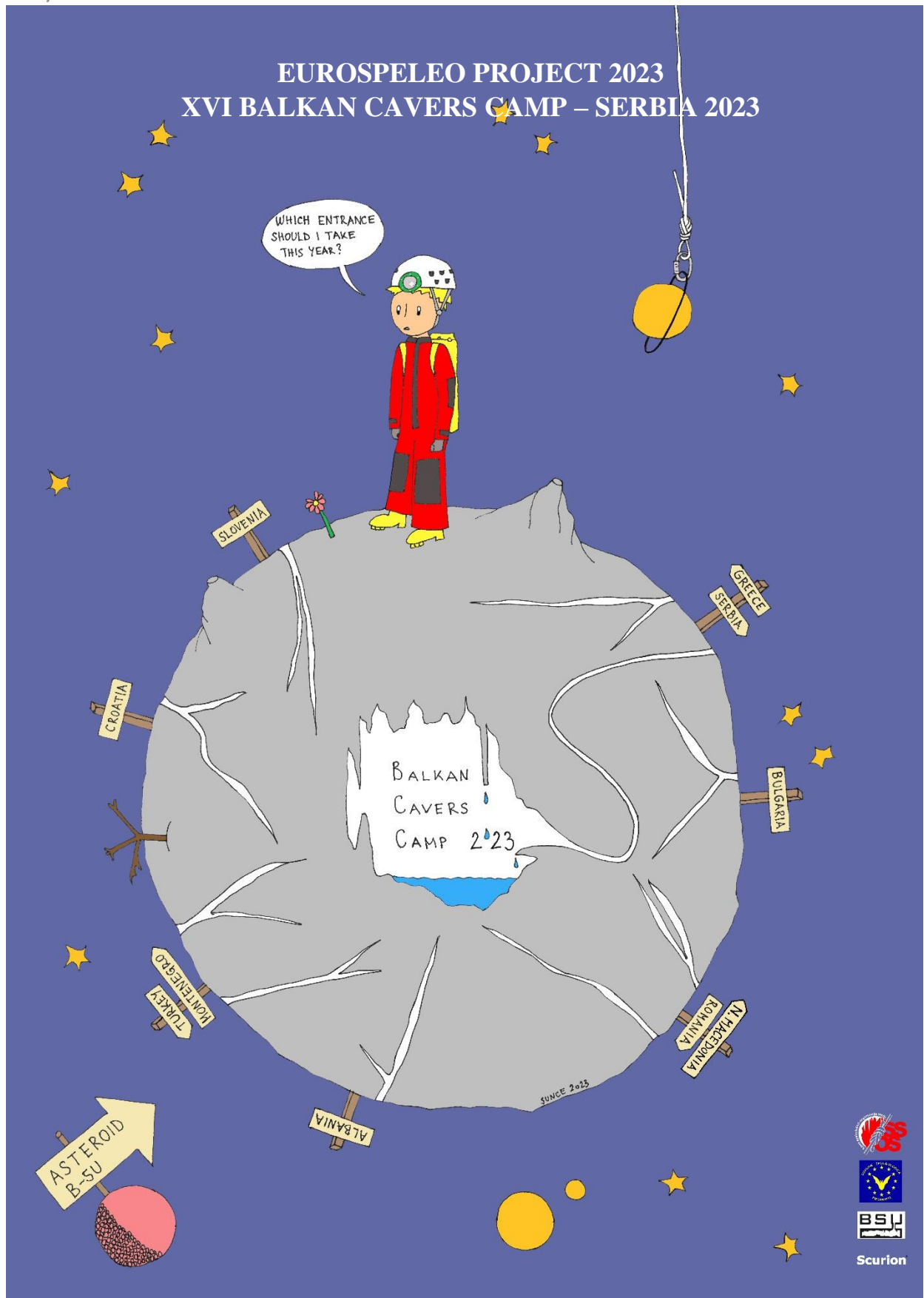


## EUROSPELEO PROJECT 2023 XVI BALKAN CAVERS CAMP – SERBIA 2023





Savez speleoloških organizacija Srbije

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## PROGRAM

### **June 28 (Wednesday)**

Arrival of participants

### **June 29 (Thursday)**

Arrival of participants

Caves

Opening of XVI Balkan Cavers' Camp 2023

Presentations

Exhibition of the winning photographs "We and Caves"

### **June 30 (Friday)**

Arrival of participants

Caves

Bureau Meeting of BSU

Presentations

### **July 1 (Saturday)**

Arrival of participants

GAM of BSU

Caves

Excursion - "A short walk on the ancient ocean's floor"

Caving techniques – competition

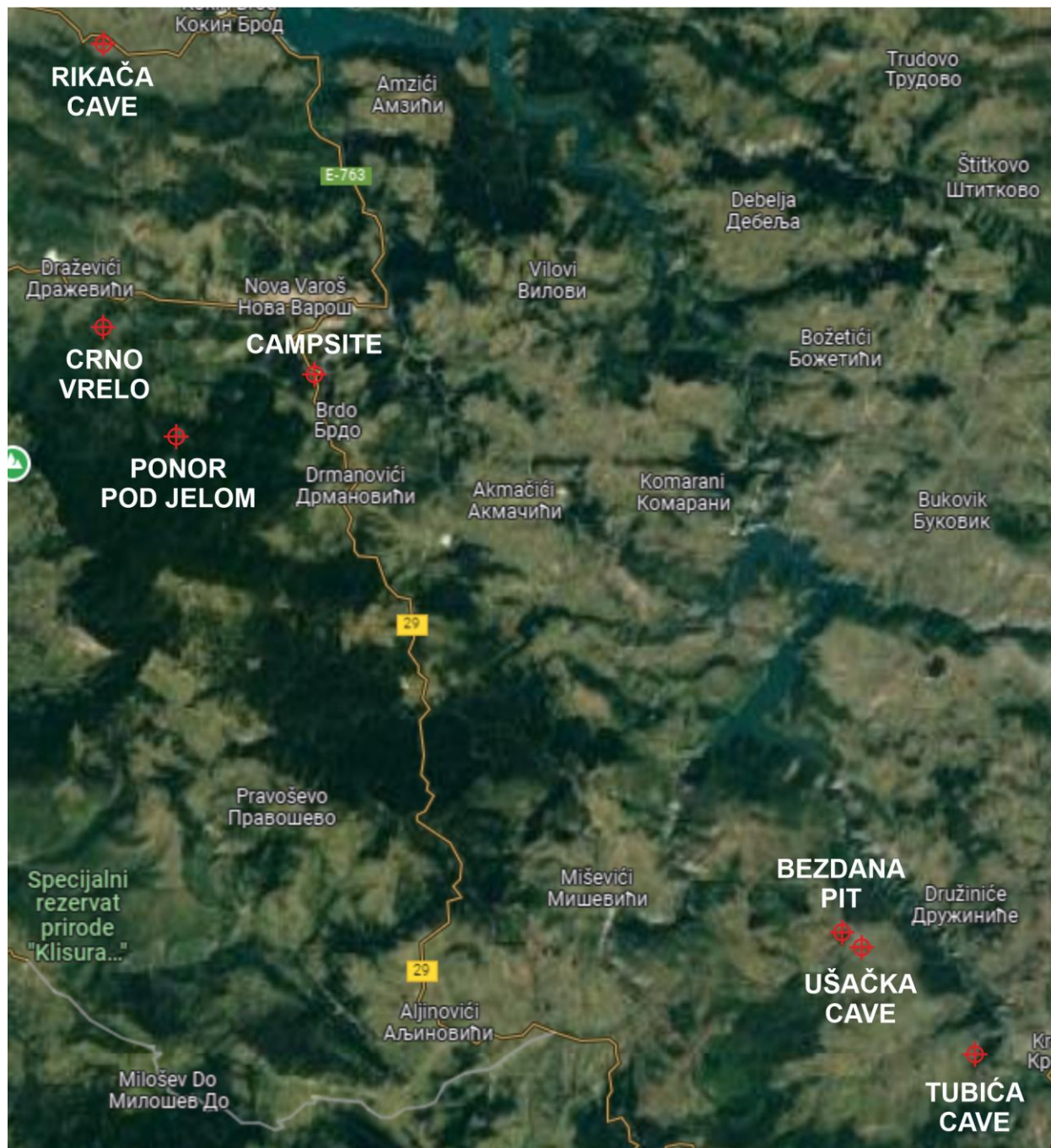
Joint dinner

Closing party

### **July 2 (Sunday)**

Departure

## SUMMARY



Map with locations of campsite and caves during XVI Balkan Cavers' Camp 2023, Serbia



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XVI Balkan cavers' camp in 2023 was held in Serbia, organized by the Federation of Speleological Organizations of Serbia (SSOS) and under the auspices by the European Speleological Federation (FSE) and Balkan Speleological Union (BSU) in the period from 28th June to 2<sup>th</sup> July 2023, at Zlatar Mountain, close to the town of Nova Varoš. All cavers and friends of speleology were invited to participate and exchange caving experience. In the beginning aimed to Balkan countries, now is gathering enthusiasts from South-Eastern Europe who are exploring karst of Balkan Peninsula.

Number of caves listed for participant's visit had to be reduced due to the heavy rains and floods which lasted for a month prior and during the BCC. Participants were able to visit some caves in the immediate vicinity (up to -50 m deep and up to 6500 meters long) Ušačka cave, Tubića cave, Rikča cave, Ponor pod jelom and Crno vrelo. Last three caves from the list were only partially accessible because of high water level inside.





## Participants and results

This year, BCC had 114 participants from 10 countries (Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Greece, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia and Turkey). Number of registered participants was initially higher but some of them canceled their arrival. Also, there was a weaker response from Serbian cavers than expected. We assume that bad weather conditions in Serbia before and during the BCC were one of the main reasons for that.

During the camp all speleological objects which were offered for visit had visitors from camp.

Most crowded was Ušačka cave and Tubića cave which was to be expected since those two were biggest and most famous caves in surrounding, also only two caves without too much water inside. In Bezdana pit was installed system for those who wanted vertical entering in Ušačka cave system.

In total, there were 173 persons/entry in caves during the camp with around 610 (six hundred and ten) hours, or 25 days combined time of all cavers conducted "underground".

Exact visit by cave and involvement by nationality in BCC can be observed in the tables below.

### Registered participants during BCC by countries:

	<b>ROM</b>	<b>26</b>
	<b>SRB</b>	<b>21</b>
	<b>POL</b>	<b>18</b>
	<b>SLO</b>	<b>19</b>
	<b>BUL</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>CZ</b>	<b>6</b>
	<b>TUR</b>	<b>5</b>
	<b>GRE</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>CRO</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>HUN</b>	<b>1</b>



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**Entry logs of BSC participants (number of persons by day):**

Cave / Date	28.6.2023.	29.6.2023.	30.6.2023.	1.7.2023.	2.7.2023.
Ušačka cave system	0	48	38	5	0
Tubića cave	0	15	28	0	0
Rikača cave	0	13	0	0	0
Ponor pod jelom	0	13	0	0	0
Crno vrelo	0	13	0	0	0
<b>By day</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

Total by cave	
Ušačka cave system	<b>91</b>
Tubića cave	<b>43</b>
Rikača cave	<b>13</b>
Ponor pod jelom	<b>13</b>
Crno vrelo	<b>13</b>



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## Presentations and posters

Evening hours were used for presentations and watching speleological movies. All were invited to present their organization / actions / expeditions / achievements, etc.

List of presentations and movies, with abstracts:

Aleksandar Petrović <sup>(1)</sup>, Danilo Tomić, Mladen Drašković <sup>(2)</sup>, Vladimir Pecikoza <sup>(3)</sup>

<sup>(1)</sup> University of Belgrade, Faculty of Geography

<sup>(2)</sup> Speleological Group of the Society of Researchers "Vladimir Mandić Manda"

<sup>(3)</sup> Petnica Science Center

Serbia

[aleksandar.petrovic@gef.bg.ac.rs](mailto:aleksandar.petrovic@gef.bg.ac.rs)

### PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF NEW SPELEOLOGICAL RESEARCH IN THE PETNIČKA CAVE, SERBIA

Petnička Cave is one of the most studied caves in Serbia. However, even after more than 150 years since the first explorations, new passages have been found. In the conditions of multi-year drought, the lake level in Aždaja's Hall dropped by more than 2 m in 2022. This was observed during the terrestrial laser scanning (TLS) of the cave for the needs of the Geography seminar at the Petnica Science Center. The water level enabled a much more detailed analysis of the downstream channels, which was done by speleologists from the Society of Researchers "Vladimir Mandić Manda" and from the Faculty of Geography. During those investigations, archaeological discoveries were made in the Banja Hall, which now bears the name of the Hall of Explorers. However, the low water level enabled detailed morphological research of this part of the cave and new channels with a length of 50 m were discovered. The new plan of the cave showed that only 3 m separated the explorers from the physical exit from the cave to the spring of Banja.

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Jan Sirotek

Czech Speleological Society / Pustý žleb

Czech Republic

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### 20 YEARS OF EXPLORATIONS IN DJALOVIĆA KLISURA, MONTENEGRO

Summary on 20 years of explorations in the caves located in Djalovića Klisura – Djalovića Pećina (Pećina Nad Vražjim Firovima, Jurisko vrelo, Brno, Gornji ponor).





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Stelios Zacharias  
Speleological Association of Crete – SPOK  
Greece  
[stylianos.zacharias@gmail.com](mailto:stylianos.zacharias@gmail.com)

## **"STERNES & HADES" BY PHIL BENICE (VIDEO PROJECTION)**

(Introduction by Stelios Zacharias)

Video projection of 13 minutes about the 2019 expedition to Sternes Cave in the White Mountains of Crete.

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Ruder Novak  
Zagreb Speleological Union  
Croatia  
[rudjer.novak@gmail.com](mailto:rudjer.novak@gmail.com)

## **CLEAN UNDERGROUND – A NATIONAL MODEL FOR KARST UNDERGROUND PROTECTION**

“Clean Underground” is a Croatian national volunteer project which aims to prevent the destruction of caves by illegal waste dumping. Croatia is a karst country rich in underground formations: more than 10000 caves and pits have been explored here, including the longest cave system of the Dinarides – Crnopac Cave System (59.059 m; -830 m). Through our project, we have documented 979 polluted locations throughout the country ([www.cistopodzemlje.info](http://www.cistopodzemlje.info)). These dump sites threaten our unique underground fauna, as well as karst water reserves that make up two-thirds of the drinking water in Croatia. We raise these issues to the public, media and politics: through close collaboration with the nature protection sector, we significantly influence the legislation on karst protection. Our members are also active on a broader level through the European Cave Protection Commission of the FSE and the European Environmental Bureau. Working locally, we also have thus far organized and financed the cleanup of 82 caves and pits across our country. In cooperation with our donors, for the cleanup campaigns we have channelled 100,000 € directly to caving clubs. Finally, as polluting the pits is not a thing of the past, education is one of our key activities. Our project is already a part of the National High School curriculum, but this autumn we are kick-starting a sub-project “The Ambassadors of Clean Underground”. The goal is to educate all primary school children about the importance of karst underground conservation and to lay the foundation to stop further destruction of these unique and often completely unexplored spaces.



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Alexey Zhalov  
Bulgarian Caving Society  
Bulgaria  
[azhalov@gmail.com](mailto:azhalov@gmail.com)

## WHO ARE WE?

Presentation of the 22 years History of the Balkan Speleological Union 2001-2023

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Alexey Zhalov  
Bulgarian Caving Society  
Bulgaria  
[azhalov@gmail.com](mailto:azhalov@gmail.com)

## SPELEOLOGICAL EXPLORATIONS AT HOLY MOUNT ATHOS, HALKIDIKI, GREECE

Review of the International speleological explorations in Holy Mount Athos, Halkidiki, Greece 2007 - 2023. During this period 235 natural & artificial cavities were explored by the joint teams composed by Bulgarian, Greek, Russian, Rumanian, Serbian, Turkish cavers.

ppt presentation & short movie

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Maks Petrič  
Cave Rescue Commission  
Slovenia

## CAVE RESCUE MISSION DOCUMENTARY

### PRIMADONA 2.0

Accident in Primadona cave, Slovenia

(Introduction by Maks Petrič)

## Photo contest and exhibition “We and Caves”

Mr. Sasho Popov from Speleo Club Prista (Ruse, Bulgaria) made short presentation of the contest and the winners, before official opening of exhibition on Thursday evening 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023.

This was 11<sup>th</sup> edition of “We and Caves”, with 30 participants from 14 countries and total of 123 photos. Best 25 photos were selected and printed for exhibition during BCC. Exhibition will be moved to Valjevo and Belgrade.

Winners of competition were:

1<sup>st</sup> place - Mark Burkey - Town Drain - South Wales,

2<sup>nd</sup> place - Agnes Berentes – Minus 1000 – Morca, Turkey

3<sup>rd</sup> place - Georgios Oikonomidis - Glyfada cave - Greece.



*1<sup>st</sup> Place -Mark Burkey - Town Drain - South Wales*

## Excursion

Geological excursion was organized on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> of July. Ana Mladenović was initiator and leader of the excursion.

### “A short walk on the ancient ocean’s floor”

Geographically, the territory of Serbia belongs to the central Balkan Peninsula, which is, geologically and geomorphologically occupied by two huge mountain ranges. The NNW – SSE striking mountainous range exposed (among other territories) in western Serbia is called the Dinaric orogen. Along the central axis of Serbia (the Velika Morava corridor), the Dinarides are directly juxtaposed to another mountain range – the Carpatho – Balkan orogen. Albeit having different roots, these two orogenic belts both came here from the Alps. Formation of these two orogenic belts is the result of an ongoing convergence between the African and the European continents. During the Cretaceous period, this convergence led to the closing of an ocean that existed between these two continental units, and later, during the Cenozoic times, induced the formation of these orogenic chains.

The aforementioned ocean that closed by the beginning of the Cretaceous times, was called the Neotethys ocean, and it existed during the Triassic and Jurassic. Carbonate sedimentation on both continental shelves of this ocean led to the formation of massive carbonate rocks especially in the Dinarides. These carbonates are later intensively karstified. One of such areas of carbonates hosts the 16<sup>th</sup> Balkan Cavers Camp.

However, the area of western Serbia exposes one of the most beautiful sequences of ocean floor rocks, as well as contact between the oceanic rocks and continental sediments. If you want to walk on the Neotethys’ ocean floor and see how and when it closed, join our excursion to the area of Bistrica and Priboj, near the location of the 16<sup>th</sup> Balkan Cavers Camp.



*Photo: Krasimir Stoilov Kolevski*

## Caving techniques – competiton

Competition was held on Saturday in sports hall. There were combined teams of tree competitors, which had to pass polygon with four types of obstacles, something like Speleo relay race, or triathlon. The main goal of this competition was actually practical demonstration and comparison of different techniques, within the given rules.

- 1 – Rope climbing – 60 m
- 2 – Multiple traverse passing and “tunnel” passing
- 3 – Closed eyes knotting

There were 6 teams from: Slovenia (1), Serbia (2), Turkey (1), Romania (2).

1<sup>st</sup> place – Zareći netopirji, Slovenia

2<sup>nd</sup> place – Manda, Serbia

3<sup>rd</sup> place – Diverzanti, Serbia

List of all competitors:

- Diverzanti: Ana Mladenović, Selena Blagojević, Gojko Paskota (Serbia)
- Manda: Tamara Kosić, Aleksa Maksimović, Todor Gajić (Serbia)
- Zareći netopirji: Denis Brvar, Benjamin Lap, Gregor Jeleu (Slovenia)
- CSM Hunedoara: Merlusca Toma, Sophicean Adrian, Dudus Iulian (Romania)
- Not (Puscas) team: Monica Epore, Ema Marcu, Sorin Dusan (Romania)
- Humak: Burhan Tastan, Ahmet Kuzu, Aytay Zaimoglu (Turkey)



Winners from Slovenia (Photo: Dorđe Petrović)



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## Photographs



Sports hall and tent were central places of BCC, and campsite was on nearby football court.



*Opening evening: presentations and exhibition.*



*General Assembly Meeting of Balkan Speleological Union*









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## Financial report

No	Name	Quantity	Price per piece	Price
1	Participation - 50e	84	50,00	4.200,00
2	Participation - 25e	3	25,00	75,00
3	Participation - 40e	23	40,00	920,00
4	Participation - 20e	1	20,00	20,00
5	Donation - BSU	1	200,00	200,00
6	Donation - Ema Marcu	1	100,00	100,00
7	Donation – “KEJ” d.o.o.	1	171,00	171,00
8	Donation – “Jugokaolin”	1	256,00	256,00
9	Key pendant – income	46	2,10	96,60
10	Magnets – income	59	2,10	123,90
11	Donation – bags	143		
12	Donation – badge	145		
13	Donation – bandana	50		
14	Donation - ESP2023 - Scurion	1		
15	BCC participations to BSU	111	-2,00	-222,00
16	Joint dinner	114	-13,00	-1.482,00
17	T-shirt	130	-7,00	-910,00
18	Guidebook	150	-4,00	-600,00
19	Certificate	150	-0,30	-45,00
20	Stickers	450	-0,10	-45,00
21	Posters	6	-2,00	-12,00
22	Excursion / bus	1	-383,00	-383,00
23	Tickets for Ušačka cave system	91	-2,14	-194,74
24	Transportation to caves – buses / km	1140	-1,00	-1.140,00
25	Transportation to caves – cars / person	31	-5,00	-155,00
26	Fuel	120	-1,50	-180,00
27	Key pendant			-85,00
28	Magnets			-75,00
29	Bracelets			-26,00
30	Banners			-100,00
31	Awards for competition			-60,00
32	Bank fees			-10,00
33	Drinks			-100,00
34	Light bulbs			-12,00
35	Tea, coffee, water			-30,00
36	Garbage bags			-18,00
37	Cleaning equipment			-25,00
38	Technical equipment (audio, video)			-250,00
			<b>Income</b>	<b>6.162,50</b>
			<b>Outcome</b>	<b>-6.159,74</b>
			<b>Difference</b>	<b>2,76</b>

• All amounts are in euros (1 EUR ≈ 117 RSD).