

EuroSpeleo Newsletter

December 2017



Gouffre Berger

This photograph was taken during the EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2017-01 (Continued cleaning of Gouffre Berger) in 2017.

Photo by: Francois Lallier.



This Newsletter is issued by the Bureau of the European Speleological Federation (FSE)

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ISSN 2418-4500

Editorial

The 4th issue of the EuroSpeleo Newsletter reports inter alia about the EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2017, awarded by the European Cave Protection Commission and FSE for an outstanding cave and karst

protection project in Europe.

Please distribute this Newsletter as widely as possible through your national federation and club mailing lists.

Season's Greetings! The FSE Bureau

Update - 12th EuroSpeleo Forum in Ebensee (Austria), 23rd to 26th August 2018



The 12th EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF) will take place in the Town Hall in the centre of Ebensee in the Salzkammergut. Online registration for a reduced price is available until the 31st of May, 2018 at <http://www.eurospeleo.at/index.html>. A 2nd circular is available at <http://www.eurospeleo.at/Second%20Circular.pdf>

Beside the regular conference programme with presentations and exhibitions, the ESF will feature a EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, a EuroSpeleo Showcave Symposium, A EuroSpeleo Art Exhibition, and a EuroSpeleo ImageIn Film Festival in a cinema only a few hundred metres away from the Town Hall in Ebensee. There will also be many field-trips.

Oral presentations and posters are welcome. Abstracts need to follow a strict template (see <http://www.eurospeleo.at/symposia.html>) and should be sent by email to science@eurospeleo.at. The deadline for submissions is the 31st of January 2018.

See you all next August in Ebensee!



World Karst Aquifer Map now available!

After 5 years of effort and collaboration by an extensive international team, the World Karst Aquifer Map (WOKAM) is now available, thanks to the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT).

For all of the details, and to view the map digitally and/or order printed copies, visit:

https://www.bgr.bund.de/whymap/EN/Maps_Data/Wokam/wokam_nod_e_en.html?sessionid=816D984705F6E4870D017009E62CB666.1_cid331

6-3 March 2018

Symposium: To know and share caves and karst. Understanding, conservation and geotourism.

Domaine Lou Capitelte, 470 rue du Pigeonnier, 07200 Vogüé, Ardèche, France. -

<https://dhuguet.wixsite.com/cavesymposium2018>

2-6 April 2018

The Sinkhole Conference, jointly with the 3rd Appalachian Karst Symposium.

Shepherdstown, West Virginia, USA. -

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

27 May - 5 June 2018

Workshop Characterisation and Engineering of Karst Aquifers.

Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina. -

<http://www.karst.edu.rs/>

6-9 June 2018

Karst 2018: Expect the Unexpected.

Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina. -

<http://www.karst.edu.rs/>

11-16 June 2018

8th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC).

Picos de Europa National Park, Spain

Preliminary Info at <http://bit.ly/2ia2tuR>

2-6 July 2018

EuroKarst 2018.

Besançon, France. - <http://www.eurokarst.org/>

21-27 July 2018

18th International Vulcanospeleology Symposium.

Lava Beds National Monument, California, USA. -

<http://18ivslavabeds.com/>

Impressions from the Italian caver's meeting in Finalborgo (1-5 Nov 2017)



View from Finalborgo (photo: M.Laumanns).

About 1,500 speleologists from all over Europe gathered in early November in the beautiful town of Finalborgo (Liguria) with its historic buildings and scenic restaurants. A football field served as the campground from where all facilities, including the speleobar, exhibitions, sales stands and projection rooms, were accessible by a short walk through the narrow alleyways of the town. Many field-trips led to the surrounding caves. Workshops on cave surveying, OpenStreetMap, and cave photography were organised.

The programme of presentations was, to a great extent, first-class and ran simultaneously in several thematic sessions.

Exhibitors and sales stands were numerous, including FSE's Official Partners Aventure Verticale as well as Scurion. Scurion and FSE's third Official Partner, Beal Ropes, also supported the event financially. The Italian Federation SSI and the Swiss Federation SSS/SGH were present with bookstands. Our Italian colleagues are once again to be congratulated for hosting such an integrated and first-class event allowing for such valuable exchanges between European speleologists.



Main lecture hall in the archaeological museum (photo: M.Laumanns).



FEDERAȚIA ROMÂNĂ DE
SPEOLOGIE

To:
Members of the Balkan Speleological Union BSU
Cc: Union Internationale de Spéléologie; Fédération Spéléologique Européenne

1st Announcement of the 12th "Balkan Cavers Camp" to be held in Romania between 2nd-8th July 2018 in Baru Mare, Sureanu Mountains, Hateg province.

19th November 2017

Dear colleagues,

It is with great pleasure to announce that the Romanian Speleological Federation (FRS) has decided to organise the 12th "Balkan Cavers Camp" between 2nd-8th July 2018 in Baru Mare, Sureanu Mountains, Hateg province, to which we herewith invite all our colleagues from across the Balkans and beyond.

This time the "Balkan Cavers Camp" will represent a very special event for us since it will be combined with the National Speleological Congress and the Cave Media Contest "Spearta". Moreover, 2018 represents for us the 100 years anniversary of the Romanian State formation and 150 years since Emil Racovita, the founder of biospeleology and Romanian speleology, was born. Therefore we are obliged to organise a special event, so look out for a top-class gathering of cavers from different countries sharing the same passion for the beautiful world of Karst and caves.

For this event we have also chosen a special location, namely the caves of the Sureanu Mountains located between the towns of Hunedoara and Petrosani, in the heart of the Hateg province, which is known to be the cradle of the Dacians, our ancient predecessors. It is a history-laden area, with magnificent caves (Sura Mare, Cioclovina, Tecuri, Cocolbea), canyons, high mountains and ancient fortresses and citadels waiting to be discovered.

We will soon communicate the link to the event's webpage and further information will also be available on the federation's Internet page at www.frspeo.ro

We are all looking forward to welcome you next year at the 12th "Balkan Cavers Camp".


Spencer Coca
President
Romanian Speleological Federation (FRS)



The Caves of Thailand

Volume 2

Northern Thailand

Martin Ellis

Martin Ellis, long-time member of the Shepton Mallet Caving Club (UK) and a resident in Thailand for many years, has just released his second volume (491 pages!) of the series "The Caves of Thailand" through print-on-demand publisher Lulu Books. This covers the caves of northern Thailand.

Volume 1, released a few months ago, covered the caves of eastern Thailand.

Volume 3, which will cover western and central Thailand including Kanchanaburi, Tak and Phetchabun, will be an even heavier volume but, according to the author, it is a long way from being ready yet.

For future updates, Martin would be grateful for any information on Thai caves FSE members might have. Contact Martin at: thailandcaves@gmail.com

EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) recently accepted by FSE:

ESP 2017-08

Myanmar (Cave Together)

2018 International expedition to Mandalay, Loilen, Pinlaung, and Kayah, together with young Myanmar cavers.

ESP 2017-09

2018 International Expedition to Sampov Lun (Battambang province, Cambodia)

Cave documentation around the town of Sampov Lun close to the Thailand border.

ESP 2017-10

Cave Documentation in the Krong No Volcanic Geopark (Vietnam)

Support of the Vietnamese efforts to become a UNESCO Geopark.

ESP 2017-11

International Caving Expedition "Mount Sedom"

Documentation and studies of the salt caves of Mount Sedom (Dead Sea, Israel).



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

Sagtümpel (photo: R. Seebacher).



EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2017 Sagtümpel Restoration Project

The Speleological Society in Obersteier (Verein für Höhlenkunde in Obersteier - Austria) focuses on the speleological exploration and documentation of the Tauplitzalm/Tiefenbach area. In 2017, the society initiated a restoration project of the Sagtümpel. The Sagtümpel is one of the very few vauclosian giant karst resurgences in Austria. In its original state, the karst spring had a length of 27 m and a width of 14 m. The depth has been measured to at least 8-10 m. By long-term measurements by the hydrographic service of the state of Styria, a water outflow between approx. 0.5 l/s and 10.5 m³/s was determined. In 1975 the Sagtümpel was added to the local drinking water supply and sealed with concrete. Today, the water is no longer used and the complex became increasingly dilapidated. Consequently, a restoration of the former spring was initiated by

Speleological Society in Obersteier aiming to restore the karstic spring to its previous state. **MILESTONES** - May 2016: project preparation, authorities approval as EU LEADER-Project (Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale). October 2016: start of the restoration works, including the deconstruction of the old drinking water complex; forming the natural outflow of the spring; restructuring of the surroundings of the resurgence; setting up a theme trail on karst and karst water; karst springs, geology, caves and amphibians. September 2017: the project was awarded the EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2017 (including a 500 EUR financial grant by FSE as well as a Scurion 900 LED lamp); October 2017: conclusion of the project, the original state of the Sagtümpel karstic spring was restored and the aims of the project were fulfilled. 22nd October 2017, the official opening ceremony of the Sagtümpel spring took place. This project has been a best practice example, which could serve as a model for further projects throughout Europe. Studies of geology, hydrology, as well as the fauna and flora of the spring are now possible once again, without restriction. The areas of Sagtümpel, Sagtümpelbach and Tauplitz waterfall have now become a destination for cave and nature excursions and guided tours.

Sagtümpel in February 2017, illuminated by 3 Scurion lamps (photo: R. Seebacher).



Bird's-Eye view of the Sagtümpel in January 2017 (photo: M. Kreuzer).

