SECOND CIRCULAR

18th EuroSpeleo Forum
and
Meeting of Croatian Speleologists,
Pazin, ISTRA, 13–15 November 2026.

Host of the event:
Speleological Society Istra

EuroSpeleo Forum and the **Meeting of Croatian Speleologists** are two events joined into one, called **"Mundus Spelaeus 2026"**, both of which attract a great number of speleologists, friends of speleology, enthusiasts and nature lovers from across Croatia, Europe and beyond. The aim of the event is to bring together researchers, scientists and enthusiasts to exchange experience and present the results of new research, to strengthen cooperation between European speleological federations and clubs, to share knowledge, standardize practices, and develop joint codes of ethics and technical standards for the exploration and protection of caves and pits. This year, for the first time, Croatia is hosting the EuroSpeleo Forum – its 18th edition.

Below you will find basic information about the tentative program and venue of the event, the registration fee, submitting lectures and posters, the speleo-photography exhibition, and more.

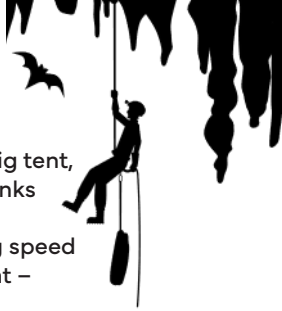
PRELIMINARY PROGRAM OF THE EVENT

FRIDAY, 13 NOVEMBER 2026

10:00 h (Memorial Hall)	Opening of exhibitions: "The Rašpor Pit", "Karst, Caves and Their Natural, Scientific and Cultural Values" and "Caves and Pits of Istria"
10:00 – 16:00 h (Memorial Hall)	Interactive workshop program for children, kindergartens and schools – "From Curiosity to Discovery and Understanding": 21st-Century Researchers Come to Pazin
12:00 – 14:00 h (Main Council Hall, Municipal Building)	Roundtable on environmental issues in the Pazinčica stream and Pazin Cave
16:00 – 20:00 h (Memorial Hall – lobby)	Setting up of stands: federations, associations, equipment sales
17:00 – 20:00 h	Check-in (Town Sports Hall), Sleeping quarters (Bowling Hall): gathering, registration and accommodation of participants
18:00 h (Memorial Hall)	FSE Bureau meeting
20:00 h (Tent – car park behind the bus station)	Get-together for arriving participants / Speleo Bar
CIJELI DAN	GUIDED EXPERT TRIPS TO CAVES AND PITS (several teams): Rašpor Pit, Zračak nade 2, Bregi Sinkhole, Radota Cave, Kumbašeja velika, Piskovica (cave in flysch)

SATURDAY, 14 NOVEMBER 2026

8:00 – 12:00 h (Town Sports Hall)	Participant registration
10:00 – 19:00 h (Secondary School Centre or Memorial Hall)	FSE meetings
	ECPC workshop on cleaning caves and pits and CLEAN UNDERGROUND – a block of talks and workshops on ecology and the protection of caves (half-day)
9:40 h (Town Sports Hall)	Opening of the Meeting (Town Sports Hall). Welcome addresses by representatives of the City of Pazin, HSS, FSE and KS HPS
	LECTURES:
10:00 – 11:30 h	Block I: Speleological expeditions and research in Croatia
11:40 – 13:15 h	Block II: Speleological expeditions and research in Croatia
13:15 - 14:00 h	Block III: Activities of speleological organizations
14:00 - 15:00 h	Break / Organized lunch for registered participants
15:00 - 16:00 h	Block IV: Speleological expeditions, research and professional activities around the world
16:15 - 18:00 h	Block V: Scientific research and professional activities in caves
18:15 - 19:45 h	Block VI: Scientific research and professional activities in caves
	POSTER PRESENTATIONS (throughout all three days)
	EXHIBITIONS (throughout all three days)
(Town Sports Hall)	Exhibition of selected photographs, with participant voting throughout the day
(Town Sports Hall)	Exhibition of selected cave survey maps, with participant voting throughout the day
19:30 h	Announcement of the winners of the speleo-photography competition and the best cave survey map



20:00 - 02:00 h	Entertainment program: Speleo Bar – big tent, live band Štrpin & Co., barbecue and drinks
21:00 h	Speleo obstacle course + rope-climbing speed competition (at/near the Speleo Bar tent – car park behind the bus station)

SUNDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2026

9:30 - 10:30 h (Secondary School Centre)	Meetings of speleological organizations (Croatian Speleological Federation, Speleology Commission of the Croatian Mountaineering Association)
10:30 – 11:15 h (Secondary School Centre)	Roundtable on tackling illegal waste dumps in caves and pits
11:15 - 12:00 h (Secondary School Centre)	Roundtable on the Croatian Speleological Cadastre
	TRIPS TO CAVES AND PITS:
10:00 h	Visit to Pazin Cave (subject to hydrological conditions) – for registered participants (max. 15 people)
13:00 h	Second group departure (max. 15 people)
11:00 h	Visit to Piskovica Cave, a 1.036 m cave in flysch (Gologorica)

PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION AND FEE

Participant registration can be completed in several ways: in advance via the web form (more economical), or in person on the day of arrival.
The "prepaid" registration fee paid online is **€30**. Payments are considered valid if visible in the organizer's account by Friday, 6 November 2026, 16:00. Online fees can be paid individually or as a group. The organizers prefer that speleological associations/groups pay the fees for their members, so that the organizer receives it as a donation.

If you miss the online payment deadline, you can pay in cash at registration on-site during the event. In that case, the fee is **€35**.
***Before paying the registration fee, please read the following section on pre-registration and registration.**

Recipient: Speleološko društvo Istra (Istra Speleological Society)

Address: Jurja Dobrile 3, Pazin, Croatia

IBAN: HR1624070001100257767

SWIFT/BIC: OTPVHR2X

Payment description: Donation for Mundusspelaeus_First and Last Name

1. Online individual/group pre-registration with payment of the registration fee (€30.00/person) – Prepaid (deadline: 6 November 2026, 16:00)

Using the web form, pre-register yourself or a group in advance, and pay the fee for yourself or your group, e.g. on behalf of your association. In the form, list the first and last names of the people you are registering / paying for.

This secures you a small financial saving, which you can then put toward literature, equipment, or the natural, cultural, gastronomic and oenological treasures Istria has to offer.

Upon arrival at the on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, check in at the registration desk, where you will confirm your identity with an ID document. Those pre-registered with paid online fees will already be on the list at the registration desk. You will receive materials, information about the event, the program, contents, and a map of the venues. At the same spot you can also get further information and buy a commemorative T-shirt.

With registration you receive one hot meal (on Saturday) and the right to take part in all programs, exhibitions and events within the meeting. You will also receive an information pack with a detailed program, instructions, venue locations, and additional materials from sponsors highlighting the region's cultural, historical, natural and gastronomic attractions.

2. On-site registration upon arrival at the event (€35.00/person)

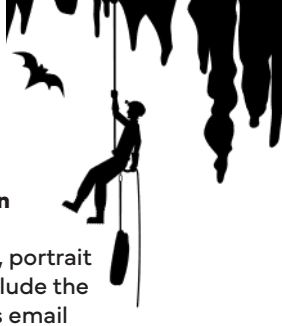
Upon arrival at the gathering point on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning, check in at the registration desk, twhere you can pay the fee in cash. You will receive materials, information about the event, the program, contents, and the venue locations. At the same spot you can also get further information and buy a commemorative T-shirt.
With registration you receive one hot meal (on Saturday) and the right to take part in all programs, exhibitions and events within the meeting. You will also receive an information pack with a detailed program, instructions, venue locations, and additional materials from sponsors highlighting the region's cultural, historical, natural and gastronomic attractions.

REGISTERING TO PARTICIPATE

Dear colleagues and fellow speleologists, below you will find details about registering and the ways to take part in the 18th EuroSpeleo Forum & Meeting of Croatian Speleologists 2026.
At the Meeting you can take part as a visitor, a speaker, a poster presenter, a speleo-photography entrant, and you can compete in the speleo obstacle course, the photography competition, and the cave-survey-map competition.
Friday afternoon is the best time to set up posters, exhibits, stand displays, educational panels and other materials that interested parties plan to present.
Materials should be set up between Friday evening and Saturday morning. Applications can be submitted **by email, following the instructions below.**

Lecture submission form (by email):

Subject line: lecture submission – **Author, presentation title, organization**
In the message body send: **presentation abstract**
The abstract should be prepared using the template below and sent to mundusspelaeus@gmail.com no later than **20 October 2026**.
The abstract may be up to 350 words and is required when submitting both presentations and posters. You may also attach up to two photographs, which may be included in the Proceedings.
Lecture: Each presenter will have 15 minutes for their presentation, questions and discussion. Presentations must be saved in .ppt or .pptx format and submitted no later than the break before the block in which the presentation is scheduled.



Poster submission form (by email):

Subject line: poster submission – **Author, poster title, organization**
In the message body send: **poster abstract**
Poster standards: The standard poster format is 70.7 × 100 cm (B1), portrait orientation. Roll-up posters may also be used. The poster must include the title, the authors full names, author affiliations, and the presenter's email address. The poster content should be clear and concise. When choosing font type/size and graphic elements, make sure the poster is legible from a distance of 150 cm. Authors must print their posters by themselves.
The abstract should be prepared using the template below and sent to mundusspelaeus@gmail.com no later than **20 October 2026**.

Lecture/poster abstract template (by email):

Lecture/Poster (delete as applicable)

Title

Last name, First name[1*]; Last name, First name[2]; Last name, First name[3]
[1]Author affiliation / [2]Author affiliation / [3]Author affiliation

Last name, First name: example@gmail.com

Read the instructions below and replace this text with the text of your abstract. Mark the presenting author with an asterisk (*). Affiliations should be given in one of the following forms: (1) organization, address, city, country (2) address, city, country. State the corresponding author and email address. The maximum word count is 350, not including the title and author information. Use left alignment only. Do not use any other style (e.g. bold) except for accepted markup (e.g. superscript in "cm3", italics for Latin species names). Save the file under the presenting author's name as LastName_FirstName.doc (or .docx) (e.g. Krasna_Krsic.docx). If a presenting author submits more than one abstract, add a sequential number (e.g. Krasna_Krsic2.docx). Do not change the font type, size, line spacing or margins of this document.

Speleo-photography competition entry (by email):

- Themes: all aspects of speleological exploration; protection of caves and pits; speleological education
- Photos are accepted exclusively at mundusspelaeus@gmail.com, subject line "Speleofotografija" (Speleo-photography), by **1 November 2026, 23:59.**
- Photos should be named as follows: LastName_FirstName_Association_Location_Title_Year.jpg
- Location means the name of the cave or pit (if shown in the photo) and the area where the photo was taken.
- Photos may be oriented vertically or horizontally and will be printed in A2 format (594 mm × 420 mm).

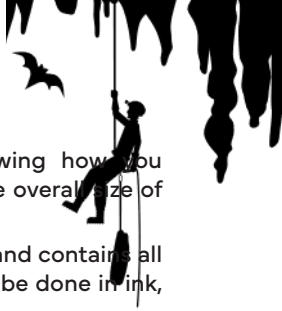
Other details:

- Everyone may take part, except members of the Expert Jury and the competition's Organizing Committee.
- Each photo must have at least 3,508 pixels on the longer side and at least 2,480 pixels on the shorter side.
- Each photo must not exceed 15 MB and must be in .jpg/.jpeg format. Photos may be black-and-white or color.
- Manipulated/composite photos are eligible. Where a composite is used, the author must use exclusively their own elements. Photos manipulated using artificial intelligence will not be accepted. The organizer reserves the right to request that the author submit the original raw file.
- Photos must not carry any visible or identifiable marks, such as the author's logo or watermark.
- Each submission email must contain a single photo.
- Each participant may submit up to 3 individual photos.
- After receiving the photo submission emails, the organizer will notify the entrant whether the submission is valid.
- Photos will be shown to the Expert Jury without titles or author information.
- Entries that do not meet the theme or requirements of this competition will not be selected. The Expert Jury does not provide reasons for rejecting entries.
- From all submitted photos, the Expert Jury will select 10 photos for the exhibition. During the Meeting, Mundus Spelaeus 2026 participants will be able to choose their favorites and vote for the best photo. In the photo exhibition, photos are anonymous, i.e. coded.
- The author of the best photo, as chosen by the Expert Jury, will receive a cash prize provided by the volunteer speleological initiative Clean Underground (Čisto Podzemlje). The author of the best photo chosen by the Meeting's participants will receive a commemorative gift provided by a sponsor.
- The organizers and "Čisto Podzemlje" reserve the right to publish entries in print and digital media to promote this exhibition and the Meeting, with author credit.

Entry for the cave-survey-map competition (selection of survey drawings):

Entries for the survey-map exhibition/competition are accepted exclusively at mundusspelaeus@gmail.com, subject line "SpeleoTopo_FirstName_LastName, Organization", by **1 November 2026**.

- Everyone may take part, except members of the Expert Jury and the event's Organizing Committee.



- Choose a single survey drawing you are proud of, showing how you represented three-dimensional space in two dimensions. The overall size of the cave or pit is not the key factor.
- It is important that it is informative and visually outstanding and contains all relevant information about the cave or pit. The drawing may be done in ink, with a technical pen, or vectorized and printed.
- Send a copy of the drawing by email together with your entry.
- The Expert Jury will select 15 drawings to be exhibited.
- Authors will be notified in good time.
- Bring your drawings, which we will display and present to the speleological community.
- The organizer will assign a code next to each drawing.
- Write the code of your favorite on the voting slip and place it in the ballot box.
- The winner is decided based on votes from the Expert Jury and the audience and receives a sponsor's prize.
- The organizers reserve the right to publish entries in print and digital media to promote this exhibition and the Meeting, with author credit.

Exhibitor stands

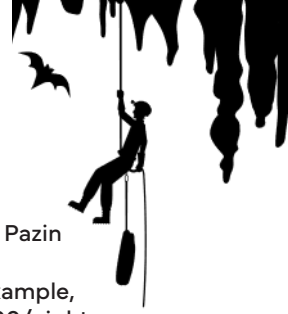
Speleological associations, federations, other organizations, and manufacturers/vendors of speleological equipment may reserve a stand to present their offer. You can reserve a stand by emailing mundusspelaeus@gmail.com, subject line "Rezervacija štanda" (Stand reservation), by 6 November 2026.
*Reservation is free of charge, and the number of stands is limited.

Entering the speleo obstacle course competition:

Every year at the Meeting, a challengetesting speed, technique and skill is organized... You can sign up for the speleo obstacle course competition on-site with the organizers.

OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

1. For those bringing just a sleeping bag and mat, indoor sleeping space is provided at the Bowling Center – "Aleksandar Anzur"
2. If you plan to camp in your own tent, we have arranged space for that in the



Park behind the memorial Hall

3. Spaces are available for campervans and cars with roof tents.
4. In addition to the sleeping options provided by the organizer, Pazin and the surrounding area offer a range of other commercial accommodation options that you can arrange yourself (for example, a holiday house for 5–8 people can be found for around €25.00/night per person).

"SPELEOPARTY" – ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAM

- The entertainment program will take place in the tent, at the car park iza behind the bus station.
- After-party at the "Indians MC" venue

REGISTRATION FOR GUIDED EXPERT TRIPS TO THE CAVES AND PITS OF ISTRIA

Registration for cave and pit visits will be included in the next circular.
A zip line over Pazin Cave (at a promotional price) will be available on Fri and Sun.

*The organizer may change the cave-trip options due to the unpredictability of hydrological conditions and for visitor safety.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Patrons:

European Speleological Federation – FSE

City of Pazin

Croatian Speleological Federation

Speleology Commission, Croatian Mountaineering Association

Sponsors:

Bim sport – Petzl

Scurion

Aventure Vertical

Kordas

Pazin Cave

Baredine Cave

Zip Line Pazin Cave - Qvadruvium d.o.o.

Central Istria Tourist Board

Branko Šavor

Glavni organizatori:

Speleological Society „Istra", Pazin

Croatian Speleological Federation – speleo.hr

Suorganizatori:

Speleological Club "Ursus spelaeus"

Speleological Society Karlovac

Speleological Association Estavela

Speleological Section, HPD Velebit

Čisto podzemlje (Clean Underground) – Zagreb Speleological Federation

Organizing Committee:
Mladen Jekić (predsjednik), Neven Šuica, Dalibor Reš, Dinko Stopić, Hrvoje Cvitanović, dr.sc. Dalibor Paar, Zoran Brajković, Ruđer Novak i Venio Fabijančić.