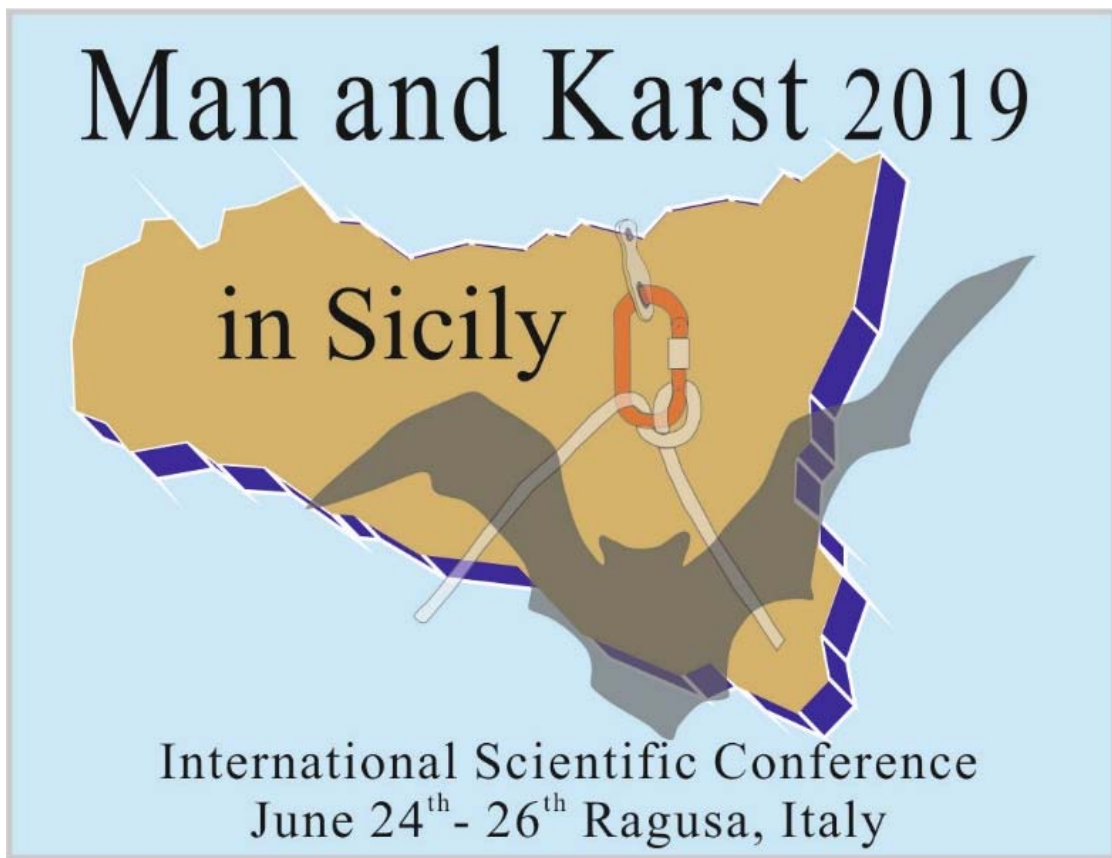





United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



**CIRS - Hyblean Center
for Speleo-Hydrogeological
Research**



FIRST CIRCULAR

info@cirs-ragusa.org - www.cirs-ragusa.org



PRESENTATION AND AIMS

The international scientific meeting "Man and Karst" will be held in Sicily from 24th to 26th June 2019. The extreme south-eastern sector of Sicily, which geographically belongs to the Hyblean Mountains, but geologically to the African foreland, represents an outstanding example for the comprehensive understanding of karst. Here we will explore pure karst landscapes, deeply carved by spectacular and evocative canyons and their profound relationship with Man.

In this karst stage, at the center of the Mediterranean, dominated by the fire of Etna volcano to the north, lapped by the arid landscapes of the Messinian evaporitic salts to the west, the millenary history of *Siculi* people unravels: ancient inhabitants of the summit of the limestone plateau, today from the heights of overhanging cliffs, silent guardians of the still luxuriant karst waters, emerging from numerous cave-springs, flowing along suggestive verdant valleys of fragrant Mediterranean scrub.

In this context, the common relationship of Mediterranean peoples with its own peculiar karst environment has been represented for centuries, in the past with a wisely and naturally sustainable use of its resources, nowadays in an increasingly conflictual way, as dramatically devastating of its precious resources, first of all the karst waters threatened by heavy degradation for a senseless and inconsiderate use of the territory.

For all this, **Man and Karst 2019 in Sicily**, in the same way as the previous past editions, wants to give a contribution to the knowledge, enhancement and safeguard of the karst landscape with its ecosystem and historical-anthropological resources as a whole, as an instrument and optimal function of scientific research, not as often for its own sake or for the sake of a few users, but rather, at the service and for the benefit of the whole community.

VENUE AND TIME

The event will be held from 24th to 26th June 2019 in the fascinating location of the Donnafugata Castle, a sumptuous noble residence of the late '800 a few kilometers from Ragusa, Sicily.

MAIN ORGANIZERS

- * Hyblean Center for Speleo-Hydrogeological Research, Ragusa, Italy
- * UNESCO Chair on Karst Education, Vipava, Slovenia
- * Department of Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences, University of Catania, Italy
- * ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute, Postojna, Slovenia
- * Center for Karst and Speleology, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- * Regional Order of Sicily Geologists

TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE

- Karst geomorphology
- Karst hydrogeology and water protection
- Caves and speleogenesis
- Biospeleology and ecology
- Karst caves and archaeology
- Mines in karst areas
- Caves in volcanic areas
- Protection of karst areas

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

| Date | Programme |
|--|---|
| Monday, June 24th | Sessions Poster session Exhibition photo contest and seminar (for School students): The karst in the study of Earth Sciences Visit of Donnafugata Castle and Park - botanical garden |
| Tuesday, June 25th | Sessions Field trip to Asphalt mine of Tabuna and/or Streppenosa Visit of old Town of Ragusa Ibla - Unesco Baroque heritage - (where the stories of "Commissario Montalbano" were filmed). |
| Wednesday, June 26th | Whole day excursion to Monello cave and Pantalica Natural Regional Reserve Gala reception at the Monumental sixteenth century <i>Convento della Croce</i> in the city of Scicli - Unesco Baroque heritage - (where the stories of "Commissario Montalbano" were filmed). |
| Thursday, June 27th | Post conference excursion to Realmonte Salt Mine, Scala dei Turchi and Valley of Temples of Agrigento. |
| Friday, June 28th | Post conference excursion to Mt. Etna (visit of lava tube cave, summit crater) |

REGISTRATION, FEE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

| | Deadline | Student | Non Student |
|------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------|
| Early Bird | April 30 th | 70 € | 120 € |
| Late | No Deadline | 90 € | 140 € |
| Accompany person | No Deadline | | 90 € |

The fee includes conference materials, coffee breaks, participation at Gala reception, visits and excursions of the days 25th and 26th of June.

Participants are invited to present their contributions in oral or poster form. Abstract / extended abstract and poster must be communicate with the pre-registration and submitted in English to info@cirs-ragusa.org by April 15th 2019.

Selected full papers will be published in a special issue of Springer “Carbonates & Evaporites”.

The official languages of the event are English and Italian.

ACCOMODATION IN RAGUSA:

Hotel: <https://www.comune.ragusa.gov.it/turismo/dormire/alberghi.html>

B&B: <https://www.comune.ragusa.gov.it/turismo/dormire/bed.html>

More detailed information will be provided with the second circular available in late May 2019.

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