



As part of a European research project dedicated to improving the understanding of water and solute flows in karst aquifers, we are looking for cavers interested in sharing their survey data collected in caves.

These data (station coordinates, azimuth, dip, length, splay legs) will enable us to characterize cave geometry and connectivity, to better constrain calculations of flow (floods, long droughts) and contaminant transport. We hope to obtain representative statistics for different types of networks in relation to their environment, to better predict their characteristics when these networks are unexplored or unexplorable, as in the case of the majority of springs used for drinking water supply. This approach should help to improve predictions of flow rates and contaminant transfer rates in karst systems, and lead to better water protection.

For these statistics to be reliable, we need a large number of cave networks located in a variety of karst environments. Your data will contribute to improving this knowledge. The results of the statistical analyses will be published in scientific journals with reference to your surveying work.

If you wish to support this project, we suggest two options:

1. If the full dataset or part of the data must remain confidential (entrances for example), we propose to publish only the results of the statistical analyses and to sign a confidentiality agreement with you.
2. If you want the data to be freely accessible to other people or projects, we propose to publish it under a license that prohibits any commercial use, requires you to be properly cited, and defines that any products derived from the data must be shared under the same conditions (Creative Commons license such as CC-BY-NC-SA).

**Description of the data we are looking for:** Numerical survey data for caves longer than 1 km.

**Initial data collection period:** April - December 2024

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**For more info on the project:** <https://erc-karst.eu/>

