"Gutta Cavat Lapidem" nature, history, and culture of the Bolognese caves. Inclusive and intermedia exhibition

Motivations of the exhibition
Supporting the need of citizens to know and enjoy their territory in a conscious and participatory way, this represents opportunities and prerequisites to contribute to the development of an open and sensitive society.
To this end, we wanted to promote the cultural and social values of speleology and the environmental values of the superficial and deep karst landscape, with particular attention to that of the Bolognese plaster casts candidates, together with the other evaporitic karst areas of the Emilia-Romagna region, to Unesco World Heritage.

Why in Bologna
Bologna is the Italian center of scientific speleology, evolved here thanks to the presence of the Alma Mater Sudiorum, the oldest university in the world.
The SSI has been based in Bologna for half a century and celebrated in 2020 the 70th anniversary of its foundation and in 2021 the 150th anniversary of the beginning of speleology in the Bologna area.
Bologna is home to probably the most well-stocked speleological library in the world.

Accessibility
Prerequisite for the realization of the exhibition was the desire to ensure its complete accessibility with particular attention to people without sight and visually impaired.
From the early stages of conception the project was carried out with the Institute of the Blind Francesco Cavazza of Bologna.

Devices made
1. Explanatory panels illustrating speleology and the karst phenomenon with in-depth studies on the local karst-speleological reality. Panels equipped with QR code for phonetic reading.
2. Tactile three-dimensional models that illustrate the structure of karst in plasters.
3. Sound recordings of all the noises perceptible on the cave.
4. Reconstruction of ten linear meters in natural scale of underground environments with tactile and postural paths.
5. Exhibition of tactile book that leafing through the hands can perceive the various evolutionary stages of a cave
6. Exhibition to be touched of speleological materials and karst rocks.
All devices are supported by Braille captions.

Agenda 2030
The exhibition contributed to the realization of 6 objectives of the Sustainable Development Programme of the 2030 Agenda of the United Nations General Assembly:
1. 4 Quality education
2. 6 Clean water and quality toilets
3. 11 Sustainable cities and communities
4. 13 Combating climate change
5. 15 Life on Earth
6. 17 partnerships for the objectives

The exhibition was made possible thanks to the support of
1. Carisbo Foundation,
2. University Museum System – Capellini Museum Geology Collection,
3. GSB-USB Group of Bologna,
4. Cartographic Archive of the Emilia Romagna Region,
5. Regional Speleological Federation of Emilia Romagna,
6. Social cooperative La Carovana.

VIDEO https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z9IM14joabA

SITE https://sma.unibo.it/it/agenda/gutta-cavat-lapidem-mostra
Gutta cava lapidem
natura, storia e cultura
delle grotte bolognesi
Gutta cavat lapidem / la goccia scava la pietra

Il proverbio latino afferma che così come una goccia con il tempo riesce ad avere la meglio sulla dura roccia, con la pazienza e la perseveranza si può ottenere qualunque risultato.

La mostra *Gutta cavat lapidem* tratta di questo: di come la tenacia dell’acqua riesca a modellare la superficie terrestre e a scavare in profondità ambienti che possono raggiungere dimensioni inimmaginabili; e anche, in senso figurato, dell’instantaneo laboro condotto dagli *speleologi* per rivelare, un pezzetto alla volta, la vastità del mondo sotterraneo.

Questo *viaggio alla scoperta delle grotte* e della speleologia, avrà una prospettiva prevalentemente locale, ponendo cioè in risalto i fenomeni carsici dei *Gessi Bolognesi* e delle altre cavità naturali della nostra provincia.

Ai *pantelli*, corredata da testi e immagini, si affianca un allestimento che conduce le persone all’interno di una installazione immersiva che usa tutti i *canali sensoriali* anche con l’aiuto di *mezzi digitali*.

L’*obiettivo* è fare comprendere attraverso un’unesperienza coinvolgente lo sguardo dello speleologo che osserva, indaga e attraversa gli spazi scavati dalle acque. Diventare speleologi ci permetterà di comprendere qualcosa della complessa *relazione tra l’uomo e l’ambiente naturale*. 