

6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium

26 - 30 October 2021

(original dates 22-26 September 2020)

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

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

Isle of Vilm: Photo-BfN

at the BfN-International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm in the
Baltic Sea region in Germany

2nd CIRCULAR

The 6th EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium
***"Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes
through Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe"***

at the BfN-International Academy for Nature Conservation Isle of Vilm
in the Baltic Sea region in Germany
from **26th to 30th of October 2021**

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

Organizing institutions

European Cave Protection Commission, European Speleological Federation

<http://www.eurospeleo.eu/>

German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation

www.bfn.de/naturschutzakademie.html

Coordination

ECPC

Bärbel VOGEL (DE)

Jean-Claude THIES (LU)

BfN

Ute FEIT (DE)

Background

Since its origin in 1990, the "Fédération Spéléologique Européenne" (FSE) has tried to promote Cave Protection at a European scale. 17 years later, the FSE General Assembly decided in Sweden in August 2007 to create a commission called European Cave Protection Commission (ECPC) whose tasks would be to sustain the FSE efforts in actively promoting cave and karst protection at European level. At this point, the mission is based on the IUCN Guidelines for Cave and Karst Protection and the Habitat Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and the Recommendation on conservation of geological heritage and areas of special geological interest (Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, 2004) and other existing conventions at the European and global level.



Information regarding the postponed symposium from 2020 to 2021

Due to the COVID-19 issues in 2020 we were unable to organize a symposium of this size in Europe. We quickly reacted and are proud to offer you a new date but a year later.

Context

Caves and Karst are important features of the European landscape and have intrinsic natural beauty and value. However they are constantly exposed to numerous human impacts, directly inside the cave environment or indirectly in the associated surrounding. Karst regions suffer from destruction, air and water pollution associated mainly due to forestry, agricultural chemicals, quarries, landfills, mining, urban and rural development and uncontrolled mass tourism.

The degree of destruction of a cave habitat may be detected directly or indirectly via a systematic monitoring of biospeleological life forms.

The 2021 EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium's theme of "**Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe**" will focus on scientific and technical aspects of cave and karst monitoring and assessment, protection and conservation, through speleological inputs, exchange of best practice and sharing of knowledge.

Aims of the symposium

The Symposium will provide a platform for scientists, speleologists and authorities active in the domain of cave and karst monitoring and conservation.

It should give an overview about Natura 2000 type 8310 "habitat caves not open to public" monitoring procedures in EU member states and similar programs in non-EU countries. Main aspects will be monitoring, evaluation and cooperation through borders.

It will address appropriate management measures to restore or maintain a favourable conservation status.

At this symposium we would like to welcome the cave experts or the main responsible persons for monitoring questions, one from each FSE member state's speleological organisation and from the official administration responsible for the reporting, to exchange experience, practical issues, crossborder coordinations, monitoring and reporting issues.

Part of the symposium is held as a workshop about methods on practice for monitorings of cave habitats and biospeleologic taxa.



Symposium schedule

Lectures

Tuesday, 26 th of October	Arrival, Registration and Welcome
Wednesday, 27 th of October	Presentations & Discussions Guided walk at the protected area Isle of Vilm
Thursday, 28 th of October	Presentations & Discussions

Workshop

Friday, 29 th of October	Methods in Practice on a Fieldtrip to the main Island Rügen Dinner & Farewell Party
Saturday, 30 th of October	Final Discussion & Evaluation Closure and Departure (after lunch)

Please note that this schedule is provisional and may be modified depending on the number of accepted contributions. It will be communicated in due time.



Photo BfN



Venue:

The symposium will be held at the **International Academy for Nature Conservation** on the Isle of Vilm, Germany



Map by www.landkartenindex.de



Map by BKG

For more information please see the website:
<https://www.bfn.de/en/int-academy.html>

Travel informations may be found here:
<https://www.bfn.de/en/int-academy/contact-travel.html>



Accommodation:

15 single rooms and 25 double rooms available on the island.
Additional accommodation available in Lauterbach on Ruegen island.

Please note that the symposium is limited to **55 workshop participants** only!



Costs:

For the full 5 day symposium 26-30 October 2021 the following rates are applicable:

Single room **374,- €** (limited availability)

Double room **314,- €** per person.

Daily rates apply for shorter participation.

What is included:

- Accommodation
- Meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, coffee breaks)
- Bus transfer and lunchpaket at the fieldtrip to Rügen island.
- Symposium documentation (access to file-share)

All other snacks and beverages have to be paid individually on location.

Participants travelling with non participating partner are recommended to stay on Rügen island. BfN staff will support you in finding a hotel. Ferries commute regularly between Vilm and Lauterbach.

Financial Support:

We are happy to inform you that we have limited funds available to provide financial support to eligible participants, if needed.

For those eligible for funding we would be able to cover part of your travel costs (economy class only) as well as food and accommodation on the Isle of Vilm. Travel cost supports will be paid during or after the Symposium.

Financial support has to be requested via the application form.

Please wait for our confirmation that we will be able to cover part of the costs before booking any travel arrangements.

Because of space in the lecture rooms, the symposium is limited to 55 workshop participants only!



Official languages

The official languages of the symposium will be **English**.

Call for Abstracts

The EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium's team is inviting you to submit proposals for oral presentations on the topic of the symposium **"Assessing, monitoring and protecting cave biotopes and geotopes through Natura 2000 or similar programs in Europe"**

Those who have already submitted an abstract for the first symposium in 2020 are happy to resubmit their abstract. This is to avoid misunderstandings

Abstracts for oral presentations (English language) should have a maximum of 250 words and should be submitted to symposium@eurospeleo.org by 01 March 2021.

With abstract submission and a presentation at the Symposium you agree that your presentation will be published by the European Cave Protection Commission of the FSE and BfN.

Questionnaire

Filling in and submitting a questionnaire is mandatory for each applicant. The questionnaire will ask for information about Natura 2000 monitoring and implementation in cave habitats in your country of origin. This questionnaire is sent to all potential candidates. Basic questions are asked to obtain a general overview and to have a common ground for discussions.

Questionnaires should be returned to symposium@eurospeleo.org by 01 March 2021. Those who have already submitted a questionnaire for the first symposium in 2020 do not need to send it again unless something significant would have changed in the meantime.

Application & Registration

Interested cave experts are asked to submit the filled in attached application form, the abstract (if applicable) and the questionnaire by 1 March 2021. Candidates who will be accepted will then be asked to register online. The link will be sent upon confirmation of participation.

The application form shall be sent to symposium@eurospeleo.org

Because of the limited number of participants it is advised to submit the application form as soon as possible.

Please note that even if you had applied for the symposium 2020 you need to send in a new application for the symposium in 2021.



Timeline for symposium organization

Application form submission deadline:	01 March 2021
Questionnaire return deadline	01 March 2021
Abstract submission deadline	01 March 2021
Abstract acceptance notification:	01 May 2021
Confirmation of participation:	01 May 2021

Data Protection

With registering and taking part at the EuroSpeleo Protection Symposium you accept that pictures are made and eventually could be used in reports or for presenting ECPC or BfN activities. Your personal data will only be used for the registration and communication but will never be sold or forwarded (except for sharing among participants) outside of the FSE or BfN.

See you on the Isle of Vilm
The ESPS and BfN organisation team



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**International Year
of CAVES and KARST 2021**
„Explore, understand and protect“
<http://www.iyck2021.org>

