public, or include activities for the public. If you have questions about the IYCK or want ideas on how to include the public, you are always welcome to contact me

directly at gveni@nckri.org.

Also, remember that you do not need to be part of a UIS member organization to join in the IYCK. It is important to bring in partners, especially non-caving organizations. You can even do small events on your own, like lectures in local schools. All outreach is valuable. The IYCK website will include a page to announce your activities and post your results.

For news on other mostly quiet but notable UIS activities, the UIS Bureau is planning to next meet in Bohol, Philippines, on 11-12 September 2019 immediately after TransKarst 2019, the 3rd Asian Trans-Disciplinary Karst Conference. Members of the UIS are preparing to teach some special workshops for the conference. The Philippines are one of the newest UIS member countries and we are happy to support them in this way. We encourage you to register for the conference at <https://www.transkarst2019.com/> and join us!

With the steady help of our member countries, 15 of the 17 International Congress of Speleology (ICS) proceedings are now posted for free download on the [UIS website](#) and the [Karst Information Portal](#). The newest contributions are:

- Czechoslovakia's 1973 ICS (scanning coordinated by Veronika Vlčková);
- USA's 1981 ICS (scanning coordinated by USA's National Cave and Karst Research Institute); and
- Greece's 2005 ICS (scanning coordinated by Paul Cadas).

International cooperation is important to the UIS in many ways. We are proud to announce that we now have one new Associated Speleological Organization, the [Balkan Speleological Union](#), and two new Cooperating Organizations, the [European Cave Rescue Association \(ECRA\)](#) and the [US National Cave and Karst Research Institute](#). Please visit their websites for information about these great organizations!

One of the most important types of collaborations is for cave rescues. Since the previous UIS Bulletin, UIS worked with ECRA, the [Federación Espeleológica de](#)

América Latina y del Caribe, and others on a tourist cave diving accident in Cueva El Dudú in the Dominican Republic, and a flooding entrapment in a Vietnam cave. Sadly, both became body recoveries but through on-going cooperation we continue to better prevent such tragedies in the future.

The UIS also continues to promote cooperation through its support so far this year for the following international conferences and expeditions:

- **13th EuroSpeleo Forum, Bulgaria;**
- **Documentation Project of Caves and Bio-**

speleological Studies in the Karst of the Serra da Bodoquena, Brazil;

- **Man and Karst Conference, Italy;** and
- **Resurvey of Cueva de Santo Tomas, Cuba.**

To learn more about joining the UIS, its members, and partners in exploring, studying, and protecting caves around the world, please visit our website at www.uis-speleo.org or contact anyone on the UIS Bureau (*see page 34 for the list of Bureau members*).

All speleologists form the UIS and together we can advance the world's knowledge of caves.

ALLAN SILAS CALUX



ALLAN SILAS CALUX



SERRA DA BODOQUENA, BRAZIL: The study of this region, whose preliminary results are on [page 18](#), is one of the important speleological expeditions that UIS is supporting this year.

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

COMMISSION ON VOLCANIC CAVES

By John Brush (Australia)

Chairman - UIS Commission on Volcanic Caves

JohnBrush@Bigpond.com



On behalf of the Commission on Volcanic Caves, I am pleased to report on recent activities of the commission.

The Commission's e-Newsletter N° 74

In May 2019, the Commission published the first issue for the year of its e-Newsletter (available here: http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/newsletters/Vulcano74_MAY2019.pdf). The Commission usually publishes two issues each year and it is an important medium for disseminating news and information about caves in volcanic areas to interested people around the world.

The most recent issue (N° 74) contains substantial reports on investigatory and research works in volcanic areas in Vietnam, the Canary Islands (Lanzarote), China and Argentina:

- In Vietnam, local researchers are continuing to make important archaeological discoveries in lava caves in the Krongno area. Lava caves in the Krongno area were first documented in 2007 and since then,

more than 45 caves have been discovered jointly by Vietnamese scientists and Japanese speleologists.

- Laurens Smets of the Netherlands has the driving force to co-ordinate the mapping and documentation of lava caves on the island of Lanzarote in the Canary Islands. The project is a joint initiative between Speleo Nederland and the Lanzarote-based Vulcan Vertical group. One element of the project is the development of a comprehensive cave inventory, which includes details of the impressive Corona tube system, which has a total passage length of almost 9 km, nearly 1 km of which extends under the ocean and is fully or partially water filled.



LUONG THI TUAT



SOURCE: TN17706 PROJECT

Photos showing Chu B'Luck volcano – the origin of the Krongno Lava Cave System in the Dak Nong Province, Vietnam, and the interior of the C7 Cave, the longest lava cave of SE Asia (1066.5m).



LAURENS SMETS

Calcite Pillar, typical galleries of Cueva de las Breñas, Lanzarote Island, Canary Islands, Spain.



LAURENS SMETS

The lakes in Cueva de los Siete Lagos, Lanzarote Island, Canary Islands, Spain.

• Michael Laumanns (Germany) reports on the lava caves visited during a speleo-reconnaissance trip to volcanic areas in Heilongjiang and Jilin provinces in northeast China. As far as is known, lava caves in these areas have not been comprehensively documented and outside China, little published information about them is available. As Michael notes, the most comprehensive 'guide' to volcanic caves in China is the paper by the late Chris Wood and Haiyan Zhang published in the Proceedings of the Commission's Fourteenth International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology (Undara, Australia, August, 2010).



IRINA ERMAKOVA

Ice in Shenyang (Sheep) Cave, which length is estimated to be 150 m. Location: Jingpohu Global Geopark in Heilongjiang, NE China.



MICHAEL LAUMANN

Lava Tunnel Jingpohu, Jingpohu Global Geopark in Heilongjiang, NE China.

• Carlos Benedetto reports on the first speleological survey of the Cueva Agua del León in the Mendoza Province of Argentina.



Cueva Agua del León, Mendoza Province, Argentina: presence of calcium carbonate speleothems.

19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology 2020



Another initiative of the Commission, and arguably its most important activity, is to convene International Symposia (Symposia, if you prefer) on Vulcanospeleology (ISV). The ISVs are held every second year. The next symposium (the 19th ISV) will be held in Italy in the city of Catania (Sicily) from 29 August to 5 September 2020.

The organising committee for the 19th ISV, comprising members of the Gruppo Grotte Catania (GGC) and the University of Catania, has developed a comprehensive program of presentation sessions, caving trips, geological, cultural and heritage excursions and social activities. The committee is also planning a partners program - for those who consider there are more important things in life than visiting, or talking about, lava caves.

The First Circular for the 19th ISV, published in May 2019 contains:

- the indicative symposium program;
- brief descriptions on some of the caves proposed to be visited;
- an outline of various excursion options;
- notes for intending presenters;
- preliminary information on accommodation options (detailed information will follow in the Second Circular, to be published later this year);
- registration information;
- what is included in the registration fee; and
- procedures for minimising the risk of spreading White Nose Syndrome (WNS) in bats.

The website of the event is:

<http://www.19isvetna.com>

The First Circular is here:

http://www.19isvetna.com/docs/IVS19_First_Circular.pdf

Membership of the Commission

Following the appointment of Mr. Roberto Conti (Italy) as membership officer of the Commission, the Commission has been working to update and more effectively manage its membership list. The revised arrangements are now operational and it is possible to apply to join the Commission by filling out a simple form which is available on the Commission's Website. See: <http://www.vulcanospeleology.org/menu.html>

REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION

By Christian Dodelin (France),
President of the UIS Cave Rescue Commission
dodelinchristian@gmail.com

Photos © Spéléo
Secours Français



International Caving Rescue Training 2018

St Rome de Dolan, France - 10-18 November 2018

GLOBAL REPORT

for the complete version as well as French and Spanish languages, please, access
<http://rescue.uis-speleo.org/8-articles/8-international-caving-rescue-training-2018>

LOCATION

The location where the training session took place is a small isolated village in the “Gorges du Tarn”: Saint Rome de Dolan, France. We benefited from several buildings from the Pierre Monestier leisure centre

in the village: one for accommodation and meeting room, another equipped with a large kitchen and dining room, and an old sheepfold that allowed us to store all the equipment from the SSF National and Lozère lots.



TRAINING PROGRAM

The program foreseen for the training session was presented on the first day: it specified approximately 3 days of technical teaching on the surface and 3 days of underground implementation.

REMARK

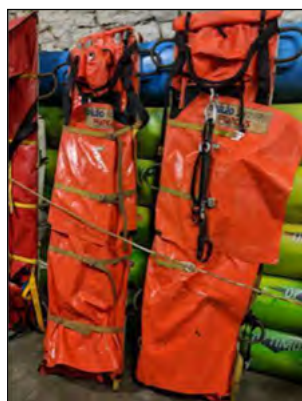
The temperature in the cave is 11° C.

SATURDAY 10 Nov 2018

The training started on Saturday with the arrival of the participants gradually throughout the day (5 had arrived the day before) and the installation in the rooms.

At around 5:30 pm, a first briefing was held to introduce each participant (and the supervisors). The weekly forecast program was shown (clearly stating that it could change due to weather conditions). A first series of explanations on the French Federation of Speleo (FFS) and on Speleo Secours Français (SSF) were given (organization, functioning, etc...).

Then, everyone gathered to unload the batches of equipment (National batch + dpt Lozère, which were used throughout the week) and store everything in the room provided for this purpose. Then it was time for the first common meal.



SUNDAY 11 Nov 2018

Written by Mehdi Boukhal (*Canada*)

Finally, the course I wanted to take part in for a long time begins. After the official launch of the course and the introduction of the instructors, participants and objectives of the training on Saturday evening, the first day started with a presentation of the Causses (local name of a limestone plateau) and local karst by Alain Jacquet. Equipment collection and departure just after 9:00 am to Saint-Chely-du-Tarn and its Duganelle cave which is about a 40 minutes drive and 15 minutes walk from the CEI.

Plan of the day, basic techniques: anchors, load sharing, mechanical advantage/hoist, counterweight, etc. One of the most interesting aspects for me was the integration of Dynamometers in the setups to get a more precise idea of the forces generated, the devices displayed results up to 580 daN with 5 people on the counter weight installation in addition to the 160 Dan generated by the adjacent hauling/hoist installation, so a total of 740 daN for a single setup!

The following demonstration aiming to test the resistance of the spits with the help of an Extractometer was also very instructive: 600 daN was the result obtained on a random spit. According to Bernard, those results can range from anywhere between 200 and 2200 daN.

The day ends with a practical exercise consisting of getting the stretcher (with one of the trainees) through all the installations spread along the cliff using only the techniques learned the same day. Back to the CEI by night, then dinner shortly after 20:30.



MONDAY 12 Nov 2018

Written by the Croatian team:

Marko Rakovac, Luka Havlicek, and Martin Glavic

The morning started with a presentation of the communication system – TPS (Transmission Par le Sol) by the lecturer Eric David. This presentation showed us that this system may use a variety of devices that can work together in an interconnected global system (with wire connections and wireless connections with several devices that are producing or transferring the signal through the ground). Information is one of the first and foremost essential parts of a rescue operation, as it may influence the whole process for extraction of the stretcher and victim, to ensure his life-saving and significant time-saving.

In the next presentation, it was shown how the FFS see the protocol for medical assistance: why there are 4 team members minimum in the team and how they operate. It was pointed out that in several cases the problem can be locating the victim, and thus, a fast SAR team may be needed before the medical assistance team. Then, the casualty Check-Up form was shown (used by medical assistance team to provide status on the victim)

After lunch we had practice in the Baoumas cave. We split in two groups: first group practiced with TPS communication system. The main remark is that this system, to function properly, must be used by trained cave-rescuers and it should be tested in big caves before using it in a real rescue operation. For example, in Gouffre Berger, the antennas are installed permanently so in the case of a real rescue operation the rescuers just need to install the devices

on the already existing antennas.

Bernard Tourte and Pascal Testas showed us the possibilities for immobilization of the victim with the KED and how to transport the victim with an improvised stretcher using a plastic tarp. Next thing, we practiced the “hot-point” bivouac set up and casualty assistance by a demonstration of the French—improvised bivouac and of the commercial (MTDE) bivouac. Ultimately, the instructors pointed out the pros and cons of each type of bivouac and showed the way to install the victim inside the “hot-point” bivouac (by the “thousands of sheet” technique).

In the evening, the lecturer Laurent Chalvet presented the technical aspect of speleo-diving rescue operations and equipment. The interesting part was the safety line with integrated wire which can be used as a communication wire. Also, we got a presentation of small chambers used for underwater transportation of various parts and equipment, for the speleo-diving rescuer or for the casualty. In addition, we had a presentation of the specific stretcher (based on the Petzl Nest model) used for speleo-diving rescue operations.

Before dinner we washed the dirty equipment (used in Baoumas cave) and the Czech team offered us some traditional Czech food and drinks.

IN CONCLUSION: the presentations were full of useful informations which was followed by practical demonstrations and works on the field. There was enough time for each team to consider pros and cons of each technique, although most of the demonstrations didn't raise big question as all of this is already more or less well known in the cave-rescue community.



Speleo-diving equipment for rescue



Safety line with integrated wire



Special chambers for sumps

TUESDAY 13 Nov 2018

Written by **Radek Nejezchleb** (Czech Republic)

On Tuesday, we came back on the outdoor cliff in Saint-Chély-du-Tarn, Grotte de Duganelle, to continue learning the basic techniques (counterweight, pendulum, etc...) followed by an exercise to transport a stretcher through all the workshops installed.

Bernard started with a detailed demonstration on how to use the Petzl Nest stretcher and described the decisions which are normally taken by the doctor (arms/hands in or out of plastic flaps, fixing of legs, fixing of head, etc...). He also demonstrated quickly how the “Stef” is used, to enable the horizontal transport of the stretcher, and easy change-over from horizontal to vertical. Note that this operation requires a certain skill and the operator has to be trained properly (which we did not have a time for).

Later, various techniques and rules for tyrolean traverses installations were presented, like:

- The numerous material and equipment needed (highlighting preparation time).

Remark: If possible, it is sometimes preferable to use other techniques like, for example, handover from Counter-Weight to Counter-Weight.

- The importance to have the installation 100% clean: no deviations, no rope touching the rock or protections, etc... and the load sharing system tightened properly, and with both ends of the rope detachable.

- Several options allowing to implement the tension in the rope and rules related to the number of persons to be used.

- Plan an additional rope on both ends of the transportation rope (a traction rope/a breaking rope).

- Etc.

We spent the rest of the day practicing the demonstrated techniques. At the end of the day, we connected several stations to create a circuit and sent the stretcher through the circuit to simulate a real transport of the stretcher in a cave.

In the evening, all teams prepared a short report summarizing the situation on the stations—positives and negatives—and the team leader debriefed to all training participants.

Instructors presented also the theory of the installation of detachable deviation.

Note the presence of journalists from the local newspaper MIDI LIBRE (see link below):

<https://www.midilibre.fr/2018/11/13/lozere-le-savoir-faire-francais-en-matiere-de-secours-souterrain-sexporte,4859076.php>



WEDNESDAY 14 Nov 2018

Written by **Radek Nejezchleb** (Czech Republic)

On Wednesday, an underground training was scheduled. We went to Drigas cave where the goal was to practice the techniques taught in a real cave environment, transporting the stretcher in the various pitches and passages.

The participants were split into several groups and each group was allocated a certain section of the cave for rope installation and for stretcher transportation. A TPS was used to ensure communication between the various stations and with the surface, and beside that, wire phone was installed to provide a reliable communication way. Since we had some problems with the communication with TPS, the wire phone was really appreciated.

As a French television team (local channel FR3) was invited to the site to make a press report about the FFS and cave rescuing (see link below), therefore a special attention was given to the installations of each station—especially clarity and pureness of the area (although it would be also possible, in some areas, to use very simple transport by hands). The ropes installation in some places was quite time consuming, but the transport itself went rather smoothly without major issues. The biggest critique was given to the speed of the transport (some stations took more time than expected) and to the fact that there were a lot of rescuers waiting behind the stretcher without a chance to pass the stretcher and provide help from the top. Another weak point was that most of the participants left the location before the last rescuers were out of the cave, so there was not chance to help them quickly in case of need.

The specific stations and problems were discussed during the evening debriefing as usual.

<https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/occitanie/lozere/lozere-accueil-stagiaires-speleo-secours-du-monde-entier-1575576.html>



The entrance of Drigas Cave

THURSDAY 15 Nov 2018

**BRAMABIAU – PART 1
(UPPER ENTRANCE AREA)**

Written by Catalan-Basque-Brazilian Team:

Joseba Churrucua Barrutia, Argote Unai, Jorge Del Campo Adeva, Alberto Garcia (Spain), Natalia Morata (Chile), and Rodrigo Severo (Brazil)

At the first hour of the morning, we do a briefing in which the work we will do today is exposed: Rescue practice in the ravine of the Bramabiau cave.

Although the initial plan is to move the stretcher from the upper to the lower (touristic) mouth, which makes the crossing complete, due to the high level of water in circulation, the cave is divided into two work areas:

1. Upper entry area (Croatian-Czech team and Catalan-Basco-Brazilian team)
2. The lower mouth, with the tourist aisles (all other crew members)

In zone 1, the stretcher will exit from the lower part of a pitch with a waterfall, towards the outside of the cavity, combining two straight and aerial sections of the gallery, with a rather difficult manual carrying by the banks of the river, between slippery rocks.

CATALAN-BASCO-BRAZILIAN TEAM:

1. A 15-metre tyro line, with a steep upward slope to avoid the vertical of the pitch and the waterfall. The traction is done by balancing.
2. Transfer to another 35-metre horizontal tyro line (the stretcher is passed manually, or “by force of arms”, as Bernard would say, having previously secured the stretcher by the traction rope). The traction is also done by balancing.
3. The extraction of the stretcher from the tyro line on the top of a large horizontal block is done manually by several rescuers, securing the operation with a rope (dynamic Italian knot).

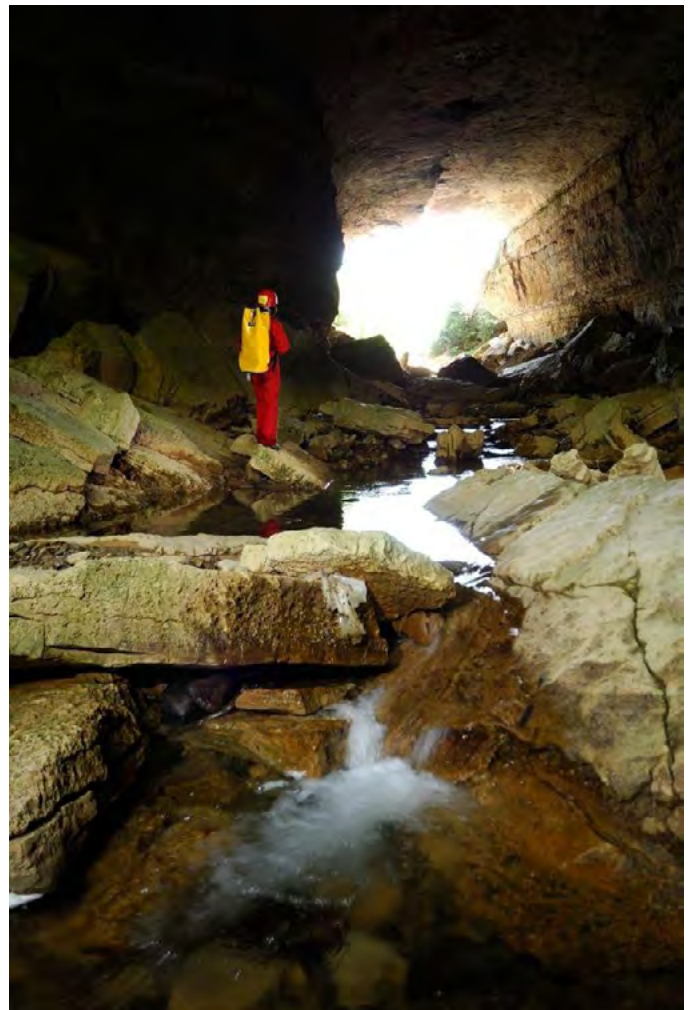
CROATIAN-CZECH TEAM:

4. Horizontal Tyro-line of 40 metres, with extraction of the stretcher to a higher area using a hoist or pulley/blocker.
5. Manual transportation of the stretcher on a side bench of the river, with the rescuers attached to the handrails.
6. Manual carrying along the banks of the river in slippery rocky areas.

CONCLUSION :

- + Good coordination between the two working groups
- + Good individual and joint work
- + Smooth stretcher movement and no unexpected surprises
- + Good performance of rescuers in a technical and stressful area
- Poor material forecast for the progression line
- Poor management of the material available within the cave
- Delayed start of stretcher movement

Thanks to Natalia for voluntarily getting on the stretcher



THURSDAY 15 Nov 2018

**BRAMABIAU – PART 2
(LOWER ENTRANCE AREA)**

Written by Czech Speleo Rescue Team:

Radek Nejezchleb, Věroslav Bělehrádek, Zdeněk Dvořák, Pavel Kubálek, Jakub Vokřál, and Zdeněk Šlahunek

Bottom part of Bramabiau was operated by two groups.

First group, under the leadership of Radim Vacula (Czech fire-fighters), consisted of Czech fire-fighters and the Israeli team. The group has started with the rigging of a Tyrolean traverse crossing the river at the active water level. This passage was followed by a section where the stretcher was carried “in hands”, supported and secured by a horizontal line with rebelay, as the transport was done above the flowing water. The next station was an inclined Tyrolean. Since the water was too deep and wild for carrying the stretcher in the water, and the meander just above the water was narrow and complicated, it was decided to heighten the transport to the level above the touristic walking path of the cave (15-20 m above the water). This situation allowed also switching from Tyrolean to counterweight-to-counterweight technique in the next two sections, as there was now enough space below the stretcher. The last counterweight section was approximately 5 m above the touristic walking path and just above the bridge crossing the meander from one side to the other. This was the point of hand-over to the second group.

The second group, under the leadership of Radek Nejezchleb (Czech Cave Rescuer), consisted of 2 Czech, one US, two Switzerland and two Israeli cave rescuers.

The presence of metallic bridges (for touristic visits) made the situation a bit more difficult as it was necessary to divert the stretcher from the vertical direction to be on the right side of the bridges to continue with the transport. The first station was prepared to do the diversion technically (modified hauling installation) but, at the end, just manual controlling of the stretcher path was more efficient. In next station, the stretcher was lowered about 10 m down, using a counterbalance system bringing the stretcher to another counterweight station which made the stretcher land on the touristic walking path. Since the path between these stations was not straight, and was quite narrow, a deviation was installed at the top of the counterweight rope. From this point the stretcher was transported “by hands” extensively using the benefit of sliding the stretcher on the smooth and inclined touristic walking path (two rescuers were enough). The next and final installation were two Tyrolean

traverses of approximately 15-20 m, where the anchoring on the ends of the Tyroleans were separated (two independent load-sharing) due to the shape of the meander, requiring management of the “transfer” of the stretcher. This fact made the passing of the stretcher from one Tyro to another the most technical task of the last section.

Rather challenging was also tightening of the second Tyro as it was long and we expected a close approach of the stretcher to the wild stream beneath. In the end, the stretcher was within about 40 cm to where the casualty would have been drowned, but finally it worked.

POSITIVES:

- Good communication between the team members
- Working TPS functionalities
- Quite smooth progress during transport phase
- Opportunity to learn

NEGATIVES:

- Long preparation time (for rigging)
- Unclear hand-over point between part 1 – part 2 at the beginning....
- ... resulting in too many changes in installation
- Missing “thread cleaner” for old Spits
- Some team members in neoprene suits but without touch of water (overheating)

CHALLENGES:

- Mission and conditions unclear at the beginning, lot of improvisation and “adaptations”
- Noisy environment: difficult communication, additional stressing factor
- Rather technical sections: passing Tyroleans above the river





FRIDAY 16 Nov 2018

Written by **Radek Nejezchleb** (Czech Republic)

On Friday, training on advanced rope techniques was scheduled. We went to the outdoor cliffs of the “Fontaine de Paillasse”. The location was very nice. It is a small clearing in the forest near St Rome de Dolan, 10 minutes by foot from the cars. We really enjoyed the views on the “Gorges du Tarn” and the valley. The clearing is surrounded by cliffs 10 to 15 meters high where we were able to set up all kinds of workshops to review all the techniques learned since the beginning of the week.

Since the preparations of advanced rope technique stations are more time consuming, we formed several groups of 3 or 4 persons and the task of each group was to prepare one station for demonstrating a specific advanced rope technique.

The techniques demonstrated were:

- Handover from one tyrolean traverse to another by releasing the tension in the first tyro / implementing tension in the second tyro (when stretcher has been transferred),

- Handover from one tyrolean traverse to another using several detachable Italian knots (feasible by one person!)

- Counter-Weight with a knot (on the hauling rope) to pass through the pulley,

- Counter-Weight hanging on tyrolean traverse to allow horizontal transport after vertical hauling (or vice-versa),

- Self-rescue techniques: team member unlock on rope (several options), passage of knots,

- Etc...

Once all the stations were prepared, some teams (under the supervision of instructors) demonstrated the technique to others. We also combined a few stations to perform a final exercise where the stretcher, with one of the trainees on board, goes through the circuit.

Since that day was the last one before the Regional FFS training, it was necessary to wash and sort all the materials and equipment. Therefore we made a “trip” down to the river Tarn and washed all the material in the river.



SATURDAY 17 Nov 2018

Written by the Czech Team

Saturday, 17th of November 2018 was the last training day of FFS international training. After a week of outdoor rock cliff exercises and practice of rescue procedures inside small caves, we attended to the regional training of FFS inside Aven de Puech Negre cave. Transport of a stretcher would be attempted from the depth of 270 m. Up to 100 people would participate in the operation, mostly FFS team members from Lozere department.

It was obvious from early morning that due to the huge number of trainees, the exercise could be realized with about half of the participants only. For the other half, another exercise was prepared in the Grotte du Caoussou cave. Once we came to the place, we first registered at the FFS command post and then waited until we split into two teams.



SATURDAY 17 Nov 2018

PART-1: TRAINING RESCUE OPERATION IN CAOUSSOU II CAVE, CZECH TEAM

Written by the Czech team

The entire eleven-person Czech team was joined by Croatians and Swiss planned for the opera-

tions in Caoussou II. This exercise was organized for young FFS members to gain their first experience in cave operations. Nearly 30 people, who should cover operation under the ground was split into 5 teams:

Evacuation teams:

E1 – team leader Věroslav Bělehrádek

E2 – team leader Mikhael (SUI)

E3 – team leader Diego (SUI)

Wired telephone team: Team leader Radim Vacula

ASV team: Václav Zemánek, Tomáš Horníček.

The rescue operation started around 2:00 PM and its goal was to save the injured person who fell down during climbing of a chimney. The place of the accident was located on a stony slope few meters away from the bottom of the chamber, a depth of around 80 meters below the ground. Individual teams prepared the materials and equipment in FFS camp, from where we started first by cars, then continued by foot to the cave entrance.

The first team which entered the cave was the ASV team, which stabilized the injured person and created improvised hot point, as there was not enough original ASV material on the ground level, because of the main cave rescue exercise in the Aven de Puech Negre. The next team that descended into the cave was the communication team, which installed one station on the surface and four more stations underground, one on the hot point place and three more in place where transport teams E1, E2 and E3 were operating.

At 5:30 PM, less than 3 hours after the start of the rescue operation, the route was prepared for the stretcher and transport of the casualty could start. The stretcher was first lowered to the bottom of the chamber (Petzl Stop), escorted by Radim, ASV team and one Croatian guy from E3 team. Then it was taken over by young French cavers under the main 30-meter pitch. Up to the top of the pitch level, the casualty was pulled out by the Croatian team (E3), with help of three human counterweights.

A short horizontal passage followed after the pitch, under next vertical part of the cave. Since the meander had a very complicated bottom with sinter formations and therefore was not suitable for walking, the stretcher was pulled to the highest point by a counterweight (E2) and secured by a second rope from the bottom (E3) at the same time. Pulling up was followed by lowering (Petzl Stop) back to the bottom of the horizontal gallery. This section was probably the most complicated part of the transport.

From here, the stretcher was transported to the bottom of the following 15 m pitch. In this pitch, the counterweight system was used again (E2) with one person for deviation of the hauling rope. The following sloped passages, called Tobogan, were operated by team E1. Those places were quite easily overcome by one counterbalance and counterweight with deviation. Transport was facilitated also by the low weight of the injured person (around 50 kg). Then the stretcher was brought from the end of Tobogan to the bottom of the 8-m entrance pit, where a simple counterweight was installed once again and a Z-rig system for final pull out to the ground level was used. Transport was successfully finished at 7:07 PM. During another hour, all the material used was pulled out and brought back to FFS camp. Back in FSS camp, we enjoyed dinner in the catering tent in the form of a quite special local meal “gras-double” which was suitable mainly for highly experienced French gourmets.

SOME NEGATIVE ASPECTS:

- Confusion in the numbering of phones and teams (E1–phone4, Equipe5=team Evac 1, etc.).
- Confusion in names. Due to the many foreign participants, some names were incomprehensible for the organizers and finally it was not clear, who was still inside the cave and who was already out.
- Not enough material for proper ASV.
- Bad communication between teams during transport causing lack of people on some locations although the people were prepared to help

SOME POSITIVE ASPECTS:

- On the one hand we could not see with our own eyes how the FFS works in reality in difficult caves and complex evacuations, but on the other hand we were able to appreciate dexterity and readiness of young French cavers in similar operations.
- Good cooperation between teams during equipping phase.
- Generally well working phone connection (except phone from team E2, but that was easily substituted by other phones and direct communication).

SATURDAY 17 Nov 2018

PART 2: REGIONAL TRAINING RESCUE OPERATION IN AVEN DE PUECH NÈGRE

Written by **Pascal Testas** (France)

The entire Israeli team is regrouped with the trainees from US/Ireland and from Spain/Brazil/Chile for the operations in the Aven de Puech Negre. During the briefing, we are informed that we will perform the evacuation in the lower part of the cave,

a horizontal river with a lot of blocks and boulder passages just before the stretcher reaches the first vertical pitches. To cover our zone, we are split into 3 teams:

Evacuation teams:

- E1 – team leader Alberto Garcia
- E2 – team leader Stephen Jock-Read
- E3 – team leader John Lillestolen

We all first progressed down through all the pitches, Frederic is in front to guide the whole group (especially in the “meander of sirens”) and Pascal is behind to check any potential issues. It took about 1,5 h to reach the bottom of last pitch for the last person of the group due to the huge number of people, the difficulties for progression in the meander... and a small incident for Julia! Finally, the “troups” reached the place but some have to be re-motivated due to the long waiting time they spent in the chamber at the bottom of the last pitch (used to eat/drink, warm...). We decide to go all together to the hot point where the casualty is located (600 m further in the horizontal gallery), allowing each team leader to have a look at the zone he has to manage and think about the few installations needed.

As we move towards the hot spot where the victim is, we walk through a gallery cluttered with large blocks, which has generated many large holes where the stretcher will have to be secured. Apparently some small up or down passages will require the installation of a hoist or braking system. The arrival at the hot spot is done by a very low passage where you have to crawl into a large puddle of water. We decide, with the people of the ASV team (...and the victim!), to start the transportation of the stretcher just after to prevent everyone from getting wet!

The victim is placed on the stretcher and, although the entire group has been divided into three teams, everyone is involved in transporting the stretcher through the maze of blocks. Many tortuous passages require passing the stretcher “by hand” or sliding on the knees... and on the backs of some rescuers. The passages where you can walk are rare and very short. The stretcher arrives at a 6 or 7 meter down-passage where it must pass through a narrow passage through the blocks. It is secured by a braking system and after a few “twists”, it passes!

Beyond that, “manual” transport always continues through a maze of large blocks, a mini-tyrolean has been placed to pass over a large hole, and it is clear that some rescuers are starting to get tired. Small pauses are organized and, by continuing our efforts, we reach after a while an area where the gallery becomes quite flat and where the stretcher can be

transported by walking up to the bottom of the pitches. We pass the stretcher here to the other teams and the victim is placed in another hot spot that has been set up there waiting for evacuation into the pitches.

As requested in the morning, we (the group of the international caving rescue training) go up the pitches in front of the stretcher, before it goes through the different workshops. The aim is to get out as soon as possible because the trainees will have to get up relatively early the next day for a final briefing and a few more presentations. We leave around midnight and after a quick but frugal meal in the mess tent, we go back to St Rome de Dolan. We will learn the next day that the stretcher left around 4:30 in the morning.

SUNDAY 18 Nov 2018

Written by **Pascal Testas** (France)

After a good night's rest, as everyone at breakfast is more or less tired after the effort of the previous day

(and exercises throughout the week!), Bernard proposes to do a final briefing at the end of this week's training. A representative from each country then gives his or her feedback and general impression. A general consensus emerged and everyone seems to have appreciated the demonstrations and practical application of all the techniques allowing the evacuation of a stretcher in an underground environment. It is highlighted that the "slow" pace imposed by the translations into three languages and the high number of trainees did not allow the techniques to be practiced as much as desired. A last presentation of the functioning of the FSS was made before everyone gathered in front of the picnic prepared on the terrace under the sun of the Gorges du Tarn, finally back.

Thanks to Joel and Christine (kinou) for the cooking and the good products served throughout the week.



EXPEDITION REPORT

INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITION TO THE SERRA DA BODOQUENA (BRAZIL)

A project under patronage and with financial support from UIS

16 JUNE - 6 JULY 2019

By Michael Laumanns (Germany)

Laumi59@gmx.de

1. Summary

An international speleological expedition to the Serra da Bodoquena, Mato Grosso do Sul State, Brazil, took place in August 2017 (Euro Speleo Project ESP 2017-03). The expedition had German, Brazilian, Russian and Portuguese participants. Twenty-five caves and dolines with a total of 2,577 m of passages were explored, including the 3rd longest cave of Mato Grosso do Sul State, Gruta Beija Flor, 1,367 m long and -66 m deep.

The 2019 congress (35th Congress) of the Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE) took place in Bonito town, very close to the Serra da Bodoquena. This provided a good opportunity for a return trip to participate in the congress, which was also the 50th anniversary of SBE, and explore more caves during a period of two weeks after the conference.

The 2019 expedition had participants from France, Brazil and Germany and was organized by the local Grupo de Espeleologia Serra da Bodoquena (GESB). Support was received from the local National Park (logistics, permit), Abismo Anhumas company (rope), Fundação Neotropica do Brazil (Bonito) (4x4 vehicle for the last expedition days), UIS and FSE (financial grants), Aventure Verticale and Scursion (equipment donations).

The mission of the project was to target caves so far unmapped in the National Park area of the Serra da Bodoquena where the NP authorities had taken GPS coordinates of about 20 entrances but did not explore the caves. Another task was biospeleological sampling; the comprehensive collection all went to the GESB which has biospeleologists among its members.

In consequence, after the congress, the first expedition week was spent in the area advised by the National Park authorities in the western part of the Serra. Here, a 1.4 km long sinkhole-resurgence karst

system exists (Rio Perdido System) with a scenic ponor and resurgence. However, the supposed cave in between the resurgence and the resurgence is only accessible for divers and has not yet been explored. Having seen the impressive site we had high hopes for significant discoveries in the nearby NP area. A succession of long and strenuous daytrips was made by hiking through deep pathless grassland and bush with heavy packs to locate and map the caves listed by the National Park.

Fortunately, we were not required to camp in the jungle (where water supply would have been a major problem) but were allowed to hire some farm houses with fully furnished kitchen and restrooms for our 1-week stay. This, and the hired 4x4 pick-ups, very much facilitated the fieldwork.

However, contrary to our expectations, the caves found in the National Park were either disappointingly small or no caves were found at the given GPS co-ordinates. Some new caves and vertical pitches were found instead. The largest findings were the 26-m deep Abismo Seriosa (entrance pitch of 20 m and a total length of 50 m), 38-m long Giant Snail Cave, and 58-m long Caverna do Alex. All of these caves were formed by phreatic processes. Apart from that most of the cave entrances turned out to be very small karst fissures or merely dolines enlarged by solution. In total 21 caves with 340 m of passages were mapped.

This led to the decision to change the working area on the 2nd of July. Our friends from GESB received information about a place about 150 km further north near the town of Miranda in a special protected area. The Miranda authorities allowed us to enter the site. The first day in the new area was planned to be a reconnaissance trip with a long drive

from our base in Bonito town to Miranda. With minor expectations we approached a shaft and were surprised about the huge dimensions of the entrance doline (about 30 m in diameter).

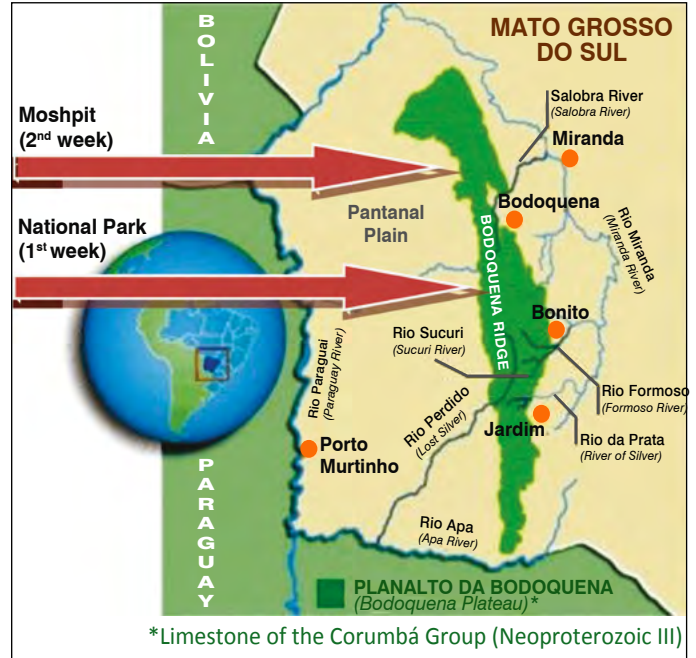
The shaft itself turned out to be a huge vertical drop where we ran out of rope at a depth of 60 m with 40 more meters of pitch visible before the vertical cave passage vanished into darkness.

Unfortunately, this was the very last expedition day for the German participants. But our French and Brazilian colleagues arranged for more rope from Abismo Anhumas company (a 72 m deep vertical cave used for adventure tourism being the deepest cave known in the Serra so far) and were able to bottom the shaft two days later in a depth of -120 m where a deep lake was encountered.

The lake is planned to be targeted by Brazilian cave divers in the future, which will further increase the depth of the cave, called Abismo Miranda 1 (“Moshpit”). It is now the deepest cave of the Serra da Bodoquena and apparently one of the deepest direct vertical drops in a limestone cave for the whole of Brazil - only two entirely submerged Brazilian Vauclusian springs (accessible to divers exclusively) have a larger vertical extension: Lago Azul near Niquelândia (GO) and Lagoa Misteriosa near Jardim (MS, not far from Bonito).

Also the world-famous Gruta do Janelão (MG) probably has one skylight deeper than 100 m. This “record” definitely rewarded the expedition for the somewhat disappointing first part of the fieldwork!

2. Area of fieldwork



Location of the Serra da Bodoquena (Bodoquena Ridge) in SW Brazil, including the two areas of fieldwork in 2019.

© <http://marcosbau.com.br/geobrasil-2/5106-2/>

3. Photographs



Banner of the 35th CBE, which was simultaneously with the 50th Anniversary of the Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE).



The reception hall of the Convention Center of Bonito during the 35th Brazilian Speleological Congress (CBE).



Packing for fieldwork 1

MICHAEL LAUMANNIS

MICHAEL LAUMANNIS

INTERNATIONAL EXPEDITION TO THE SERRA DA BODOQUENA (BRAZIL)

HELMUT STEINER



HELMUT STEINER



MICHAEL LAUMANN



The landscape and the daily hiking in the National Park area.

*National Park area:
descent into Abismo do Edison*

MARC BUREAU



MARC BUREAU

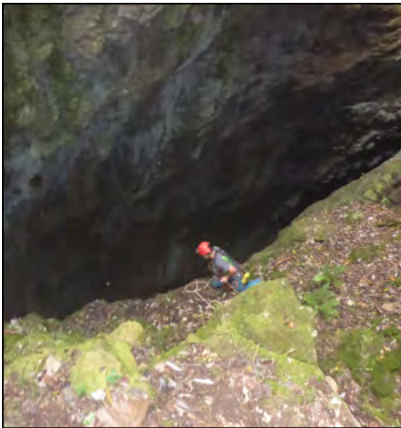
The upper part (LEFT) and lowest parts (ABOVE) of Abismo Miranda 1 with the terminal lake.

MARC BUREAU



Mapping of the small "Caverna do Suindara" in the National Park area.

MARC BUREAU



MARC BUREAU



Crêperie: à la bière et "Cachaça".



MARC BUREAU

The team that bottomed Abismo Miranda 1.
STANDING, LEFT TO RIGHT: Bruna Medeiros Cordeiro, Thierry Masson, Bertrand Valentin.
KNEELING: Livia Medeiros Cordeiro and Marc Bureau.

4. Financial Report

Participants (core team): 7 Duration: 21 days All currency in Euro (1 EUR = 3.8 Real)

Budget International expedition 2019 to the Serra da Bodoquena (Brazil)

Expenses:

Transport:

- International flights for 5 participants, 5 x 1,100 EUR =	5,500 EUR
- Car hire, 3 weeks, 4x4 pick-up truck =	1,372 EUR
- Additional costs car hire (petrol for replacement car 1 st day), 48 R\$ =	12 EUR
- Bus tickets (French team, 3 persons), CGR-Bonito-CGR, 6 x 63 R\$ =	100 EUR
- Petrol for 4x4 truck, 120 RS +140 RS +190 RS + 90 R\$ =	142 EUR
- Petrol for 4x4 truck received for free for last days in Bonito (French team) =	50 EUR
- Taxi in Campo Grande and Bonito, 150 R\$ =	40 EUR

Accommodation

- Hotel Campo Grande (2German participants), 5 x 125 R\$ =	164 EUR
- Hotel Bonito (1 st week, 2 German participants), 5 x 145 R\$ =	145 EUR
- Accommodation at Sta. Tereza Farm for fieldwork, 2,520 R\$ =	663 EUR

Supplies

- Food purchases (supermarket), 1,950 R\$ =	513 EUR
- Restaurant meals (45 R\$ per meal, altogether 50 meals) =	592 EUR

Communication & Outreach

- Telephone, mail =	20 EUR
- Production and dissemination of final report (50 x in BHB series) =	200 EUR

Total expenses

9,513 EUR

Income:

- Financial grant UIS =	600 EUR
- Financial grant FSE (expected) =	600 EUR
- 1 Scurion 900 lamp (equipment sponsoring) =	500 EUR
- 5 kitbags Aventure Verticale (equipment sponsoring) =	400 EUR

Total income

2,100 EUR

Balance =

- 7,413 EUR

5. Outreach

During the 35th SBE Congress, FSE's Official Partner Adventure Verticale (AV) was advertised by distribution of stickers, posters, and a kit-bag-tombola (FSE's Partner Scurion had its own arrangements with SBE).

The expedition results will further be published in European as well as international caving magazines. A Portuguese version will be prepared for the magazine "Espeleo-Tema", publication of the Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE). Oral presentations are already scheduled for European caver's meetings (German 2019 conference in Nesselwang; EuroSpeleo Forum in Dolni Lozen/Bulgaria). A comprehensive book on karst and caves of the Serra da Bodoquena is planned in the expedition series "Berliner Höhlenkundliche Berichte (BHB)" in English by the end of 2019.



Union Internationale
de Spéléologie



EuroSpeleo
Projects FSE

This expedition was organized under the patronage and with financial support of UIS.



INSTITUTIONAL

INFORMAL MEETING OF UIS IN BRAZIL

JUNE 20, 2019, DURING THE 35th BRAZILIAN CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

By José Ayrton Labegalini (Brazil)

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English version by Linda El-Dash (Brazil)

linda.eldash@gmail.com

The UIS organizes the International Congresses of Speleology (ICS) every 4 years. The last took place in Sydney, Australia in 2017, and the next will be in Lyon, in France, in 2021. The first was organized in Paris in 1953, prior to the existence of the UIS as such. (The organization was founded in 1965 during the 4th ICS in what was then Yugoslavia, today Slovenia, on September 10, 1965. To commemorate its 50 years of existence, it published a book in 2015, even though there was no ICS in that year. This book, FIFTY YEARS OF THE UIS 1965-2015, has condensed the history of half a century of the organization.

The Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE) organizes a Brazilian Congress of Speleology (CBE) twice a year. Thus, from June 19-22, 2019, the 35th was held in Bonito, in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, in the Bodoquena karst region. The 1st CBE was organized in 1964, in the cave Casa de Pedra in Iporanga/SP, prior to the existence of the SBE, which was only founded on November 1, 1969, during the 4th CBE in Ouro Preto/MG. Much smaller than the UIS, the SBE commemorated its 50 years of existence with the launching of a commemorative stamp to mark the date (image below).

There were initially two proposals for the organization of the 35th CBE, one in Brasilia/DF and the other in Bonito/MS; the decision to organize the congress in Bonito reflected a desire to strengthen the popular



movement in favor of the protection of the water resources of the region, so fundamental for ecotourism and the healthy economy of the city and microregion, and the threat resulting from the widespread expansion of agricultural activities in the state. The expansion of agriculture into areas

necessary for the protection of the rivers has led to the increased turbidity of the water, and could mean the beginning of the end of ecotourism in Bonito, since this is based largely on the clarity of the water.

Considering the importance of the event in the history of the SBE, speleological friends from various



35^o Congresso Brasileiro de Espeleologia
Bonito - MS



countries were invited; given the coincidence that the two organizations were founded during the fourth congresses of their respective communities, the entire directorate of the UIS was also invited.

The following foreign countries were represented at the 35th CBE: Argentina, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cuba, France, Germany, Hungary, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, and USA.

The UIS was represented by its Vice-President of Operations, Efrain Mercado (Puerto Rico), and its Treasurer, Nadja Zupan Hajna (Slovenia), as well as the Adjunct Secretary Nivaldo Colzato (Brazil), the President of the Commission for the Protection of Caves and Karst Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (Belgium), and the Past President José Ayrton Labegalini (Brazil).

With the presence of so many representatives, the UIS was asked to hold an extra-official meeting so that the Directorate of the SBE, in the person of its President Carlos Frederico de Souza Lott, could present certain revindications of the SBE. These were presented in writing and discussed at the meeting:

1 – Formal proposal that the UIS Directorate discuss and consider the possibility of creating a fifth category of associates, with fees of 120 Euros for entities with 100 to 500 members. The rationale is that in countries with a situation similar to that of Brazil, with a membership oscillating well below 500 members, the present value of 240 Euros is disproportionately large, although the entities could contribute more than the 60 Euros required of those countries with very few members.

2 – Presentation of the situation created by non-sustainable agriculture in the region, via images, reports, and documents, showing the damage to the karst environment and the consequences for environmental conservation and regional ecotourism.

3 – Formal request for the topic to be presented for discussion at the upcoming official meeting of the UIS and the drafting of an official complaint to be presented to the governmental agencies of the municipal-

ities involved, the state of Mato Grosso do Sul, and the Ministers of the Environment and Tourism.

4 – Formal request that the topic remain on the agenda until the 18th International Congress of Speleology in Lyon, in France in 2021, so that a motion of repudiation can be formulated by the General Assembly of the UIS and submitted to these agencies.

5 – Repetition of the request for the immediate inclusion of the Guy Christian Collet Library in the Documentation Center of the UIS. Although it has been included in the book FIFTY YEARS OF THE UIS 1965-2015 (page 112), it has not been included on the site of

the UIS <http://www.ssslib.ch/bbs/centre-de-documentation/>.

The meeting was conducted on the evening of June 20, 2019, in one of the rooms of the Convention Center of Bonito, venue of the 35th CBE, with the presence of five representatives of the UIS and the President of the SBE. Each item presented by the President of the SBE was analyzed, and the respective suggestions/comments were registered in the acts of the meeting, which were compiled by the UIS Vice-President of Operations Efraín Mercado; and a commitment for presentation at the next UIS Bureau meeting was registered. This will take place in the Philippines in September of the present year.

MINUTES - INFORMAL UIS BUREAU MEETING

As requested by the President of Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE),
Dr. Carlos Frederico SOUZA LOTT
City of Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil

by Efraín MERCADO

(UIS Vice-President of Operations/Puerto Rico)

DATE: June 20, 2019

TIME: 08:00 (local time)

PLACE: Convention Center of Bonito

ATTENDEES:

- Carlos Frederico SOUZA LOTT, BR, SBE President
- Efraín MERCADO, PR, UIS Vice-President of Operations
- Jean Pierre BARTHOLEYNS, BE, President of UIS Karst and Cave Protection Commission
- Jose Ayrton LABEGALINI, BR, past UIS President
- Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA, SL, UIS Treasurer
- Nivaldo COLZATO, BR, UIS Adjunct Secretary

NOTES:

1. Informal meeting with the president of Brazilian Speleological Society (SBE), Dr. Carlos Frederico SOUZA LOTT.
2. Official letter sent by SBE President asking for a non-deliberative meeting of the UIS members present at the 35th Brazilian Congress of Speleology (CBE).



3. Letter sent to UIS President George VENI.

4. Letter was sent to UIS requesting to create a new member category between D and C to cover countries that have between 100 to 500 members. This category will reduce the gap and will pay only 120 Euros.

5. It was explained to the President of the SBE. Dr. SOUZA LOTT, that in fact it will be possible to reduce fees if they ask for that in a temporal way if needed.

6. Changes must be approved by the Bureau and confirmed by the General Assembly.

7. Consultation shall be electronic.

8. SBE will pay the current fees up to 2021, and then fees for the new category, if approved.

9. This issue will be discussed at the UIS Bureau Meeting in the Philippines.

10. Nadja Zupan Hajna asks if Brazil could pay now and then request the proposed category.

11. The SBE will present Carta de Bonito to be supported by UIS.

12. The SBE will ask the UIS Bibliography Commission to include SBE Electronic Library (JP offers his help).

13. Jose Ayrton LABEGALINI propose to have a structured 40 hours in speleology course for all universities in UIS/FEALC countries as part of the International Year of Caves and Karst in 2021.

14. Brazilians already have a curriculum and will share it.

Left to right: Nivaldo COLZATO (UIS Adjunct Secretary/Brazil); José Ayrton LABEGALINI (UIS Past President/Brazil); Carlos Frederico de SOUZA LOTT (SBE President/Brazil); Efraín MERCADO (UIS Vice-President of Operations/Puerto Rico); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (UIS Treasurer/Slovenia); and Jean-Pierre Bartholeyns (President of the UIS Commission for the Protection of Caves and Karst (Belgium).

SPELEOLOGICAL SCHOOL

CENTRO NACIONAL DE ENTRENAMIENTO ESPELEOLÓGICO ANTONIO NÚÑEZ JIMÉNEZ

Antonio Núñez Jiménez National Caving Training Center, Cuba

By Miguel Boligan Expósito (Cuba)
boligan@gmail.com

The science of speleology is something that you need to learn from knowledgeable sources. It is about not just entering a cave, is about understanding the genesis, measuring its depth, portray the findings, respects the flora and the fauna, taking only photos and notes, and share this data with others.



This is precisely what the Sociedad Espeleológica de Cuba (SEC) is doing as probably the first and only speleological school in this hemisphere. With excellent physical facilities and a 46+ kilometer cavern system (Santo Tomás), just a 100 meters walk away, any caver in the world would love to be there.

Settled in the middle of a lush green scenario surrounded by the unique mogotes, cone-shaped hills or karst forms, in a small community called El Moncada, to honor the beginnings of Cuban revolution assault on a military fortress with the same name, the school is at the best desirable location.

Near the facilities lay a monument dedicated to the Malagones, twelve skillful and clever guajiros, as they used to call backcountry people, that formed the first Cuban militia. All of them but one rest in the monument, who by the date will commemorate 60 years of that epic event. Only Juanito Paz is alive from this group. Yet the whole area is full of history, traditions, caves and so good and humble people.

Twenty-six participants representing four

different caving clubs from the SEC stay in the facilities for seven intense days and nights, for long hours, learning biospeleology, geography, geology, climatology, cave rescue, exploration, and hydrology. Participants are guided by five professional speleologists and professors who also bring their coaching.

It is important to mention that the Sociedad Espeleológica de Cuba is the oldest caving society in this hemisphere, celebrating soon its 80 years of scientific research in caves. With more than 10,000 caves explored, Cuba is the master of speleology in the area and a proud member country of FEALC and UIS.

The Escuela Nacional de Entrenamiento Espeleológico Antonio Núñez Jiménez is named after the founder of the Cuban Speleological Society, a man of honor, a geographer, explorer, politician and also founder and first president of Federación Espeleológica de América Latina y del Caribe (FEALC). His productive life could be followed throughout the exhibitions of many books, paraphernalia, and items collected thru his life in his museum in Havana, Fundación Antonio Núñez Jiménez para la Naturaleza y el Hombre.



Classroom presentation.

MIGUEL BOLIGAN

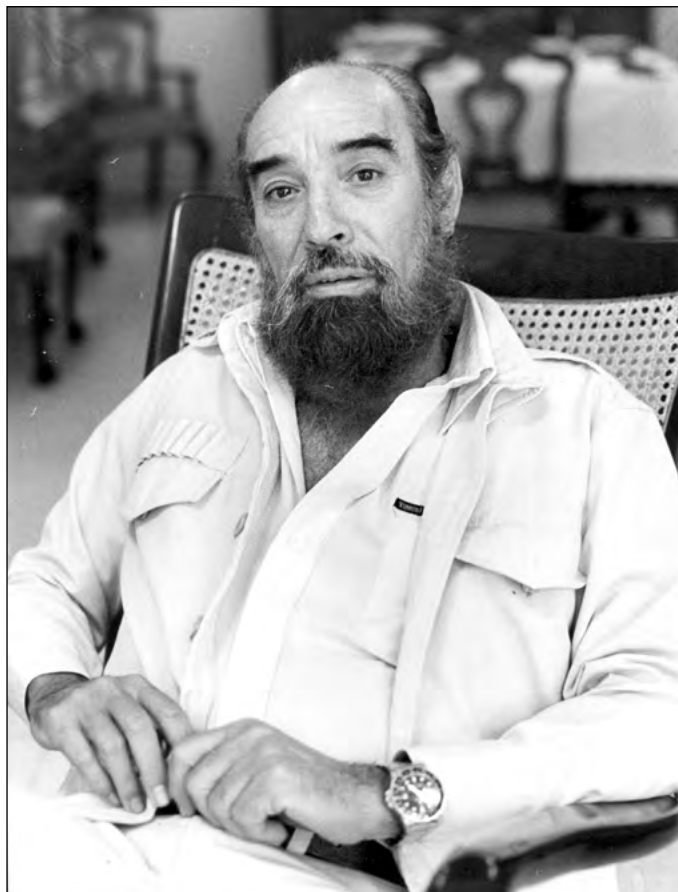


MIGUEL BOLIGAN

Participants showing their certificates.

In Cuba, cavers are well known to be educated people, not only because of their excellent educational system but also because the Cuban Speleological Society is compromised with high caving standards. That's why on December 2, 1984, it was decided to improve the facilities, building the new

ones that allow at least 30 participants stay in bunkbeds, with decent bathrooms, classrooms, a museum, cooking and dining area, storage and offices. It also has space for a karst laboratory. All cavers in Cuba must approve different levels of speleological training in order to achieve a better speleology science.



FANJINI ARCHIVES

Dr. Antonio Núñez Jiménez.

The school is also proposing to FEALC to be their center of training for speleology and cave rescue, something that has been worked on throughout the years. The Escuela Latinoamericana de Espeleosocorro (ELE) from FEALC is doing training with their Cuban colleagues and is now open to all cavers of Latin America and the world by means of a winter seminar (December thru March). The proposal also asks for having an organization of speleological schools worldwide.

There is a great opportunity for this great facility to develop cave rescue seminars or speleological seminars. Sometimes it is good to know that the Caribbean also has a training center, in the great valley of Viñales, Pinar del Rio, Cuba. Keeping our cavers well trained and knowledgeable about science is not a mere illusion. It is completely possible. Finally, speleology is about sharing knowledge.

The Sociedad Espeleológica de Cuba invites speleologists of the world to share with us at the training center. It is nice to have everything a good caver needs at hand in a space so close to the karst land, the mogotes! Science is knowledge and knowledge meant to be shared.

IN MEMORIAM

Grzegorz Klassek

Bielsko-Biała, Beskidy Mountains, Poland

1950-2019

By Jan Urban (Poland)
President of the UIS Pseudokarst Commission
urban@iop.krakow.pl

Jerzy Pukowski (Poland)
Speleoclub Bielsko-Biała
pukowski@poczta.onet.pl

Grzegorz Klassek, a prominent Polish caver, honorary member of the Polish Mountaineering Association, passed away on Friday, 10th May 2019. Although he graduated the Faculty of Law and Administration of the Silesian University (Katowice, Poland) and was employed as a social insurance officer, his whole life he concentrated on an exploration, documentation and mapping of non-karst caves in the Beskidy Mountains. He lived in Bielsko-Biała, the largest human agglomeration in the Silesian Beskidy Mountains, and explored caves in the mountains surrounding this city since his teenage years.

Consequently, he was one of the founders in 1969, and first president of the Speleoclub Bielsko-Biała. Up to his last days he was an active member of this Club, often attending in its weekly meetings with his inseparable pipe. Unfortunately, he will not participate in this Club 50th anniversary which will be celebrated this autumn.

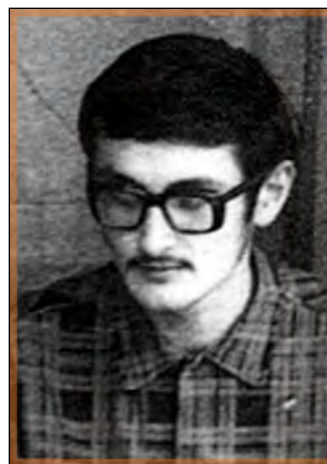
Since the beginning of his speleological activity he was aware of the necessity of exploration of very specific non-karst, mainly gravity induced caves in sandstones of the Beskidy Mountains, which are a part of the Outer Carpathians formed of flysch rocks. Owing to his very systematic works, including speleological exploration, as well as organisational activity in his club and outside, these caves, previously practically not known and not appreciated, currently belong to the most popular and the best documented such objects in Polish territory. Since the 1970s he presented the reports on the progress in exploration of these caves during every annual national (Polish) speleological symposia.

According to his last report, presented in the proceedings of the symposium in 2018, in the Polish Beskidy Mountains 1538 caves of the total length of



JERZY GANSZER

Grzegorz Klassek in recent years.



© <https://www.speleobielko.pl/klub/zarząd-i-dokumenty>

Grzegorz Klassek in two periods as President of the Speleoclub Bielsko-Biała (1969-1975 and 1979-1982).

26648 m were documented (four ones longer than 1000 m), which is ca. 30 times more than at the beginning of Grzegorz speleological activeness!

Grzegorz Klassek was an author of four volumes of the first series of cave inventory in the

Beskid Mountains (published in 1978, 1982, 1986, 1990) and author or co-author of many descriptions of caves in three volumes of the national edition of cave inventory (1997-1998). He was also a co-author of one of the first classification of non-karst caves in the Beskid Mountains (1997). For this activity, in 1984, he was rewarded with the M. Markowicz-Łohinowicz Medal, the most important Polish speleological prize. The activity of Grzegorz and his team did not stop with cave documentation, but it included also a cave legal and practical protection as nature monuments.

As one of the Polish caver best experienced in exploration and investigation of non-karst caves, he participated in several international pseudokarst symposia. He was a co-organiser of the 5th International Pseudokarst Symposium in Szczyrk, Silesian Beskid Mountains in 1994, and 9th International Symposium on Pseudokarst in Bartkowa, Beskid Mountains in 2006. He was also a co-organiser of four annual national symposia held in the Beskid Mountains, as well as national conference on cave documentation in Szczyrk in 1978.

Being an active cave explorer, he was conscious that cave exploration needed cooperation of many people and their common effort. In consequence, he was an educator and trainer of many cavers from his club and other caving groups. He was the leader of caving groups exploring caves in other mountain and upland regions in Poland and abroad, e.g.: Tatra Mountains, Slovak Karst, Moravian Karst



JAN URBAN

Grzegorz Klassek leaving a pseudokarst cave near Dukla town, Beskid Niski Mountains, Poland, during the national speleological symposium in 1994.

(Czechoslovakia at that time), Aggtelek Mountains, Also-hegy Mountains (Hungary), Tennengebirge (Austrian Alps).

But first of all he will be recalled as the unfailing partner during a cave exploration, educator disposed to help in every cave activity and—simply—a good, commonly liked friend, always ready to talk about caves and mountains.



JERZY GANSZER

Grzegorz Klassek in 2018 with his inseparable pipe.



© <https://www.speleobielsko.pl/klub/zarzad-i-dokumenty>

Members of the Speleoclub Bielsko-Biała in May 21, 2019, during the meeting dedicated to the memory of Grzegorz Klassek.



Calendar of Events

2019
2021

13th Balkan Cavers Camp

2-8 September 2019 (Antalya, Turkey)

<http://bsuturkey.com/index.html>

3rd Asian TransKarst Conference

7-10 September 2019 (Bohol, Philippines)

<http://www.transkarst2019.com/>

ArmConference 2019: Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments

11-13 September 2019 (Yerevan, Armenia)

<http://armconference2019.com/>

25th International Cave Bear Symposium

18-22 September 2019 (Paklenica National Park, Croatia)

Contact: nadja.kavcik@univie.ac.at

Geological Society of America Convention

22-25 September 2019 (Phoenix, Arizona, USA)

http://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Annual_Meeting/GSA/Events/gsa2019.aspx

13th EuroSpeleo Forum

26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria)

<https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/>

International Symposium on Techniques for Remote Location of Unknown Underground Cavities

26-29 September 2019 (Sofia, Bulgaria)

<https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/symposia/>

46th IAH Congress "Groundwater Management and Governance Coping with Water Scarcity"

(Topic 7: Karst Hydrogeology)

23-27 September 2019 (Malaga, Spain)

<http://www.iah2019.org/topics-and-sessions/>

6th Texas Hydro-Geo Workshop

4-6 October 2019 (Boerne, Texas, USA)

<https://hydrogeoworkshop.org/>

Sustainable Management of Show Caves

7-9 October 2019 (Skocjan Caves Park, Slovenia)

<https://izrkc-sci-mtg.zrc-sazu.si/en/>

National Cave and Karst Management Symposium

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

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

Calendar of Events

2019
2021

13th European Cave Rescue Meeting

15-17 November 2019 (Istanbul, Turkey)

<https://caverescue.eu/13th-european-cave-rescue-meeting/>

International Congress: 80th Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society

19-23 February 2020 (Caibarién, Villa Clara, Cuba)

Contact: congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com

X International Conference of Minerals Resources Exploitation (CINAREM)

7-9 April 2020 (Moa, Holguín, Cuba)

<http://cinarem.ismm.edu.cu/>

16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst

20-24 April 2020 (San Juan, Puerto Rico)

<https://www.sinkholeconference.com>

ALCADI 2020: International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology

30 April - 1-2-3 May 2020 (Alps, Carpathians and Dinarides, Gorizia – Italy)

Contact: seppenhofer@libero.it

9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) & the

12th Scientific Conference Research, Utilization and Protection of Caves

12-15 May 2020 (Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia)

Contact: milos.melega@ssj.sk

US Geological Survey Karst Interest Group Meeting

13-14 May 2020 (Nashville, Tennessee)

Contact: KIG@usgs.gov

UNESCOkarst 2020: Conservation of Fragile Karst Resources

18-22 May 2020 (Bowling Green, Kentucky, USA)

<https://unescokarst2020.com/>

19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology

29 August – 5 September 2020 (Catania, Italy)

<http://www.19isvetna.com/>

EuroKarst 2021: The European Congress on Karst Hydrogeology and Carbonate Reservoirs

22-24 June 2021 (Málaga, Spain)

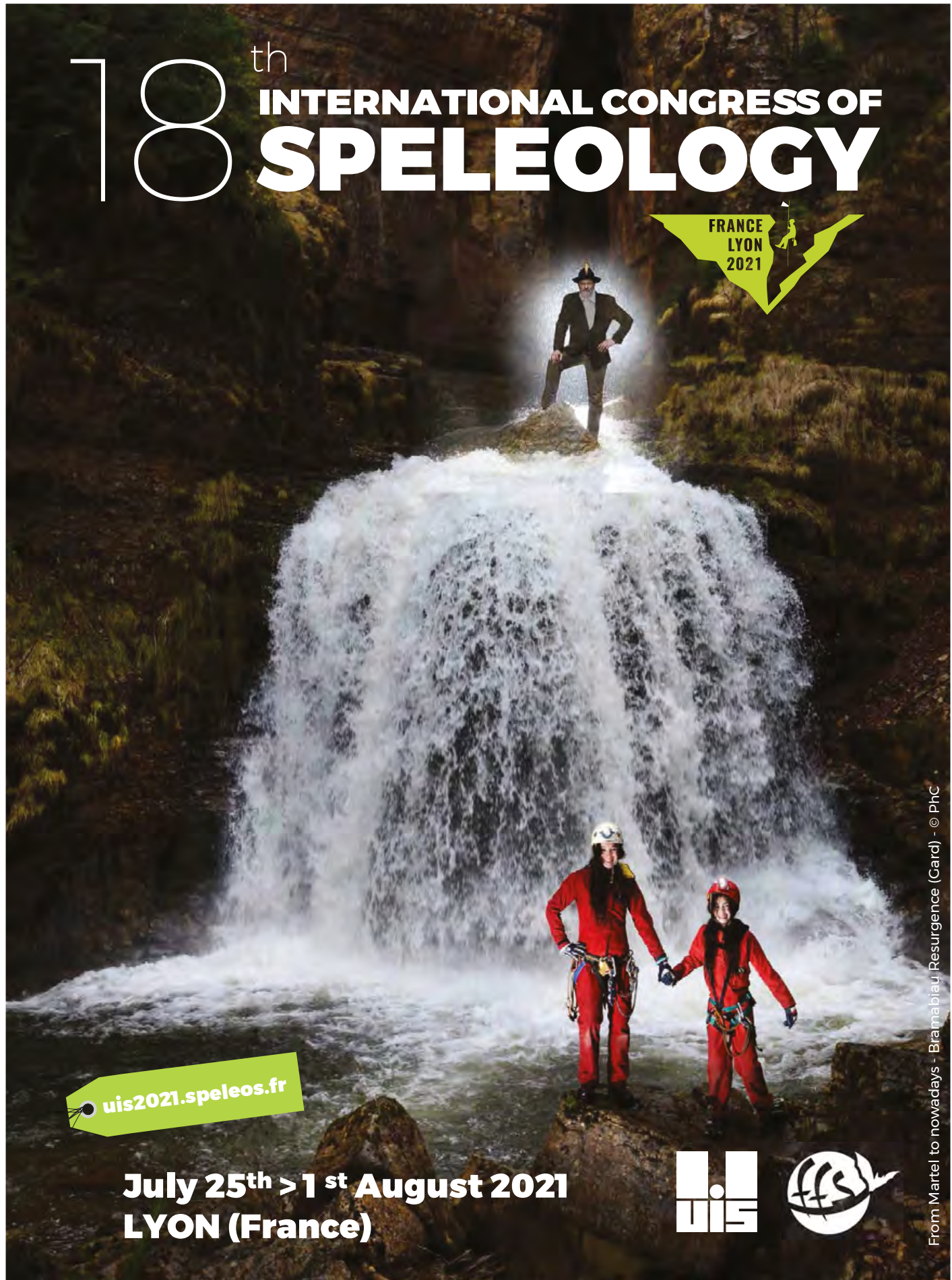
<http://www.eurokarst.org/>

18th International Congress of Speleology

23-29 July 2021 - (Lyon, France)

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

18th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF **SPELEOLOGY**



uis2021.speleos.fr

July 25th > 1st August 2021
LYON (France)



From Martel to nowadays - Bramabiau, Resurgence (Gard) - © PhC



Grotte de St Marcel (Ardèche) - © PhC

1 A date to write down in your diary

The French Federation of Speleology and the International Union of Speleology are pleased to host the International Congress of Speleology, which will take place from **July 25th to August 1st 2021 in Lyon, France.**

2 An exceptional karst environment

Lyon is the capital of the Auvergne- Rhône-Alpes Region. This region is very **rich in karst areas**, and contains more than 16,000 caves. Some of them are very famous, such as the Gouffre Berger, the "Jean-Bernard", the "Mirola", the Chauvet cave, the Dent de Crolles system, the Saint-Marcel d'Ardèche cave and many others, in Bauges, in Jura, etc.

3 A central Theme: Karst, Heritage and Ressources

The congress will be the opportunity to exchange our knowledge related to speleology through a **program of conferences** on very varied subjects (explorations, geology, hydrogeology, karstology, mineralogy, biology, climatology, archaeology, paleontology...), around a central theme Karst, Heritage and Ressources integrating new approaches such as geoheritage.

4 A speleological meeting

Through excursions, round tables and cultural and festive activities organized by our team of volunteers, nearly 2000 people are expected to participate in this great gathering of speleologists from all over the world.

5 A Tribute to Edouard Alfred Martel, the founder of French speleology

The year 2021 will mark the centenary of the publication of his book "**New Ground-water Treaty**".

6 68 years of international exchanges

In the middle of the 20th century, the international speleological community had the idea of organizing the first World Speleological Congress in Paris in 1953. Since then, many international speleological congresses have been held every 4 years all over the world then the UIS was found in 1965.

Today, 68 years after the first one in Paris, the French Federation of Speleology is very happy to organize the **18th UIS 2021 congress** in France, in Lyon.



Participating as “communicators”

After validation by the ICS scientific committee of scientific experts, the exhibitions and paper presentation sessions will take place during the week of the congress (except on Wednesday, dedicated to field trips), by participants who have registered for oral presentation.

The themes of of Karst and underground environments approaches will be varied and innovative, concerning exploration, geology, hydrogeology, mineralogy, biology, climatology, archaeology, paleontology, geography presentations should be sent from **January 20th 2020** to **March 25th 2021*** to the congress website: uis2021.speleos.fr

**The publication of papers sent after this deadline will not be guaranteed in the ICS Proceedings, and will only be accepted if there is still space available.*

Before, during and after the congress

Conference and one-day excursions from July 25th to August 1st 2021

The ICS will take place within the INSA Lyon campus, easily accessible by public transport from the city centre and Saint-Exupéry International Airport.

The daily program will include exhibitions, round tables discussions and paper presentation sessions, followed by projection of photos and videos and then social entertainment every evening, including a Gala evening on Saturday, July 31th, 2021.

The scientific program will begin at the opening ceremony by a symposium with the participation of prestigious speakers.

Many field trips will be offered during the



The **full program** will be available after **March 25th 2021**

Pre-and post-ICS camps

Excursions up to a maximum of 6 days will be offered before and after the congress, from July 15th to 24th and from August 2nd to 11th 2021 to discover the karst cavities of the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region or elsewhere in France and Europe.

Registrations must be done from July 25th 2020 up to March 25th 2021.



Grotte de Vallorbe (Suisse) - © PhC

How to register to the congress?

Online registration, from July 25th 2020,
from the congress website: uis2021.speleos.fr



From the congress website you can book:

- ✔ **Your pass for the congress week.**
 This pass includes all activities organized during the week of the congress except excursions, including the Gala meal as well as various supports and goodies...
- ✔ **Accommodation**
 - ✔ **Stand:** limited space, booking of stands from **January 25th 2020** to **March 25th 2021** (a limited number of small spaces will be provided for free to Member Counties proposing to host the next ICS).
 - ✔ An order for a printed copy of the **Proceedings of the congress.**
 - ✔ An order for **T-shirts.**
- ✔ **Caving trips:** registration for one-day excursions and camps from **July 25th 2020** to **March 25th 2021** or on site for excursions organized during the week of the congress (limited places).



Our partners



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



© FADI NADER



JOSE AYRTON LABEGALINI - UIS PAST PRESIDENT

UIS BUREAU 2017/2021 in Ebensee, Austria, August 29, 2018.

Left to right: Efraín MERCADO (Vice-President of Operations/Puerto Rico); Satoshi GOTO (Adjunct Secretary/Japan); Gyula HEGEDUS (Adjunct Secretary/Hungary); George VENI (President/USA); Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Treasurer/Slovenia); Mladen GARAŠIĆ (Adjunct Secretary/Croatia); Tim MOULDS (Adjunct Secretary/Australia); Bernard CHIROL (Adjunct Secretary/France); Bärbel VOGEL (Adjunct Secretary/Germany); Zdeněk MOTYČKA (Vice-President of Administration/Czech Republic) and Nivaldo COLZATO (Adjunct Secretary/Brazil).

Inset photo above: Fadi NADER (Secretary General/Lebanon).

LIST OF MEMBER NATIONS as reported by the UIS Treasurer

55 Member Nations

UIS FEES JULY 2019

Paid through (or longer) 2018

Australia	Luxembourg
Austria	Mexico
Brazil	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	New Zealand
China	Poland
Costa Rica	Portugal
Croatia	Puerto Rico
Czech Republic	Romania (3/4 paid)
Germany	Serbia
Hungary	Sweden
Iran IR	Switzerland
Italy	Ukraine
Japan	United Kingdom
Kyrgyzstan	USA
Lithuania	

Paid through 2017

Argentina	Mongolia
Belgium	Philippines
Bosnia & Hercegovina	Russia
Cuba	Slovakia
France	Slovenia
Greece	South Africa
Indonesia	South Korea
Israel	Spain
Lebanon	Venezuela
	Vietnam

Debts for more than 2 years

Algeria	Paraguay
Colombia	Turkey
Honduras	

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.

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

UPDATE your status now!

CONTACT UIS

UNION INTERNATIONALE DE SPÉLÉOLOGIE

Titov trg 2, 6230 Postona, Slovenia

www.uis-speleo.org

Have not found your country in this list? [Ask the UIS Treasurer](#)

FINANCE

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

By Nadja ZUPAN HAJNA (Slovenia), *UIS Treasurer* - 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.

The UIS General Assembly at the 17th 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 17th 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

Account name Mednarodna speleološka zveza-UIS Titov trg 2 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	Account N° IBAN SI56 1010 0003 7861 520
Bank (name and address) Intesa Sanpaolo Bank d.d. Traška 2 - 6230 Postojna - Slovenia	SWIFT Code: BAKOSI2X
	Accepted Currencies: EUR (Euros)

STATE OF UIS BANK ACCOUNT ON AUG 19, 2019

EUR - Account balance - 36,858.77

USD - Account balance - 49,415.48

EUR 81,473.69 (Available)

Deposits in EUR and USD bring interest to cover various bank and account charges.

EDITOR'S DISCLOSURE

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

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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



UIS BULLETIN



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