



HELLENIC RESCUE TEAM (HRT)

Dear ICAR Members,

On behalf of HRT, we send you our regards and wishes for a successful assembly.

As most of you might remember, in the last conference, held in Poland, HRT proudly announced that it will host the ICAR 2020 congress for the first time in Thessaloniki, Greece. Hosting the conference has been a long-term ambition for our organization, since mountain rescue has been the core of our voluntary action for more than 20 years. More than 10 HRT volunteers and staff became fully engaged in organizing a competent conference and, in that frame, we proceeded, with the implicit support of Tom Spycher and in cooperation with our PCO, Erasmus, with the implementation of all the necessary actions (booking the venue, creating a website, contacting potential sponsors, ect).

Unfortunately, due to the COVID 19 pandemic, which resulted in a dramatic situation all over the world, our plans to host the 2020 conference were postponed for 2021.

In January 2021, after long internal discussions and taking into account the COVID 19 process, we came to the conclusion that hosting the event physically in October would still be a challenging procedure, since the feeling of uncertainty – especially regarding travelling restrictions – wouldn't allow us to organize the conference as planned. Our proposal was then addressed to the ICAR Executive Board, who advised that we could potentially host the 2024 conference.

In that frame, we are addressing our proposal to host the ICAR 2024 conference in Thessaloniki, Greece to all ICAR members and hope that it will be well accepted.

Looking forward to meeting you all again soon.

Kind regards
Giorgos Kalogeropoulos
HRT President