

**[Test] June KC News**

Avi &lt;burg@gsi.gov.il&gt;

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Reply-To: us21-5a8cd27e0a-de2435b11e@inbound.mailchimp.com

To: "&lt;&lt; Test First Name &gt;&gt; &lt;&lt; Test Last Name &gt;&gt;" &lt;aviburg@gmail.com&gt;

**Karst  
Commission****In this issue**

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**June 2023 NEWS**

Chairs: Peter Malik (Europe/Africa, 9/21 - 12/22); Avi Burg (Asia/Oceania, 1/23 - 4/24); Benjamin Tobin (Americas), 5/24 - 8/25)

**Opening remark from the chair**

At the end of last month, 26 of us enjoyed the geotrip in Croatia and Slovenia. A major part of this KC news focuses on the last successful geotrip and on questions about how we should continue with this nice tradition (We thank Zoran Stevanović for his fruitful advice). We ask you – the members of the KC, to try to think about the issues that came up at the end of the geotrip and are listed below, and contribute your opinion on the matter.

**Summary of the geotrip to Croatia and Slovenia- May 2023**

During May 22-28, 2023, 26 people, some of them members of the KC group, participated in a geotrip that traveled in Croatia and Slovenia. During this 6-day trip, the group participated in a wide variety of activities: visited large karst springs, spectacular caves, national parks, impressive karst phenomena, and observation

points, listened to an evening lecture on springs (by Abe Springer), visited the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia, and enjoyed the peaceful atmosphere of these two Balkan countries, as well as the local food and drinks.

The group included people from 11 countries (5 from Bulgaria, 4 from Croatia, 4 from Slovenia, 4 from Israel, 2 from Serbia, 2 from Romania, 1 from Greece, 1 from England, 1 from Slovakia, 1 from the USA, 1 from Brazil). Of the 26 participants, 11 were women (42%). The KC financially supported one student who joined the geotrip.

The geotrip was organized and guided by two teams: a Croatian team led by Josip Terzić from the Croatian Geological Survey, and a Slovenian team led by our friend Nataša Ravbar from the Karst Research Institute in Postojna, Slovenia (see a short note Nataša add to the Institute's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=634829095356398&set=a.466223168883659>). We would like to thank them all for the interesting and comprehensive plan, the strict organization, and the professional guidance in the field.

The idea of the geotrip is an old tradition of the KC, which started several decades ago. The goal of the Geotrip as recognized and familiar to all KC members over the years is to allow curious hydrogeologists of karst environments to be exposed to karst landscapes and phenomena in various regions around the globe. Moreover, the intention is to encourage young researchers as well as students to participate. This is the main reason why we insist on making it as cheap as possible by taking all the arrangements on our shoulders, finding cheap accommodation, and asking colleagues to guide us in the field. The last geotrip before the current one took place in June 2019 and was organized by our friend Zoran Stevanović to Serbia and Romania. The geotrip that was scheduled to be in May 2020 in Yellowstone Park, USA, was canceled due to the outbreak of the Corona pandemic.

Here are some photos of the group at sites in Croatia and Slovenia that show the professional and serious aspect of the tour alongside the great time we spent in the field and the friendly atmosphere among the participants:



**Top:** In Krecic Waterfall

**Middle left:** Visiting the Blue Lake in Imotski,

**Middle right:** Gathering in front of Frankopan Castle in Ogulin,

**Bottom left:** Nataša Ravbar gives explanations in the Planina Cave,

**Bottom right:** Food and drink, drink and food– an important part of the journey,

In addition to the summary above, we would like to raise some thoughts and comments regarding future geotrips with the intention of keeping this important tradition alive and attractive. *Those who wish to respond please send your opinions and ideas to the KC chairman-in-charge - Avi Burg ([burg@gsi.gov.il](mailto:burg@gsi.gov.il)).*

1. Should the geotrip be open to all those interested or only to KC members? (spouses of members are not obligated to join the group).
2. How often should a geotrip be organized? every year? two years? no need to set? Is the current format (5-6 days) the most appropriate one?
3. Only a few students participated in the current geotrip, which means we did not achieve one of our main goals. How can we make it more attractive to young people?
4. Would the geotrip be more attractive if it is followed by an international conference so that the participants would continue from the geotrip directly to the conference in the same region/country?
5. Only very few people from Western countries participated in the current geotrip, we have no explanation for this unwillingness to participate, but we insist on expanding the number of people participating in the geotrip from different countries.

Practically, we now expect KC members to offer places for the next geotrip and volunteer to take the arrangements on their shoulders with the support of the KC chairpersons and in accordance with the basic rules mentioned above. We also wish to expand the geotrip to areas other than South East Europe, where the last two geotrips have taken place. So far there are thoughts of organizing the next tour in Canada or Italy (before the Eurokarst meeting in June 2024), but these ideas are currently only on the shelf.

## **A few words about our friend, a KC member - Dr. Alexander Klimchouk**

Our colleague and friend Alexander Borisovich Klimchouk passed away on the evening of 11-12 May, 2023.

Alexander ("Klim" as his friends called him) was a world-renowned speleologist and geologist. He had 40 years of karst research in hydrogeology and geomorphology, speleogenesis, hydrogeology of deep-seated formations, hypogene karst, gypsum karst, epikarst, high mountain karst, the evolution of karst in the context of the geological history, subsidence hazard, and land use in karst terrains. He was an active cave explorer with almost 50 years of experience and is considered one of the world's experts on hypogene karst speleogenesis and morphology. Alexander was a leading scientist at the Institute of Geological Sciences of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, one of the founders (in 1991) and past president of the Ukrainian Speleological Association (1992-1998; 2003-2005), founder (in 2006) and director (from 2006-2014) of the Ukrainian Institute of Speleology and Karstology, a member of the Bureau of the International Union of Speleology (UIS) from 1993 to 2013, where he also served as Vice President from 2001 to 2009. He was also the founder of the UIS Commission on Karst Hydrogeology and Speleogenesis and its president from its origin in 1996 to 2017.

His valuable contributions to the cave exploration in the Arabika Massif in the Western Caucasus resulted in the identification of Krubera Cave as the deepest cave in the world (2001), and the first cave in the world with a depth of more than 2,000 m (2004). Among his many important publications are the International Journal of Speleology's (volume 25, nos. 3-4), 1996, pp. 159-181) - *Gypsum Karst of the World*, and Special Paper 1 by the US National Cave and Karst Research Institute, *Hypogene Speleogenesis: Hydrogeological and Morphogenetic Perspective*, where Alexander firmly established hypogene speleogenesis as a major and widespread phenomenon.

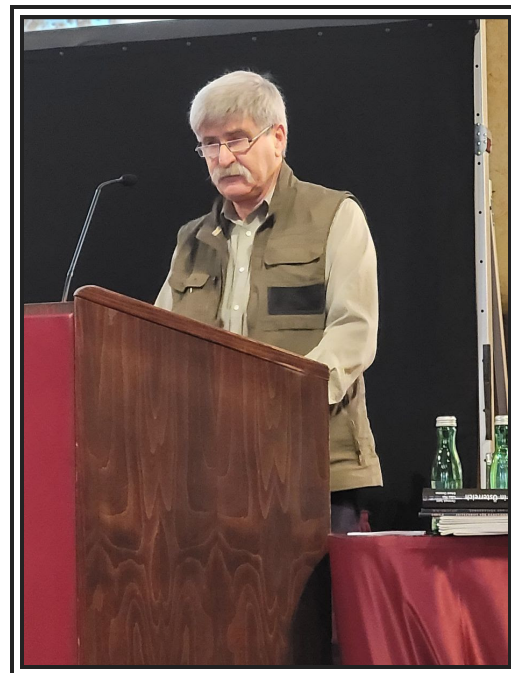
Alexander authored more than 300 scientific papers and books on various aspects of karst and cave science and edited several major international books.

For more information about this extraordinary scientist, see:

1. Alexander's page in ResearchGate:  
<https://loop.frontiersin.org/people/321025/bio>
2. An article by Cory BlackEagle on LinkedIn:  
<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/rest-light-alexander-klimchouk-cory-blackeagle>
3. Recollection by David Craig provided in his 25 September 2015 blog entry in the Footless Crow, Ukrainian Overlords of the Underworld:  
<https://footlesscrow.blogspot.com/2015/09/ukrainian-overlords-of-underworld.html>

**May his memory be blessed!**

Thanks to George Veni for providing information about Alexander, and to Stephan Kempe for providing a photo of Alexander speaking in Vienna on November 12, 2022.



## New members of the KC group

Four of the participants in the geotrip were impressed by our activities and decided to

join the group. We are pleased to welcome Josip Terzić from Croatia, Konstantin Kostov and Boyka Mihaylova from Bulgaria, and Israel Gev from Israel as new associate members of the KC Group.

Here is what they wrote about themselves:

## Josip Terzić

From 1999 until today, I have been working in the Croatian Geological Survey (HGI-CGS), Department for Hydrogeology and engineering geology, first as an assistant, and since 2008 as the holder of a permanent scientific position. Since 2013 until today - as a head of the department. Most of my work experience and expertise are connected with the research of the Dinaric karst terrain, mainly in Croatia and its surroundings, I am the author of several scientific papers (26 publications in the WoSCC database):

<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/30457542>;

and 28 in Scopus:

[https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?origin=resultslist&](https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?origin=resultslist&authorId=18635214300&zone)

[authorId=18635214300&zone](https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?origin=resultslist&authorId=18635214300&zone); and in addition, numerous conference papers, book chapters, etc., that can be visible in the Croatian scientific database:

[https://www.bib.irb.hr/pretraga?operators=and|Terzi%  
C4%87,%20Josip%20%2828319%29|text|profile](https://www.bib.irb.hr/pretraga?operators=and|Terzi%C4%87,%20Josip%20%2828319%29|text|profile).

Also, over 80 technical reports are in the archive of HGI-CGS.

Most of these works are related to karst hydrogeology, coastal and island karst terrains, hydrogeochemistry of karst springs and wells, tracing tests, pumping tests, and regional hydrogeological interpretations (especially with the purpose of groundwater divides delineation).

I am the principal researcher of the "Basic hydrogeological map of Croatia", a fundamental project of the HGI-CGS, 2013 - today, and have significant experience in projects funded by European Union, especially in Interreg programs. A few main Interreg and Horizon 2020 projects can be singled out, e.g. boDEREC-CE (Lead researcher of the Interreg Central Europe project, HGI-CGS was the Lead partner), the lead researcher in HGI-CGS in projects: GeopMapping, CC-WaterS, DRINKADRIA, UKV, and PROLINE-CE. Also, a researcher in several other Eu funded projects, such as GeoTWINN (Horizon 2020), MUHA, KATER II, and CAMARO-D.

I am a member of several organizing and/or scientific boards in national and international conferences and a member of the editorial board of the scientific journal *Geologia Croatica*, 2010-today.

Email: [jterzic@hgi-cgs.hr](mailto:jterzic@hgi-cgs.hr)



## Konstantin Kostov

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Konstantin Kostov is working at the Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS). His research interests involve karst geomorphology and hydrology, active faults, paleoseismology (speleothems as records of paleoseismicity), and protection of the geological heritage.

Member of the Pseudokarst Commission of UIS and ProGEO (International Association for the Conservation of Geological Heritage).

Email: [kskostov@geology.bas.bg](mailto:kskostov@geology.bas.bg)



## Boyka Mihaylova

Research Assistant and a Ph.D. student at the Hydrogeology Department - Geological Institute of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (BAS).

Subject of Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Peter Gerginov from the Geological Institute - BAS: "*Assessment of groundwater pollution in the area of the copper plant of "Aurubis Bulgaria", AD based on data from monitoring observations*".

Main research areas are: Hydrogeology, Karst Hydrogeology, Hydrochemistry, Environmental protection, and Groundwater pollution.

Email: [boyka@geology.bas.bg](mailto:boyka@geology.bas.bg)



## Israel Gev

A senior hydrogeologist (Ph.D.), Head of water resources planning at the Water Authority of Israel, responsible for managing Israel's water resources. 35 years of experience in hydrogeology and water management. Involved in Water Authority projects related to water resources development, applied systems analysis for water resources management, desalination, and brackish groundwater. Handling strategic planning, groundwater systems, and river basin management.

Research and publications focus on topics related to groundwater (including in karst regions), hydrology, and water resources management, with an emphasis on model applications, groundwater recharge estimation, water supply, and large-scale water resource allocation.

Recent Planning projects include climate change, hydrological droughts, interaction in water economics, optimal water supply, and water reuse in urban areas. Published more than 100 reports, articles, and book chapters.

Notable achievements include projects on the Reclamation of the coastal aquifers, the development of new water resources in the northern part of Israel, and contribution to the implementation of the National Master Plan for Groundwater management policy in Israel.

Emails: [Israelg10@water.gov.il](mailto:Israelg10@water.gov.il); [israelgev@gmail.com](mailto:israelgev@gmail.com)





We welcome Josip, Konstantin, Boyka, and Israel to our group and we hope they will be involved and active in the commission activities.

## UPCOMING KC EVENTS

### Visual KARSYS GeoModelling Course N5: 5 July-6 July 2023

The GeoModelling course N5 will be organized in two sessions:

Wednesday, July 5th, 2023 - from 1 PM to 4 PM\*

Thursday, July 6th, 2023 - from 1 PM to 4 PM\*

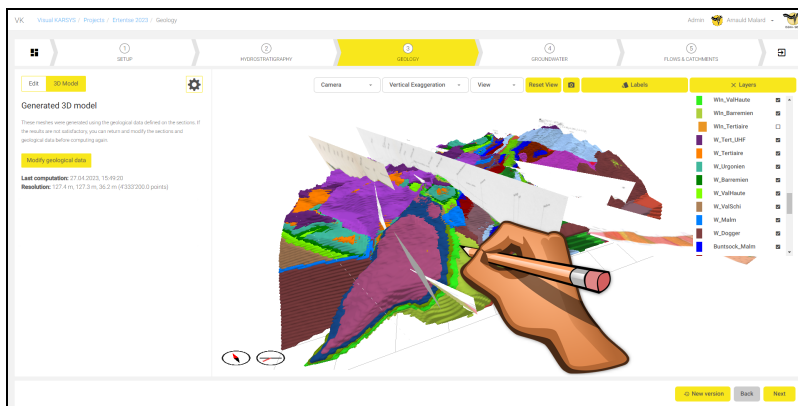
\*(GMT+00:00 Time zone)

The course is dedicated to learning of the construction of 3D geological models with the implicit approach. Participants will be briefly introduced to the theoretical aspects of 3D geoModelling and will be guided through the construction of a 3D geological model in a folded / eroded / thrust environment by using different geological data (maps, cross-sections, drill holes, galleries, faults, etc.). The course is dedicated to geologists / hydrogeologists working in complex areas.

Course fee: employees CHF 170 / students CHF 120

Contact for registration / questions: [info@visualkarsys.com](mailto:info@visualkarsys.com)

For the program of the course go to: <https://www.visualkarsys.com/courses>



## IAH worldwide groundwater congress: 17 – 22 Sept. 2023, Capetown, South Africa

The Congress theme for IAH 50 is "Groundwater: A Matter of Scale". This theme combines scientific advances through local to global scale experiments and case studies, with those extending over various temporal scales.

We urge the KC group members to attend this conference that brings together most members of the IAH - the umbrella organization that hosts several commissions including our own.

Find out more information at <https://iah2023.org.za>;

Below are the important dates relevant to those who intend to participate:

- 20 June 2023 – Early Bird registration deadline,
- 21 August 2023 – Late registration deadline,

### Recommended publications

(1) Nataša Ravbar drew our attention to this recently published paper:

Ravbar, N., Mulec, J., Mayaud, C., Blatnik, M., Kogovšek, B., & Petrič, M. (2023). *A comprehensive early warning system for karst water sources contamination risk, case study of the Unica springs, SW Slovenia*. *Science of The Total Environment*, 163958. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.163958>

The paper presents an innovative strategy and a comprehensive early warning system for assessing the contamination risk of karst water sources that covers spatio-temporal dimensions and can be integrated into management practices. It is based on event-based monitoring and risk mapping and has been tested in a well-known study area. Although hydrologic systems vary, the proposed strategy is particularly useful in systems where water flows rapidly and where remediation is not feasible.

The study confirms the potential benefits of combining risk mapping and event-based monitoring and incorporating them into water safety plans. It supports the use of this approach to ensure high-quality drinking water supplies worldwide. Due to the special nature of karst areas, each hydrological system is individual and differs due to natural conditions, data availability, monitoring constraints, etc.

(2) Luka Vucinic drew our attention to a short paper written by Luka and Catherine Coxon. Luka and Catherine have been invited to contribute with a media spotlight review to the *Groundwater Journal*, and their review "*Inception Horizon: A Creative Exploration of Karst Groundwater*" was published in April: <https://doi.org/10.1111/gwat.13320>. It is a review of a short film "*Inception Horizon*" that was devised by Prof. Laurence Gill.

Those who are unable to access the paper can request it from Luka via email ([vucinicl@tcd.ie](mailto:vucinicl@tcd.ie)). Luka emphasizes that Catherine and he wrote this media spotlight review because not many people are aware of the film, and they believe they should. They feel it is a nice way of promoting karst hydrogeology and we in the KC certainly

agree and support that.

The film can be accessed here: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nd\\_AiytQvA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nd_AiytQvA)

The film was recently awarded third place (out of 972 films from 89 countries worldwide) in the People's Choice Award category at the UNESCO Earth Futures Film Festival 2022.

Prof. Laurence Gill created this film and worked with composer Norah Constance Walsh who composed music for the film and who is the artistic director of the Mellow Tonics choir (from Dublin). Mellow Tonics are singing in the film (Laurence is also a member of the choir). They traveled to Slovenia in September 2022 to perform at Zupanova Jama in collaboration with the Slovenian Karst Research Institute.

***Members who are interested in recommending a new relevant publication (their own or of their friends) are welcomed to send a link to one of the co-chairs.***



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