



A large passage in Bo Hao Dong, Donglan district, Guanxi. This photo was taken during the EuroSpeleo Project ESP 2019-11, International Expedition to China (Guanxi-Guizhou)

Photo:
J.-F. Fabriol



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

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Editorial

This EuroSpeleo Newsletter presents results from EuroSpeleo Projects to Turkey and China, provides information on the next EuroSpeleo Forum in Burgos/Spain (which marks also the 30th Anniversary of FSE)

and has news on other speleological events.

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

The FSE Bureau

EuroSpeleo Forum 2020



The 14th EuroSpeleo Forum (ESF) will be organised by our colleagues from the Spanish Confederación de Espeleología y Cañones (CEC) in Burgos, Cantabria, between 31st July and 2nd August 2020 at the occasion of the 30th anniversary of FSE. A pre-camp with cave excursions is planned. Details will be available on the event's website soon.

The 1st circular is available at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lzb9MW-i7iGyRGSh_Q4umfzJXW2_ahEQ/view

See also the website of the event at <https://congresointernacionalespeleologia2020.blogspot.com/>

For an in-depth presentation see page 5 and 6 of this Newsletter.

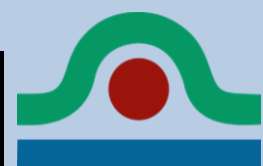
EuroSpeleo Projects recently accepted by FSE:

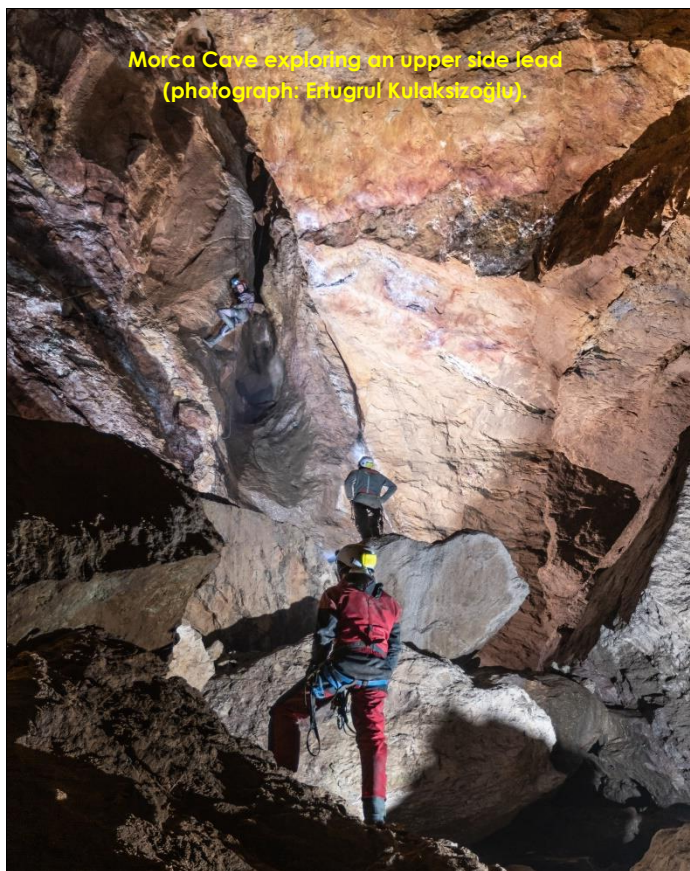
ESP 2019-12 - Expedition Dao 2020 (Thailand)

ESP 2019-13 - Expedition Myanmar 2020

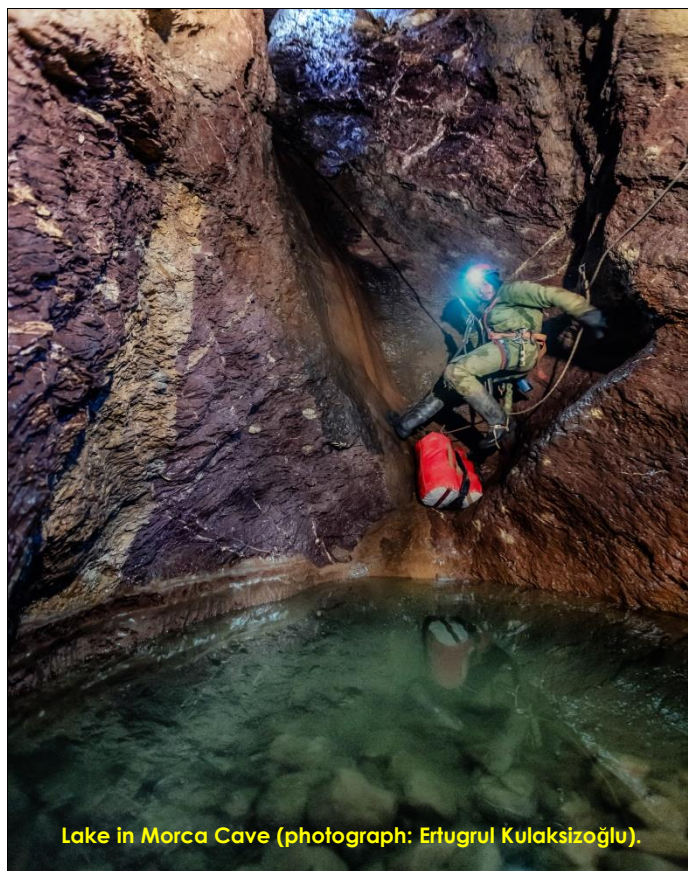
ESP 2019-14 - Expedition Cuba Santo Tomas 2020

FSE Partners





Morca Cave exploring an upper side lead (photograph: Ertugrul Kulaksizoglu).



Lake in Morca Cave (photograph: Ertugrul Kulaksizoglu).

Expedition “Morca 2019” yielded new 3rd deepest cave of Turkey

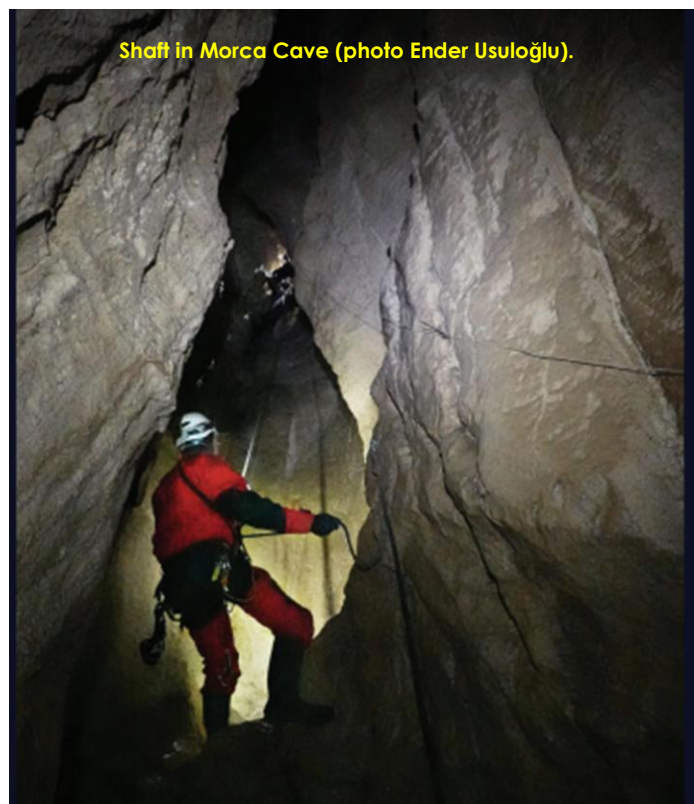
In 2018 the deepest caves of Turkey were EGMA Peynirliközü (-1,429 metres), Kuzgun Düdeni (-1,400 metres) and Çukurpinar Düdeni (-1,196 metres).

Morca Cave, together with the other deep caves in Turkey, is located in the Middle Taurus Mountains, on a high plateau called Taseli (Home of Stones), which covers about 900 km². Morca doline is located at the contact of Miocene and Jurassic-Cretaceous limestone in the southern part of the Taseli Plateau.

Morca Cave has been explored to a depth of -919 m and a length of over 3 km until 2018. In summer 2019 thirty-one cavers from Turkey, Bulgaria, Lebanon and the USA spent 30 days to continue the exploration of Morca Cave and finally reached a depth of -1,210 metres. The team ran out of rope on top of a 15 m pitch. Consequently, the cave will become even deeper during future expeditions - the depth potential is 1,600 m and could reveal Turkey's

deepest cave and one of the deepest caves in the world, too. A number of side leads, the two major ones encountered in a depth of -80 and -110 m, were left unexplored during the 2019 expedition.

“Morca 2019” received EuroSpeleo Project status and was supported by Aventure Verticale and an FSE money grant.



Shaft in Morca Cave (photo Ender Usuloğlu).



Cave and Karst related events

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, NSW, 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.ssj.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

12 - 20 June 2020

7th International Course Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers (CEKA) - Montenegro & Bosnia-Herzegovina - <http://www.karst.edu.rs>

28 June - 4 July 2020

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

12 - 15 July 2020

Karst Record IX (KR9) Conference - Innsbruck/Austria - <https://www.uibk.ac.at/congress/kr9/>

27 - 31 July 2020

NSS Convention - Elkins, West Virginia, USA - <https://caves.regfox.com/nss-convention-2020>

31 July - 2 August 2020

14th EuroSpeleo Forum - 30 Years of FSE - Burgos/Spain - <https://congresointernacionalespeleologia2020.blogspot.com/>

29 August - 5 September 2020

19th International Symposium on Vulcanospeleology - Catania, Italy - <http://www.19isvetna.com/>

22 - 26 September 2020

6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium "Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe" - Vilm Island/Baltic Sea, Germany - 1st circular available at <https://my.pcloud.com/publink/show?code=XZCbTQkZGmJ04qRzea0P5hbsWO2YL7q18Tq7&fbclid=IwAR3qEqXcFzWKL-oTCBcbllif-v4PSwSNKZOrBgXiXykQ4YHoRYmAG5zJzg>



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

Trifon Daaliev (1947-2019) in memoriam

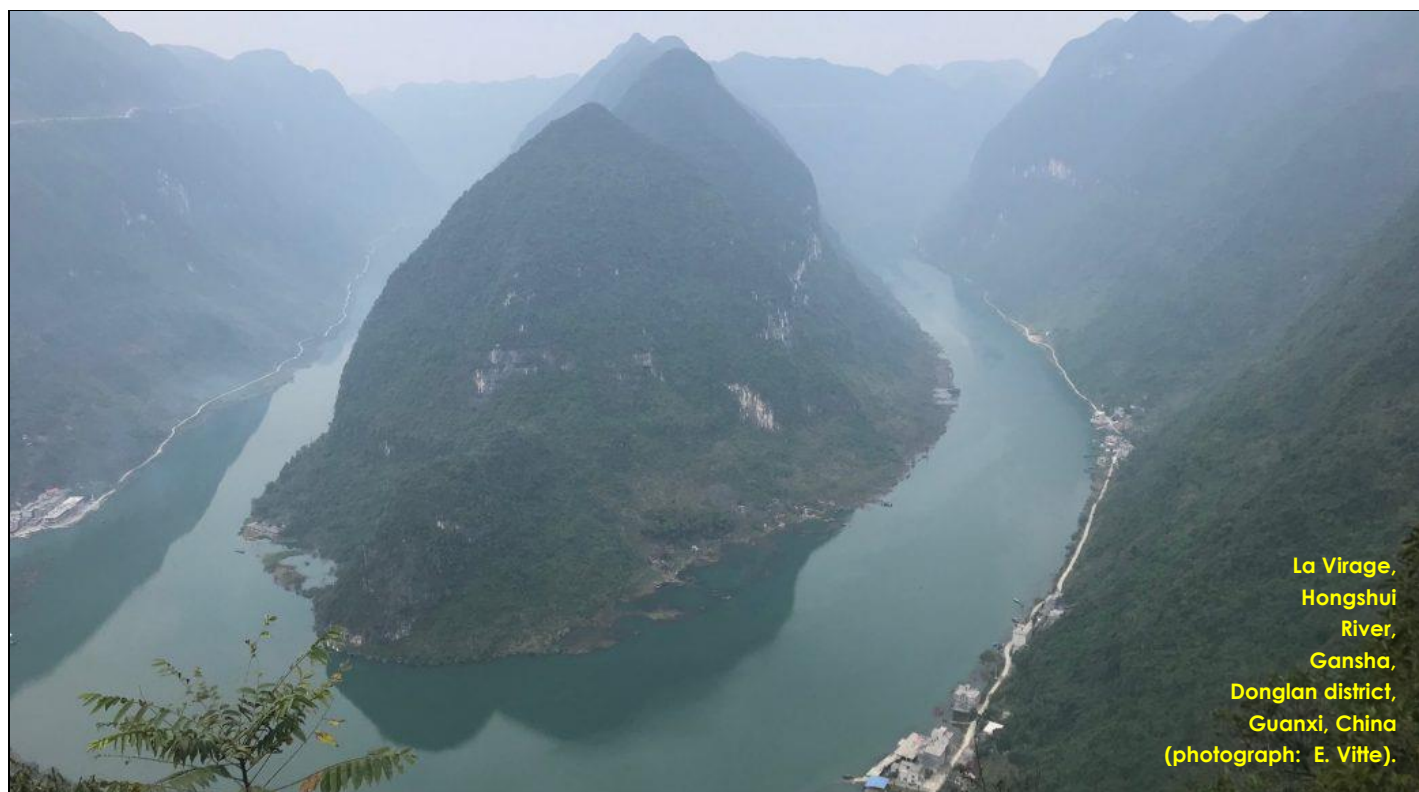
We deeply regret to inform you that 27th November 2019 we lost the outstanding Bulgarian speleologist Trifon Daaliev, long-time secretary of the Bulgarian Federation of Speleology (BFS) and head of the Bulgarian Cave Rescue.

Born on 5 December 1947, he was one of the most active Bulgarian speleologists and mountaineers. He graduated at the National Academy of Sports "Vasil Levski" in 1968. He was a senior instructor of speleology since 1976, secretary of the BFS from 1979 to 2012, leader of many expeditions to Bulgaria and other places in Europe as well as to Asia and the Americas and participated in the survey of numerous caves. He conducted training courses for cavers, instructors and rescuers since 1973. He was one driving forces to introduce the single rope technique in Bulgaria. He was the head of the Emergency Rescue Squad at the BFS from 1989 to 2013, deputy chair of Bulgarian Cave Rescue from 2013 to 2017, and finally became honorary member of the organization. 1989 he was elected secretary and 1997 first deputy chair of the Cave Rescue Commission of the UIS.

Together with Dr. Petar Beron and Alexey Zhalov he authored the book "Caves and Speleology in Bulgaria" (2006, 2009), which was awarded 3rd prize at the 15th International Congress of Speleology. He co-authored the book "Bulgarians in the Abysses of the World" (1986). Daaliev, who was also known as an excellent cave photographer, published numerous articles about caves in Bulgarian and foreign magazines. He compiled a series of brochures with descriptions and maps of the most important caves and was editor of the "Bulgarian Caves" magazine. His memoirs "The call of the caves - the caving life of Trankata and his diaries" (2018) are full of stories about his significant cave discoveries, expeditions and stories of true friendships.

For those who knew him, Trifon Daaliev was a great man and teacher. For those who will meet him through his books, he will be an inspiration. Many cave rescuers and cavers are grateful for his achievements in promotion of cave rescue and speleology - fulfilling his mission on this Earth. We will miss Trifon Daaliev a lot. **Antoniya Vlaykova**





EuroSpeleo Project 2019-11: International Expedition to Guangxi and Guizhou, China

An international team (CHINEXPLOS 2019) of Chinese, French and Belgian speleologists visited karst areas in the provinces of Guanxi (Donglan district) and Nord-Guizhou in southwest China in November 2019. Northern Guizhou hosts the Shuanghedong system, currently the longest Asian cave at a length of nearly 250 km.

Local project partners were the Guizhou Institute of Mountain Resources and the Guizhou Cave Association.

In only 3 weeks, thanks to excellent collaboration with the Chinese partners, the team explored about sixty new caves and surveyed 19.5 km of underground passages.

The expedition descended the 300 m deep Daoduo Tiangkeng and followed the cave at its bottom to a depth between 400 and 500 m.

The expedition blog can be read at <https://china.explos.org/>

A video produced by Chinese cave cameraman Chen Lixin provides a quick glimpse on the CHINEXPLOS 2019 expedition. The video can be accessed through the following link:

http://mail.qq.com/cgi-bin/ftnExs_download?k=7138646379378dc10e6d95624566071a050a06530750000c1c015252564b0103005e495a0503071852015702055e0457505b5306636d35515d1855514e531b58410c645e&t=exs_ftn_download&c_ode=18dccc55

Currently, the final report of the expedition as well as the cave documentation is being prepared.

The expedition received EuroSpeleo Project status and was supported with a financial grant by FSE.

KarstLink

You have probably wondered how to find data on caves? How to connect the caves to the documents that speak of it? How to create links between scientific observations, the measurements made by the sensors and the cavities in which these observations were made? This is some of what the KarstLink project offers you.

KarstLink is an international cooperation aimed at organizing the machine-readable on-line sharing of data on the cave and karst environment. Initiated by WikiCaves, FFS and FSE, the actual work of the project will be carried out under the UIS in order to encourage maximum international participation from cavers and karst scientists and managers.

The project has set itself the objective of using standardized tools from W3C Linked Data and the [Semantic Web](#) to describe the cave and karst environment and thus offer all database managers a way to share their work without modifying their infrastructure.

The initial objective is to present, at the UIS congress in 2021, a karst [vocabulary/ontology](#) and examples of databases exchanging data, if possible using this ontology.

In a few weeks the FSE will give you the information you need to follow and participate in the project.

The project site will be available at this address purl.org/karstlink

If you have any questions or if you wish to be directly informed you can leave a message on this form <http://en.wikicaves.org/contact>

Yannick Decker, Eric Madelaine, Peter Matthews, Frédéric Urien

Promoters of the KarstLink project

30 ANNIVERSARY OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION

14TH EUROSPELEO FORUM 2020

Foto: Víctor Ferrer



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF SPELEOLOGY

'20 CANTABRIA
CASTILLA Y LEON
SPAIN



July 27 -30 The Precongress

July 31-1 y 2 The Congress

14th EuroSpeleo Forum in Burgos/Spain (31 July – 2 August 2020)



Burgos, the bustling capital of the province of Castilla y Leon in northern Spain, will host the 14th EuroSpeleo Forum in the last week of July and until 2nd of August 2020. The city is known for its medieval architecture. The city is well connected to highways and railway, has an airport as well as an international bus station.

Burgos is also close to some of the most important karst areas of Spain, namely the Castro Valnera region and its Abysses, the karst of Monte Santiago, Sierra Salvada and Sierra de la Carbonilla, Pozalagua System, the sinkhole system of Cueva Perilde with the Alava upwelling of Goba Haundi, and the Ojo Guareña Complex, which was for many years the longest cave system in Spain (over 110 km long). The Museum of Human Evolution (MEH) is located in Burgos featuring the Atapuerca archaeological site.

The EuroSpeleo Forum will be held in the Forum Evolution Burgos (Congress Hall and Auditorium) in the SW of the city, which is located close to hotels and restaurants.

After the Pre-Congress with cave excursions (for more details pls refer to the event's website) the registration of participants will start on 31 July at 08H00 in the congress hall, followed by a welcome surprise and presentations. 1st and 2nd of August will have field trips and presentations. There will also be a photo exhibition, cave rescue and cave protection meetings, General assembly meetings of the FSE and the Spanish federation CEC, and a hall for equipment and book vendors – not to forget the speleo bar, of course.

A farewell dinner with price awarding ceremony is scheduled for 2nd August 20H00.

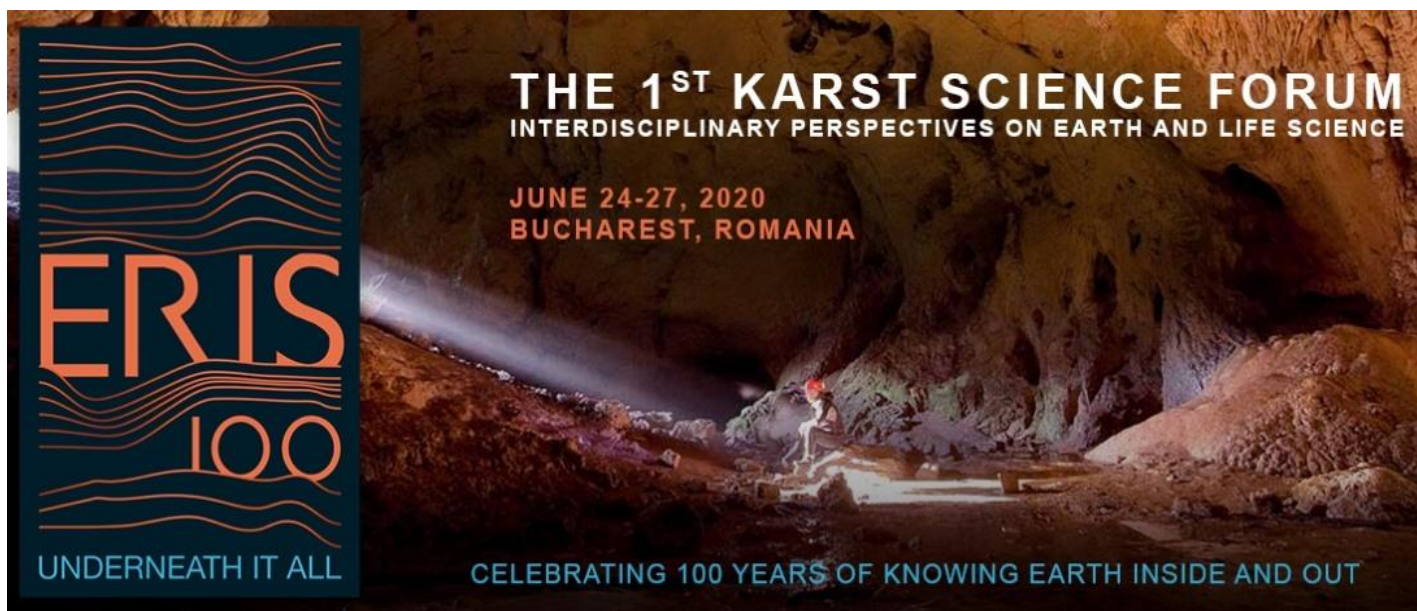
Registration fee for non Spanish participants after 15th of February is 45 €, including the congress proceedings and the dinner.

The 1st circular, which has a link to the online registration, is available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1zb9MW-i7iGyRGSh_Q4umfzJXW2_ghEO/view

See also the website of the 14th EuroSpeleo Forum at <https://congresointernacionalespeleologia2020.blogspot.com/>

The Fédération Spéléologique Européenne (FSE) was founded in 1990 in Udine/Italy. We celebrate our 30th anniversary during the 14th EuroSpeleo Forum and cordially invite all of you to join us in northern Spain this summer !





1st Karst Science Forum. Bucharest. Romania (June 24 - 29. 2020)

Dear Colleagues,

It is our pleasure to invite you to ERIS 100 - The 1st International Karst Science Forum - Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Earth and Life Sciences - that will take place in Bucharest, Romania, June 24-27, 2020.

Celebrating 100 Years of Knowing Earth Inside and Out, the Forum marks ERIS Centennial and honors the legacy of Emil Racovita, founder of biospeleology and initiator of ERIS, the world's first Speleological Institute, in 1920. We aim to address together not only the advances made in the last century in speleological research and all connected fields, but also the interdisciplinary perspectives on Earth and Life Sciences for the next 100 years. Do not miss your chance to participate in an exciting event and share your experience and research with leaders in the field. An impressive speaker line-up already is confirmed.

Participation deadlines are coming up fast! See the website of the event for registration and more information: <https://www.eris100.ro>

If we want to understand both the past of life on Earth and the dynamics of the present, as well as to predict the future of life on Earth on a planetary scale, we need to know and honor the Past; explore, understand and celebrate the Present; and embrace the Future.

Yours sincerely, Dr. Ioana Nicoleta Meleg

EuroSpeleo Protection Label 2020 European Cave Protection Commission Call for Cave Protection Projects

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

The EuroSpeleo Protection Label is a European Speleological award managed by the ECPC, financed by the FSE budget. The

EuroSpeleo Protection Label will help to promote amongst the speleological clubs of Europe, cave protection activities that are designed in an integrated ecological way, taking into account EU environmental directives, the principles of administration of the Natura 2000 sites and the IUCN Guidelines on caves and karst protection.

With what kind of projects can you apply?

The EuroSpeleo Protection Label will be awarded every year to one unique cave protection project. A European speleological jury established by the ECPC Board will make the selection. Any project

aiming at protecting caves developed by a club, a local committee or a national commission from a member country of the FSE can apply.

What are the criteria to receive the FSE EuroSpeleo Protection Label and what is the award?

There is no need for participation of cavers from different countries, but the application should be a quality project and the broadcasting of the project presentation and results should be made in a spirit that can be reproduced in other European regions and countries. The application should be sent to protection@eurospeleo.org before 15th of June 2020, 23:59 (Central European Time) in English language.

The project must receive the approval from its national organi-

zation, i.e. a letter of support from its national organization, member of the FSE.

The award for the label 2020 is **800 EUR** plus one caving gear item from our Official Partners **Korda's, AV Gear or Scursion** depending on availability and choice of the FSE Bureau.

Please refer to the call-out sent to your national speleological organization, member of the FSE or request a form at protection@eurospeleo.org

Best Speleo Wishes
The ECPC team

