



FIFTH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION “Karst under protection – gift for the future generations“

This competition is organized by the **Experimental Laboratory of Karstology** in the National Institute of Geophysics, Geodesy and Geography at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and **Foundation Center on Karstology “Vladimir Popov”**. The fifth edition of the competition is included in the program of International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK), announced by the International Union of Speleology (UIS) under the motto: „*Explore, Understand and Protect*”

The Competition is held in 5 already established categories:

1. For pupils:

1.1. Up to 12 years old:

- Drawing / Work with natural materials
- Multimedia presentation/Video

1.2. Over 12 years old:

- Drawing / Work with natural materials
- Multimedia presentation/Video/ Computer game / Website
- Essay
- Poster / Postcard
- Comics

We live in a dynamic, sometimes troubled world, but its nature is divine. Among the various natural environments there is a world of specific beauty, with marvelously sculptured rocks, clear spring waters and underground palaces, which emerge from the mysterious darkness of caves. This kingdom is called karst. You may have discovered it for the first time during a trip, or you may have been born and live in it. Does it excite your imagination? Are you ready to express your feelings with the power of Art? Then why don't you send us your best picture, dedicated to karst and caves? Or maybe you like to create things with materials from nature? – Then send us your original work.

If you are older and you are already excited about how to keep these special nooks of nature for your coevals from future generations, please send us your original message in a poster or postcard. If you prefer beautiful language expression, you may send an inspiring essay. Perhaps you prefer computers with their abilities? Then create your own multimedia presentation, a video message, an original video game or website.



2. For teachers:

- My unusual lesson
- Our students' project

Karst areas are unique with their natural phenomena, specific plant and animal diversity, cultural traditions and lifestyle of the people occupying them. This world of rare beauty, surprises and emotions can be your unusual classroom. Why don't you do together with your enthusiastic pupils an original lesson about karst, or a lesson in which karst is an important element? Then please send us this lesson in a form which you prefer.

Perhaps your interest in karst has inspired you to develop a school project with your pupils? Why don't you share your experience and achievements in a multimedia presentation sending it for the competition?

3. For University students:

- Scientific essay / Multimedia presentation/Video / Computer game / Website
- Picture / Painting
- Cartoon (Caricature) / Comics / Grotesque
- Art Installation

In science there are some exciting areas, but not well explored yet. Do you wish to be a researcher exactly in such a field, discovering karst, Speleology and Karstology? They will increasingly capture your mind; you will get to know examples of researchers, who explore the deep underground caves, disclosing their secrets, and you will see that their obsession with karst is contagious. Maybe you are already immersed in this world and have made your first studies about karst? Then why don't you write your first scientific essay and send it to the competition? The essay can be illustrated with your original drawings, pictures or other graphic applications. Perhaps you have a talent to represent the world around in a comic form? Then your cartoon about karst and caves and their visitors would be most welcome (since old times cave visitors like to draw inside...).

Or maybe you prefer to use modern computer technologies? - Then tell in a multimedia presentation or video about your research and the first exciting results that you achieved. They can also be the basis for your original website, which promotes the karst and the caves and attracts and unites like-minded people...

If you are an artist at heart and an artist by vocation, reproduce what you have seen, experienced and learned about karst and caves in an original art installation.

4. For nature lovers, photographers (no age limit):

- Photo Composition (3 to 5 photos)
- Movie
- Picture / Painting
- Cartoon (Caricature) / Comics/Grotesque

A ray of light on the water-sculpted cave shape; a piece of sky, caught between the upright rocks in a gorge; a tree, perched on inaccessible rock; a sleeping bat with hanging wings; dark entrance to an underground mystery; delicate color among sharp rock edges; children's eyes, burning in admiration, reflecting a particle from the surrounding unearthly beauty – share your feelings of the moments, sealed by your camera and send your composition – a message to your contemporaries and legacy to the future generations.



If you have gathered a lot of impressions with your camera and you have arranged them in a visual story, you can send it to the competition. The movie theme and type is by your choice.

Maybe you would like to send us your message through graphic and pictorial techniques? – Then send us your picture.

If you are in command of sharp observation skills and innate sense of humor, giving another perspective on karst and especially human (mis)deeds under and over the ground, please send us your cartoon or grotesque. It will cause inconvenience to many guilty people and make them think...

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

There are no age restrictions. Students can participate individually or in teams (schools, circles, projects, etc.).

Each participant can send unlimited number of entries. Participants choose their works' materials, technique (painting, graphics, collage) and size. Photographs should be on photo paper in a format chosen by the author in a form ready for exposure at exhibitions. Digital works can be sent by E-mail or by regular mail saved on the respective information media.

Any work submitted for the contest should be accompanied by the **following information:**

- Author (name, age, place of learning/teaching, address, E-mail and telephone number);
- Work title;
- Name and location of the presented objects/places in the respective work;
- A brief description of the idea represented in the respective work.

Information can be presented in Bulgarian, Russian or English.

Only original author's works will be admitted, which have not participated in other competitions.

Important: *The competition works will not be returned. Please note that by participating in this contest you grant your copyright over your work to the organizers and you state your agreement that your work(s) will be used for promotion of protected karst areas through publications, exhibitions, websites, advertising materials, etc.*

Deadline: 29th April 2022

Important: *Competition works arrived after 29th April 2022, will not be considered.*

The competition entries must be received before this deadline by mail, by Courier or by e-mail at the following addresses:

Postal address:

Bulgaria
1113 Sofia
NIGGG- BAS
“Akad. Georgy Bonchev” street, Bl. 3
For the Karst competition

E-mail addresses:

karstcomp@abv.bg



EVALUATION

Works admitted to the contest will be evaluated by an **International Jury**. Its members will be prominent Karst experts, Art specialists and Educators, united by the idea of involvement of karst in education. Assessment will be done under the following criteria:

1. Originality of the idea realized in the respective entry
2. Knowledge about karst
3. Artistic values
4. Emotional suggestions
5. Technical skills
6. Creative autonomy

AWARDS

Until 5th June 2022 the International jury will determine the winning entries, which will be ranked from first to third place in each category. A **Grand prix** will be awarded for original achievement. The authors of winning entries will receive certificates and prizes. The Grand prix winner will receive an invitation to participate in the specialized field trip in unique karst regions in Bulgaria (expenses for the excursion will be covered by the organizers).

The competition results will be published after June 12, 2022 on the site <http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/competition>, as well as on the IYCK website <http://iyck2021.org/index.php/events/>. Official announcement and awarding of winners will take place in September 2022 at a ceremony at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia. The program also includes the official opening of an exhibition with the best competition works, selected by the International jury. Winners will receive invitations at the designated addresses.

The winning entries will be published on the website of the Scientific Network Pro-KARSTerra (<http://prokarstterra.bas.bg>) and the International Year of Caves and Karst (<http://iyck2021.org/index.php/events/>), as well as in various specialized publications. The awarded works at the Fifth issue of the Competition will be included in the traditional travel exhibition “*Karst under protection – gift for the future generations*”.





The International competition “**Karst under protection – gift for the future generation**” is a Bulgarian initiative, held since 2005. In 2012 it received support from UNESCO.

The competition results are published in various specialized editions, on forum research Internet sites, as well as the specialized site of the International scientific network ProKARSTerra. The Fifth edition of the competition will also present on the website of the International Year of Caves and Karst (IYCK).

*The Competition is a part of the **Pilot Educational Strategy ProKARSTerra-Edu**, developed by the Experimental Laboratory of Karstology in NIGGG-BAS. It aims to motivate participants from different age groups, mainly young people (pupils and University students) to develop serious interest in the natural phenomenon of karst and its unique diversity. Knowledge about karst and problems of karst territories refracted through the soul and emotions of the participants and communicated through modern art tools and techniques suggest not only original works, but also continued interest in karst and all its aspects. It will help karst to take its rightful place in the modern educational strategy of “Lifelong Learning”.*

The Competition, which is getting more popular, becomes a creative laboratory for exchange of knowledge, skills and ideas. The Competition is designed to support the Bulgarian initiative to declare an **INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF KARST**, launched back in 2013.

For E-mail contact:

karstcomp@abv.bg

psgeo@abv.bg

For up-to date information:

<http://prokarstterra.bas.bg/competition>

