

Lower streamway in Gruta Belja-Flor, Serra da Bodoqueña, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil.

This photograph was taken during the EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2017-03 (Intl. Expedition to the Serra da Bodoqueña, Brazil).

Photo by:
Irina Ermakova



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by the Bureau of the
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Editorial

This third issue of the EuroSpeleo Newsletter contains information about the changes in regard to EuroSpeleo Projects and news related to the 11th EuroSpeleo Forum in Belgium.

FSE wishes to reach all European cavers with its Newsletters. Please distribute the Newsletters as widely as possible through your national federation and club mailing lists.

The FSE Bureau, October 2017

Cooperation agreement between the Asian Union of Speleology (AUS) and FSE entered into force

The January 2016 EuroSpeleo Newsletter reported on the 2nd Asian Transkarst Conference in Lichuan, Hubei (China) where the Asian Union of Speleology (AUS) was formally founded.

Subsequently, the 2016 General Assembly of FSE decided to form an alliance with AUS.

Therefore, a joint agreement was signed by AUS President Eko Haryono (Indonesia) in July 2017 during the 17th Intl. Congress of Speleology in Sydney, Australia. The agreement was counter-signed by FSE president Ged Campion (UK) at the 11th EuroSpeleo Forum in Ferrières (Belgium) on 15th September 2017 and thus entered into force on the same day. This makes speleologists from AUS member countries eligible for EuroSpeleo Project under the same

preferential criteria as participants from Middle/South America and the Caribbean countries (members of FEALC) as well as from Africa and Middle East countries.

The EuroSpeleo Project guidelines can be found at:

<https://www.eurospeleo.eu/en/eurospeleo-projects-fundings.html>

AUS member countries currently include: the P.R. of China, Indonesia, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.



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



Ebensee, Austria 23rd to 26th August 2018



21-22 October 2017

BCRA Cave Science Symposium & Field Trip

School of Earth and Environment, Maths/Earth/Environment Building, The University of Leeds, Woodhouse Lane, Leeds LS2 9JT, United Kingdom. - <http://british-caving.org.uk/phpBB3/viewtopic.php?f=29&t=1386&sid=931c93aa5e4591b743e4922dc5e02acd>

27-29 October 2017

33rd Annual Suicro Symposium, Ireland

The Lough Melvin Holiday Centre in Garrison, Co. Fermanagh, Ireland. - <http://www.caving.ie/suicro/suicro-2017/>

1-5 November 2017

International Caving Meeting "FinalMenteSpeleo2017" in Italy

Finalborgo, 17024 Finale Ligure, Savona, Italy. - <http://www.finalmentespeleo.eu/>

1-3 December 2017

A Golden Age of Cave Exploration - Celebrating 50 Years of British Cave Exploration & Cave Science at Home and Abroad.

Royal Geographical Society, 1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR, United Kingdom. - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-golden-age-of-cave-exploration-tickets-35817618461>

7-9 December 2017

Toposur 2017- Simposio Internacional de Topografía Espeleológica

Aulas del Instituto Andaluz del Deporte, Junta de Andalucía, Avenida de Santa Rosa de Lima, 5, Málaga, Spain. - <http://andaluciaexplora.blogspot.nl/2017/09/en-marcha-toposur-2017.html>

Important changes for EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) and EuroSpeleo Forums (ESF)

FSE has three official partners: Aventure Verticale S.A.R.L. (Cholet/France), Beal Ropes S.A. (Vienne/France) und Scurion GmbH (Burgdorf/Switzerland). Every year, our Partners provide valuable equipment sponsorship for ESPs and ESFs. This sponsorship enhances the benefits of European caving projects substantially.

Times are changing and life becomes increasingly faster paced and more complex. Social media now plays a far more significant role, both in private life and in business – including the FSE and our Official Partners. Consequently, the FSE was asked to update the contracts with our Partners. Following that, important new requirements for newly approved ESPs and ESFs have been introduced:

In the past, EuroSpeleo Projects only had to deliver one final report at the latest 3 months after the termination of the project. This report had to be accompanied by 8 photographs (in total) for the use of our sponsors, 2 of which (per sponsor) were required to show the equipment in action during the event. There was no such reporting requirement for EuroSpeleo Forums.

In future, it will be necessary for every EuroSpeleo Project and every EuroSpeleo Forum to deliver a report, at the latest 3 weeks after termination of each project. This report must include a short narrative (half an A4 page) either in English or in French language on the results of the sponsored event. As before, this must be accompanied by 8 photographs (in total), at least 2 of which (per sponsor) must show the equipment received in action during the event. Photographers will be credited by our Official Partners, if the names of the photographers are provided. This must be sent to contact@eurospeleo.org.

Additionally, projects are from now on required to provide a short product review of the equipment supplied by their sponsor. This report should also be received, at the latest, 3 weeks after the event. This must be sent by the project organizers to contact@eurospeleo.org.

For EuroSpeleo Projects a more detailed final report, 3 months after the event, continues to be a necessity, as described in the current ESP guidelines. (To be sent to contact@eurospeleo.org).

This new deadline of reporting within 3 weeks should enable our Official Partners to present sponsored events in a more effective and timely manner on their social media websites. It will also aid and enhance the development of their products.

The new ESP and ESF reporting requirements will require projects to make a thorough assessment of the equipment provided for their expedition/event and it will ensure a more timely and effective response to our Official Partners. If, in any time, it seems that these reporting requirements might not be met, FSE reserves the right to challenge the involvement of an equipment sponsor when receiving the project application.

From now on, the FSE will rigidly follow up these deadlines (3 weeks for ESPs AND ESFs as well as 3 months for ESPs). If deadlines are not met, the FSE Bureau will take any action necessary on a case-by-case basis.

Updated ESP and ESF guidelines are available on the FSE website (www.eurospeleo.eu).

Sophie Verheyden
and Serge Delaby
guiding the fieldtrip
to
Grotte de
Han-sur-Lesse
during the 11th
EuroSpeleo Forum
in Ferrières
(Belgium).

Photos by:
Ernest Geyer
and
Michael
Laumanns



BS 9-11 Cave, now the 3rd deepest Cave in Bulgaria

Banski Suhodol 2015 (EuroSpeleo Project 2015-06) was organised by the Bulgarian clubs SCC "Akademik" and SC "Helictit". Members from several other Bulgarian caving clubs ("CCSU Sofia", "Pod ruba" – Cerovo, SC "Caving" – Sofia, SC "Sjutka" – Rakitovo, SC "Prista" – Rousse SC "Iskar" Sofia) also took part, as well as cavers from Iran, Serbia, Greece, and Poland. A total of 53 speleologists participated with part of the team joining the first half, and others, the second part of the expedition.

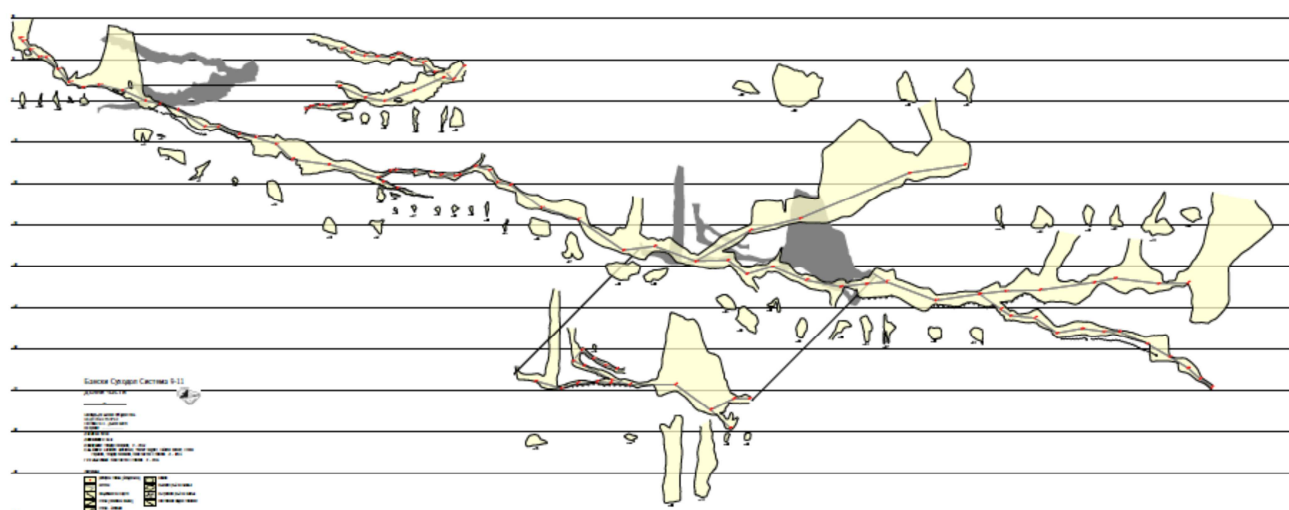
This year we planned to bottom and fully survey BS № 9-11 Cave. T. Kisimov, K. Stoilov, M. Entezari, and M. Sheykhraști surveyed the stream passages. P. Bakalov, I. Petrov, D. Hristova, H. Canev, S. Zarev and L. Makrostergios formed three groups and surveyed both upstream passages. Other

groups (M. Saghafi, E. Byramian, S. Goranov and R. Nenkin) surveyed a fossil passage in the "blockage hall". 750 m of passages with a depth of -85 m were mapped, bringing the total length of the cave system to 1,100 m and the total depth to -354 m. This makes BS № 9-11 Cave the third deepest in Bulgaria. B. Petrov, S. Goranov and S. Krosneva from the Bat Research and Conservation Centre (National Museum of Natural History, Sofia) continued their study of the bat fauna in the area, which had begun the previous year. This time they found four different bat species in BS 30 Cave. Konstantin Stoichkov also made biospeleological collections in BS 23 Cave.

The expedition received support from the EuroSpeleo Projects Fund, Beal Ropes, Aventure Verticale, and Scurion.



A few impressions of the Banski Suhodol Expedition 2015.



Profile of BS 9-11 Cave, Bulgaria.



The FSE Bureau and FSE Commission chairpersons as of 2017, from left to right: Jean-Claude Thies (European Cave Protection Commission Chair) (LU), Vice-Treasurer Ernest Geyer (AT), Antoniya Vlaykova (European Cave Rescue Commission Chair) (BG), President Ged Campion (GB), Vice-President Mladen Garasic (HR), Vice-Secretary Michael Laumanns (DE), the new General-Secretary Alena Gessert (SK), and Treasurer Henk Goutfier (NL). Photo: Karsten Gessert.

11th EuroSpeleo Forum in Ferrières (Belgium), Sept. 2017

More than 300 cavers from European countries and overseas, including China, participated in the 11th EuroSpeleo Forum in Ferrières (Belgium), from the 15th to 17th September. The Meeting took place as part of the Speleologische Dagen (Caving Days), organised by Belgian and Dutch cavers. The event also hosted the 2017 General Assembly (GAM) of the European Speleological Federation.

The FSE General Assembly endorsed the new Internal Regulations of the European Cave Rescue Commission (ECRC) and elected Slovakian speleologist and karst geomorphologist Alena Gessert as new FSE General-Secretary for a term ending in 2021. FSE President Ged Campion and Vice-Treasurer Ernest Geyer were re-elected for a new term until 2021.

A large number of field trips and presentations, as well as a splendid buffet, contributed to the success of the EuroSpeleo Forum. We thank our Flemish colleagues from the Verbond van Vlaamse Speleologen, our Dutch friends from Speleo Nederland and the Wallonian cavers from the Union Belge de Spéléologie for organising this excellent event!



Buffet at the 11th ESF (photo: E.Geyer).



Save the Date!

Please send info
on all your international
events (expeditions,
congresses,
symposia etc.)
to

contact@eurospeleo.org



Supporter of the 11th EuroSpeleo
Forum in Ferrières (Belgium)