



## 14TH BALKAN SPELEO CAMP BALKAN SPELEOLOGICAL UNION



Vransko, SLOVENIA, 25 – 29. August 2021

### Event REPORT

The last time Balkan Cavers Camp was held in Slovenia was in 2012 in Logatec. After nine years of circulating all over the Balkans the round and the honor to host it came to Slovenia again. In last five years a distinctive group of Slovenian cavers was formed which visited the Balkan Cavers Camps regularly. Consequently as these cavers were the most familiar with routine and schedule of Balkan Cavers Camp, they were also from the same region, eager and ready to take over the organization in cooperation of a Speleological Association of Slovenia and Caving Club Podlasica Topolšica.



The event took place at Eco Farm – agrotourism Semprimožnik, Vransko in Savinja Valley, Central Slovenia – 50 km east from Ljubljana, from 25. – 29. August 2021 (Wednesday – Sunday). One day earlier the first participants began to arrive. All registered participants have received a gift bag with T-shirt, guidebook “First Aid in Caves” issued by Speleological Association of Slovenia, Thermal rescue blanket, a wrench no. 13, a booklet “130 years of organized caving in Slovenia”, a map of Slovenia showing density of caves and a pack of various promotional items. According to the registration data, the camp gathered 43 participants: 2 from Croatia, 3 from Serbia, 9 from Bulgaria, 9 from Poland and 20 from Slovenia.



On Wednesday – the arrival day, there were already the first caving trips to nearby caves Veternica and Neskončno brezno. The official opening of the Camp took place on 25. August at evening time in the nearby loghouse, which served also as beautiful environment for exhibition of “We and Caves”. At the opening of the event the president of the Caving Club Podlasica Topolšica as a host had the welcome-speech, followed by the speeches of vice-president of Speleological Association of Slovenia mr. Damijan Šinigoj and president of Balkan Speleo Union mr. Alexey Zhalov. After the opening all the participants were invited to see the exhibition of the best photos of the photo competition “We and Caves”. The exhibition took place over the whole period of the event and was available to visit at any time. After the Balkan Cavers Camp was concluded, the exhibition moved to the Culture center of Šoštanj (north-eastern Slovenia, the home municipality of hosting club), where it is currently.



Thursday morning the participants divided into three groups. One group left for horizontal caves Erjavčeva jama and Trbiška zijalka. The other group left for a vertical pit Golarjev pekel and the third group had the opportunity to visit a tourist cave Pekel. After the visit of the tourist cave the third group also had a sightseeing of Žalec - “the Capital of hops and beer”. The second group that descended into the vertical Golarjev pekel, later visited the spring of carbonated water nearby cave

entrance and a magnificent Rinka Waterfall in the Logarska valley. In the afternoon, one group left to tourist cave Snežna jama and the second group left for horizontal cave Kamnita hiša with boat rides.

On Friday early morning one group left with a bus towards Kamniška jama – a -250 m deep horizontal cave. The entrance to the cave is achieved only after a 3-hour mountain hike. A second group, which was not convinced by a hike, had the opportunity to visit a -250 deep vertical Osoletova jama and in the afternoon, they visited also a tourist cave Huda luknja. One group visited Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia in the morning and joined for Huda luknja in the afternoon. At the evening there was an interesting presentation of Italian caver Matteo Cavanna regarding research and coloring of water

system of river basin of Timava river. The presentation was in Italian and translated to English and Slovenian.



Saturday morning, all the participants went to the bus which took us to the native Kras area, of which the word “karst” is derived. While we visited -250 m deep horizontal cave Lipiška jama, the representatives of the Balkan Speleo Union members stayed in Vransko and conducted the General Assembly Meeting in City hall. After the GAM, they visited the nearby medieval castle and Franciscan monastery. In the early evening we had two presentations about Karst in Bulgaria and History of BSU. After that, a farewell event followed to which a mayor of Vransko held the speech.

The organization of the event was an outstanding opportunity for our caving club, which organized the event on international level for the first time. We were in an ungrateful situation – due to the Covid-19 related restrictions the event was canceled for good. However, in summer, the epidemiological situation started to get better and in the beginning of July, we decided to save the spirit of Balkan Caver Camp and to organize it anyways. We had no money, no place and no time. With an enormous amount of enthusiasm and improvisation, we managed step-by-step and task-by-task to prepare the terrain. The event had to comply with our national covid-related restrictions (only vaccinated, tested or recovered could attend the event) and we offered the self-testing HAT-test kits to participants in case of need. We did not have any expectations about the number of participants – our presumptions were that the number would be lower than at the pre-covid events. At the end, we were happy with participation and the most important – the intimate spirit created lot of opportunities to connect and create durable and firm bonds among everyone. The participants were “pushed” to



bond internationally and not just inside their national groups. Because of location of the camp and shorter period (5 days instead of 7), we decided to make the programme more dense – the participants visited two caves per day, which was appreciated by the fellow cavers, committed to caving – in these times only the most enthusiastic would make it to the event like this.



We would like to say a great thank-you to all members of Caving Club Podlasica Topolšica for creating a beautiful story and memories for all the participants. Speleological Association of Slovenia, European Speleological Federation, Aventure Verticale and Korda's for their financial and material support. Civil Protection for van and the event tent. Slovenian Military for mobile bathroom and bus-rides. Company UNIOR for wrench donation. Vransko municipality for City hall. Thank-you also goes to Tourist club Šempeter, Caving Clubs: Kamnik, Prebold, Tirski zmaj Ljubno, Velenje, Sežana, Temnica, Železničar Ljubljana, Novo mesto, Domžale and Kostanjevica na Krki. Thank you, Zlatko, for taking us into your home in beautiful nature!



Lea Pavrič

Caving Club Podlasica Topolšica

**BUDGET 14<sup>th</sup> BALKAN CAVERS CAMP**  
**25 – 29. August 2021, Vransko, Slovenia**

**All costs are in EUROS**

**INCOMES:**

---

Application fee 40 Eur × 28	1.120
Own assets	900
Expected Sponsorship from FSE	400
<b>INCOMES IN TOTAL</b>	<b>2.420 EUR</b>

---

**OUTCOMES**

---

Isotermic foil – promo gift for participants	116,06
Administrative costs	80
T-shirts	470
Food	400
Rent of Chemical Toilets	153,22
Camping place	1000
Transportation	200
<b>In Total:</b>	<b>2.419,28 EUR</b>

---

**Costs for materials for the cave rigging :**

100 m of rope	150 Eur
Spits and expansion bolts	80 Eur
Damaged and lost equipment (Carabiners, hangers, ...)	0 Eur
Transport bags	120 Eur
<b>Total cost for equipment:</b>	<b>350 EUR</b>

---