



Lava tube
in Jingpohu
Global
Geopark,
Heilongjiang
Province,
NE China
(EuroSpeleo
Project
ESP 2018-04).

Photo:
Irina
Ermakova



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

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Editorial

Upcoming events on the European (and world-wide) speleo agenda, invitations to international expeditions, as well as news from FSE's EuroSpeleo Projects are included in this issue of the EuroSpeleo Newsletter.

Please share this Newsletter as widely as possible amongst caving clubs and individual cavers and all those interested.

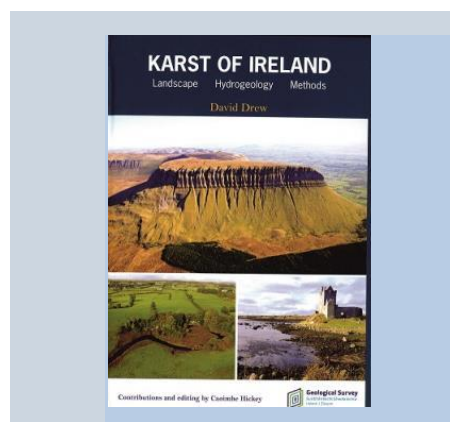
The FSE Bureau

New book release: Karst of Ireland

The book by Dr. David Drew was published by the Geological Survey of Ireland - see

<https://gsi.ie/gshop/Product.aspx?Productid=1513&Catid=20>

The publication is described as a practical book for both specialists and non-specialists. It is 318 pages long, and all the chapters contain excellent photos and illustrations. Such an exceptional visualisation of karst areas is especially useful for decision makers and may facilitate effective environmental management.



EuroSpeleo Projects recently accepted by FSE:

ESP 2018-05 – Expedition Myanmar 2019

ESP 2018-06 – Expe Dao 2019, Thailand

ESP 2018-07 – Expedition Mt. Sedom, ISR

ESP 2018-08 – Meeting Icnussa 2019, ITA

ESP 2019-01 – Gouffre Berger 2019, FRA

ESP 2019-02 – Hypogea 2019, BLG

FSE Partners



Cave and Karst related events

9-10 March 2019

Colloquium on the Caves of Azé "Histoire de désob"
Saône-et-Loire, France. – lionel.barriguand@wanadoo.fr

25-28 April 2019

Incussa 2019 - Urzulei, Sardinia, Italy. –
<http://www.incussa.it/>

20-25 May 2019

Hypogea 2019, Intl. Congress of Speleology in Artificial Cavities - Dobrich, Bulgaria. – <http://www.hypogea2019.org/>

24-26 May 2019

National Speleological Society Cave Diving Section International Cave Diving Conference
Lake City, Florida, USA. – <https://nsscds.org/evetns/2019-nss-cds-international-cave-diving-conference/>

7-10 June 2019

48th French National Speleo Congress - La Ciotat (Marseille). -
<https://congresffs2019.fr/>

17-21 June 2019

27th International Karst School "Classical karst": Karst Hydrogeology - Research Trends and Applications
Postojna, Slovenia. – <http://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/>

17-21 June 2019

NSS Convention - Cookeville, Tennessee, USA. –
<http://nss2019.subworks.com/>

19-22 June 2019

35th Brazilian Speleological Congress and 50th Anniversary of the Brazilian Speleological Society - Bonito, Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. – <http://www.cavernas.org.br/35cbe/>

24 -26 June 2019

Man and Karst Conference - Ragusa, Sicily, Italy. –
<http://www.cirs-ragusa.org>

1-5 July 2019

Symposium on Caves, Karst, and Subterranean Environments
Havana, Cuba. – <http://www.cubambiente.com>

1-5 July 2019

Challenges for Subterranean Landscape Conservation in the World's Karst Regions, 10th World Congress of the International Association of Landscape Ecologists - Milan, Italy.-
<http://www.iale2019.unimib.it>

9-12 August 2019

Sinterlaken, 14th National Swiss Congress of Speleology
Interlaken, Switzerland. – <https://sinterlaken.ch/en/>

11-17 August 2019

Summer School on Speleothem Science (designed for students and Early career researchers) - Cluj-Napoca, Romania. -
<https://www.speleothemschool.com/>

15-18 August 2019

German Annual Speleo Meeting
Nesselwang (Bavaria). – check out news at www.vdhk.de

7-10 September 2019

3rd Asian Transkarst Conference – Bohol, Philippines. -
<http://www.transkarst2019.com/>

11-13 September 2019

Armenian Conference "Caves as Natural and Cultural Monuments" - Yerevan, Armenia – <http://armconference2019.com/>

18-22 September 2019

25th Cave Bear Symposium - Paklenica National Park, Croatia. -
<https://my.pcloud.com/publink/show?code=XZCx5K7JYiEaUNki0mDxSS2ulfniLLE1si7>

26-29 September 2019

13th EuroSpeleo Forum
Dolni Lozen, near Sofia. – <https://esf2019.speleo-bg.org/>

Invitation to Gouffre Berger (Vercors/France)

The French Federation of Speleology (FFS) is renewing the international gathering around the Gouffre Berger. To visit one of the prestigious caves in Europe you can participate to the cleaning of the cave and meet with the first explorers of the first -1000 m deep cave worldwide.

The previous gatherings at Gouffre Berger always had a strong foreign participation and our objective is to meet again with many European cavers between 20 – 30 July 2019.

Please, get in touch with Rémy Limagne for the application form at r.limagne@gmail.com before March 2019.

More information at: <https://berger2019.ffspeleo.fr/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/816551028409538/>



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



VIIth International Photo Contest on Cave-Dwelling Flora and Fauna

Organized by: Grupo de Espeleología de Villacarrillo (G.E.V.), Plaza 28 de Febrero, nº 5, 1º-2ª; 23300 Villacarrillo (Jaén, Spain), gevillacarrillo@hotmail.com

Blog: <http://espeleovillacarrillo.blogspot.com.es/>

Biospeleology Blog: <http://biospeleologia.blogspot.com/es/>

Publications: <https://sites.google.com/site/espeleovillacarrillo/>

<https://biospeleologia.blogspot.com/2018/12/vii-concurso-internacional-de.html>



The 13th EuroSpeleo Forum will be organized by the Bulgarian Federation of Speleology (BFS) and the Cave Rescue of Bulgaria in the National Education Centre of the Red Cross in Dolni Lozen, at the foot of the Lozen mountain, about 20 km southeast from the centre of Sofia city.

The EuroSpeleo Forum is held between 26th to 29th September 2019 and there will be pre-excursions with mountain hikes and caving trips between the 21st and 25th of September.

The deadline for receiving abstracts for presentation is 1st July 2019. The official language of the EuroSpeleo Forum will be English.

Registration was opened on 1st February 2019. There will be an early-bird registration fee of 25 EUR until end of May 2019, with a standard registration fee being 35 EUR from 1st of June onwards.

This includes free access to all conference sites, a conference bag and the proceedings, free entry to two show caves in the region, as well as a free dinner with one drink. Expenses for fieldtrips will be invoiced separately.



90 years of organized speleology in Bulgaria
45 years of cave rescue in Bulgaria



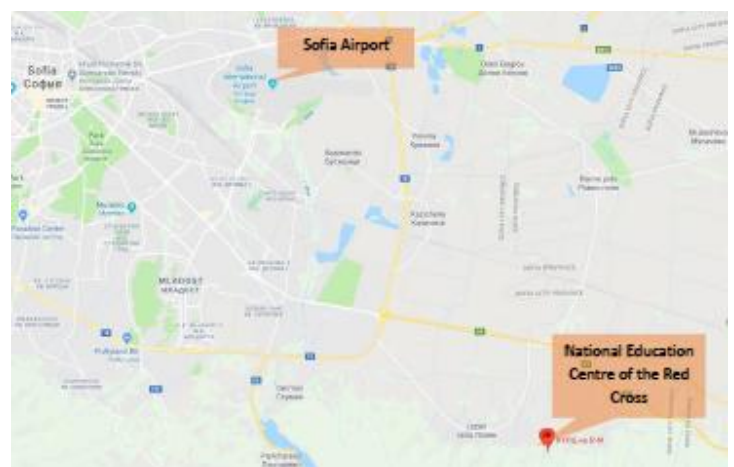
The two-star hotel complex of the National Education Centre consists of five hotel buildings, located in a pine forest, with single (16 EUR), double (24 EUR) and triple rooms (30 EUR), and apartments (35 EUR). Caravan/camper is 6 EUR, and tent 3 EUR. All prices for the accommodation are per night.

The 2nd circular is now available, also with information for vendors and exhibitors, at the conference website: <http://ESF2019.speleo-bg.org>

The circular has detailed information on access by public transport from Sofia airport/train station, the pre-congress program (guided cave trips around Sofia, or a several-day fieldtrip in the Western Rhodope mountains), sponsors, exhibitors and vendors, as well as on all the thematic symposia (Cave Climate and Paleoclimate; Remote Location of Underground Cavities; 2nd EuroSpeleo Show Cave Symposium; Cave Conservation Workshop). Also a general panel will present cave exploration & expeditions, biospeleology, karst geology, geomorphology and geography, cave rescue, etc. There will also be a photo competition, a EuroSpeleo Image'In Film Festival, and Speleo Olympics.

For most European countries, there is no visa requirement to visit Bulgaria. If any participant requires an invitation letter, please contact bfs@speleo-bg.org.

We are looking forward to meet all of you in Bulgaria soon!



EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2019 European Cave Protection Commission Call for Cave Protection Projects

It is with great pleasure that the FSE announces this year's call for Cave Protection projects to receive the Label "EuroSpeleo Protection" from the ECPC (the European Cave Protection Commission of the FSE).

The EuroSpeleo Protection Label is a European Speleological award managed by the ECPC, financed by the FSE budget. The EuroSpeleo Protection Label will help to promote amongst the speleological clubs of Europe, Cave Protection activities that are designed in an integrated ecological way, taking into account EU environmental directives, the principles of administration of the Natura 2000 sites and the IUCN Guidelines on caves and karst protection.

What kind of projects can apply?

The EuroSpeleo Protection Label will be awarded every year to one unique Cave Protection project. A European speleological jury established by the ECPC Board will make the selection. Any project aiming at protecting caves developed by a club, a local committee or a national commission from a member country of the FSE can apply.

What are the criteria to receive the FSE EuroSpeleo Protection Label and what amount can be awarded?

There is no need for participation of cavers from different countries, but the application should be a quality project and the broadcasting of the project presentation and results should be made in a spirit that can be reproduced in other European regions and countries. The application should be sent to protection@eurospeleo.org before 30th of June 2019, 23:59 (Central European Time) in English.

The project will need to receive the approval from its national speleological organization (i.e. a letter of support from its national organisation).

The award for the label 2019: 500 Euro + the following potential options for speleo gear from our sponsors Korda's, AV Gear or Scurion.

For information see:

https://www.facebook.com/eurospeleo/posts/964967600358396?_tn_=-K-R



Lava tunnel in the Jingpohu Global Geopark (photo: Irina Ermakova).

Reconnaissance expedition to north-east China has returned

Northeast China is known to have karst caves as well as volcanic caves. However, contrary to the spectacular karst in southern and central China, virtually no speleological investigations have taken place in NE China so far. Consequently, the area was targeted by a small team of Chinese, Russian, Dutch and German cavers between Christmas 2018 and 10th January 2019 for a lightweight reconnaissance expedition. The project has received EuroSpeleo status (ESP 2018-04) and was supported by FSE and Scurion.

A number of karst caves were explored around the Hunjiang River in Jilin province and several show caves were examined, amongst them Tonghua Yunxia Dong, featuring a succession of impressively large chambers and passages, reportedly 4 km long.

Along the Hunjiang River extensive outcrops of over 800 m thick Late Cambrian and Ordovician dolomites and marbles crop out, stretching from the border to Liaoning province in the SW corner of Jilin province through Tonghua (Tonghua) city and Baishan up to Linjiang city at the North Korean border in the NE. The carbonates are very fossiliferous. The karst area features hills and hill-chains 200-300 m high in average, intersected by surface rivers. Sinkholes, cave rivers and large karst resurgences are lacking. Most caves seen were fossil caves and only had drip-water or small streamlets during the wet season in the summer. Some caves had stagnant water, most likely marking the karst water-table.

The Jingpohu Global Geopark is formed by volcanic rocks and is situated about 110 km south of Mudanjiang city in Heilongjiang province. The volcanic zone is situated along the important NE-striking Dunhua-Mishan fault at the eastern margin of the Eurasian Plate. Approximately 500 km² of lava were emitted in several Pliocene-Holocene eruptive phases between 780,000 and 2,500 years ago by 16 local craters, 4 of which are accessible to visitors in the Crater National Forest Park at an elevation of about 1,070 m a.s.l. in the NW corner of the Geopark. The latter craters are the source of the lava that has travelled down a 60 km long tributary valley towards the Mudanjiang river in the SE and has finally blocked the river forming the famous Diaosuilou waterfall now being part of the touristic attractions of the Geopark. Several interesting lava tube caves were visited. A systematic investigation for caves was proposed to the Geopark management.

Northeast China has very harsh winters with temperatures dropping at night to -28° Celsius. Daytime temperatures were between -12° and -8°. This was a challenge, but winter resembles the dry season in NE China with continuous sunshine, making the cold bearable. The fact that even large rivers, including the Hunjiang, freeze in winter also allowed easier access to some of the caves.

Many hibernating bats were observed in those caves which were free of frost. Our observations are now being shared with bat specialists.

In total 25 caves has been visited and about 1 km of cave passages were brought in sketch.