

# EUROPEAN UFO ORGANIZATIONS

Long-standing national UFO organizations exist in several European countries, some of them having been active for decades. Regular exchanges of publications, information and documentation among these have also been the rule for a long time.

With the Internet diffusion in the '90s, such exchanges have found a new, helping tool to be improved. At the same time a new generation of UFO buffs have appeared on the world-wide web, noisily empoisoning the UFO subject presentation in the eyes of both the public and the media: it's not always easy to distinguish which of the thousands of UFO websites is but a smokescreen for just a handful of newbies (if not even a one-man), holding and spreading their own wild beliefs and crazy claims.

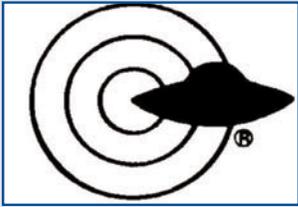
In 1998, a dozen national UFO organizations, sharing a scientific-oriented approach to UFO phenomena, decided to create a common space on the Internet, a joint mailing list (called *EuroUfoList*) where they might put information of common interest, discussions about ongoing activities, etc.

On the following year, representatives from half a dozen such organizations (from France, Italy, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Ukraina) accepted to have a part in the editorial team of the *European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies*, a new peer-reviewed journal issued by the Totton College, in the UK (8 issues of which have been since published).

Besides representatives from national organizations, the *EuroUfoList* has been later extended to a few individual researchers, and as of now more than 40 people are list members, connecting from Belgium, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Netherland, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

A few of these long-standing organizations accepted to prepare a poster about themselves for a common stand at the European UFO Congress in Chalons-en-Champagne.

# SCANDINAVIAN UFO INFORMATION



## SUFOI STARTED IN 1957

During the summer of 1946, the press started reporting sightings of "ghost rockets". Hundreds of people all over Scandinavia saw these phenomena, which have been studied in detail since then by Scandinavian researchers.

Press coverage of UFO-sightings and statements from the US Air Force Project Blue Book as well as publication of books about "Flying Saucers" boomed in the 1950s.

This resulted in the start of the Danish group "Southern Jutland UFO-Investigation" on December 17th, 1957. Public reactions to the new UFO group were enormous. People were very interested in further information on UFOs and the group expanded rapidly. Soon the name of the UFO organisation was changed to "Scandinavian UFO Information". A year after the initiation of SUFOI, the organisation started publication of the magazine UFO-Nyt (UFO News).

Today, SUFOI represents a serious and examining approach to UFO phenomena.

## THE OBJECTIVE OF SUFOI

- 1) The objective of SUFOI is to identify and demystify UFO phenomena through gathering and researching primary data (sighting accounts, research results, books etc) as well as informing the public about both unknown as well as known sky phenomena.
- 2) SUFOI is of the opinion that primary UFO data constitutes an important foundation for research and public relations based on a serious and examining methodology.
- 3) SUFOI does not want to promote or reject any particular theory about the nature or origin of UFOs as the phenomenon until now has not been explained.

## THE MEANING OF THE WORD UFO

Today, the word "UFO" is accepted as a proper Danish noun. However, originally it was an abbreviation for the English **U**nidentified **F**lying **O**bject. SUFOI has defined the term UFO as a phenomenon in the sky with the key characteristics of being and remaining an inexplicable phenomenon even when investigated by competent researchers.



## SUFOI's VISION

It is SUFOI's vision

- to identify and demystify all sightings of sky phenomena
- to improve the familiarity with the sky so everybody can identify all known sky phenomena
- to ensure that all witnesses to unknown sky phenomena call SUFOI
- to be the society that people contact for information on UFOs.

## MANAGEMENT OF SUFOI

SUFOI is a society managed by a board of directors. Counting 10 persons, the board meets twice a year to establish general guidelines for the activities of SUFOI. All activities are carried out on an unpaid, spare time basis.

## INVESTIGATION OF SIGHTINGS

As part of the investigation of reports, a special set of report forms is used.

These forms, developed by SUFOI, are also in use or have been used over the years in Sweden, Norway and Germany. Since 1957, SUFOI has investigated more than 15,000 reports, of which a significant part has turned out to be known phenomena. Today the percentage of explained sightings is between 90 and 95 %. The remaining 5-10 % cannot be explained and are archived as UFO reports.

All sighting reports were in 2004 handed over to Archives for UFO Research in Sweden for copying purpose.

## UFO-NYT, UFO-MAIL AND WEBSITE

Results from sighting investigations and other activities are published quarterly in Danish in the magazine "UFO-Nyt" (UFO News), twice a month in our electronic newsmail service "ufo-mail", and on our website [www.ufo.dk](http://www.ufo.dk).

## GUIDE TO IDENTIFICATION OF PHENOMENA IN THE SKY

SUFOI is also publishing a number of books, booklets and special editions on UFOs and natural phenomena, e.g. "Når du ser et stjerneskyd?" (When you see a shooting star?). This guide for identification of phenomena in the sky was edited and published by SUFOI in 2005 and paid for by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation.

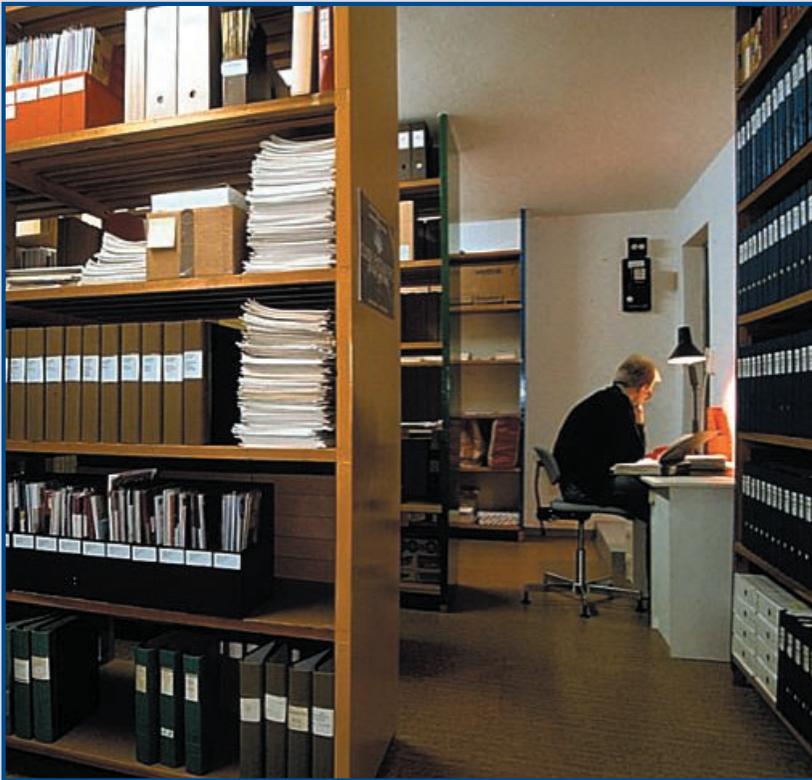
## EXTERNAL ACTIVITIES

SUFOI has several external activities. These include lectures, exhibitions and frequent appearances in the printed press and on Danish radio and TV.



# UFO - SVERIGE

UFO-Sweden was founded in 1970 as a center point for many smaller groups all around the country. Since 1980 UFO-Sweden chose to work along a scientific oriented way careful not to lean towards any particular hypothesis. Every year between 350 and 550 cases are reported to the organization.



UFO-Sweden has a mutual exchange of information with the Swedish Defence Institute on a regular basis and plans to use the same database for filing all investigations are discussed. The organization does also have very good contact with scientists from a broad variety of disciplines.



Today the organization consists of 25 local UFO-groups scattered all over Sweden, with 800 members. All UFO investigations are co-ordinated by

a director of investigations and 100+ field researchers. Their works are later evaluated by three groups of experienced investigators. Every year, since the middle of the 70's, a field trainee course is held for new trainees and a step two course for old timers.

All reports does finally end up in Archives for UFO Research which probably the worlds largest archives with UFO-oriented material, i.e. books, periodicals, correspondence, videos, pictures, newspaper clippings and some 17.000 case studies from Sweden, Norway and Denmark [www.afu.se] The archives are situated at Archives for UFO Research in Norrköping. UFO-Sweden publishes two magazines, glossy UFO-Aktuellt for a broader public (1.200 copies four times a year) and Rapport-Nytt (300 copies five times a year) for our own investigators. A Swedish [www.ufo.se] home page is maintained since 1996 with several thousand visitors every week. A smaller English section can be find at the same address.

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# UFO - NORGE

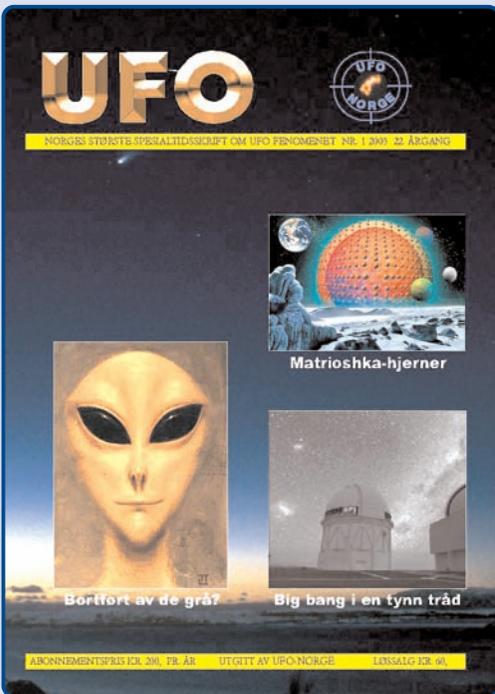
## UFO-NORGE STARTED IN 1972

During the summer of 1946, the press started reporting sightings of "ghost rockets". Hundreds of people all over Scandinavia saw these phenomena, which have not yet been studied in detail by researchers.

Press coverage of UFO-sightings was high in

1947, and the first books about "Flying Saucers" appeared 1954.

The first UFO-groups started to form at about the same time. Small groups existed in several of Norway's largest cities during the 1950s and 1960s. None of these were particularly interested in scientific aspects, most were convinced that the aliens were already



here.

In 1972, these small groups formed a national organization called Norsk UFO Center – NUFOC. In 1980 NUFOC changed its name to UFO-NORGE. During the 1970s and 1980s NUFOC/UFO-NORGE gradually became more sensible and less sectarian. Today, UFO-NORGE represents a serious and common-sense approach to UFO phenomena.

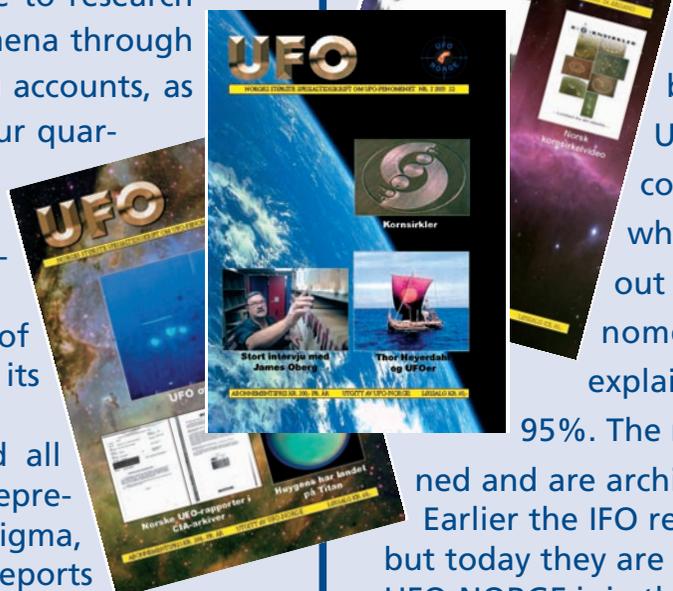
## THE OBJECTIVE OF UFO-NORGE

1) The objectives of UFO-NORGE are to research and identify reports of UFO phenomena through gathering and investigating sighting accounts, as well as inform the public through our quarterly journal.

2) UFO-NORGE aims to collect, process and study all available information on UFOs in Norway.

3) UFO-NORGE strives for the use of scientific principles and methods in its investigation.

4) UFO-NORGE is open to any and all hypothesis and theories which may represent possible solutions to the UFO enigma, and will not attribute unidentified reports to any particular theory.



## THE MEANING OF THE WORD UFO

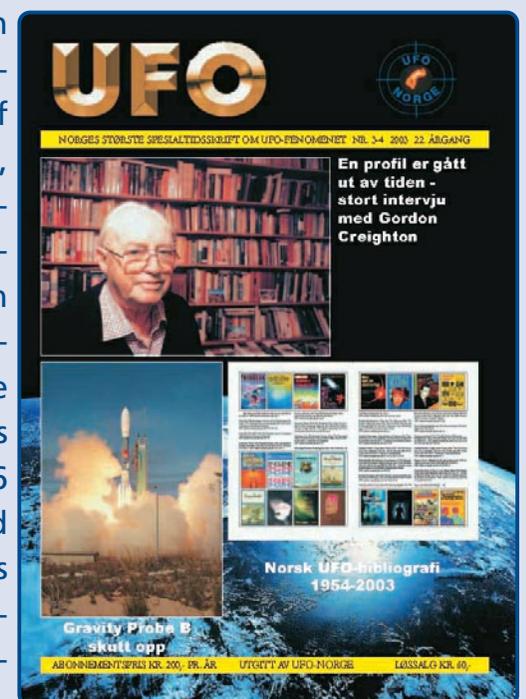
Today, the word "UFO" is accepted as a proper noun.

UFO-NORGE has defined the term UFO as: a reported phenomenon in the sky, in the air-space, or on the ground, with the key characteristics of being and remaining unidentified even after being investigated by competent researchers.



## MANAGEMENT OF UFO-NORGE

UFO-NORGE is an organization managed by a board of directors ("Styret"), 3 persons ("styreformann" + 2 x "styremedlem"), which irregularly get together. Each year the board of directors and an additional 6 people, which hold various functions within the organization, meet and discuss/decide the larger issues of organization direction and guidelines. All activities are carried out on an unpaid, spare time basis.



## INVESTIGATION OF SIGHTINGS

As part of the investigation of reports, a paper report form is used. In addition we have a web-based report form. Since 1972, UFO-NORGE has investigated and collected more than 4,000 reports, of which a significant part has turned out to be known (mis-)identified phenomena. Today the percentage of explained sightings is between 80% and 95%. The remaining 5-20% cannot be explained and are archived as UFO reports.

Earlier the UFO reports were not saved for posterity, but today they are (since 1995).

UFO-NORGE is in the process of scanning all our report material.

# CENTRO ITALIANO STUDI UFOLOGICI

## THE ITALIAN CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES

(Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici, or CISU) was founded in 1985, as a merging from three different experiences: a dozen former directors of Centro Ufologico Nazionale (CUN), UPIAR (Ufo Phenomena International Annual Review) Cooperative members and the Clypeus/Ufologia editorial team. CISU is a private, no-profit organization based on volunteer work of its unpaid members.

## AIMS AND ACTIVITIES

CISU aims are: 1) to promote scientific study of UFO phenomena; 2) to let information and documentation circulate among researchers; 3) to coordinate nationally activities of data collection, analysis and its diffusion. Main activities include: investigation on UFO sighting reports; filing and cataloguing of collected data and archiving of any useful documentation; promoting analyses and research; information for its members; public education

## ORGANIZATION

There are two levels of membership: temporary associates and full members. Only the latter are entitled to represent the CISU. General administration is managed by a council of directors (presently composed of a president and 6 other members), plus a secretarial staff. Local organization is made of regional coordinators and provincial directors.

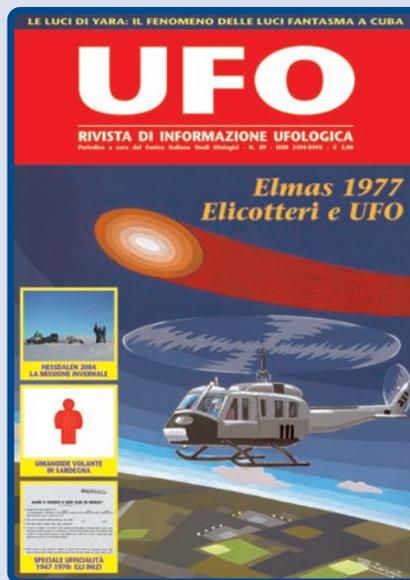
## INVESTIGATIONS

Fields investigations on reported sightings are made by local members, following CISU *Field Investigation Methodology Manual*, designed so to collect as many information about sighted phenomena and reliability of testimonies. Written investigation reports are the basis for following studies.

In 2001 CISU adopted and has since adhered to the *Ufology Code of Ethics* developed by BUFORA and UFOIN in the UK.

## ARCHIVING

CISU Archives systematically collect all and any Italian documentation and source about UFO phenomena and ufology: investigation reports, newsclippings, research articles, specialized books and periodicals, audio and video recordings, digital and magnetic media sources, as well as a wide range of advertising commercials, toys, gadgets, music records, art and other UFO-inspired popular culture items. A huge collection of international UFO books and periodicals is also stored at CISU headquarters in Torino, a 210 sq.mt. loft which is the largest repository of UFO documentation existing in Italy and one of the largest in Europe.



## ANALYSIS, CATALOGUES AND RESEARCH

A first analysis work is done on each reported sighting, trying to evaluate information and identify the cause, whenever possible. Comparisons of cases and statistical presentations are also produced.

One of CISU major activities has always been the painstaking filing and cataloguing of even fragmentary news of any UFO/IFO sighting ever reported in Italy. More than 15,000 case histories have been filed as yet, amounting to tens of thousands of sources archived. This work has been and is being done at a local level, where regional/provincial archives are kept, digital databases built and paper catalogues published. A national archive and a national database also exist.

As for scientific research, CISU is only meaning itself as a source of documentation, consultation and infrastructure for active researchers. Research projects and committees are being activated, though, on specific subjects (an updated list of about 20 ongoing projects is available on the web at [www.ufodatanet.org](http://www.ufodatanet.org)).

## PUBLICATIONS

CISU main journal, *UFO - Rivista di informazione ufologica* (UFO information review, 31 issues published) is a glossy 48-pages magazine presently published three times per year, detailing the state-of-the art of ufology, with a special emphasis on investigations, analyses and articles by CISU members. A monthly newsclipping service is also available upon request at a nominal fee. A quarterly newsletter (*UFO Notizie*, 63 issues) and an internal forum for discussion and technical articles (*UFO Forum*, 19 issues) have also been published for some years in the past.

Longer texts, regional or special sightings catalogues (e.g. Italian sightings by pilots, trace-landing cases, USO reports, ball lightning reports), as well as bibliographies or research results are also published as occasional monographs (*Documenti UFO*): as many as 34 as of now.

CISU has its own publishing house (Upiar Cooperative), which has released seven books as yet.

## INFORMATION TO MEMBERS

Information sharing is the core of CISU philosophy: all members have a right not only to access archives but also to get copies of all archived documenta-

tion. Each catalogue or project coordinator is regularly getting copy of all incoming documents pertaining his own activity.

A long-standing book service for CISU members has later evolved into a specialized UFO e-commerce website ([www.upiar.com](http://www.upiar.com)).

Our national yearly congress has been held since 1986, as a regular occasion of meeting and discussion, mostly for members (though about half of them was also open to the public). Meetings and workshops on specific subjects have also been organized when needed.

## PUBLIC EDUCATION

In twenty years, CISU members have been organizing or taking part at hundreds of public conferences and debates, photo exhibitions, radio/TV emissions, interviews or articles in the general media, though public education have been given secondary importance, as opposed to other activities, in the last decade. Our main goals in doing public education are: 1) to make ourselves known to witnesses; 2) to attract new members; 3) to collect economic resources.

Though not sold in the newsstands, CISU magazine has been distributed in a nationwide chain of bookshops since 1986. Moreover, CISU magazine has been sent free for years to hundreds of scientists, public libraries, university departments, newspapers or single reporters, in order to keep them aware of our existence and activities.



## CISU ON THE PHONE AND ON THE NET

Besides operating the oldest existing UFO-call 24-hours phone line in Italy for witnesses to call, for twenty full years, a new UFO information service on the phone (*UFOTEL*) has been activated since 1994, offering weekly news for free.

But the main information tool in the last decade has been the Internet: the CISU was the first Italian UFO organization to have a website, a mailing list and a weekly web-zine (all three of them still working). *Ufo Online* ([www.ufo.it](http://www.ufo.it)) has been and still is the most visited Italian website on UFOs. *Ufotel* weekly newsletter has also been distributed on the Internet (web-

sites, mailing lists, newsgroups) since 1995, and our online UFO sighting form offers an easy tool for hundreds of witnesses each year. Besides the open/public mailing list and another one for CISU members only, as many as 18 specialized, closed-shop mailing lists are also existing for CISU research committees or working groups members to keep in contact and distribute information and discussions.