

# FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



**GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING 2022**  
**Technolac, F-73370 Le Bourget-du-Lac**  
**Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2022 – 9:00 AM (CET)**

**Amphi Polytech room**

Reported by Alena Gessert

## **Participants present at the GAM**

FSE Bureau (with voting rights)

Ged Campion (FSE President, UK); Michel Isnard (FSE Vice-President, FR); Alena Gessert (FSE General Secretary, SK); Henk Goutier (FSE Treasurer, NL); Ernest Geyer (FSE Vice-Treasurer, AT)

FSE Commissions

Jean-Claude Thies (ECPC)

Delegates with voting rights

Gyula Hegedüs (HU); Silvia Goutier (NL); Guido De Keyzer (BE); Phillip Häuselmann (CH); Hilario Ubiedo de Oñate (ES); Manuel Pinto Soares (PT); Miha Čekada (SI); Michael Laumanns (DE); Johannes Lundberg (SE); Neven Šuica (HR); Ferdinando Didonna (IT);

Proxy Forms > Yavor Shopov (BG), Martin Budaj (SK), Alexandru Pologea (RO), Ana Mladenovič (RS); Jan Urban (PL);

Observers without voting rights

Teo Barišić (HR); Frédéric Urien (FR); Claudio Pastore (IT); Stelios Zacharias and daughter (GR); Christiane Meyer (CH); Amparo Perez (ES); Stefan Näff (CH); Marie-Josée Gilbert (CH); Francisco M. Martinez Garcia (ES);

Excused

Joerg Dreybrodt (FSE Vice-Secretary, DE); Elina Saarinen (Speleo-TV); Antonia Vlaykova (ECRC)

## **AGENDA**

1	GC	<b>Opening of the General Assembly Meeting</b>	<b>Ouverture de l'Assemblée Générale</b>
2	AG	<b>Quorum - Presentation of voting delegates and observing countries</b>	<b>Quorum - Présentation des délégués votants et pays observateurs</b>
3	HG/EG	<b>Approval of membership fees payments for 2021 &amp; 2022</b>	<b>Approbation des paiements des cotisations pour 2021 &amp; 2022</b>
4	AG	<b>Approval of last 2021 General Assembly Meeting report</b>	<b>Approbation du compte-rendu de la dernière Assemblée Générale 2021</b>
5	HG/EG	<b>Situation of the 31 European member countries</b>	<b>Situation des 31 pays membres européens</b>
6	GC	<b>Report of the Bureau 2021-2022</b>	<b>Rapport Moral du Bureau 2021-2022</b>
7	HG/EG	<b>Financial report 2021</b>	<b>Rapport financier 2021</b>
8	JCT	<b>Report of the FSE Treasury Auditor, exercise 2021</b>	<b>Rapport du Vérificateur des comptes FSE, exercice 2021</b>
9	JCT	<b>Annual report of the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) 2021-2022</b>	<b>Rapport Annuel Commission Européenne de Protection des Grottes (ECPC) 2021-2022</b>

10	JCT	Report on our partnership with the European Environmental Bureau (www.eeb.org)	Rapport sur notre partenariat avec le Bureau Européen de Environnement (www.eeb.org)
11	AV	Annual report of the European Cave Rescue Commission (ECRC) 2021-2022	Rapport Annuel Commission Européenne de Spéléo-Secours (ECRC) 2021-2022
12	JD	Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects 2021-2022	Rapport sur les EuroSpeleo Projects 2021-2022
13	ES	Report from Speleo-TV FSE workgroup	Rapport du groupe de travail FSE de Speleo-TV
14	EG	Report from the Contact Group on Showcaves	Rapport du groupe de contact sur les grottes touristiques
15	HG/ Wikicaves	Information on the International Caving Expeditions database (ICE db) and the cooperation with Wikicaves Organisation	Information sur la Base de données internationale des expéditions (ICE db) et la coopération avec l'Organisation Wikicaves
16	GC	Report on our partnership with the International Union of Speleology UIS	Rapport sur notre partenariat avec l'Union Internationale de Spéléologie UIS
17	GC	Organization of EuroSpeleo Forums 2022, 2023 & 2024	Organisation des EuroSpeleo Forums 2022, 2023 & 2024
18	HG/EG	Annual fees 2023 Provisional Budgets 2022 & 2023	Cotisations annuelles 2023 Budgets Prévisionnels 2022 & 2023
19	GC	Proposals for extending the FSE Bureau in the future and recruiting FSE staff at FSE countries and organisations for tasks to be done to keep the FSE running	Propositions d'extension du Bureau FSE à l'avenir et le recrutement de personnel FSE dans les pays et organisations FSE pour des tâches à accomplir pour maintenir le fonctionnement du FSE
20	GC	Miscellaneous	Questions diverses

GC = Ged Campion AG = Alena Gessert JD = Jörg Dreybrodt HG = Henk Goutier  
EG = Ernest Geyer JCT = Jean Claude Thies AV = Antonya Vlaykova ES = Elina Saarinen

### **1. Opening of the eGAM:**

The GAM commenced at 9:00 AM (CET). In the name of the FSE Bureau the FSE President Ged Campion welcomed all voting delegates and observers. The agenda has been proposed by the Bureau and was distributed in time to member organisations. The president presented the FSE Bureau.

### **2. Quorum – Presentation of voting delegates**

In 2022 the FSE has 31 member countries. One country without voting rights (GR). We need 15 voting countries to be present to have the right quorum. At the GAM there are 19 voting countries present. Delegates introduced themselves briefly. Countries not represented at this GAM:

Denmark, Armenia, Georgia, Ireland, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Moldova, Norway, Ukraine, Turkey

### **3,5. Approval of membership fees payments for 2022**

Henk Goutier presented the actual situation. There is one country that did not pay the membership fee: Denmark (2022) has no voting right in the current GAM.

Henk Goutier proposes to suspend the Ukrainian fee for 3 years (2022-2023-2024) because of the war in their country, but without losing their right to vote.

>> The GAM voted in favour of this.

### **4. Approval of the last 2021 General Assembly Meeting report (Annex 1)**

The last 2021 General Assembly Meeting report was briefly presented; it had been a virtual GAM.

>> The GAM voted in favour of the GAM 2021 Report

### **6. Report on the FSE Bureau October 2021 – July 2022 (Annex**

Ged Campion briefly presented the report of the FSE Bureau starting at the previous eGam.

The year was marked with the IYCK - International Year of Caves and Karst. Several FSE activities were under the IYCK umbrella. The 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium; the FSE Caves and Karst – Art contest; A short discussion took place on the topic of distribution of the FSE Newsletter within individual countries and potential language mutations.

The full report may be found in the annex to this report.

### **7. Financial report 2021 (Annex**

Henk Goutier presented the financial report of the FSE accounts for the accounting year 2021.

To be highlighted is that the balance was positive of 695.-€.

On the account in the bank in Luxembourg were at the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021, 32.633.-€.

The details of the financial report may be found in the Annex to this report.

### **8. Report of the FSE Treasury Auditor 2020 (Annex**

The auditor, Jean-Claude Thies from Luxembourg reported that the accounting records of the FSE have been audited, are true and accurate. He proposed to the GAM to vote in favour on it.

>> The GAM voted in favour of the accounts

### **9, 10. Annual report of the Protection Commission and Report on FSE membership in the European Environmental Bureau (Annex**

ECPC president Jean-Claude Thies highlighted the main activities of the commission for the period 2021-2022.

The report of the FSE-EEB activities have also been presented by the ECPC president Jean-Claude Thies.

>> The GAM voted in favour for the ECPC Report

### **11. Report of the European Cave Rescue Commission (ECRC) (Annex**

The president of the commission Antoniya Vlaykova (BG) was not present at the GAM. Gyula Hegedüs (HU) was entrusted with presenting the most important points. Please read the full report of the commission in the annex to this report.

>> The GAM voted in favour for the ECRC Report

### **12. Report about the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESPs) 2021-2022 (Annex**

The ESP guidelines were revised in January 2022 and new criteria introduced. The country rule is replaced by a minimum country rule of four or three if certain partner countries participate and the new criteria are oriented to the guiding Headline of the IYCK “Explore, Understand, Protect”. A One-page “Easy Guideline” was published which makes the application process and deliverables more transparent and the application template simplified. Important are good high resolution pictures of FSE sponsor equipment in the field to fulfil our obligations to the sponsors.

Ferdinando Didonna suggests the possibility of translating the presentation template into several languages and presenting projects at national events.

There are 8 Projects for 2022 up to the time of this report.

The full report may be found in the annex to this report.

>> The GAM voted in favour for the ESPs Report

### **13. Report of the Speleo-TV FSE Workgroup (Annex**

As Elina Saarinen (FI) is unable to attend the GAM, Alena Gessert is presenting the report:

Many cave conservation videos have been added. The categories for Cave conservation and Cave protection were merged to a single category: Cave Protection and Conservation

Most of the WordPress maintenance was automated during 2021. A small UI update was made in 2021 to restructure the main navigation.

It was planned in the GAM 2019 and 2021 that all the FSE EuroSpeleo projects and competitions that produced or showcase videos would send them to SpeleoTV.  
There were no EuroSpeleo project video submissions for 2021-2022.  
The full report may be found in the annex to this report.

#### **14. Report from the Contact Group on Show Caves**

The report was briefly introduced by Ernest Geyer.

#### **15. Information on the International Caving Expedition database and the cooperation with Wikicaves Organisation**

Wikicaves is working and enlarging the database and is maintaining it up to date.

Henk Goutier explained that Wikicaves has asked the UIS and FSE for an extra grant of 2000.-€ from each to be able to finance special features that need to be introduced in order to hide sensitive cave data.

Frédéric Urien from Wikicaves, here present, is explaining what will be done and how this money is used.

>> The GAM accepted the Treasurer's proposal for an extra grant of 2000.-€

Frédéric Urien expresses his thank you to the FSE for the grants.

#### **16. Report on the partnership with the UIS**

The FSE President Ged Campion was actively involved in the organisation of the ICS here in France.

In September 2021, the ECPC President Jean-Claude Thies was invited by the UIS to assist the official opening of the IYCK at the UNESCO headquarter in Paris (FR).

#### **17. Organization of EuroSpeleo Forums 2022, 2023 and 2024**

The next EuroSpeleo Forum 2022 will be held in Spain – Burgos.

The Spanish colleagues shortly presented the current situation about the organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> ESF in Burgos (ES) this automne.

The Bureau still accepts proposals for the ESF 2023 (probably Germany) and 2024.

#### **18. Provisional Budget 2022 and 2023 and Annual Fees 2023**

The originally proposed budget for 2022 needs to be amended in view of the extra grant for Wikicaves (2000.-€), the FSE Scholarships 2500.-€ and also the FSE Art Contest 500.-€

There is as well a donation specially for the ECPC work of 50.-€.

>> The GAM voted in favour of the amended Budget 2022

The 2023 Budget should again be a normal one as no extras are foreseen for the moment

>> The GAM voted in favour of the proposed Budget 2023

#### **19. Proposals for extending the FSE Bureau in the future and recruiting FSE staff at FSE countries and organisations for tasks to be done to keep the FSE running**

President

Ged Campion informs the GAM that he will be retiring at the next GAM in 2023 and that he actually continued his mandate in 2021 because of the 2 Covid-19 years.

Communications Team:

Henk Goutier explains that the FSE Bureau would like to establish a Communication Team to have a synergy between our communication on diverse platforms and media. All current editors and moderators would be included in this team:

Website manager: Fransesco Maurano (IT); FSE Website Content manager: Henk Goutier (NL); Eurospeleo Newsletter editor: Michael Laumanns (DE); FSE FB & Instagram moderator: Imogen Campion (UK); ECPC FB moderator: Christa Locke (DE)

Further the Romanian delegate Alexandru Pologea is offering his help in the team.

## **20. Miscellaneous**

Guido de Keyzer (BE) informed the GAM that his home organisation VVS would offer space for the FSE archives in the nearhood of Brussels (BE). An offer that is well received. Jean-Claude Thies (LU) who currently stores the FSE archives will get in contact with him.

A donation button could be added to the website, which would allow a quick donation without further problems.

The plenary session also discussed the importance of promoting FSE through social media and the possible creation of a budget for this purpose in the following years.

**The GAM closed at 12:00 PM (CET)**

## **Report FSE Bureau October 2021 – July 2022.**

This year marks the 30<sup>th</sup> birthday of the FSE and what better way to celebrate its success than by holding an exhibition and making a presentation that charts the history of our Federation.

However, just as we have started to emerge from the damaging effects of the pandemic earlier this year we were met with the devastating news in Europe of the brutal invasion of the sovereign nation of Ukraine. Like many organisations the FSE was quick to condemn this violation by the Russian Federation and will continue to do everything we can to support their community of cavers and the Ukrainian people.

Despite the difficulties presented by the Covid 19 pandemic last year and at the beginning of this year, members of the FSE bureau have continued to work hard in their respective roles. Planning the FSE's part in the International Year of the Caves and Karst (IYCK) and the International Congress of Speleology (ICS) in France has been a major priority. Travel restrictions presented by the pandemic have required a different way of working and meant an increased reliance on virtual meetings rather than the traditional face to face bureau meetings. Ease of access to online facilities has provided us with the opportunity to have more regular meetings as new challenges emerge. Since October 2021 there have been 6 bureau meetings. Also, many virtual events were organised by the FSE member countries to celebrate the IYCK during the pandemic, such as online webinars, photo exhibitions, videos, and art competitions.

The FSE organised a Cave and Karts Art Contest as an IYCK event. We received a wide variety of art works some with surprising quality. The winners of the contest were announced on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and can be viewed on the contest dedicated website: <https://eurospeleoart.eu/>. We thank Taraneh Khaleghi and the jury for organising this contest.

The scheduled Eurospeleo Forum (ESF) postponed last year has created a back log of events that have to be slotted into a busy calendar. The ESF this year will be held in Burgos, Spain and despite there not being a GAM we hope this event can be attended by as many delegates and European cavers as possible.

As delegates will know, the General Assembly Meeting (GAM) last year, and the previous year, had to be organised and executed as a virtual meeting. Despite this, the meeting was generally considered a success with member countries being able to express their views and vote on a wide range of issues.

The FSE continues work alongside the UIS who like us have been presented by many challenges in recent months.

Bureau meetings have given us the opportunity to reflect upon the structure of the bureau, our roles and responsibilities in a changing world and the statutes that support our federation. However, more will be said about this later.

Since 2009 the Eurospeleo Projects (ESPs) have been a resounding success for the FSE sponsoring and supporting caving expeditions and projects from member countries. As countries slowly recover from the effects of the pandemic more applications are filtering through for projects. The report on the ESP's will go into more detail on developments.

However, considerable work continues to be invested in maintaining the system of sponsoring European projects, the EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP), the EuroSpeleo Forums (ESF), as well as the EuroSpeleo Protection Label (ESPL). Our strongest commission, the European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) continues to effectively engage in issues that are vital to protect our caves and karst. The highly successful event, the 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium "Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through Natura 2000" was held in Germany in October 2021. A separate report will be presented by the president of the ECPC.

This year we were delighted to be able to introduce scholarships to support younger cavers and scientist to be able to attend the ICS. This is to be celebrated by the Apero event at the ICS.

Communication to our members is crucial especially during these difficult times. The FSE Facebook and Instagram page, updated regularly by Henk Goutier, is continuously visited by thousands of cavers and non-cavers thus representing an excellent outreach for European speleology. URL: <https://www.facebook.com/eurospeleo> and since the beginning of 2020 the FSE also has a Instagram page: @eurospeleo\_fse. Also, with the help of our partners of the WikiCaves organization we are able to update the FSE website on a regular basis.

As the work of the bureau increases our approach has been to outsource some of the tasks previously completed by bureau members, an example of this has been the EuroSpeleo Newsletter which is collated and edited by Michael Laumans. The FSE continues to encourage interest from new volunteers who want to join us in the work of the FSE.

**Ged Campion**

**FSE President**



## FINANCIAL REPORT 2021 version 2.0

from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021

### Financial Activities 2021 at the Luxemburg Bank (including Income and Expenditure Account)

	note	Total Funds 31-12-2021
<b>Incoming resources</b>		
<i>Voluntary income:</i>		
Membership fees	1	5.455,31 €
<b>Total incoming resources</b>		<b>5.455,31 €</b>
<b>Resources expended</b>		
<i>Charitable activities:</i>		
EuroSpeleo Projects under FSE patronage	2	-3.047,00 €
EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2021, CaveLife-App, Germany		-800,00 €
<i>Governance costs:</i>		
European Environmental Bureau subscription 2021		-296,00 €
Wikicaves support 2021		-255,00 €
Subscription FSE internet domains at OVH and Strato		-12,00 €
Speleo-TV, internet domain at OVH		-28,66 €
Bank taxes		-29,00 €
FSE Bureau costs		-150,00 €
ECPC expenses 6 <sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium		-142,24 €
<b>Total resources expended</b>		<b>-4.759,90 €</b>
<b>Net income at 31-12-2021</b>		<b>695,41 €</b>

### Balance sheet for 2021

	note	At 31-12- 2021
<b>Current assets</b>		
At Luxemburg bank on 31-12-2020		31.938,18 €
Net income at 31-12-2021		695,41 €
At Luxemburg bank on 31-12-2021		<b>32.633,59 €</b>
Stock at 31-12-2021	3	3.368,00 €
<b>Net current assets at 31-12-2021</b>		<b>36.001,59 €</b>

4<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Henk Goutier, Zoetermeer, The Netherlands

Ernest Geyer, Admont, Austria



## 1. Membership fees

<i>country</i>	<i>amount</i>
<b>Membership fees 2021</b>	
Armenia	42,50 €
Austria	306,00 €
Belgium	225,25 €
Bulgaria	170,00 €
Croatia	136,00 €
Denmark	10,60 €
Finland	59,50 €
France	586,50 €
Georgia	17,00 €
Germany	306,00 €
Great Britain	566,21 €
Greece	170,00 €
Hungary	136,00 €
Ireland	102,00 €
Italy	442,00 €
Luxemburg	59,50 €
Moldova	29,75 €
Netherlands	102,00 €
Norway	80,75 €
Poland	170,00 €
Portugal	102,00 €
Romania	31,00 €
Serbia	59,50 €
Slovakia	170,00 €
Slovenia	136,00 €
Spain	586,50 €
Sweden	170,00 €
Switzerland	170,00 €
Turkey	90,75 €
Ukraine	102,00 €
<b>Total 2021</b>	<b>5.335,31 €</b>
<b>Membership fees 2022</b>	
Armenia	50,00 €
Georgia	20,00 €
<b>Total 2022</b>	<b>70,00 €</b>
<b>Membership fees 2023</b>	
Armenia	50,00 €
<b>Total 2023</b>	<b>50,00 €</b>
<b>Total membership fees received</b>	<b>5.455,31 €</b>





## 2. EuroSpeleo Projects under FSE patronage

<b>EuroSpeleo Projects 2020</b>	
EuroSpeleo Projectnr. ESP 2020-03, Morca Cave Exploration 2020, Turkey	-600,00 €
<b>Total Projects 2020</b>	<b>-600,00 €</b>
<b>EuroSpeleo Projects 2021</b>	
EuroSpeleo Projectnr. ESP 2021-02, Camp Goufre Berger 2020, France	-800,00 €
EuroSpeleo Projectnr. ESP 2021-03, Speleomedit project and book, Italy	-800,00 €
EuroSpeleo Projectnr. ESP 2021-06, Biodiversity of Georgian Caves and Karst Areas 2021, Georgia	-800,00 €
Shipmentcosts for transfer of ropes from Italy to Germany	-47,00 €
<b>Total Projects 2021</b>	<b>2.447,00 €</b>
<b>Total Projects</b>	<b>3.047,00 €</b>

## 3. Stock

FSE T-shirt short arm 137 x € 12,00	1.644,00 €
FSE T-shirt long arm 11 x € 15,00	165,00 €
FSE Fleece jacket 2 x € 35,00	70,00 €
FSE Fleece hats 1 x € 13,00	13,00 €
FSE Umbrellas 24 x € 17,00	408,00 €
FSE Sticker big 181 x € 1,00	181,00 €
FSE Sticker small 55 x € 1,00	55,00 €
CD Euro Congress Vercors 2008 6 x € 3,00	18,00 €
ECPC cave protection pins 260 x € 3,00	780,00 €
FSE pen 68 x € 0,50	34,00 €
<b>Total stock at 31-12-2021 at selling prices</b>	<b>3.368,00 €</b>

## FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



### **Financial Audit Confirmation Letter: Accounting year 2021**

Based on the report: FSE 2021 Financial Report - version 2.0

Dear General Assembly

With this letter I inform you that the accounting records of the FSE - Fédération Spéléologique Européenne for the year 2021 have been audited thoroughly by myself on May 15<sup>th</sup> 2022.

The accounts presented in form of reports by Henk Goutier (NL) and Ernest Geyer (AT) are true and accurate.

I am pleased to confirm that the report is correct and precise, and propose to the General Assembly to vote in favour.

My regards to Henk and Ernest for their clean and precise work, a task which sometimes is difficult when subscription payments are late and invoices incomplete or missing.

On behalf of the FSE internal auditor

Jean-Claude Thies (LU)

Hobscheid, May15<sup>th</sup> 2022



FEDERATION SPELEOLOGIQUE EUROPEENNE



EUROPEAN CAVE PROTECTION COMMISSION

## Annual Report 2021 - 2022

### European Cave Protection Commission

#### MISSION of the ECPC

ECPC mission is to sustain the FSE efforts regarding cave and karst protection. The mission is grounded on the IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection and the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural *habitats* and wild fauna and flora).

The aims and the objectives that result from this mission are specified in the ECPC Internal Regulations, being identified in the strategic objectives of the ECPC.

#### OBJECTIVES of the ECPC

According to ECPC Internal Regulations (version 2019) the objectives are defined as follows:

##### SECTION 2: OBJECTIVES

§ 5. ECPC is formed as an instrument of the FSE. Its objectives are in line with the FSE aims (Section 2, Article 5, FSE Statutes). The ECPC objectives are, as follows:

- (1). To concentrate collective activities, in order to place cave and karst protection to a priority level within the European concerns of preservation of natural and cultural heritage, i.e. bio- and geodiversity incl. the variety of habitats, species, geotopes, geosites.
- (2). To combine the efforts of local speleological groups and national speleological organisations so as to develop and implement common European good practices of cave and karst protection.
- (3). To encourage and support local and national activities in order to assist speleologists in their interaction with public authorities.
- (4). To develop the collaboration with the European Union specialized structures and other international institutions and organizations in the field of cave and karst protection.
- (5). To set up a political lobby for cave and karst protection in Europe and to influence regulation, guidelines, supporting documents and directives in this field.
- (6). To generate knowledge about the scientific values of caves and karst, in order to identify and promote suitable and effective methods of their preservation.

## ECPC Team

### ***ECPC Board***

*Head of Commission / President*

Jean-Claude Thies, LU

(since 2015)

*Secretary*

Bärbel Vogel, DE

(boardmember since 2015)

*Members*

Ferdinando Didonna, IT  
2019)

(boardmember since

Ioana Meleg, RO

(boardmember since 2009)

Rudjer Novak, HR

(boardmember since 2019)

Véronique Olivier, FR

(boardmember since 2019)

Jure Tičar, SI

(boardmember since 2019)

Natalie Uomini, FR

(boardmember since 2019)

Alex Weigand, DE/LU

(boardmember since 2018)

*Current representation for the FSE at the EEB - European Environmental Bureau (based in Brussels, BE)*

Jean-Claude Thies, LU

FSE-Delegate, and  
EEB-Board Member

(since 2011)

(since 2018)

### ***ECPC Working Groups***

Biospeleology

Hannes Köble, DE

(since 2016)

### ***ECPC Action Teams***

ISO Standardization

Bärbel Vogel, DE

(since 2018)

Clean Up the dark

Rudjer Novak, HR, Ferdinando Didonna (IT)

(since 2019)

Jure Tičar (SI), Francesco Maurano (IT)

(since 2019)

## Report of Activities

### **§ Regular Work**

*Resp. ECPC Board*

As a result of the ongoing Covid pandemic situation in Europe there has not been any meeting of the commission in presence. This is however planned for the ICS in France.

### **§ Clean Up the Dark**

*Resp. Rudjer Novak*

The "Clean Up the Dark" project of the ECPC has its origin in a long Italian tradition of cave cleaning activities and the enthusiastic work of commission members to push the cleaning towards a European mission.

Rudjer has created an Internet platform "cleanupthedark.org" to promote the project with the best possible tool. At this time, the site includes polluted/cleaned caves in Croatia, Slovenia and Italy.

### **§ EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium**

*Resp. Jean-Claude Thies, Bärbel Vogel*

The 6<sup>th</sup> ESPE took place from the 26 to 30 October 2021 a year later as planned on the Island of Vilm in the Baltic Sea. It was a co-organisation between the ECPC and the BfN, the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation. The topic, "Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe" was focused on the different approaches and techniques used around EU and some non-EU countries for monitoring. The participants also came from these countries. Unfortunately the restrictions have forced us to limit the participants to 24 on site. An online participation was made available and was also used by a large number of interested people.

Our Commission member Alex Weigand together with a lot of co-authors has finalized the synopsis of the 6<sup>th</sup> EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium 2021. The work has been published in the RIO Journal and you can find the full synopsis under this link: [link to the full article: https://riojournal.com/article/85859/](https://riojournal.com/article/85859/)  
Thank you Alex and all co-authors for the great work.

The symposium was different as those before as it was an event on it's own and not in relation to any other caving activity. The good side of this was that we were able to get financial support for the symposium and the participants could ask for travel reimbursements. Another positive aspect was that during the whole symposium all physical participants lived together on the island and formed a strong group. An interesting field trip to old barracks was also organized and participants could test the German monitoring tool (CaveLife App) that was presented during the symposium.

### **§ EuroSpeleo Protection Label**

*Resp. Ioana Meleg, Natalie Uomini, Jean-Claude Thies*

The purpose of this label is to support the active cave protection in caving clubs, committees, national commissions, and others all over Europe and to share this knowledge. Every year we try to reward the best project focused on cave and karst protection, promotion and conservation.

The **2021 ESPL** had been awarded to the German "Verband deutscher Höhlen und Karstforscher e.V." for their project "CaveLife App". The CaveLife App is a modern tool for standardized assessments of the status of a cave and recording of the cave and groundwater fauna.

During the 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium on the Island of Vilm, the **EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2021** was awarded to the German Speleological Federation (VdHK).

### **§ European Environmental Bureau (EEB)**

*Resp. Jean-Claude Thies, Bärbel Vogel*

A special dedicated report on our work at EEB is made every year, so here are just some topics.

FSE is a full EEB member (adopted in 2011) and is actively involved in the EEB actions and working groups. ECPC represents the FSE in this head organization that is working on Civil- and Nature-Protection on EU level. This is achieved via many workgroups in all domains.

Currently we are subscribed to 3 important working groups:

Biodiversity	- Jean-Claude Thies; Fedinando Didonna
Water	- Bärbel Vogel
Agenda 2030 SDG	- Bärbel Vogel
Law	- Fedinando Didonna

Since 2015 the FSE is an EEB Board member as a "European Network Organization". Bärbel Vogel has done this task for the period 2015-2018. At the EEB GAM in Brussels 2018 we reapplied for a Board

position and were elected again. The Board position is now occupied by Jean-Claude Thies for the period 2018-2021 and 2021-2024.

The AGM 2022 has voted for a governance change within the EEB starting as from the AGM 2023. The current Board position of the FSE will automatically changed into a Council position. The Board then will be much smaller with different tasks and activities.

The 3 caving organizations (FSE, VdHK (DE) and the Italian SSI), all being "full member" at the EEB do work closely together and consult each other before the AGM each year.

## **§ Supports & Promotion**

### *Resp. Commission*

Through our "protection info" mailing list the commission has promoted several campaigns in Europe. Beside this, the Commission also wrote some direct support or complaint letters:

- **Restorenature** was initiated by BirdLife Europe, the European Environmental Bureau and WWF European Policy Office. **More than 14,000 Europeans** asked the European Commission to present the EU Nature Restoration Law without further delay.

To ensure the Commission sticks to its promise and publishes a strong legislative proposal by June. Nature restoration can be a game changer against the climate and biodiversity crises, but only if it is ambitious, credible, and timely.

- **Save the gypsum karst in the southern Harz Region in Germany** initiated by Friends of the Earth Germany" (BUND). More than 4,000 signatures could be gathered. Well in September 2021 the Lower Saxonia region has declared in written form that they would rethink their landuse. Currently 45 hectares have been saved!

In 2021 the ECPC also wrote a direct letter to the Ministry of the Lower Saxony region in Germany complaining against the plans to give permission for further destruction of the Gypsum karst.

### **- Natura 2000 Award**

On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Natura 2000 network, the European Commission announced the finalists for the 2022 edition of the Natura 2000 Award. Twenty-one finalists have been shortlisted out of 40 applications.

And among these 21 finalists there were 2 cave related projects and one is the **EuroSpeleo Protection Label winner from 2021, the "CaveLife App"** from the German Speleological Federation (VdHK).

The Natura 2000 Award ceremony took place in Brussels on the 18th of May 2022 and the "CaveLife App" application won in the category "Cross Boarder Cooperation".

The VdHK had invited me as ECPC president to join their team for the journey to Brussels. Beside the prize winners Christian and Stefan Zaenker, there was also Bärbel Vogel as online winner and Alex Weigand from the ECPC commission.

The ECPC has send an official congratulation to the VdHK.

### **- Open Letter to the European Commissioner Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius**

We used the opportunity of the Natura 2000 Award Ceremony to hand over a joint "open letter" from the VdHK and ECPC, to Mr. Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, regarding the inclusion of geodiversity beside biodiversity in future protection measures. We had as well a talk to Mrs. Florika Fink-Hooijer, Director General of DG Environment about the same topic.

- **ProGEO**, the European Association for the conservation of the geological heritage.

A direct letter to ProGEO indicating that the ECPC is supporting and would like to cooperate with ProGEO on its mission to establish geoheritage and geodiversity into the EU protection legislation send in 2021 has not led to any further changes. ProGeo is still working on their proposal and we are waiting for an outcome.

- **IYCK** initiated by UIS; The ECPC did run the 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium as an IYCK event. Further the CUTD site also runs under an IYCK umbrella.

In September the ECPC President was invited by the Ambassador Permanent Delegate of Slovenia to UNESCO and by the UIS President, to take part at the the official (postponed) International Year of Cave and karst opening event at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

#### - **VdHK**

At the national congress of the German Speleologic Federation VdHK in Truckental, Thuringia, I had an official presentation of the ECPC "European view on cave protection".

At the same event Michael Laumanns and I maintained an official FSE sales stand.

## Communication

### § Mailing Lists & Forum

*Resp: Jean-Claude Thies,*

*Henk Goutier (technical part)*

Since several years we run the following mailing lists:

**Protection INFO List; WNS workgroup; Shale Gas workgroup; Biospeleo workgroup**

**Working Group Biospeleology:** The forum is not used much by the Working Group. Currently there are 39 members subscribed. The last post is from 2019.

**WNS workgroup; Shale Gas workgroup;** Both are inactive and there is no traffic. The list names are kept for possible future use.

**Protection INFO List:** This list is not a discussion list as the others but a “one way out” list where the receiver is informed about ECPC issues.

### § ECPC Internet presence

*Resp. Jean-Claude Thies, Henk Goutier, Christa Locke, Rudjer Novak*

In Spring 2016 the ECPC has introduced a Facebook site that is maintained by Christa Locke on a regular (say daily) basis. On this page, all news and information from the whole world regarding Cave Protection and cave biology are gathered. Thank you Christa for your permanent devotion.

<https://www.facebook.com/ECPC-European-Cave-Protection-Commission1555576078092280/?fref=nf>

The "Clean up the Dark" internet site is now online since a while. Rudjer made a great job and beside Croatia, Italy and Slovenia, we are hoping that other nations will join with their "cleaned" caves as well. A couple of National Caving organisations have supported the project so far.

<http://cleanupthedark.org/>

There is also the Cavedeclaration site, which is hosted by the VdHK and which is still online. The news part is no longer updated and the content is based on 2008-2010 data.

<http://www.cavedeclaration.eu>

The official FSE site with the Commission Data is not really exciting and the motivation to update any data here has gone lost.

<http://eurospeleo.eu/en/commissions-en/cave-protection.html>

## **§ Internal Commission Newsletter**

*Resp. Jean-Claude Thies*

The president sends an internal newsletter via email each month with updates on the ECPC work. This goes to the whole ECPC Board as well to the FSE Bureau and other Head of Commissions.

## **ECPC Action Lines for 2022-2023**

### **7<sup>th</sup> ESPS - EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium**

The next ESPS will have to be organized in the near future and we are observing the caving events calendar to find a suitable location and dates to host the next symposium.

### **ESPL - EuroSpeleo Protection label**

The hand-over of the ESPL 2020 (they haven't got the diploma so far) and ESPL 2022 is planned to take place at the FSE stand during the ICS in France this year.

### **Clean Up the Dark European Network**

In close cooperation with the Italian initiative "Clean-up the Dark", the ECPC actively is supporting the project of a European network on cleaning activities in Caves. Data will be collected to get an overall view on the state of pollution and protection all over Europe. Currently the site features available national data on polluted and cleaned caves from Croatia, Slovenia and Italy.

### **EEB - European Environmental Bureau**

The FSE Board/Council position will run up until 2024. It should be decided whether the FSE still wants to play an active role in the EEB after the year 2024. We should also maintain our presence in the different working groups and eventually bring in more interested people also to other working groups than biodiversity and water. There are other topics that could match with our prime activity.

### **ECPC - European cave Protection Commission**

The current Board period runs from 2019 to 2023. That year the whole commission will reorganize itself with new members and a new president. We will have to organize this in time and motivate possible candidates to send in their application. Being part of the ECPC and also FSE is no longer just a "caving task" but caving, as well as nature, biodiversity, water and soil are more and more related to politics and civil engagements. This will be a challenge for the future.

## **Head of the Commission**

The current commission members have never met in person due to the Covid restrictions. This is a great loss and we should aim to change this in the future to have at least a couple of meetings together during an election period of 4 years.

But I don't want to brighten everything as it is a fact that through electronic communication only, the quality of work has gone down and written words may not always be understood correctly.

The caving activity is a physical one and a small caving trip of the protection commission members is definitely missing. The FSE Bureau did this in its early years and it was always a great success and binds cooperation as we all know.

The protection commission is a real one with 9 people on the board. Not always, everyone is active at the same level and moment, but different members for different tasks results in a cooperative work and a strong commission. This is what makes the difference.



Finally my wish to the commission for the next years is that it will continue with its great and important work and become something like an institution by the time.

Reported by:  
Jean-Claude Thies (LU)  
Head of the ECPC

With input from Alex Weigand

Spring 2022 / doc version 3.0

# FSE EEB Report 2021 – 2022

by Jean-Claude Thies, LU

The FSE is a full member at the EEB (European Environmental Bureau) since its adoption in 2011 and thus has the opportunity to defend its objectives regarding cave and karst issues with the help of Europe's largest network of environmental civil society organisations. Beside cave and karst, the FSE also defends groundwater.

EEB is a member of the "**GREEN TEN**" coalition, which gathers: BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, CEE Bankwatch Network; Climate Action Network Europe; **European Environmental Bureau**; Friends of the Earth Europe; Greenpeace European Unit; Health and Environment Alliance; Naturefriends International; Transport & Environment; WWF European Policy Office.

There are 170+ organisations member of EEB and they all come from 35 countries.

The FSE currently holds a seat in the EEB-Board as European Network organization since 2015. The representation has been done by Bärbel Vogel (DE) up to 2018, and by Jean-Claude Thies up to 2024.

There have been several Board meetings during the period 2021-2022:

- |                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1- virtual (Oct 2021) | present online: Jean-Claude T. |
| 2- virtual (Feb 2022) | present online: Jean-Claude T. |
| 3- virtual (May 2022) | present online: Jean-Claude T. |

## **The 50<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Meeting was held online on the 09-10 May 2022**

present online: Jean-Claude T. and Bärbel V.

### Governance change

A few years of work were needed to plan a governance change at EEB. The current Board is composed of 1 seat per member country, 10 seats from European Network Organisations and a few independent seats. The total currently is around 45 people building the Board. This is to large for a proper work inside the board.

With the change now there will be a new Board with 10-12 Members (President and vice-presidents included) for the high level decisions. Beside this new Board there will be a Council. The Council basically equals the composition of the old Board, 1 seat for each member country and 10 seats for Network Organizations. This change has been adopted by the General Assembly and the new structure will be effective starting the 2023 AGM.

The FSE seat in the current Board will automatically be switched into a Council seat at that moment. The FSE could however make an application to become Board member in 2023 but there are currently no intentions for such a step.

### New members

A couple of new members were adopted. Island is for the first time represented.

### **Working groups:**

The ECPC is currently represented in 3 working groups

Biodiversity	Jean-Claude Thies, LU; Ferdinando Didonna, IT
Water	Bärbel Vogel, DE
Agenda 2030	Bärbel Vogel, DE
Law	Ferdinando Didonna, IT

There are more than 15 different working groups at the EEB. The workgroups in which we are represented, are all dealing with issues related to cave and groundwater protection.

### **EEB internal:**

As the current Secretary General Jeremy Wates will leave for retirement end of June, the EEB Board has appointed Patrick ten Brink as successor.

*"Patrick ten Brink has been the EU Policy Director at the EEB since 2018 and the Deputy Secretary General since 2020. Patrick has worked with environmental policy related issues throughout all his professional life and is today one of the leading experts in environmental policy in Brussels."*

**Costs:**

For the membership status as 'Full Member' at EEB the FSE pays a yearly subscription fee of around 290.- EUR. Because of Covid, this fee had not been increased for 2022.

A new category system splitting the current categories into two has shifted the FSE into the lowest (0-50.000.- yearly income) category. This led to the fact that the membership rate slightly drops from 296.- in 2021/22 to 242.- in the year 2023. The fee will increase by yearly 2% after 2023 and stays below the current rate for the next 5 years at least.

May 2022

Jean-Claude Thies, LU  
FSE deputy at EEB

EEB links:

<https://eeb.org>

working groups  
<https://eeb.org/membership/our-working-groups/>

Meta the Newsletter  
<https://meta.eeb.org>



# FSE ECRC Report September 2021 – June 2022

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*The European Cave Rescue Commission is to establish co-operation between the cave rescue organizations and speleological organizations of FSE member countries and to exchange information and knowledge in the field of cave rescue.*

## ECRC'S Aims and Objectives

ECRC is formed as an instrument of the FSE and its objectives are in accordance with the FSE aims. (Section 2, Article 5, FSE Statutes).

The ECRC objectives are:

- (1) To develop, collect and disseminate knowledge about cave rescue on a European level.
- (2) To streamline collective activities, in order to put cave rescue to a priority level within the European concerns of civil protection and to assist the European speleologists in their interaction with public authorities.
- (3) To combine the efforts of local speleological groups and national speleological associations so as to support common European praxis of cave rescue.
- (4) To support collaboration with the European Union specialized structures and other international institutions and organizations, in the field of cave rescue.
- (5) To act as a political lobby for cave rescue in Europe and to propose new laws and directives in this field.

## Members of the ECRC

Antoniya Vlaykova (*elected 2016*),  
President of the ECRC

Andy Martin (*member of the ECRC since 2017*),  
Member of Luxembourg Caving Committee

Emre Can Güzel (*member of the ECRC since 2017*),  
President of Cave Rescue Commission of Turkey

Nicolas Magnon (*member of the ECRC since 2017*),  
Chief of operation and secretary in steering committee of Cave Rescue Switzerland (Speleo-Secours Switzerland)

Sergio Barbosa (*member of the ECRC since 2017*),  
Vice-president of the Portuguese Federation of Speleology

Ewelina Raczyńska (*member of the ECRC since 2018*),  
Member of Polish Cave Rescue Group (GRJ) / Grupa Ratownictwa Jaskiniowego

Fernando Caro Antúnez (*member of the ECRC since 2019*),  
Espeleo Socorro Aragónés

Gyula Hegedűs (*member since 2019*),  
Hungarian Cave Rescue, member of UIS Cave Rescue Commission

Robert Anzich (*member of the ECRC since 2019*),  
Slovenian Cave Rescue / Jamarska Reševalna Služba Slovenije – JRS  
Chairman of ECRA Cave Diving Rescue Commission

Teo Barishich (*member of the ECRC since 2019*),  
Cave Rescue Commission, Croatia / Hrvatska Gorska Služba Spašavanja – HGSS

## New members of the ECRC

The ECRC doesn't have new members since 2020. As one of the goals of the commission is to have representatives from different European countries new members of the commission are always welcome.

If you think your knowledge and experience could be useful in achieving the ECRC goals, please send a short description (simple speleo CV) to the following e-mail: [contact@eurospeleo.eu](mailto:contact@eurospeleo.eu). For more information read the [Internal regulations of the ECRC](#) (published on FSE website, under Commissions Cave Rescue section).

## Collaboration between ECRC, ECRA and UIS Cave Rescue Commission

ECRC of FSE works closely with ECRA (European Cave Rescue Association) and UIS Cave Rescue Commission.

During 18<sup>th</sup> ICS forum in France the bureau of UIS decided to reorganize UIS Cave Rescue Commission, which was not active because of the illness and death of its last president Christian Dodelin. The ICS will be the best opportunity for interested cavers to meet and discuss the future of UIS Cave Rescue Commission. The letter about this initiative was sent to all UIS delegates and Cave Rescue Organizations.

## Additional information

### Cave Rescue Accidents

#### Rescue in Wales 8 November, 2021

The incident happened on Saturday (6th November) after a man fell and was injured while caving in the Ogof Ffynnon Ddu cave system near Penwyllt, Powys. The casualty fell in the part of the cave known as Cwm Dwr, not far from the entrance where he went in. Due to the nature of the injuries, he could not be taken back out that way. Rescuers had to go through another route. The man was brought out of the cave at around 7.45pm on Monday following a 54-hour operation.

The system is Britain's third longest, second longest in Wales (about 61 km) and one of the deepest in the UK – about 275 m at its deepest point.

This incident involved cave rescuers from teams across the UK: Gloucester Cave Rescue Group, Midlands Cave Rescue Organisation, Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organisation, Mendip Cave Rescue, South East Cave Rescue Organisation, Cave Rescue Organisation, and Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association.

More information available at: [British Cave Rescue Council](#)

#### Lamprechtsofenhöhle 17 February, 2022

Three explorers from Poland were trapped in the Lamprechtsofenhöhle in St. Martin near Lofer, Austria since Thursday (17 February). Rapidly rising meltwater prevented them from leaving the cave. Friday – 18th February, four special divers from the Cave Rescue Service were requested to explore the situation. Around 5:30 p.m., a diver from Cave Rescue was able to get to the three men and make contact. Then, due to the falling water level and the good physical condition of the trapped men, it was decided that they could make their own way back to the cave entrance. At about 7 p.m., they reached the cave entrance unharmed. They

are hypothermic but in good condition and have been treated on site by a cave rescue doctor and the Red Cross.

More information available at: [ECRA website](#)

#### **Cave diving accident at Jósvalő, Hungary**

3 April, 2022

The longest rescue operation in the history of the Hungarian Cave Rescue Service ended on at around 2 p.m on Sunday, the 10<sup>th</sup> of April 2022. After 7 days of search and rescue, the body of a cave diver who died on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of April during an exploratory dive was brought to the surface.

The body of the missing diver was at a considerable distance, about 250 meters, from the start of the dive, the entrance to the "Reménytelen" (Hopeless) Sump, at a depth of about 30 meters. The cause of the accident seems to be a collapse of the passage, the traces of which were discovered by the cave divers diving the next day, at a depth of -48 meters at the end of the known passage. The terminal zone of the passage was filled up with muddy sediment and the diving guide rope was stuck beneath it. The possible signs indicating the collapse are being examined by the experts of the Aggtelek National Park by analysing the data of the karst water level registering well and the water flow meter at the "Nagy-Tohonya" spring.

More information available at: [caverescue.hu](http://caverescue.hu)

#### **Cuves de Sassenage, Isère, France**

5 May, 2022

Sabine Lorne, speleologist, recognized professional guide, team leader of the French Speleo Rescue, lost her life in Cuves de Sassenage, Isère, saving a teenager from the sudden rise of the water. She managed to save the last teenage girl caught in the flood in an ultimate gesture that cost her life.

More information available at: [Facebook page of Spéléo Secours Isère](#)

## **International Cave Rescue Courses**

### **International Cave Rescue Course in France**

16-23 July, 2022, France

From 16th to 23th July (days before the ICS) Spéléo Secours Français organize International Cave Rescue Course. Information about the course was spared

## Advanced SRT and Rigging Course

10-16 September, 2022, Hungary

This course is a combination of content from both the Advanced Vertical Caver and Rigging/Rescue courses.

The full announcement:

Spend seven full days of extensive training with a spectacular cadre of very talented instructors. Hone your existing skills and learn new ones in the gorgeous Aggtelek Karst region. Start training in a cliff environment near the entrance of Baradla Cave and transition to numerous days of in-cave rigging challenges. Be progressively challenged at your skill level with caves reaching 230 meters in depth. Mastered rigging? Practice rescuing a caver from increasingly complex situations. Have personal attention in a small class with a high instructor ratio so you can focus on exactly what you need. Relax at the Hungarian Caving Instructor Committee field house and enjoy meals prepared for the course. Spend your nights camping under the stars, in the fieldhouse bunks being social, or in a true bed at the nearby guesthouses.

We are also excited to offer the opportunity to experience Budapest from a caver's perspective with us as your guide. We will handle airport pick-up/drop-off, lodging in Budapest before and after the course, a day of caver-oriented sightseeing, assist with shopping before the course, and provide all local transportation. Also enjoy a great dinner in Budapest before the course starts to meet the instructors; and relax in thermal baths once the course is complete. Of course you are encouraged to extend your trip to explore more of both Budapest and Hungary! Come experience an extraordinary training course and gain more future caving opportunities through both skills and connections!

More information available at: <https://www.cavingacademy.org/course-2022-rigging.html>

## 15<sup>th</sup> European Cave Rescue Meeting

The 15<sup>th</sup> European Cave Rescue Meeting is going to take place in Rudice, Moravian Karst, Czech Republic from September 29<sup>th</sup> till October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Pre-Meeting from September 28<sup>th</sup> till 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This meeting is organized by the [Cave Rescue Service \(CRS\)](#) of the [Czech Speleological Society \(CSS\)](#) on behalf of the [European Cave Rescue Association \(ECRA\)](#).

This meeting will take place under the auspices of the [General Directorate of Fire Rescue Service of the Czech Republic](#), [Governor of the South Moravian Region](#), [Union Internationale de Spéléologie](#).

[Second Circular of the meeting](#).

Antoniya Vlaykova,  
Head of the ECRC of the FSE

July 2022



# EuroSpeleo Projects (ESP) Report 2022

Report covering the period from September 2021 to May 2022



## OVERVIEW

The ESP guidelines were revised in January 2022 and new criteria introduced. The country rule is replaced by a minimum country rule of four or three if certain partner countries participate and the new criteria are oriented to the guiding Headline of the IYCK “Explore, Understand, Protect”. A One-page “Easy Guideline” was published which makes the application process and deliverables more transparent and the application template simplified. Important are good high resolution pictures of FSE sponsor equipment in the field to fulfil our obligations to the sponsors.

STATUS JUNE 2022

The global COVID-19 pandemic caused the further delay of several expeditions. Since March more applications are submitted with focus on European events or expeditions in regions in Europe.

The overview for each project is found below:

Year	No	Title	Country	Start Date	End Date	Type	Grant Items
2019	14	Cuba Santo Tomas 2020	Italy	delayed to 2022		Expedition	Grant, Kordas, AV
2021	1	Ultima Patagonia	France	delayed to 2023		Expedition	Grant
2021	5	Biodiversity in Rwanda Lava Caves	Switzerland	delayed to 2022		Expedition	Grant, Kordas
2022	1	Cave Diving Expedition	Austria	02.02.22	7.1.22	Expedition	Kordas
2022	2	Caving in the Abode of the Clouds Project	Netherlands	delayed to Oct./Nov.		Expedition	Grant, Kordas, on hold
2022	4	Exploring and documenting Locoli Cave	Italy	01.06.22	30.09.22	Expedition	Grant, Scurion, AV
2022	5	Berger Clean Up 2022	France	20.07.22	10.08.22	Meeting	600 Euro, Kordas
2022	6	Balkan Cavers Camp 2022	Bulgaria	29.06.22	03.07.22	Meeting	600 Euro
2022	7	Speleologische Dagen 2022	Belgium	16.09.22	18.09.22	Meeting	Scurion, AV
2022	8	European International Camp – Lignin 2022	France	10.07.22	10.08.22		800 Euro, Kordas, AV

## OUTLOOK

The application of regional and international events for ESP status is highly encouraged. The ESP application process is slim and response is usually within 2-3 weeks.

We thank our equipment sponsors AV, Kordas and Scurion who support the ESP having themselves difficult times with supply chain volatility.

Best regards  
Joerg Dreybrodt  
FSE Vice-Secretary

# FSE Speleo-TV Report 2021-2022

## **Background**

The Speleo-TV working group was formed in 2011 to create a portal to gather and publish and distribute videos about caving and speleology.

The challenge: There was no centralised place to find speleological videos and videos related to EuroSpeleo projects.  
The solution: To create a portal where FSE could collect and keep videos under one domain for easy access.

The main way to collect the videos is to ask the speleological community and page visitors to submit their videos through a form. The videos are previewed and published by hand. SpeleoTV has its own Vimeo account that can be used to host videos. The majority of the content is hosted in YouTube or Vimeo on users' personal accounts.

Speleo-TV <https://speleo-tv.eu> has become a valuable archive of videos for the community. Its value is in keeping and preserving caving related video materials in one place.

## **Activities**

### **Videos**

Many cave conservation videos have been added. The categories for Cave conservation and Cave protection were merged to a single category: Cave Protection and Conservation

### **Wordpress**

Most of the WordPress maintenance was automated during 2021.

A small UI update was made in 2021 to restructure the main navigation.

SEO keyword optimization was started to generate more organic traffic to the page.

### **EuroSpeleo projects**

It was planned in the GAM 2019 and 2021 that all the FSE EuroSpeleo projects and competitions that produced or showcase videos would send them to SpeleoTV.

There were no EuroSpeleo project video submissions for 2021-2022.

### **Social media**

SpeleoTV is visible on social media, and it has a fair amount of followers in different channels.

Social media in numbers:

#### **Facebook Page**

<https://www.facebook.com/speleotv>

1061 likes and 1,161 followers in July 2022

#### **Facebook Group**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/speleotv>

1046 members in July 2022

#### **Vimeo Channel**

<https://vimeo.com/channels/speleotv>

443 videos, 127 Followers

#### **YouTube Channel**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FSESpeleoTV>

26 subscribers

Not in active use at the moment.

### ***Next steps***

EuroSpeleo project videos to Speleo-TV

Remind the EuroSpeleo projects and video competitions to send their videos to SpeleoTV for archiving and distributing purposes.

The video links (hosted in Vimeo or YouTube) with a short description can be submitted in: <https://speleo-tv.eu/submit-video/>

Working Group members

New active members would be appreciated. If you have a passion for videos and community management there is work for you in speleo-TV.

**FSE Budget 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 version 1.1**

	2019 budget voted in Ebensee	realisation 2019	2020 budget voted in Sofia	2020 changed budget voted on eGAM 2020 *)	realisation 2020	2021 budget voted on eGAM 2020	2021 changed budget to be voted on eGAM 2021	realisation 2021	2022 budget voted on eGAM 2021	2022 changed budget to be voted at GAM 2022	2023 budget to be voted on GAM 2022
<b>Income</b>											
Membership fees	6500	6688	6500	6500	6440	6500	6500	5500	6500	6400	6400
Sales	500	380	500	0	0	500	0	0	500	500	500
<b>Total</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>7068</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>6440</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>6500</b>	<b>5500</b>	<b>7000</b>	<b>6900</b>	<b>6900</b>
<b>Expences</b>											
Office	100	72	100	100	110	100	100	30	100	100	100
Internet and cloud storage	100	55	100	100	255	200	200	50	200	200	200
EuroSpeleo Projects	6000	6500	6000	2400	3300	6000	4000	3040	6000	6000	6000
EuroSpeleo Forum	750	750	750	0	0	200	0	0	750	750	750
Investment promoional material	0	0	0	0	0	2500	0	0	2500	1500	0
Meetings	100	0	100	100	0	100	100	150	100	100	100
ECPC	300	0	300	300	0	300	300		300	300	300
ECPC Protection Label	500	0	800	800	1300	800	800	800	800	800	800
EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium	0	0	500	0	0	500	500	140	500	500	500
EEB Membership	275	284	275	285	290	285	290	300	290	300	300
EuroSpeleo Rescue Com.	100	0	100	100	0	100	100	0	100	100	100
Transportation Bureau	750	576	500	100	0	500	0	0	500	500	500
Wiki Caves	250	255	250	255	255	255	255	255	255	255	255
<b>FSE Scholarships ICS 2022</b>										2500	0
<b>IYCK FSE Art Contest 2021 prize money</b>										500	0
<b>Special grant to WikiCaves/Grottocenter</b>										2000	0
Investment T-shirts etc.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>9225</b>	<b>8492</b>	<b>9775</b>	<b>4540</b>	<b>5510</b>	<b>11840</b>	<b>6645</b>	<b>4765</b>	<b>12395</b>	<b>16405</b>	<b>9905</b>

\*) Due to the Corona Covid-19 pandemic events and speleo-projects have been cancelled. The changed budget has only about half of the expenditure compared to the original one.

## **Proposed FSE annual fees for 2023**

Rate 1: from 1-9 covers: € 2,50 per cover

Rate 2: from 10-14 covers: € 20,00

Rate 3: from 15-29 covers: € 35,00

Rate 4: from 30-49 covers: € 50,00

Rate 5: from 50-99 covers: € 70,00

Rate 6: from 100-149 covers: € 95,00

Rate 7: from 150-299 covers: € 120,00

Rate 8: from 300-499 covers: € 160,00

Rate 9: from 500-999 covers: € 200,00

Rate 10: from 1.000-1.499 covers: € 265,00

Rate 11: from 1.500-2.999 covers: € 360,00

Rate 12: from 3.000-4.999 covers: € 520,00

Rate 13: over 5.000 covers: €690,00