

The UIS logo consists of the letters 'UIS' in a large, blue, blocky font. The 'U' and 'S' are tall and narrow, while the 'I' is shorter and wider, with a small blue circle above it.

# **CAVERS FOR CAVERS**

**HISTORY OF UIS CAVE RESCUE COMMISSION**



***HEGEDŰS, Gyula***

# Before UIS CRC



Cave Rescue Organization in Yorkshire,  
the first in the world, in 1935

Mendip Rescue Organization in Somerset  
in 1936

Derbyshire Cave Rescue Organization  
in 1952.

# Before UIS CRC

*first international meeting*

*Bruxelles and Han-sur-Lesse/Belgium  
13-15 April, 1963*



*8 countries participated:*

*England*

*Belgium*

*France*

*Lebanon*

*Luxembourg*

*Italy*

*Romania*

*Switzerland*

*Discussed topics :*

- *necessity for caving leaders to be ready to carry out rescues themselves*
- *involvement of the country where a rescue operation is being conducted*
- *recognition of legal power*
- *search for an adaptive stretcher*
- *post-siphon rescue problems*

# Establishment of the UIS CRC



*4th International Congress of Speleology was held in Postojna/Yugoslavia in 1965*

*during the General Assembly 23 countries decided to establish the UIS*

*CRC was among the first three commissions*

*proposal was made by Alexis de Martynoff*

# Key persons of UIS CRC

*Alexis de Martynoff*

*Mike Meredith*

*André Slagmolen*

*Christian Dodelin*

*György Dénes*

*Gyula Hegedűs*



# Alexis de Martynoff (1907-1985)

- born in Kharkow/USSR at 27 September 1907
- died in Bruxelles/Belgium at 25 April 1985
- in 1952 he founded the Belgian Cave Rescue
- he was president of the UIS CRC for 16 years between 1965 and 1981
- he dealt with the prevention by teaching and education



# Mike Meredith

- in 1981 Mike was elected as president of UIS CRC. He was in that position until 1987
- his cave's career began with Burnley Caving Club
- later he joined the staff of Wherside Caving Centre as Chief Instructor
- living in Grenoble he became a leading light in the Furets Jaune de Seyssins caving club
- later he continued his caving in Austria
- after 1987 he went into Malaysia where he became Vice-Chair of Biodiversity Conservation Society Sarawak



# André Slagmolen

- he was the secretary of the UIS CRC since 6th International Cave Rescue Conference held in Aggtelek/Hungary in 1983
- he became the third president in Cividale/Italy in 1987
- he was one of the founder of the Belgian Cave Rescue in 1952
- he died in 22 April 2007





# Christian Dodelin

- he fill the position as president of UIS CRC since Athens/Kalamos (Greece)/2005
- he is caver since 1970
- instructor at the French Caving School
- he joined to French Cave Rescue (Spéléo Secours Français – SSF) in 1982
- participated of more than fifty rescue operations
- he was president of SSF from 1996 to 2004
- leader of international cave rescue training since 1997



# György Dénes

## (1923-2015)

- he was elected as secretary general of the UIS CRC in Zakopane/Poland in 1979
- as vice president in Aggtelek/Hungary in 1983
- as honorary president in Aggtelek-Jósvafő/Hungary 2007
- he participated in reorganization of HSS in 1958, where he became secretary, secretary general and finally honorary president
- he established the HCRS in 1961



# Gyula Hegedűs

- **started his career as caver in 1972**
- **he is cave rescuer since 1974**
- **filled various positions in the Hungarian Speleological Society (HSS)**
  - **international secretary,**
  - **committee member,**
  - **disciplinary committee member,**
  - **board member,**
  - **the president of the HSS since 2020**
- **secretary of the UIS between 2017 and 2022**
- **elected as CRC president in 2022**



# Events of UIS CRC



- **Mozet/Belgium 1971**
- **Eisriesenwelt/Austria 1975**
- **Sheffield/Great-Britain 1977**
- **Zakopane/Poland 1979**
- **Aggtelek/Hungary 1983**
- **Cividale/Italy 1987**
- **Budapest/Hungary 1989**
- **La Chaux-de-Fondes/Switzerland 1997**
- **Sart-Tilman/Belgium 2002**
- **Athens-Kalamos/Greece 2005**
- **Aggtelek-Jósvafő/Hungary 2007**
- **Dryanovo/Bulgaria 2011**
- **Brno/Czech Republic 2013**
- **Vaumarcus/Switzerland 2015**

# Mozet/Belgium

## 17-21 September, 1971

**16 countries participated**

*Germany, England, Belgium, Bulgaria, Congo,  
Denmark, Spain, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy,  
Lebanon, New Zealand, Poland, Switzerland,  
Yugoslavia*

**Program**

*presentation of the first cave stretcher,  
demonstration of caving radio communication,  
diving rescue, legal problems, responsibilities  
and insurance policies*

*Decided such an international meeting should  
be organized every four years*



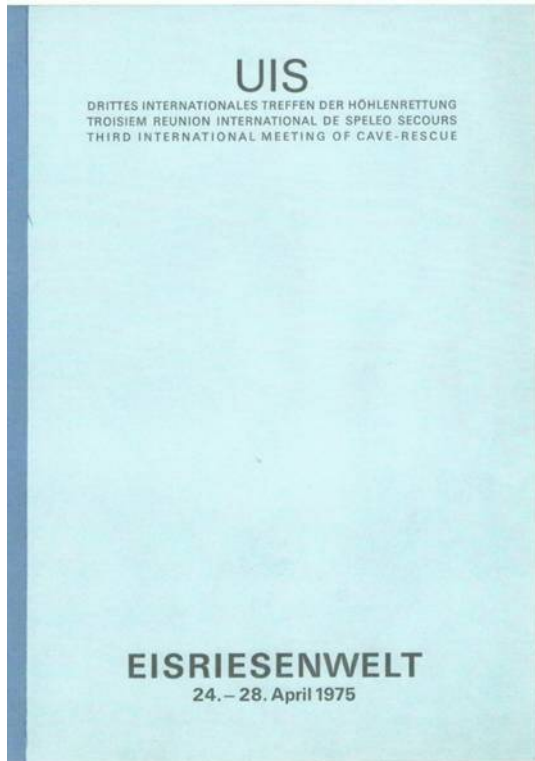
# Eisriesenwelt/Austria 1975

**12 countries participated**

***Austria, Belgium, England, France,  
Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Poland,  
Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia***

**Program**

- ***create Sub-Commission to develop a catalogue of safety materials developed for use in rescue work***
- ***demonstration with more than 9 stretchers and others ways to move injured people***
- ***first demonstration of removing obstructions in caves***
- ***first meeting of cave doctors***



# Sheffield/Great-Britain

## 10-17 September, 1977



- *17 countries informed UIS CRC that they have cave rescue services*
- *using 10 years of experiences the NCRC (USA) and UIS CRC developed a scoring system which would act as a measure of overall technical or the gross ability of a rescue service*
- *the system count with*
  - *emergency medical skills*
  - *training*
  - *team size*
  - *special skills*
  - *organization*
  - *mobilization*
  - *equipments as for*
    - *communication and vertical caving,*
    - *extraction and patient transportation tools*

# Zakopane/Poland 2-6 October, 1979

**14 countries participated**

*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria,  
Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great-  
Britain, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, USSR,  
Spain, United-States and Yugoslavia*



**During this 5th international conference it was decided to form a bigger direction and to create three subcommissions**

*president :*

*vice-president (American area) :*

*vice-president (East europe area) :*

*vice-president (West europe area) :*

*secretary-general :*

*prevention :*

*material :*

*technique :*

*Alexis de Martinoff (Belgium)*

*Daniel. Smith (USA)*

*A. Efremov (URSS)*

*Giuseppe Guidi (Italy)*

*György Denes (Hungary)*

*Petko Nedkov (Bulgaria)*

*Hermann Kirchmayr (Austria)*

*Mike Meredith (Great-Britain)*



# Aggtelek/Hungary

## 2-8 October, 1983



Rescue demonstrations were performed by  
*Hungarian, Austrian, Russian, French and Italian rescue teams*

More than 160 participants from 16 countries  
*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Hungary, Italy, Portugal, Romania, United-States, USSR, Spain, Switzerland and Yugoslavia*

50 lectures were given about

- *cave-rescue equipments*
- *communication equipments*
- *methodology*
- *first aid and other medical aspects*
- *rescuers training*
- *statistics on causes of accidents*
- *organisation background*
- *prevention of accidents and*
- *experiences of rescue operations.*

# Cividale/Italy

## 30 Aug.-5 Sept., 1987

**16 countries participated**

*Austria, Argentina, Belgium,  
Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic,  
France, Germany, Great-Britain, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy, Romania, Spain,  
Switzerland, USA and Yugoslavia*

**Program included:**

- *9 medical presentation about pharmacy, medical actions, the administration of drugs and histoplasmosis*
- *12 technical presentations about various stretchers, cave-diving rescue, drilling material and the UIS catalog of materials*
- *18 presentations in prevention section about statistics of rescue operations and circulation of informations*



# Budapest/Hungary

## 9-13 August, 1989

**143 participants had arrived from 21 countries:**

*Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, USSR, Venezuela and Yugoslavia*



***13 lecturer presented 18 presentations***

***15 practical demonstrations***

***12 medical doctors sat around a table from 7 countries***

***a common cave rescue exercise was also organized***

# La Chaux-de-Fondes/Switzerland

## 10-17 August 1997

event was organized as part of the 12th ICS

presentations dealt with:

- *cave accidents in France,*
- *cave rescue in Switzerland*
- *histoplasmosis*
- *waterproof stretcher for divers rescue*
- *victim's assistance and epidemic dangers in the caves of Middle Asia*



Efrain Mercado was named as regional coordinator for the FEALC

# Sart-Tilman/Belgium

## 1-3 November, 2002



organized on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Belgian Cave Rescue

117 participants from 14 countries:

*Austria, Belgium, Corea, Cuba, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Hungary, Japan, Luxembourg, Morocco, Poland, Switzerland, USA*

40 lectures were presented on the next topics:

- *cost of cave rescue operations and interest of a cave rescue team*
- *presentation of some rescue operations*
- *medical presentations, histoplasmosis*
- *passage widening with Hilti cartridge*
- *cave ventillation*
- *round table with international interventions as subject*

# Athens-Kalamos/Greece

## 21-28 August, 2005



on the occasion of the 14th ICS

- *André Slagmolen retired as president of UIS CRC*
- *Christian Dodelin was elected as new president*

main topic was cave rescuers education



# Aggtelek-Jósvafő/Hungary

## 15-18 May, 2007



**83 participants from 26 countries:**

*Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Spain, France, Germany, Great-Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Puerto Rico, Czech Republic, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, USA*

**38 papers and video reports and demonstration were presented about next main topics:**

- *organizational aspects of cave rescue*
- *contributions of cave rescue squad for civil protection during disaster*
- *medical aspects of cave rescue activity*
- *cave rescue educations and trainings*
- *equipments, technics and radio transmission demo*
- *serious rescue operations in different countries*



**Aggtelek Agreement were created!**

# Dryanovo/Bulgaria

## 8-15 May, 2011

100 cavers participated from 15 countries:

*Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Great-Britain, Hungary, Italy, Lebanon, Puerto Rico, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Ukraine and USA*

24 papers and 2 demonstrations

- *new rescue techniques on rock wall*
- *new rescue techniques in cave*
- *equipment presentations*
- *new rope techniques demonstrations*
- *medical demonstration*
- *diving demonstration*
- *new diving equipment for rescue*
- *communication in caves*
- *"sit harness syndrome"*
- *work-related hypothermia*
- *usefulness of cooperation*
- *Italians presented their activity at an earthquake*





# Brno/Czech Republic

## 21-28 July, 2013

on the occasion of the 16th ICS  
2 session meetings  
reviewed the activities of the past 4 years

- events
- technical developments
- trainings and educations

defined the tasks ahead



# Vaumarcus/Switzerland

## 13-19 April, 2015

**110 covers from 14 countries:**

*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, New Zealand, Russia, Slovenia and Switzerland*

**32 presentations about**

- *equipments tests*
- *introduction of*
  - *cave rescue services of different countries*
  - *European Cave Rescue Association (ECRA)*
  - *EU Civil Protection Mechanism*
- *medical session diving rescue*
- *prevention and training*
- *emergency medical assistance by air*



# Sydney/Australia

## 23-29 July, 2017

on the occasion of the 17th ICS

there was only a short meeting to maintain and update contacts



# Savoie-Technolac/France

## 24-31 July, 2022

on the occasion of the 18th ICS

- **cave rescue symposium was held**
  - **29 participants**
  - **10 presentations**
- **decided to reorganize the Cave Rescue Commission**
- **main tasks are**
  - **upgrade and rebuild contacts**
  - **rebuild communication channels**
  - **organize the next International Cave Rescue Conference**
- **Gyula Hegedűs was elected as new president**



**Ramales de la Victoria/Spain**

**6-9 June, 2024** (14th Intl. Cave Rescue Conference)

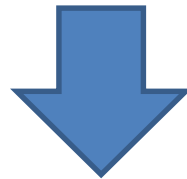
**Belo Horizonte/Brazil** as part of 19th ICS

**20-27 July, 2025**

...../..... 2027

...../..... 2029

...../..... 2031



**towards next years**