



A shaft in Jama Nedam at a depth of -100 m. This photo was taken during the EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2019-06 (Mt. Velebit, Croatia).

Photo:
D. Korais



**This Newsletter is issued
by the Bureau of the
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Editorial

This EuroSpeleo Newsletter reports the outcomes of the FSE General Assembly held at the 13th EuroSpeleo Forum, which took place between 26th-29th September 2019 and was organized by the Bulgarian Federation of Speleology (BFS) in Dolni Lozen (near Sofia).

The Newsletter also presents the latest

news on future speleological events and features and the stunning results of Euro-Speleo Project ESP 2019-06 (Mt. Velebit, Croatia).

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

The FSE Bureau wishes all of you a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year 2020.

Changes regarding EuroSpeleo Project support

The year 2019 has been an unprecedented success with regard to new EuroSpeleo Projects. In total, 15 projects were accepted. However, FSE's Official Partners provide a limited amount of equipment items in support of EuroSpeleo Projects, which resulted in a shortfall of equipment sponsoring available for projects conducted in the 2nd half of 2019. To remedy such inequalities in the future, the FSE Bureau will carefully apply an extended flexibility regarding equip-

ment support. Consequently, the following paragraph now amends the EuroSpeleo Project Guidelines:

"For continuous activities in the same area or with the same objective/ theme, or for projects of organisers, which have successfully applied for EuroSpeleo Project status already in the past, FSE may decide not to consider applications in a given year or grant less support like the project would be eligible to."

EuroSpeleo Projects recently accepted by FSE:

ESP 2019-11 –
International Expedition
to China (Guanxi-
Guizhou)

ESP 2019-12 –
Expedition to NE
Thailand (Dao 2020)

FSE Partners





The FSE Bureau and FSE Commission chairpersons as of 2019, from left to right: Jean-Claude Thies (European Cave Protection Commission Chair) (LU), General-Secretary Alena Gessert (SK), Antoniya Vlaykova (European Cave Rescue Commission Chair) (BG), the new Vice-President Michel Isnard (FR), Treasurer Henk Goutier (NL), Vice-Treasurer Ernest Geyer (AT), President Ged Campion (UK) and the new Vice-Secretary Joerg Dreybrodt (DE). Photo: M. Laumanns.

The EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2019 was awarded to Croatia

At the EuroSpeleo Forum in Dolni Lozen in Bulgaria the EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2019 has been handed to Croatia for their project called "Center of Excellence - Cerovačke Caves; sustainable management of natural heritage and karst underground". The project is a result of co-operation between the Nature Park Velebit, the Zagreb Speleological Union, the Zadar County and the Institution for management of protected areas of Zadar County-Natura Jadara.

The main goal of the project is to improve sustainable use of natural heritage, primarily in Nature Park Velebit with focus on Cerovačke caves (Upper and Lower Cerovačk caves). The main problems identified were the lack of a proper long-term development plan for show-caves, poor management of the caves and degradation of the cave inventory and its surrounding landscape. The core activities of the project involve development of a new "state of the art" regional scientific and educational centre and the revitalization of the show-caves of Cerovačk. Aside from the show-caves and educational and hiking trails around the caves, a big part of the planned activities focuses on education programmes and scientific explorations and creation of strong network of potential users from many communities - public, caving, scientific as well as public or private institutions that can benefit these facilities and programmes.



ECPC President Jean-Claude Thies handing over the 2019 EuroSpeleo Protection Label award to the Croatian project.

One of the goals of the project "Center of excellence - Cerovačke caves; sustainable management of natural heritage and karst underground" is to offer practical learning to all-age groups through interactive experience in nature. The educational programmes of the project offer specialised training and non-formal education, and thus evolving more active enagement in nature preservation. They target all learning stakeholders (children, students, teachers and enviromental experts).

The project received an FSE financial grant of 850 EUR as well as a Scurion 900 lamp set.

Cave and Karst related events

6-9 December 2019

X. Spanish Congress of Speleology - Morillo de Tour (Huesca) - <https://espeleoaragon.com/xcongresoinglesespeleologia/>

19-23 February 2020

80th Anniversary of the Cuban Speleological Society - Caibarién, Villa Clara, Cuba - congreso80aniv.sec@gmail.com

20-24 April 2020

16th Multidisciplinary Conference on the Engineering and Environmental Impacts of Karst - San Juan, Puerto Rico - www.sinkholeconference.com

30 April -3 May 2020

International Symposium on History of Speleology and Karstology "ALCADI 2020" - Gorizia, Italy - www.seppenhofer.it

3-8 May 2020

23rd Conference of the Australasian Cave and Karst Management Association - Jenolan Caves, New South Wales, Australia - www.ackma.org

12-15 May 2020

12th Scientific Conference: Research, protection and utilization of caves and 9th International Workshop on Ice Caves (IWIC-IX) - Liptovský Mikuláš, Slovakia - www.ssi.sk/en/akcia/18-12th-scientific-conference-research-protection-and-utilization-of-caves

18-22 May 2020

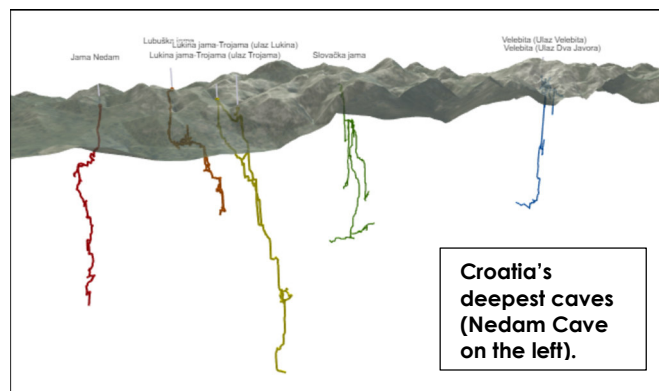
UNESCO Karst 2020 - Bowling Green, Kentucky (USA) - www.unescokarst2020.com/

21-24 May 2020

German Caver's Meeting, 25 years of Landesverband Hessen - Breitscheid - www.vdhk.de

28 June - 4 July 2020

25th International Conference on Subterranean Biology - Alba Iulia, Romania - www.25icsb.com/



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

EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2019-06 - New: the 4th deepest cave in Croatia

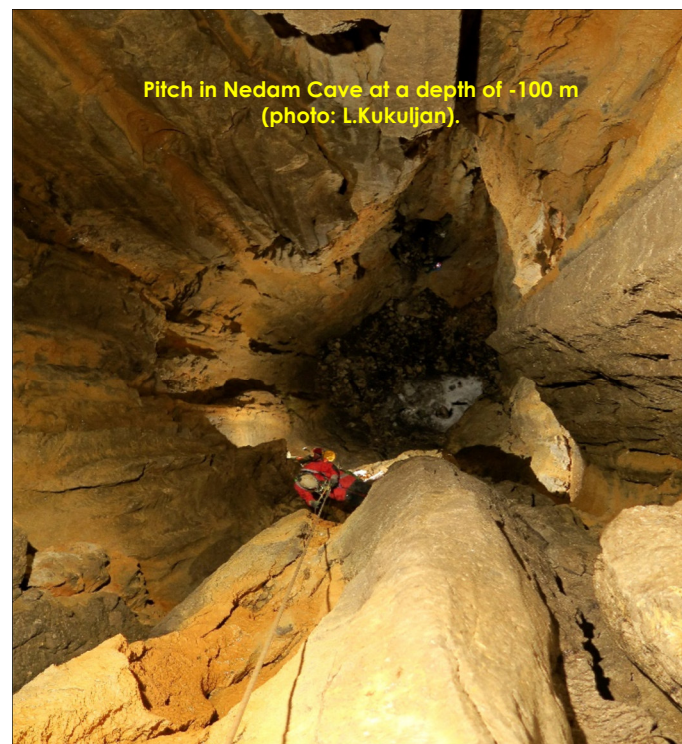
Between 29th July and 11th August 2019, an international team of cavers from Austria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Hungary, Italy, Serbia, Slovenia, Sweden, the UK, USA and Croatia has targeted the northernmost parts of Hajdučki Kukovi and the Vratarski Kuk area in the northern Velebit mountains. The expedition was supported by FSE (and it's Official Partners Aventure Verticale, Sacid Korda's ropes and Scurion).

A main target was Jama Nedam, which was discovered in 1997 during a Croatian expedition and has been explored to -247 m. At that depth a meander with a very strong draught was encountered. During the 2019 expedition, a narrow passage in the meander at -250m was discovered, which led to the deeper parts of the cave. At the end of the expedition, a depth of -740 m was reached, taking the cave to 7th place on the list of deepest caves of Croatia. Following the expedition, exploration continued and Nedam has now been pushed to rank 4 of the deepest caves in Croatia (-1,021 m). There is high potential to extend the depth of Nedam Cave in the future.

In total 70 caves have been investigated and 40 new caves were found. Forty-three caves were surveyed, three of which are more than 100 m deep.

The expedition also conducted scientific research including hydrogeology, biospeleology, physical, geochemical and speleobotanical measurements, sampling and monitoring. This research was carried out in collaboration with the Northern Velebit National Park and Croatian scientific institutions.

<http://www.eurospeleo.eu/images/stories/docs/eurospeleo-projects/2019/Expedition%20Northern%20Velebit,%20Croatia%2019%20ESP%202019-06.pdf>





"Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe"

*organized jointly by the
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the
European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) of the European
Speleological Federation (FSE)*

**6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, 22 - 26 September 2020,
"Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through
Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe",
organized jointly by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation
(BfN) and the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) of the European
Speleological Federation (FSE)**

On behalf of the European Cave Protection Commission and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation we kindly invite all speleologists, scientists and authorities active in cave and Karst monitoring and protection, to participate at the 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium, organized jointly by the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) and the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) of the European Speleological Federation (FSE).

The Symposium will provide a platform for scientists, speleologists and authorities active in the domain of cave and karst monitoring and conservation and will give an overview about Natura 2000 type 8310 habitat "caves not open to public" monitoring procedures in the EU member states and similar programs in non-EU countries. The main aspects will be monitoring, evaluation and cooperation through borders. It will address appropriate management measures to restore or maintain a favourable conservation status.

The symposium will be organised by ECPC (Bärbel Vogel (DE) & Jean-Claude Thies (LU)) and by BfN (Ute Feit).

Please submit filled-in forms to symposium@eurospeleo.org by **1st March 2020**.

For more information, please check the following online documents:

1st Circular:

<https://my.pcloud.com/publink/show?code=XZCbTQkZGmJ04qRzea0P5hbsWO2YL7q18Tg7>

Questionnaire:

<https://my.pcloud.com/publink/show?code=XZpbTQkZwYjbx7Lo3JREywJbEofNQ5DHok77>

Registration Form:

<https://my.pcloud.com/publink/show?code=XZBbTQkZyuu bclldUOWpw1TrV90ieDban7mtk&fbclid=IwAR1-9-0ZPe9Ngg45x EPdfDsKIhPI6v26TWmSdx3cA7fmLb4RMD002ZWW4>