

UNIVERZITA  
PAVLA JOZEFA ŠAFÁRIKA  
V KOŠICIACH



EUROPEAN  
CAVE PROTECTION  
COMMISSION

# 7<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium

09 - 13 September 2024

## **"WATER in Caves and Karst"** ***Understanding - Vulnerability - Protection***

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at the teaching-training facility of P.J. Šafárik University, Danišovce  
in the Košice Region  
in Eastern Slovakia

1<sup>st</sup> CIRCULAR



**The 7<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium**  
**"WATER in caves and karst"**  
***Understanding - Vulnerability - Protection***

at the teaching-training facility of P.J. Šafárik University, Danišovce  
in the Košice Region, in Eastern Slovakia

from **09<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of September 2024**

On behalf of the **European Cave Protection Commission** and the Institute of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences of the **University Pavol Jozef Šafárik** we kindly invite all speleologists, scientists and authorities active in monitoring and management of cave-, karst- and groundwater, to participate at the 7<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium organized jointly by the University Pavol Jozef Šafárik (UPJŠ) in Košice (SK) and the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) of the European Speleological Federation (FSE).

**Organizing institutions**

European Cave Protection Commission, European Speleological Federation  
<http://www.eurospeleo.eu/ECPC>

University Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Košice  
Institute of Geography, Faculty of Natural Sciences  
[www.uge.science.upjs.sk](http://www.uge.science.upjs.sk)

**Coordination**  
**ECPC**

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**UPJŠ**

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**Background**

Since its origin in 1990, the "Fédération Spéléologique Européenne" (FSE) has tried to promote Cave Protection at a European scale. 17 years later, the FSE General Assembly decided in Sweden in August 2007 to create a commission called European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) whose tasks would be to sustain the FSE efforts in actively promoting cave and karst protection at European level. At this point, the mission is based on the IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection and the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and the Recommendation on conservation of geological heritage and areas of special geological interest (Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, 2004) and other existing conventions at the European and global level.



## Context

Caves and Karst are important features of the European landscape and have intrinsic natural beauty and value. However, they are constantly exposed to numerous human impacts, directly inside the cave environment or indirectly in the associated surrounding. Karst regions suffer from destruction, air and water pollution associated mainly due to forestry, agricultural chemicals, quarries, landfills, mining, urban and rural development and uncontrolled mass tourism.

Karst and caves offer a direct access to the groundwater aquifer and the risk of pollution from threads is very high.

The 2024 EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium's theme of **"WATER in Caves and Karst" *Understanding - Vulnerability - Protection*** will focus on scientific and technical aspects of water in caves and karst. Protection and conservation, through speleological input, exchange of best practice and sharing of knowledge.

## Aims of the symposium

The Symposium will provide a platform for scientists, speleologists and authorities active in the domain of karst-water.

It should give an overview about monitoring and protection procedures in karstic regions in EU member states but also in non-EU countries. Main aspects will be monitoring, evaluation, understanding and protection.

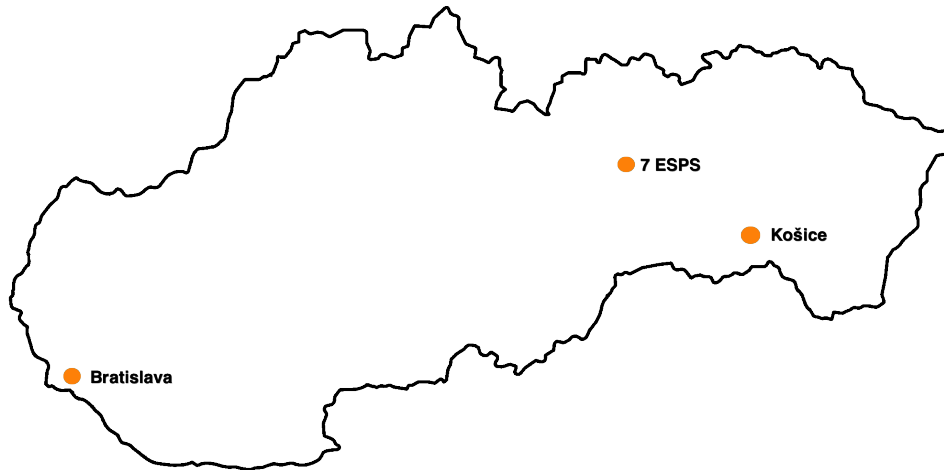
It will address appropriate management measures to restore or maintain a favourable conservation status.

**At this symposium we would like to welcome the cave experts or the main responsible persons for monitoring questions, one from each FSE member state's speleological organisation and from the official administration responsible for the reporting, to exchange experience, practical issues, cross border coordination, monitoring and reporting issues.**



## Venue:

The symposium will be held at the **teaching-training facility of the University of Pavol Jozef Šafárik in Danišovce**, district of Spišská Nová Ves, Slovakia



For more information please see the website:  
<https://www.upjs.sk/pracoviska/uvz-danisovce/>



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### facts

80km from Košice and ca. 18km away from UNESCO locations as the town of Levoča or Spis castle





## Symposium schedule

### Lectures

Monday, 09 <sup>th</sup> of September	Arrival, Registration and Welcome
Tuesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> of September	Presentations & Discussions Evening program
Wednesday, 11 <sup>th</sup> of September	Presentations & Discussions Evening program

### Fieldtrip

Thursday, 12 <sup>th</sup> of September	Natural and cultural beauties of the Spiš region Dinner, Slovakian "Raut" & Farewell Party
Friday, 13 <sup>th</sup> of September	Final Discussion & Evaluation Closure and Departure (after lunch)

Please note that this schedule is provisional and may be modified depending on the number of accepted contributions. It will be communicated in due time.



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## Accommodation:

26 double bedrooms are available.

**Because of space limitations for the accomodation,  
the symposium is limited to 55 participants only!**

## Costs:

For the full 5 day symposium 09-13 September 2024 the following rates are applicable:

Participation fee in the shared double room > **250,- €** per person.

Daily rates apply for pre-arranged shorter participation.

Please indicate on the application form your preference with whom to share a room.

You will get a payment order once your application has been accepted.

What is included in the fee:

- Accommodation (4 nights)
- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, Raut, coffee breaks) on 4 days
- Bus transfer and lunchpaket for the fieldtrip.
- Cave entrance fees
- Symposium documentation

All other snacks and beverages have to be paid individually on location.

Participants travelling with non participating partner are recommended to organise their accommodation by themselves.

## Transport

By plane

Bratislava or Košice Airport

then by train

Bratislava to Košice (northern track), get off at Spišská Nová Ves or

Košice to Bratislava (northern track), get off at Spišská Nová Ves.

From here we can arrange a shuttle service.

By car

Danišovce is near the E50 motorway and near the city of Spišská Nová Ves.



## Official language

The official language of the symposium will be **English**.

## Call for Abstracts

The EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium's team is inviting you to submit proposals for oral presentations on the topic of the symposium **"WATER in Caves and Karst"**  
***Understanding - Vulnerability - Protection***

Abstracts for oral presentations in English language should have a maximum of 250 words and must be submitted to [symposium@eurospeleo.eu](mailto:symposium@eurospeleo.eu) by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024.

With abstract submission and a presentation at the Symposium you agree that your presentation will be published by the European Cave Protection Commission of the FSE and by UPJŠ.

## Application & Registration

All interested cave experts are asked to submit the filled in attached application form, the abstract (if applicable) by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Candidates who will be accepted will then be contacted.

The application form shall be sent to [symposium@eurospeleo.eu](mailto:symposium@eurospeleo.eu)

Because of the limited number of participants it is advised to submit the application form as soon as possible.



## Timeline for symposium organisation

Application form submission deadline:	<b>01 April 2024</b>
Abstract submission deadline	<b>01 April 2024</b>
Abstract acceptance notification:	<b>01 May 2024</b>
Confirmation of participation:	<b>01 May 2024</b>

## Data Protection

With registering and taking part at the EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium you accept that pictures are made and eventually could be used in reports or for presenting FSE, ECPC or UPJŠ activities. Your personal data will only be used for the registration and communication but will never be sold or forwarded (except for sharing among participants) outside of the FSE.

See you at the edge of the Paradise  
The ESPS organisation team



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