

SHOWCAVE

A multidisciplinary research project to study, classify and mitigate the environmental impact in tourist caves

The so-called **show caves are caves made accessible to the public for touristic purposes, managed by a governmental or commercial organization.**

The numbers of visitors (up to 500,000/year/cave under normal circumstances) and the profits deriving from such activities have recently gained importance at global scale.

A multidisciplinary, gender-balanced team has been created to provide an **in-depth characterization of the environmental impacts related to tourist exploitation** in the major Italian show caves.

Five research units will act in the project, focusing on the biotic and abiotic components of the cave ecosystem.

The team will make use of innovative techniques and original methods based on a wide set of indicators, including biological, geological, palaeontological, archaeological and physical ones.

Keeping in consideration the existing **International Guidelines for Cave Management**, specific suggestions for the sustainable management of tourism will be provided both to the national and the international audience of cave managers.

The work will serve as **a test for the first application of a Life Cycle Assessment** to the touristic service offered by show caves, to improve and promote sustainable processes and provide a sound basis for informed decisions on cave management.

PROJECT DURATION

36 months
(From 29/04/20)

PARTNERS

- Università degli Studi di Torino (Coordinatore – IT)
- Università degli Studi della Tuscia (IT)
- Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (IT)
- Politecnico di Torino (IT)
- Università degli Studi di Ferrara (IT)

FUNDING INSTRUMENT

PRIN (Progetti di Ricerca di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale) – Bando 2017

BUDGET

Total costs: **769.616,00 €**;
Funding 632.616,00 € (142.957,00 € allocated to DIATI)

POLITO and DIATI's role:

Politecnico di Torino – DIATI is partner of the project, under the scientific responsibility of **Prof. Rossana Bellopede**.

SHOWCAVE is a project funded by MIUR - Ministero dell'istruzione dell'Università e della Ricerca, Dipartimento per la formazione superiore e per la Ricerca, under PRIN, Progetti di Ricerca di Rilevante Interesse Nazionale – Bando 2017

