Installation of the first MIKAS informative plate

On 12 November 2025, the UNESCO General Conference proclaimed 13 September as **the International Day of Caves and Karst (IDCK)**. The new International Day provides a permanent global platform for raising awareness of the importance of caves and karst for biodiversity, water resources, geodiversity, scientific research, cultural heritage and sustainable development.

The first global celebration of the UNESCO **International Day of Caves and Karst** took place in Postojna, Slovenia, from 10 to 13 September 2026. It was jointly organised by the Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU and the International Union of Speleology (UIS), with the support and cooperation of the Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO and Slovenian partner institutions. The events were held under the patronage of UNESCO and the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Nataša Pirc Musar, who personally attended the central ceremony in Postojna Cave and addressed the participants.

At the heart of the programme was the international scientific conference *"Explore, Understand and Protect: Towards Sustainable Management of Caves and Karst"*, which brought together around 160 participants from 35 countries on five continents. Scientific sessions addressed biodiversity and geodiversity, cave and karst protection, groundwater management, climate change, pollution, geohazards, new research technologies, education and sustainable management. The central celebration in Postojna Cave brought together participants and invited guests from 43 countries.



Source: https://www.lifewatch.eu/2026/10/08/international-day-of-caves-and-karst/

On ocassion of the first celebration of UNESCO **International Day of Caves and Karst** the experts of the ZRC SAZU and the Slovenian MIKAS national experts have organized installation of the first MIKAS informative plate at the Unica spring, near Postojna, on 13 September 2026.



The ZRC SAZU members Blaš Kogovšek, Cyril Mayaud and Metka Petrič before inauguration



The speech of Nataša Ravbar, the Chair of the IAH Karst Commission



Jubing Pu, Zoran Stevanović, Nataša Ravbar, Cyril Mayaud (from left)



MIKAS Advisory Board members (from Left): Zoran Stevanović, Jubing Pu, John Gunn