



ZRC SAZU



33rd International Karstological School "Classical karst"

CARBON PATHWAYS IN KARST

Postojna, June 15th–19th 2026
Karst Research Institute ZRC SAZU

FIRST CIRCULAR

We have been organising the International Karst School “Classical Karst” (IKS) since 1993. The School offers a framework in which both young and established karstologists from all over the world present new research in the field of karstology, socialise and get to know the Classical Karst. In addition to keynote lectures, participants have an opportunity to share their research as oral or posters presentations. Particular highlights of the School are the afternoon and full-day excursions, where Carbon Pathways in Karst will be discussed at various field sites in the Classical Karst. The last full-day excursion (Friday) is entirely dedicated to the general presentation of the most important areas of the Classical Karst.

MAIN TOPIC

Karst areas, which constitute about 15 % of the world's ice-free continental area, are characterised by distinct surface and subsurface features created by the dissolution and precipitation of carbonates in natural water. Carbon dioxide plays a central role in the weathering of carbonates, where reactions at the air–water and water–rock interfaces mobilise carbonates and affect the flux of carbon; giving karst a potential role as a net global CO₂ sink. Since CO₂ is generally considered as the most important factor attributed to anthropogenic climate change, it is of critical importance to evaluate all carbon pools and quantify fluxes on a global scale. This requires an understanding of its storage and distribution, in addition to gaining knowledge about its physical and biogeochemical pathways in all reservoirs, including karst. A significant part of the karst subsurface consists of the vadose zone, which only recently has been acknowledged as a rich reservoir of CO₂. However, the pathways in which carbon is transferred into, within and out of karst systems are complex and currently understudied. This year, the aim of the 33rd International Karstological School “Classical Karst”—Carbon Pathways in Karst is to bring together karst researchers from different backgrounds to promote a transfer of knowledge about carbon pathways in karst and to raise awareness of the complexities and open-questions regarding carbon in karst.

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

The program of this year's school will be enriched with topics of invited lectures, which will be followed by oral and poster presentations. Excursions will be suited to the School's topic. The social events will tend to unite the participants with inspiring debates, food and music.

	Monday June 15 th	Tuesday June 16 th	Wednesday June 17 th	Thursday June 18 th	Friday June 19 th
Morning	Registration Sessions	Sessions	Sessions	Whole-day excursion	Whole-day excursion
Afternoon	Session & Poster session	Field trip	Field trip		
Evening	Ice breaker & "Karst Jam"			Gala reception	

REGISTRATION

Online-only registrations are possible at <https://iks.zrc-sazu.si/en/prijava/>, until **17th April 2026**.

The registration fee is 200 EUR, and 75 EUR for undergraduate students. The registration fee covers the costs of the excursion guide with a book of abstracts, excursions, snacks and drinks during lectures and refreshments at social events.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

The official languages of the IKS are Slovenian and English. **Abstracts must be submitted in English by April 17th, 2026.** Participants can choose the form of their presentation (poster or lecture).

However, the number of oral presentations is limited by the number of time slots available for lectures. Therefore, the organizer will suggest some of the proposed lectures to be changed to posters. Authors will be informed in time.

All authors are encouraged to prepare and submit manuscripts based on their presentations to **Acta Carsologica**.

Awards for the best student contribution will be given. All Bachelor and master students who will register and submit their abstracts will be automatically considered for award. If the student does not want to participate in the competition, he can let the organizers know by the contact e-mail address. More information about the prizes will be provided on the website and in the next announcement.

The Second Circular with the detailed IKS program is expected to be available at the end of **April 2026**.

SUPPORT

Slovenian National Commission for UNESCO, Research Centre SAZU, Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, Kulturni dom Postojna, Zavod za Znanje Postojna, Municipality of Postojna.

ORGANIZER

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