



# IPOGENICA APS

IN COLLABORATION WITH

FEDERAZIONE UMBRA GRUPPI SPELEOLOGICI



Dear Friends,

Forty-six years ago, the first International Speleology Meeting took place in **Costacciaro**. No one imagined it would make history.

Back then the event was titled “**1980 Costacciaro: Images from the Caves**”. It began as a gathering of friends who enjoyed sharing the few images developed from a 35 mm roll of film, to document the glorious successes of the early speleological explorations.

Forty-six years later, the world has changed. No one would have imagined that we would grow from 3.7 billion inhabitants to 8 billion, or that CO<sub>2</sub> was 326 parts per million and has now soared to 420.

Climate change and water scarcity are upsetting the balance of the planet.

These insights show the importance of speleology: the geological study of the secrets held in our subsoil, and the systematic study of karst phenomena and of the hydrogeological flows that underpin the development of our territory, whether inhabited or not.

To date, Umbria has 1,150 caves recorded by the Federazione Umbra Gruppi Speleologici.

The mountain and its caves are thus increasingly becoming a socio-environmental laboratory, with exponential growth in the number of speleologists, scientists, researchers and environmental technicians.



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## GROTTA DI MONTE CUCCO COSTACCIARO UMBRIA

For Umbrian speleology, the town of **Costacciaro** holds very special significance. It is home to the **Monte Cucco Park**, a protected natural area of the **Umbria Region**, with its show cave, one of the most important in Italy, with 30 km surveyed to date and a vertical range of 1,100 metres.

**Costacciaro** was the historic seat of the CNS (Centro Nazionale di Speleologia), and history tells us that on 12 August 1922, at the Monte Cucco Cave, the paper manufacturer Giambattista Miliani organised the first speleology meeting (perhaps the first in the world). It marked the installation of the entrance staircase, built at his own expense, and brought together 500 enthusiasts of mountains, caves and hiking.

104 years after that historic event, the Federazione Umbra Gruppi Speleologici has the honour of organising the next International Speleology Meeting in the historic location of Costacciaro.

### 29 October – 1 November 2026 COSTACCIARO 2026 INTERNATIONAL SPELEOLOGY MEETING

For this second edition, we have already registered **5,000** participants from around the world, including scientists, researchers, speleologists, naturalists and biologists.

## THE FIVE ELEMENTS



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The theme of the five days is **Air, Water, Earth, Fire and the Void**, each represented by a world-renowned scientist who will introduce the opening of the proceedings.



A true dive into the past, reaching all the way to the new frontiers of speleology, which extend beyond Earth's orbit...

The entire town will be immersed in the event, which will take the form of in-depth sessions, conferences, workshops, exhibitions, excursions, discussions, round tables and presentations with guests of worldwide standing.

The event will be organised by the association **IPOGENICA APS** in collaboration with the **Federazione Umbra Gruppi Speleologici (FUGS)**, the **Municipality of Costacciaro**, the **Università degli Uomini Originari di Costacciaro**, the cultural association **Tramontana**, the **Club Alpino Italiano** and the **Società Speleologica Italiana**.

Friends and speleologists, we look forward to seeing you in Costacciaro, to share your voice and your scientific and cultural contribution.

[www.radunocostacciaro.it](http://www.radunocostacciaro.it)

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF



Comune di Costacciaro



**COSTACCIARO 2026**

**IPOGENICA APS**

Federazione Umbra Gruppi Speleologici

*Luca Bussolati*