

Most is a news bulletin published by the Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA). SBRA is a non-profit organisation acting as a 'bridge' between the business and research communities in Slovenia and the EU institutions, and other public and private bodies at EU level.

SBRA
 Avenue Lloyd George 6 B-1000 Brussels
 Tel + 32 2 645 19 10
 Fax + 32 2 645 19 17
 E-mail: info@sbra.be

Members
 Biotechnical Faculty of University of Ljubljana
 Chamber of Craft and Small Business of Slovenia
 City of Ljubljana
 City of Ptuj
 DOBA Faculty
 ELES Elektro-Slovenija
 Energetika Ljubljana
 Forestry Institute of Slovenia
 Gea College
 Jožef Stefan Institute
 Municipality of Slovenska Bistrica
 National Institute of Biology
 Perutnina Ptuj
 RIKO
 SID Bank
 System VVE
 Toolmakers Cluster of Slovenia
 University of Ljubljana

With Financial Support of
 Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
 Slovenian Research Agency

Editor: Dr Boris Cizelj
www.sbra.be

Published: March 2014

International Women's Day

The International Women's Day celebrates the achievements irrespective of national, ethnical, linguistic, cultural, economic or political differences. The United Nations started to celebrate 8 March as the International Women's Day in 1975, and thus acknowledged the role of women in efforts for peace and development, and promoted the end of discrimination and support for women's equality. This year's theme is "Equality for women is progress for all".

Slovenian women are on average better educated than men

In 2012, 21.2% of women aged 15 or more had obtained tertiary education, while the share for men was 16.3%. Of the 20,596 students which graduated last year, 60% of them were women. In fact, in most levels of education the ratio between men and women graduates is in favour of women. The exception is higher vocational education and former doctoral studies. As regards doctoral studies, the gender ratio is reversed. Although men have always prevailed, the share of women has been slowly growing and in 2012 about the same number of men and women obtained doctoral degrees.

Age of first-time mothers is rising

In 2012, 21,938 children were born in Slovenia; 10,619 of them were girls, which is almost a half. The mean age of first-time mothers was 28.9 years; compared to 1991 this was 4.8 years older, and compared to the 1970s over 6 years.

Unemployment rate for women higher, more frequently temporarily employed

According to the Labour force Survey, there were 424,000 women in employment in 2012, which is almost 46.0% of all persons in employment; while 13.8% of women and 12.9% of men had only temporary employment.

As for the unemployment rate, for women it was 14.2% (for men it was 13.0%). Most of the registered unemployed women were 30-39 years old (26.6%). According to the Labour force Survey, in 2012 almost a third of unemployed women found employment within 6 months; most of them were 25-29 years old (23.0%).

On average men earn more

According to provisional data of annual structure of earnings statistics, in 2012 average monthly gross earnings for women amounted to €1,555 and were thus 5% lower than average monthly gross earnings of men (€1,639).

Slovenian men do more housework than their male counterparts

According to new figures published by the OECD, men do significantly less housework, less shopping, and spend less time caring for family members than women. However, Slovenian men do the most unpaid housework per day among the 29 OECD countries. In Korea and Turkey men spend a mere 21 minutes a day on housework. Women in those countries take on the brunt of the domestic chores, doing 138 and 261 minutes respectively. Men in Slovenia average at 114 minutes.

Editorial



The pessimistic forecasts concerning macroeconomic stability of Slovenia have been proven wrong. Though the country's economic growth is expected only for later in the year, and its sovereign debt compared to GDP remains lower than EU average, the challenges are not over yet.

The European Commission's push for early adoption of the Strategy of Smart Specialisation is helping the country to make choices and accelerate needed reforms.

For an open and export oriented economy, which has recently intensified its innovation effort through excellence and competence centres, the emphasis of the new generation of Cohesion Policy (stressing the importance of knowledge, innovation and technology) is most welcome. There are many areas of excellence and competitive quality in Slovenian business, as well as in R&D sector.

However, it seems very difficult to connect the potential partners from the two domains, which prevents their full development and market access. Professor Pejovnik refers to the "hidden champions" since they often remain isolated and fragmented, in spite of their quality and potential. Without being able to reach the critical mass, they are unable to attract financial support, which is the condition for their successful launch at the international markets.

The project of Ljubljana Innovation Hub intends to achieve the necessary concentration by supporting the most promising teams being active in market relevant innovation. It will help them reach the critical mass of expertise leading to European, and indeed global excellence, intensify needed international links and allow "hidden champions" to become winners in the European and global knowledge markets.

Prof. Boris Cizelj
 President, Management Board

Alenka Bratušek celebrates one year in office

Alenka Bratušek, Slovenia's first female PM, celebrated her first year in office on the 20th of March. Despite the fact that the economic crisis is far from over, and prospects of a reassuring recovery aren't foreseen until next year, the current government has managed to overcome some difficult hurdles. Here are some of the milestones achieved thus far.

Even though the economy continued to contract in 2013, the latest statistics indicate that economic activity has improved decisively over the course of the year. While the first quarter registered a contraction of 4.6 percent, by the fourth quarter, the economy expanded by as much as 2.1 percent. See below:

Gross domestic product	2013/2012 Quarterly Change				
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter	TOTAL
	-4,6	-1,4	-0,5	2,1	-1,1

Source: Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia

Government spending contracted 1.9 percent in annual terms, which, nevertheless, marked an improvement over the 2.4 percent decline tallied in the third quarter. Gross fixed investment rebounded from a 1.1 percent decline in Q3 to a 5.9 percent increase in Q4, which represented the largest expansion since 2008.

Ten-year bond yields, which were hovering at around 7 percent at the beginning of 2013, had by the end of the year fallen down to a more manageable 4 percent.

The government has successfully adopted urgent measures to consolidate public finances and to stabilize the banking sector. The budgets for the years 2014 and 2015 were adopted to provide stable functioning of the country.

Since privatization is extremely important in terms of reducing public debt, the government prepared a list of 15 companies in which the state intends to divest its stake - two of which have already been sold. The Slovenian government has also over the course of the year organized investment conferences in countries with potential strategic partners. So far, events have been organised in Moscow, Paris, Düsseldorf and Milan. Next in line is London, though the date is yet to be finalised.

As one of its key economic measures, Slovenia will now shift its attention to corporate restructuring. Other government priorities include: trimming of the healthcare system; a continued fight against corruption; targeting the shadow economy (estimated to generate up to 200 million euros per year) and to provide greater employment opportunities for the young.

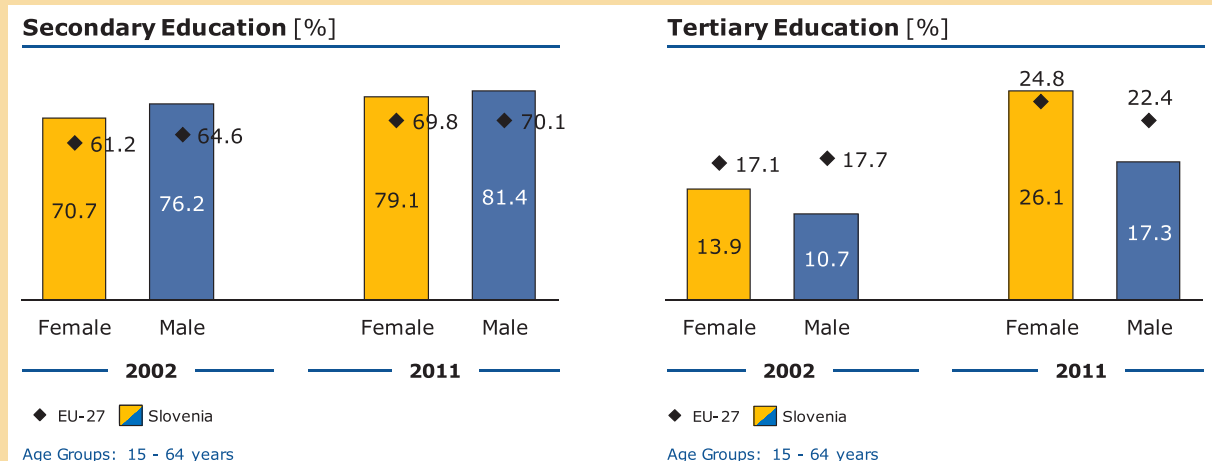
Parliament Confirms New Ministers

The Slovenian government appointed three new ministers, and with it marked the completion of the biggest reshuffle of the Alenka Bratušek government to date. Metod Dragonja has been appointed for economy minister, Alenka Trop Skaza for health minister and Gorazd Žmavc for minister for Slovenians abroad. They will largely continue with the work of their predecessors.



Metod Dragonja, Minister of Economic Development and Technology

Tertiary education attainment in Slovenia has risen drastically throughout the last decade



Source: Eurostat

Business Briefs

Tourism Revenue Hit New Record in 2013



According to figures released by the central bank, revenue from the sale of tourist services to foreigners rose 0.4% over the year to €2.1 billion. While spending by Slovenian tourists abroad dropped nearly 5% to €702 million, which widened the positive balance by 2% to €1.39 billion.

Tourism revenue has been rising uninterruptedly since 1999 whereas spending by Slovenian tourists abroad was rising until 2008, whereupon it stagnated and started dropping in 2010. The revenue figures come after the Statistical Office reported a 2.3% year-on-year increase in the number of visitors for 2013.

Aerodrom Ljubljana Reports €5.2 million Profit for 2013



Airport operator Aerodrom Ljubljana posted a €5.2 million net profit last year, which is on par with the 2012 results and 3.8% above plans. Operating revenues were meanwhile up 1.4% year-on-year to €31.3 million, according to unaudited data released by the company.

The number of passengers at the Ljubljana airport was up by 10.2% to 1.32 million, which is 2.6% more than expected.

The majority of passengers (87%) travelled with scheduled flights. The share of passengers transported by budget carriers Easyjet and Wizz Air was up by 3.5 percentage points in 2013 to 12.6%.

A growth was also recorded in cargo transport. The total volume of cargo that went through the Ljubljana airport last year amounted to 17,777 tonnes, which is 4.4% more than in 2012 and 2.5% more than planned.

The company has drafted a strategic business plan for 2014-2020, which expects a modest, though steady growth of traffic. By 2020 the Ljubljana airport is planned to record 1.8 million passengers annually.

New Average Wages Continue to Fall

The average monthly net wage in Slovenia has recorded a second annual decline in real terms, according to data from Slovenia's Statistical Office. The average monthly wage in 2013 was down 1.2% in real terms to €997.01 and up 0.6% in nominal terms.

The highest net wage of €1,083.75 was recorded in Slovenia's central statistical region, while the lowest was registered in the Notranjsko-Kraška region (€895.93). The biggest annual increases were recorded in manufacturing (+3%) and energy supply (+2.8%). The latter also recorded the highest average net wage: €1,410.03.

The biggest annual decrease was meanwhile recorded in education (-2%), while the lowest average net wage: €692.56 was registered in administrative and support service activities.

Research Briefs

Joint programmes at the University of Ljubljana

In the spirit of one of the major goals of the Bologna Process – all-round international mobility – the University of Ljubljana promotes the cooperation of higher education teachers, students and other staff with higher education institutions abroad. This involves various forms and time frames, but systemically, the most complex type of cooperation in the educational area are definitely joint study programmes of this university.

Joint study programmes are study programmes leading to qualifications at levels 1, 2 or 3, which are carried out together by two or more universities or

independent higher education institutions. On completing all the study obligations under these programmes, graduates as a rule receive a single joint diploma issued by the participating universities.

Information on the study programmes that are available in an individual academic year and the relevant admission requirements is published on a yearly basis in the Call for Enrolment in undergraduate or postgraduate (master's and doctoral) study programmes.

IPA Adriatic CBC Programme Strategic Project BALMAS under Slovenian leadership



Marine Biology Station Piran (MBS-NIB) is a partner in Strategic Project BALMAS (Ballast water management system for Adriatic Sea protection; IPA Adriatic Cross-border Cooperation Programme; www.balmas.eu) which started in November 2013, with Kick-off meeting in January 2014 at MBS in Piran. The project involves 17 Beneficiaries and 7 Associates from 6 countries around the Adriatic Sea. The Leading Beneficiary is the Institute for Water of the Republic of Slovenia.

The general BALMAS objective is to establish a common cross-border system, which will link all researchers, experts and responsible national authorities from Adriatic countries in order to avoid unwanted risks to the environment from the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens via ships' ballast waters. This will be achieved through control and management of ships' ballast waters and sediments. Further, long-term effective Ballast Water Management in the Adriatic will be set at the cross-border level utilizing this project's related knowledge and technology.

By developing a joint Adriatic Ballast Water Management Decision Support system, Plan and Strategy, BALMAS will ensure uniform requirements to ease shipping and at the same time to maximize environmental and economic protection of all sea users.

University of Ljubljana signs cooperation agreement with Kyungpook National University (KNU)

University of Ljubljana committed to strategic cooperation with the Kyungpook National University Korea, which is a result of the seven-year fruitful cooperation with the University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Economics. Among other, the agreement provides for all forms of study exchange. A special agreement was also signed with the National and University Library (NUK) and the Central Technical Library (CTK).

Regional Briefs

Award-Winning Urbana App



The new mobile application of the Urbana City Card - the virtual stored-value Urbana for smart phones - has ranked first at the MasterCard Transport Ticketing Awards competition in the Most Successful Mobile Ticketing Programme category.

This innovative solution was awarded the first prize on 27 January 2014 in London. At the biggest event in this particular field in the world the Urbana smartphone solution impressed the professional committee despite the strong competition of 5 finalists (Connectings, Corethree, DB Mobility Logistics AG, Masabi and Snapper).

The application will enable payment for standard services under the same conditions as classic Urbana City Card: city bus journeys, public parking, funicular journey (Ljubljana Castle) and the BicikeLJ services. In addition, the application enables you to top up your Urbana by using your smartphone (Moneta) at the

actual Urbanomat or the virtual one, review your credit, check validation history, etc. Some useful information regarding the city transport service will also be available with the application, for example information on bus arrivals, city transport lines map, bus journey calculation, nearby bus stop locations and many more.

This award-winning solution will be available for all mobile operators, while the Moneta service is available only to the Telekom Slovenije users, Simobil and Debitel subscribers, and Nova KBM and PBS clients, which are simultaneously subscribed to one of the listed mobile operators.

The Urbana mobile application is still in the testing phase and will be available to download free-of-charge in spring this year.

Ljubljana is shortlisted as one of three finalists among 30 cities from 12 countries for the European Mobility Week Award 2013.



Last year was Ljubljana's 12th consecutive year participating in the European Mobility Week, the most widespread campaign for sustainable mobility, set traditionally in the week between 16 and 22 September. The leading idea of the 2013 EMW was "Clean Air, It's Your Move!", to remind us, that anyone can make a difference and contribute to cleaner air by slightly altering our travelling habits and remarkably influence the quality of life in cities where motor traffic is the main cause of air pollution.

Ljubljana collaborated with numerous people and organisations to prepare a 9-week-long programme of activities and 17 events in the framework of the European Mobility Week campaign. The two permanent measures introduced are:

- Car-Free Day on 22 September, which restricted motor traffic in the very center of the city (the area was also revamped to encourage walking, cycling and public transportation).

- The introduction of a third Kavalir, a closed electric transport vehicle. The ride operates throughout the whole year regardless of the weather.

The European Commission will announce the winner of European Mobility Week Award 2013 on 24 March 2014. Ljubljana previously received the European Mobility Week Award in 2004.

BIO 50: cutting-edge creativity



The Regional Development Agency of the Ljubljana Urban Region (RRA LUR) and the Regional Creative Economy Centre (RCKE), which operates under its auspices, are among the main partners of this year's Biennial of the Design (the oldest biennial of design in the world) – BIO 50, organized by the Museum of Architecture and Design.

This year the Biennial of the Design is advancing into an experimental, collaborative territory – focusing on the creative process. RCKE has established itself as a connector between the world of business and creative industries and is thereby a facilitator of sustainable development. Among 11 BIO themes, the centre has been assigned to provide support and direction to Affordable Living and Hidden Crafts.

Throughout the creative processes RCKE will aim to create lasting economic ties and form interdisciplinary value chains with selected participants at BIO 50 that could lead to developing innovative and marketable products and/or services.

BIO 50 was set in full swing with a kick-off conference on 13 and 14 February 2014, attended by more than 100 multidisciplinary participants from 20 countries. At the conference the Belgian curator of the biennial Jan Boelen, co-curators Maja Vardjan and Cvetka Požar, along with the mentors of all thematic groups introduced the working process, while designer Thomas Lommée and researcher Liesbeth Huybrechts held lectures on the tricks, tools and traps of designer collaboration.

The outcomes of a 6-month collaborative creative process will be presented at an exhibition from 18 September to 7 December 2014 and published in an accompanying catalogue.