



5th INTERNATIONAL CONGRES OF SPELEOLOGY IN ARTIFICIAL CAVITIES



The Hypogea 2026 International Congress will be held in Tbilisi, Georgia, from 22 to 26 September 2026, under the patronage of the Union Internationale de Spéléologie (UIS). The first four International Congresses of Speleology in Artificial Cavities (HYPOGAEA) were successfully held in Rome, Italy (2015); Cappadocia, Turkey (2017); Dobrich, Bulgaria (2019); and Genoa, Italy (2023).

The primary objective of the congress is to exchange knowledge and experience acquired at both the international and national levels in the field of speleological research on artificial caves (works of anthropogenic origin and of archaeological-historical significance). It also aims to promote the underground historical and cultural heritage, to safeguard it, and to foster its sustainable use.

Traditionally, HYPOGAEA congresses are hosted in countries where important complexes of artificial caves are widespread and where there is a longstanding scholarly tradition in the study of these cultural and historical monuments. For this reason, it was decided to hold *Hypogea 2026* in Tbilisi, Georgia - a country renowned for its magnificent complexes of rock-cut monuments, such as Uplistsikhe, Vardzia, the cave monasteries of David Gareji, and many others. Their systematic investigation has been underway for more than a century, conducted by both Georgian and international scholars. In addition to attending significant academic presentations, participants of the Tbilisi congress will have the opportunity to visit some of these remarkable rock-hewn complexes, along with other monuments of Georgian cultural heritage. It is hoped that the participants will also enjoy and appreciate the world-renowned Georgian hospitality.

The Congress is held under the patronage of the UIS and organized by the Georgian National Museum and the Ministry of Culture of Georgia.

The congress aims to advance and strengthen the exchange of experiences and information in the field of artificial cavities at the international level. Simultaneous translation into Georgian and English will be provided throughout the sessions. The three days of the congress will be dedicated to the presentation of studies conducted in different countries, while two days will focus on guided excursions to sites of particular interest, including artificial cavities and related cultural monuments.

Thematic Sessions

- Underground and rocky civil settlement works
- Religious and cult works
- Architecture and urban planning
- Archaeological research of artificial cavities
- Ancient hydraulic works
- Mining and extraction works
- New technologies for analyzing and documenting artificial cavities
- Categories and types of artificial cavities: updates

Rules for Abstract Submission

Proposed contributions, written in English, must concern unpublished studies (or updated results from major research campaigns) relating to artificial cavities and associated topics. Abstracts must be submitted in English, without illustrations, and in **word.docx** format. They must not exceed 3,500 characters, including spaces and keywords. Each abstract must include:

- the title of the paper,
- the names of the authors,
- the designation of the corresponding author, together with their email address and telephone contact information.

The relevant thematic session must be indicated in brackets under the title. The Organizing Committee will be responsible for the scheduling and distribution of the presentations. Each proposal will be reviewed by one or more members of the Scientific Committee, who will determine whether the presentation is to be delivered orally or as a poster. In the case of rejection, the corresponding author will be notified promptly.

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

GENERAL INDICATIONS

Articles must concern topics related to artificial cavities, i.e., studies and applications related to them; such contributions must not have been proposed or be in the process of being presented for publication in other journals or other scientific dissemination venues (monographs, congresses, conferences, workshops, etc.); they must have fully original content and sufficient impact for the discipline; they must have an adequate and updated bibliographic reference apparatus. Titles must clearly express the content.

AUTHORS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Authors declare, under their own responsibility:

- that the contribution is original, the result of their own research work and scientific production, and that the contents of other sources are correctly cited.
- That the contribution is unpublished and has not been sent or proposed for publication elsewhere.

- That has the necessary authorizations for the publication of the data and the iconographic apparatus and that all images are free from any payment of any rights. The author of the article will take full responsibility should anyone request compensation. Authors are responsible for the text sent for publication and assume all responsibility related to copyright rights on texts, photographs, drawings, surveys, tables, graphs, and other images.
- To accept the review of their contribution, also in anonymous form.
- To correct the draft of their contribution in concert with the Editorial Board and in a timely manner.
- If authors after the publication sharing the article in an accessible online archive, must insert the DOI number.
- If the article is written by multiple Authors, it is necessary to specify the name of the corresponding Author (first and last name) with the indication of his/her contact details: postal address, email, telephone number, and affiliation, if any; the latter must be indicated for all Authors.

REVIEW

All articles are subject to evaluation by at least two reviewers whose judgments will be communicated to the Author (or the corresponding Author if there are multiple authors).

PRESENTATION OF MANUSCRIPTS

Unless otherwise agreed with the Journal's Management, the total length of the article text should not exceed 25,000 characters (approximately 6 pages of text) and, indicatively, 2 images per page of text. Separate files (article and captions) must be prepared in Word for Windows, using the "Times New Roman" font size 12, without any formatting, avoiding indents, varied line spacing, tabs, borders, backgrounds. Both files must be saved and sent exclusively in .doc and .docx format. The file with the figure captions (named "Captions") must be written in English. Caption text should be indicated as follows:

- Fig. 1 Detail of the lamp found in the cavities (photo Rossi M.).
- Tab. 1 Schematic geological section (graphic Rossi M.).

Captions must be in English.

ICONOGRAPHIC APPARATUS

(graphs, tables, drawings, surveys, and photographs)

The iconographic apparatus (in a format not exceeding A4) must be exclusively in digital format (.tiff / .jpg).

Photographs, in .tiff or .jpg format, must have a resolution of no less than 300 dpi; line drawings must have a resolution of no less than 800 dpi with the base size equal to the width of the volume format (21 cm).

Any plans, surveys, and/or drawings made in AutoCAD (or other rendering programs) must be in .pdf / .tiff / .jpg format. Images, graphs, or other iconographic apparatus provided in Word will not be accepted.

All images must be strictly in CMYK format (for color images) and in grayscale (for black and white images or drawings). RGB format images, whether in color or black and white, will not be accepted.

All figure files must be named with the progressive number as used in the text references, for example: (fig. 1); they must always correspond to the same designation in the caption as reported in the text file (.doc / .docx), which will be sent separately from the article. All images must include in the caption the indication.

ORGANIZATION OF THE TEXT (see also the enclosed template)

On the first page the work must contain:

- title of the article in English;
- name (in full) and surname of each author, with the indication of the respective institutional affiliations, or with the indication of the postal address and email (example: James Night, University of Tbilisi, Georgia, Department of Architecture, james.night@gmail.com).
The email address of the relevant author will be shown on the first page of the article to allow contact by any interested readers, all other required data, which are mandatory, are necessary for any needs of the editorial staff;
- five keywords (in English), possibly without repeating words already contained in the title.

The titles of paragraphs and any subparagraphs must all be aligned to the left and must not contain any numbering.

Any notes must be indicated with superscript Arabic numerals in the relevant text of the article and described at the end of the page (not at the end of the article).

Bibliographic citations in the text should be indicated in round brackets, for example:

- author's surname, comma, year of publication (example: James, 1999);
- in the case of multiple works cited in series, they must be reported in chronological order separated by semicolons, for example: (James & Green, 1999; Red et al., 2000);
- multiple articles by the same author published in the same year must be distinguished, both in the citation in the text and in the bibliography, with lowercase letters after the date, for example: (Bianchi, 1999a; Bianchi, 1999b).

The use of words or phrases in languages other than the one used in the article (English) must always be indicated in italics.

The cardinal points must be cited in full of a lowercase letter (for example: north, east, south, east); in the case of directions, they must be indicated with capital letters (for example: N, S; ESE, WNW).

The units of measurement must be metric of the International System (km, m, mm); in the case of ancient units of measurement, the equivalent in metric units must be indicated in round brackets. Units of measurement do not need to be followed by a period.

When using Greek and/or other symbols, it is recommended to use the specific characters/symbols of the Times New Roman font. For any need it is essential that the Author gives specific instructions and provides the relevant files.

Each Author is required to verify, when reviewing the first layout draft, the correct correspondence of the characters and symbols inserted.

Bibliography

Only the references cited in the text should be included in the bibliographic list. Citations of works in preparation are not permitted, however, references to works in progress may be included.

The cited literature must be listed at the end of the text of the article, in alphabetical order, preceded by the wording Bibliography in lowercase with a capital initial aligned to the left.

The bibliography must be compiled in alphabetical order by Author according to the examples indicated below:

Articles in periodicals and serial publications

ROSSI B., WHITE G., 2010, The troglodyte villages of Puglia, in *Opera Ipogea*, n. 2, 2010, pp. 45-56, DOI n....

Contributions to conference proceedings / miscellanies / volumes

FANTONI S., 2019, The contribution of speleology to archeology in artificial cavities, in Mucci D., Giolfi S. (eds.), Proceedings of the National Conference “Archaeology and Speleology in comparison”, Milan 1-2 September 2018, pp. 110-135, Skira Editor, Milan, ISBN..., DOI...

Curatorship

The wording “by” must be written in brackets, followed by the surname (in full) and the name (dotted) of the editor as indicated below:

- in English singular (ed. Rossi M.);
- in English plural (eds. Rossi M. & Bianchi L.).

Volumes / monographs

ROSSI A., 2018, Exploring artificial cavities, 312 pp., Giulio Einaudi Ed., Turin, ISBN...

Book chapters

ROSSI A., 2018, Exploring artificial cavities, pp. 25-29, Giulio Einaudi Ed., Turin, ISBN...

NB / If the author or the same authors have written multiple contributions in the same year or multiple contributions in the same volume, the lowercase letters a, b, c, etc. must be added to the bibliographic citation, to the year relating to the publications. without intervening space:

ROSSI B., BIANCHI G., 2010a, The troglodite villages of Puglia, in Opera Ipogea, n. 2, 2010, pp. 45-56.

ROSSI B., BIANCHI G., 2010b, Hydraulic works of the ancient world, in Opera Ipogea, n. 2, 2010, pp. 65-84.

Quotes

When reporting a quotation, it is always necessary to indicate the source of derivation of the quoted text expressed in the author-date system (listed in full in the bibliography) and not in the footnote. The quote should be in italics.

Digital resources

Surname (in full), first name (dotted) of the author or name of the body that owns the site, year (if available), title of the document, URL (site address in angle brackets), possible file format (if other than HTML, for example PDF files, RTF files), date of last access to the web page. Example:

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, Scriptorium. Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts Online, < <http://scriptorium.english.cam.ac.uk/> >, last consulted: 22 April 2025.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Any thanks must be at the end of the text.

Deadlines:

Abstract submission: 1 March 2026

Send definitive contribution: 15 May 2026



Contacts

General Secretary: hypogea2026@gmail.com

Abstract submission: book.hypogea2026@gmail.com

We look forward to seeing you in Tbilisi, Georgia

Best wishes

The Organizing Committee