Since 1993, the International Karstological School "Classical Karst" (IKS) has been organised annually, covering many aspects related to karst research. The basic idea of the event is to present the state-of-the-art of the annually selected topic and to promote discussion between participants via a set of invited and topic-related lectures, a poster session and field trips to the Slovenian Classical Karst area.

**MAIN TOPIC**

The 27th International Karstological School is devoted to karst hydrogeology, which is distinctive for carbonate aquifers. These hold considerable amounts of groundwater resources, offer important potential for freshwater supply and support unique ecosystem biodiversity. Owing to their particular nature, these environments are highly susceptible to deterioration, especially via pollution and over-exploitation. For their better preservation, a deepening of understanding of flow and storage mechanisms, and knowledge related to water availability and quality issues, is necessary. The task relies not only on classical hydrological methods, but also on specifically designed experiments, demanding special monitoring instrumentation and emerging technologies.

The event aims to develop the exchange of knowledge and experience on approaches of karst aquifers characterisation, utilisation and protection. We are looking forward to receiving contributions that discuss new concepts, research methodologies and techniques, and/or share practises and case studies from karst areas worldwide presenting concrete solutions to specific problems. This event is, above all, subjected to the great and diverse challenges that studying karst aquifers’ characteristics present.
PROGRAMME OUTLINE

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<th>Morning</th>
<th>Monday June 17th 2019</th>
<th>Tuesday June 18th 2019</th>
<th>Wednesday June 19th 2019</th>
<th>Thursday June 20th 2019</th>
<th>Friday June 21st 2019</th>
<th>Saturday June 22nd 2019</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Registration sessions</td>
<td>Sessions</td>
<td>Sessions</td>
<td>Whole-day excursion</td>
<td>Whole-day excursion</td>
<td>*Optional: Training course »Visual KARSYS«</td>
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<tr>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Sessions &amp; Poster session</td>
<td>Field trip</td>
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<td>Evening</td>
<td>Ice breaker &amp; Mysteries of karst</td>
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*Organized by Swiss Institute for Speleology and Karstology (contact: arnauld.malard@isska.ch)

REGISTRATION

Registration will be online only and open till April 30th, 2019. Link to the registration form, abstract submission, payment instructions and other information is available on the website: http://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/.

The registration fee is 175 EUR, and for the undergraduate students 75 EUR. It includes conference materials, excursions, refreshments during coffee breaks, participation at gala reception and at all excursions. For payment and participation on Saturday’s training course please contact Swiss Institute for Speleology and Karstology (arnauld.malard@isska.ch).

The official languages of the event are English and Slovene. The abstracts must be submitted till February 15th, 2019. The participant’s preferred mode of presentation (i.e., poster/oral) will be considered by the organiser. Selected papers will be published in Acta Carsologica.

The Second Circular including the detailed programme of the IKS will be available by mid of April 2019.

SUPPORT

Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, Scientific Research Centre SAZU, Slovenian Research Agency, Municipality Postojna, Municipality Pivka, Zavod Znanje, KOVOD.

ORGANISER

Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU
Titov trg 2
SI - 6230 Postojna
T: (+386) 5 70 019 00
F: (+386) 5 70 019 99
E-mail: iks@zrc-sazu.si
Web: http://izrk.zrc-sazu.si/en
Contact: Matej Blatnik (mblatnik@zrc-sazu.si), Cyril Mayaud (cyril.mayaud@zrc-sazu.si)