



This photograph was taken during the 11th European Cave Rescue Meeting in Bulgaria (EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2017-06).

Photo: Sigurður Ólafur Sigurðsson (<https://www.sigosig.is/>).



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

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ISSN 2418-4500

Editorial

This issue of the EuroSpeleo Newsletter includes statistics detailing the show caves of Europe, based on a new list compiled by the FSE Contact Group on Show Caves, chaired by Friedrich Oedl from Austria. Our

Kyrgyz colleagues renew their invitation to participate in joint expeditions to Kyrgyzstan. In addition, some results of recently concluded EuroSpeleo Projects are provided as well as upcoming events.

Best regards - The FSE Bureau

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



Connecting Science

The 12th EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF) will take place in the Town Hall in the centre of Ebensee in the Salzkammergut (Austria).

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>

FSE Partners



Scurion™



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_nad_e_en.html;jsessionid=814D984705F6E4870D017009E62CB666.1_cid331

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/>
27-30 September 2018

11-16 June 2018

8th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC).

Picos de Europa National Park, Spain
Preliminary Info at <http://bit.ly/2ja2tuR>

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/>

20-24 August 2018

24th International Conference on Subterranean Biology (ICBS)

University of Aveiro, Campus Universitário de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal International Society for Subterranean Biology. - <http://24icsb.web.ua.pt/>

23-26 August 2018

EuroSpeleo Forum, including EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, EuroSpeleo Art Exhibition, and EuroSpeleo Imagin Film Festival

Ebensee (Austria). - <http://www.eurospeleo.at/index.html>

27-30 September 2018

24th International Cave Bear Symposium

Chepelare, Bulgaria). - <http://icbs2018.at>

News from the FSE Contact Group on Show Caves

Most recently, thanks to its chairman Friedrich Oedl, the FSE Contact Group on Show Caves issued a draft list of all show caves in Europe.

This list will be distributed to FSE delegates in the near future for a cross-check and for adding further data.

Currently, the list has 695 show caves all over Europe with 33 show caves situated in non-FSE countries (like Iceland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cyprus, Malta, and the Czech Republic).

There is no data on the list yet from the Russian Federation, Belarus, Latvia, Estonia, Montenegro and the territory of Kosovo, all of which are not members of FSE.

France is the European country with most show caves (122), followed by Spain (74) and Italy (66).

Only a few FSE members do not have any show caves yet: Denmark, Finland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, and the Netherlands.

A meeting of the FSE Contact Group on Show Caves is planned at the upcoming EuroSpeleo Forum in Ebensee (Austria) (23-26 August 2018).

EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2017-09 discovers a new gecko species !

In cooperation with Fauna-Flora-International (FFI, Cambodia branch), EuroSpeleo Project 2017-09 (International expedition to Sampov Lun, NW Cambodia) is pleased to announce the discovery of a new gecko species.

Photographs taken during the expedition were verified by experts, who confirmed the discovery of an entirely new species. The scientific proof still needs to be collected, including samples of the yet unnamed gecko. However, this is expected to be an easy task as the geckos were found in several of the 28 new caves mapped by the expedition.

The ESP, supported by Scurion and FSE, had two Croatian, two German and two Chinese participants. It was the first project where the cooperation agreement between FSE and the Asian Union of Speleology was deployed.



FSE is a
member
of the



Invitation to Kyrgyzstan

Our colleagues from the Foundation for the Preservation and Exploration of Caves (FPEC) from Bishkek, led by Dr. Alexey Dudashvili, renew their invitation to European cavers for joining speleological expeditions in Kyrgyzstan in the summer 2018.

A detailed program with various expeditions was set up and can be checked at the FPEC website (<http://speleo.kg/projects-en/>).

Beside "classical" exploration work FPEC has also prepared a biospeleological expedition in the caves of southern Kyrgyzstan.

Details can also be provided when contacting Alexey Dudashvili by e-mail (info@speleo.kg).



International Training Camp for Young Cavers in Germany

This camp will be organized from 28 July to 11 August 2018 in the Swabian Alb, Germany. A wide range of courses is offered, from exploration techniques to cave surveying, cave photography, biospeleology, hydrology, archaeology/palaeontology etc.

Many field trips will also visit outstanding karst features, museums and caves in the area.

The languages spoken will be English and German.

For more details or registration please contact petra.boldt@gmx.net



Union Internationale de Spéléologie
International Union of Speleology

UIS is glad to share with you the Volume 59-2 of the UIS Bulletin, the largest and most illustrated issue of the 66 bulletins published since the first one in 1970. Enjoy the content of its 123 pages!

The PDF Interactive format can be downloaded by clicking on the link:

<http://www.uis-speleo.org/downloads/uis-bulletins/uisb592.pdf>



**CAVING EXPEDITION
"SUVA PLANINA 2018"**

9th-19th August 2018 / Suva planina Mountain, Serbia

This exploration project (close to the city of Niš) is organized by the Mountaineering Club "Dvig" in cooperation with the Speleological Committee of the Mountaineering Association of Serbia. Interested parties can be supplied with details by sending a request to contact@eurospeleo.org.



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

EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2017-11 (International expedition to Mt. Sedom/Israel successfully concluded

Mount Sedom stretches along the southwestern part of the Dead Sea in Israel and is part of the Judean Desert Nature Reserve. It is an extraordinary geological phenomenon: apart from some thin layers of silt and marl, it is made entirely of salt. Contrary to any other rock, salt dissolves rapidly in water. Creation of underground cavities is 1,000 times faster than in limestone or dolomite. The oldest cave is only 7,000 years old. The mountain only receives about 50 mm of rain per year, which tends to occur in flood events. Part of the water drains from the mountain's surface but most of the water flows through underground systems.

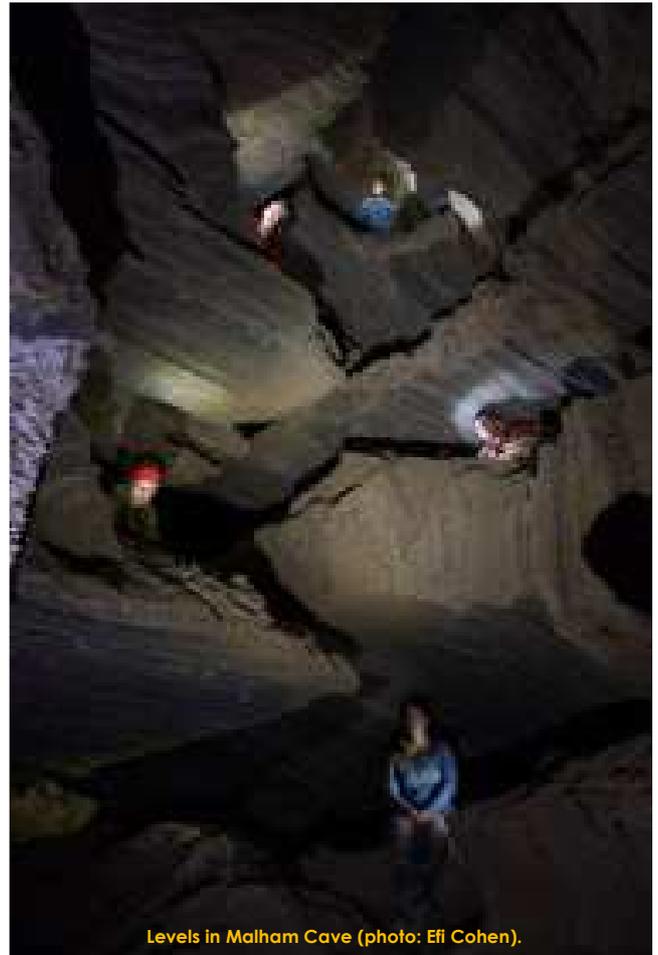
The height of the mountain is around 200 m above its surroundings and the deepest cave is around 110 m. There are about 150 known caves and each year there are new discoveries. Malham Cave is the longest known cave in Israel, and the second longest natural salt cave in the world. It is 5,500 m long and features breath-taking salt stalactites. Malham Cave was surveyed 40 years ago by an Italian expedition. Since then, many more passages have been discovered. Actually, Malham Cave is an extensive maze system with at least 10 known entrances and galleries on different levels.

EuroSpeleo Project 2017-11 took place 11-22 January 2018. The expedition was organized by the Israel Cave Explorers Club supported by the Israeli Cave Research Centre (ICRC). There were participants from Israel, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, UK, France and Germany.

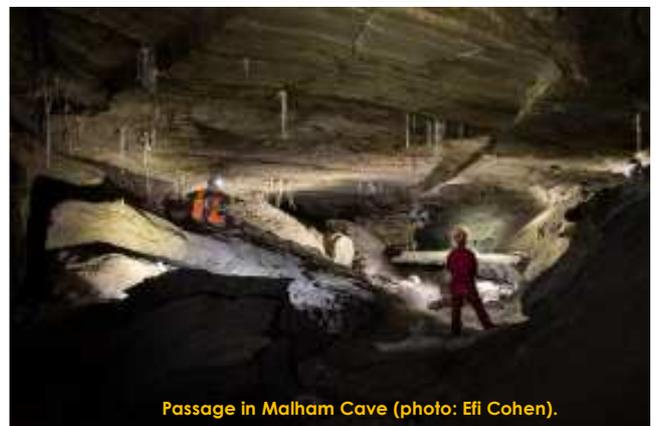
The main target of the expedition was to re-survey Malham Cave, in order to have a new vector map and to add new passages, discovered after the Italian expedition. The already known parts of the cave were re-mapped and more new passages were found. The survey of the new passages will be subject of the next expedition to the cave.

Surface explorations also discovered new entrances, mainly pits of at least 20 m depth.

About 6 km of galleries were mapped by 4-7 survey teams and 2-3 survey teams working both on the surface and in the cave. Aventure Verticale sponsored the project.



Levels in Malham Cave (photo: Efi Cohen).



Passage in Malham Cave (photo: Efi Cohen).



Salt formations in Malham Cave (photo: Krasimir Kolevski).



Our friend, the desert fox (photo: Krasimir Kolevski).