

born in Genoa (Italy) - 28 February 1947
residence: via Avio 6/7, 16151 Genoa (I)
e-mail: roberto.bixio@gmail.com

Researcher (speleologist)
Caving and artificial cavities expert, lecturer
Topographer, graphic designer, writer
beginning of Speleological activity: 1965

current position:

- **Doctor honoris causa (Dr. h.c.) - National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia (NUACA), Yerevan (Armenia)**
- **Member of Artificial Cavities Commission Board of UIS - Union Internationale de Spéléologie, Postojna (Slovenia)**
- **Member of the Editorial Board of the scientific journal “Speleology and Speleostology” of Naberezhnye Chelny State Pedagogical University (Russia)**
- **Member of the Scientific Board of the journal "Opera Ipogea" of CNCA - National Artificial Cavities Commission –Italian Speleological Society, Bologna (Italy)**
- **Founding Member of the Centre for Underground Studies, Genoa (Italy)**
- **Director of the Italian Team for Underground Research Missions in Turkey**

For more than fifty years he has been involved in exploration both in natural and artificial cavities, in Italy and abroad.

In 1967 he was one of the founders of the Gruppo Grotte Genova (Italy), starting to explore and document the caves.

In 1972 he participates in its first national speleological congress in Italy, and in 1977 in the 7th International Speleological Congress in Sheffield (England).

In 1986 he founded the Centre for Underground Studies, an interdisciplinary team of experts working in the fields of spelology, geology, archaeology, architecture and underground urban city planning, and began to study the artificial cavities present in the underground of Genoa, his hometown and native city. Among the various activities, he organizes speleo-archaeological campaigns in the prehistoric mines of Monte Loreto and in ancient Roman structures of Vada Sabatia, in Liguria.

He also directed the underground researches on the “Gravina in Puglia” site (South Italy), carried out on behalf of UNESCO, and a survey on rock-cut sites at Malta.

Since 1991 he is responsible for the multi-year speleo-archaeological missions in Central and Eastern Anatolia (Ani, Ahlat, Bitlis, Cappadocia) in collaboration with several Turkish and Italian Universities and Archaeological Institutions, with the OBRUK-Cave Research Group of Istanbul, and authorized by the Ministry of Culture of Turkey, General Directorate for Antiquities.

On 12 september 2019, Bixio was awarded an honorary degree (Doctor Honoris Causa) by the National University of Architecture and Construction of Armenia for significant contribution in strengthening the exploration and international recognition of medieval Armenian monuments, rock-cut settlements and sanctuaries of Western Armenia.

He has participated in more than 20 television interviews and documentaries, Italian and international.

He is the author of 15 books including seven published in the British Archaeological Reports by Archaeopress of Oxford, and one by the State Poligraphic and Mint Institute of Rome, as well as

more than 220 articles on the subject, published on conference proceedings and international journals.

He and Ali Yamaç co-authored the General Inventory of Anthropogenic Cavities of Turkey in 2021.

He is co-author of three courses on artificial cavities as part of the Powerpoint Project of the Italian Speleological Society "Educational resources for caving and karst".

He has been a lecturer in several courses for Universities, Construction Schools and the School of the National Artificial Cavities Commission.

He has been a member of several Scientific Committees of international conferences.