



UNESCO Chair on Karst Education
University of Nova Gorica in cooperation with
ZRC SAZU Karst Research Institute

CIRS ETS- Hyblean Center
of Speleo-Hydrogeological
Research

Regione Siciliana
Assessorato dell'agricoltura, dello sviluppo
rurale e della pesca mediterranea
Dipartimento dello Sviluppo Rurale e
Territoriale - Servizio 16 Siracusa



MAN and KARST 2026



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 13th - 19th Special Nature Reserve
Oasi faunistica di Vendicari (SIRACUSA) ITALY

SECOND CIRCULAR

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PRESENTATION AND AIMS

As part of the International Day of Caves and Karst proclaimed by UNESCO, CIRS ETS - Hyblean Center of Speleo-Hydrogeological Research, is organizing the fourth edition of Man and Karst in Sicily. The event will take place from September 13 to 19, 2026, in the magical natural setting of the *Vendicari Special Fauna Oasis Nature Reserve* (Noto Municipality, Syracuse Province)), in the far southeastern corner of Sicily.

Man and Karst 2026 in Sicily, in the same way as the previous 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.



Ancient tuna fishery complex in the Reserve



Flamingos in the marshes of the Reserve

VENUE AND TIME

The event will be held at the *Case Cittadella* and *Marianelli* facilities, inside the Natural Reserve of Vendicari, the latter being a Center for the Conservation of Agricultural and Forestry Germplasm.



Marianelli facilities in the Natural Reserve of Vendicari



Cittadella area in the Natural Reserve of Vendicari

TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE

- Karst geomorphology
- Karst hydrogeology and water protection
- Speleology and Caves conservation
- Archeology and paleontology in karst caves
- Biospeleology and ecology
- Vulnerability, protection and fruition of karst landscapes and caves
- Mines and artificial underground structures in karst areas
- Karst geohazard

SESSIONS EVENTS AND EXCURSIONS

<p>13th September</p>	<p>International Day of Caves and Karst Pre-conference excursion * Visit of the Monello Speleological Reserve and Grotta Chiusazza Welcome of University of Catania</p>	<p>Included in the registration fee</p> <p>* Meeting point for participants in the International Day of Caves and Karst at 8:30 a.m. at the Bus Terminal in Via Pola in Noto.</p>
<p>14th September</p>	<p>Marianelli - Reserve of Vendicari Registration Open book show room Scientific sessions Welcome of CIRS</p>	<p>Included in the registration fee</p>
<p>15th September</p>	<p>Cittadella - Reserve of Vendicari Scientific sessions Poster session (optional swimming in the Cittadella sea) Evening visit of the Baroque monuments of Noto, a UNESCO World Heritage Site - Musical entertainment by the Duo Aéras Chordi & Terramater</p>	<p>Included in the registration fee</p>
<p>16th September</p>	<p>Visit of the Vendicari Natural Reserve and the Ecomuseum - Visitor Center Excursion to the island of Capo Passero Visit of the ancient Tuna fishery and Gala party in the seaside village of Marzamemi.</p>	<p><i>Full day excursion</i> Included in the registration fee</p>
<p>17th September Post conference excursion</p>	<p>Trekking in the Anapo - Calcinara – Pantalica Natural Reserve with visit of <i>Grotta dei Pipistrelli</i> and <i>Grotta Trovata</i></p>	<p><i>Full day excursion</i> Not included in the registration fee</p>
<p>18th September Post conference excursion</p>	<p>Trekking to the fluviokarst Cava Grande del Cassibile Natural Reserve and visit of <i>Grotta dei Briganti</i> (with optional swimming in the <i>Lagheti di Avola</i>)</p>	<p><i>Full day excursion</i> Not included in the registration fee</p>
<p>19th September Post conference excursion</p>	<p>Trekking in the gypsum caves and gorges of <i>Vallone del Ponte</i> (Sant' Angelo Muxaro) Welcome by the Municipality of Sant' Angelo Muxaro</p>	<p><i>Full day excursion</i> Not included in the registration fee</p>

The above program of visits and excursions may undergo possible modifications and/or variations in relation to the occurrence of contingent situations or force majeure independent of the organizers of the event

REGISTRATION, FEE AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Registration fee	Student	Not Student	Accompany person
	70 €	180 €	100 €
Full day excursion	80 €		

The fee includes conference materials, coffee breaks, participation at Gala party, visits and excursions of the days 15th and 16th of September.

General information

* **The fee** includes conference materials, coffee breaks, participation in the Welcome reception, Gala party, video and musical events, visits and excursions of the days 13th, 14th, 15th and 16th of September. The full day excursion of 17th, 18th and 19th are optional and the fee for the registered participants is 80 €

* **Participants** are invited to register by sending the appropriate registration form downloadable on the webpage www.cirs-ragusa.org.

* **Registration** in Marianelli (Natural Reserve of Vendicari) is possible from Monday 14th September (9.00 am - 19:00 pm).

* **Field trips** - Walking shoes, sun hat and field clothes are recommended. Headlamps are mandatory during cave visits (optional swimming suit).

* **Insect repellents** are recommended as we will be walking in the areas populated with ticks. Participation on the excursions is voluntary and at your own risk. The organizers do not accept any liability for any loss, damage, injury or death arising from or connected with the excursions. Participants are advised to arrange an appropriate insurance policy. The participants are obliged to comply with the instructions of the organizer.

* **Bus from Catania “Fontana Rossa” Airport to the city of Noto Bus Terminal (via Pola)**

Bus companies: **Interbus** or **AST** Catania - Noto and vice versa; every day approximately every hour; there are fewer services on holidays. In Catania Airport, the bus stops at the Bus Terminal, while in Noto, it stops on Via Pola (in the center).

* **The meeting point** for transportation to the conference venue and subsequent visits and excursions is located at the bus terminal in Via Pola (see map), unless otherwise indicated.

CREDITS & GRANTS

APC credits are foreseen for geologists.

SIMP (Società Italiana di Mineralogia e Petrologia) Grants for Junior Members

ACCOMODATION IN NOTO:

Grand Hotel Sofia	**** Stars	Breakfast included	S:90-D:110-T:150	Tel. +39 0931835057
Noto Boutique Hotel	**** Stars	Breakfast included	See *	Tel. +39 3349154645
Hotel Flora	*** Stars	Breakfast included	See *	Tel. +39 3349154645
Porta Nazionale Dependence	*** Stars	Breakfast included	See *	Tel. +39 3349154645
B&B Vinci - Hotel	*** Stars	Without Breakfast	S:55-D:65-T:75	Tel. +39 3284074149
Il Castello Ostello della Gioventù		Breakfast included	See **	Tel. +39 3208388869

In the table some hotel facilities that have agreements with Man and Karst organization for a discounted price.
Cost in €for S:Single - D:Double - T:Triple

* Check the costs of these facilities on booking.com and contact the Hotel/B&B for the reservation: a 15% discount will be applied to these costs.

** multiple rooms from 8-9-10: €20,00/person - Double/triple/quadruple rooms €25,00/person

More detailed information will be provided with the second circular available in late May 2026.

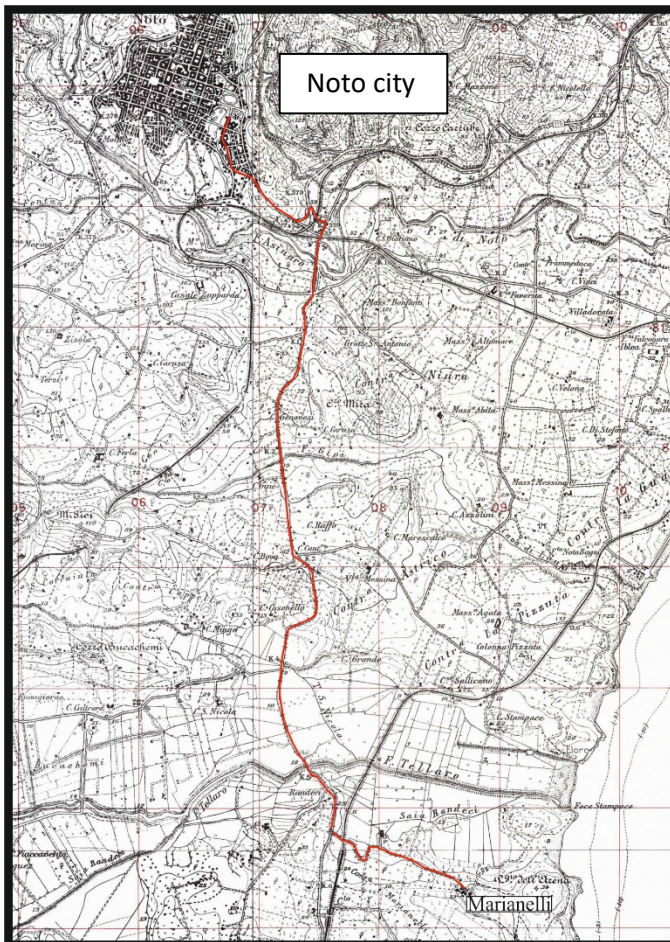
CONTACT:

Dr. Rosario Ruggieri PhD

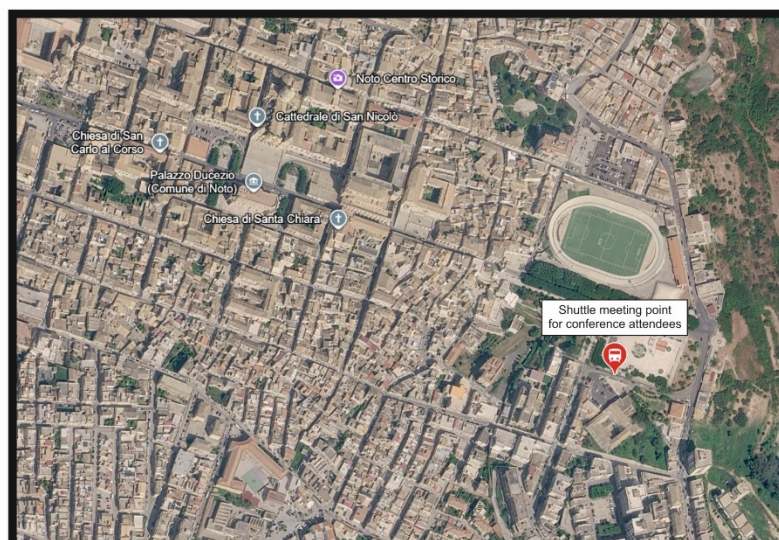
Tel: +39 3519863290

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Road route from the city of Noto to the entrance to the Vendicari Nature Reserve - Marianelli



Meeting point and departure of the participants for the venue of Man and Karst 2026 (Marianelli and Cittadella), at the Bus Terminal on Via Pola in Noto.