

Editorial



A disciplined and early response to the COVID-19 pandemic, has meant Slovenia became the first European country to officially end its coronavirus state of emergency; lifting

its measures and opening its borders. It is very difficult to predict how the situation will unfold in the coming months, considering the influx of tourists from abroad during the summer and whether people will continue to observe social distancing guidelines. Not only Slovenia, but the whole of the EU should remain cautious and steadfast in its response to mitigate a possible second wave.

During these challenging times, Slovenia has nevertheless successfully readied itself for 'entering' the troika of the presidency of the Council of the EU (alongside Germany and Portugal), as it prepares to preside in the second half of 2021.

Consequently, it means that the Slovenian Business and Research Association (SBRA) will have its hands full over the coming years. We are expecting an even greater increase in visits from Slovenian organisations in Brussels; preparations are already underway in organising numerous activities and events for a variety of our members. While Slovenia may be small, it has proven itself to be very active and a successful EU Member State, with a very open and export oriented economy (Slovenia's GDP has been for several years among the fastest expanding in the EU).

SBRA will continue to play its active role in helping Slovenian public and private organisations during these unpredictable times, especially in keeping and fostering closer relations with EU institutions. Inherent in nearly all challenges are opportunities for renewal and transformation, and this particular crisis has produced many new opportunities, which SBRA will continue to take full advantage of.

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
President, Management Board

Business Briefs

ELES to cooperate in new e-mobility project



The INCIT-EV project, now launched and funded by the EU Commission, is concerned with the development of innovative charging technologies for electric vehicles (EV) until the end of 2023. Under the leadership of Renault, a total of 33 partners from eight countries are participating in the project, including SBRA member Elektro-Slovenija, d.o.o. (ELES).

The H2020 funded project will seek the emergence of EV users' unconscious preferences relying on latest neuroscience techniques to adapt the technological developments to the users' subjective expectations. 5 demo environments at urban, peri-urban and extra-urban conditions will be ready for the deployment of 7 use cases, addressing smart and bi-directional charging optimized at different aggregation levels, dynamic wireless charging lane in an urban area, dynamic wireless charging for long distance, charging hub in a park&ride facility, superfast charging systems for EU corridors, low power DC bidirectional charging infrastructure for EVs, including two-wheelers, and opportunity wireless charging for taxi queue lanes in airports & central stations.

The INCIT-EV Platform will be developed comprising a DSS and a set of APPs addressing the users and e-mobility stakeholders' needs. As a result, INCIT-EV will engage 3,475 private EV drivers, as well as 10 local communities, 4 Taxis cooperatives, 4 car sharing and 4 light EV sharing companies.

For more, go to: www.eles.si

Supercomputer in Maribor to be among world's most powerful

The prototype HPC RIVR @ UM supercomputer has been symbolically booted. Its data-processing capacity is equal to around 5000 personal computers, and by the end of this year it will form the



backbone of a supercomputer system that will be among the 40 most powerful in the world. The supercomputer in Maribor is one of EU's eight high-performance computing (HPC) centres, the others being located in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal and Spain.

The centres will provide support to the research community and industry in developing know-how and knowledge applications in medicine, advanced materials and climate change combat.

For more, go to: www.hpc-rivr.si

40 years of Cankarjev dom



Forty years ago, Slovenia made the decision to build a complex and expensive new arts centre for which, according to Cankarjev dom's first director Miro Kert, the investors had serious reservations. They feared the project was too ambitious and the building too spacious to fill with events, and that it was even more challenging to persuade audiences into frequenting the vast venue. Today, Cankarjev dom is bursting at the seams. Every year, the centre is visited by half a million art lovers, congress delegates and social event attendees. Between 1981 and 2018 Cankarjev dom welcomed more than 16 million visitors. 7 stages annually host around 18,000 different performers, including numerous top-tier artists who enjoy worldwide recognition and visibility.

Over the past four decades Cankarjev dom

has created a powerful impression. It has influenced the life of local community and that of the wider region. Cankarjev dom provides the venue for landmark historical events, which radically changes both the social order and way of life. What's more, given that it is virtually impossible to name a country that Cankarjev dom has not yet collaborated with; the halls play host to creative encounters across the broadest spectrum of cultures.

For more, go to: www.cd-cc.si

Research Briefs

Global Entrepreneurial Talent Management 3



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Global Entrepreneurial Talent Management 3 (GETM3) is an international, interdisciplinary research and innovation project MSCA-RISE funded by the EU's Horizon 2020 stream that investigates global entrepreneurial talent management. Research focusing on young people and their academic and work experiences highlights the complexity of the successful career concept, emerging from young entrepreneur experiences around the world. Results show that young people consider work-life balance a criterion for success. They value self-exploration and self-discovery, driven by their need to evolve.

Research into employers' talent management finds that employers care and want to be informed about employees' job expectations. One of the major concerns is that young employees will leave the company soon after joining, which raises questions regarding the effectiveness of investments in training and development. At the same time, young people have high expectations precisely in the area of development and advancement.

There are seven Universities partners responsible for project realization, including School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana (SEB LU). Besides universities there are also companies that participate in the project.

For more, go to: www.getm3.eu

National Institute of Biology has new European patent granted

National Institute of Biology has a long tradition and expertise in ecological research in surface waters like lakes and rivers pollution. Acute and chronic pollutions are associated with the appearance cyanobacterial blooms, releasing toxic substances – e.g. microcystins into water environment, representing a threat to the natural environment, due to animal and human intoxications.

The first European patent to the Division of Genetic Toxicology of the National Institute of Cancer Biology and Biology has been recently granted. The patent describes "Method and system for simultaneous detection of micro-particle concentration in suspension and their morphological and physiological traits". The novelty in selective analyses of microparticles including bloom forming cyanobacteria, the microorganisms also called blue-green algae. In essence, the innovative principle is based on analyses of the otherwise disturbing "noise", produced by particles that is superimposed to the mail fluorescence signal providing a plethora of information on size, shape and physiological properties, in a simpler and faster way that has never been possible so far.

For more, go to: www.nib.si

Regional Briefs

Bright future for black towns: reinventing European industrial towns and challenging dominant post-industrial discourses



Figure Velenje, a small mining town situated in the Eastern part of Slovenia, is part of the project. (Photo: Matjaž Geršič, ZRC SAZU)

The industrial revolution spawned many cities in regions that had previously been

mostly uninhabited. People flocked to these newly established urban areas in search of work, and consequently settled down. As technology evolved, iron ore and later, coal too, became unviable as once was the case one or two hundred years ago. Formerly flourishing towns and often entire regions became grim images of abandonment and decay. Thanks to European Union science funding schemes Horizon 2020 and JPI, many such places are seeing a revival – as well as putting industrial heritage into the limelight at the same time.

Bright Future (ERA-NET Cofund Smart Urban Futures program) is a project that seeks to develop place-specific urban strategies for industrial towns in Europe by respecting their strengths, needs, and expectations. Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU) is the lead partner of the Bright Future project. The goal is to go beyond dominant economy-driven post-industrial strategies, which are more suited for large cities and to adopt new post-industrial narratives better suited to European urban realities. "We are interested in assets and strengths of particular case studies", emphasizes dr. David Bole, the coordinator from ZRC SAZU. Hopefully, it will lead to new social and organisational innovations enabling small towns to adapt, be resilient, and be sustainable. Bright Future's other partners are University of Eastern Finland (Finland), University of Bucharest (Romania), University of Amsterdam (The Netherlands), Social Life Limited and The Young Foundation (United Kingdom).

For more, go to: <https://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/project/bright-future/>

Most – meaning bridge in the Slovenian language – 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.

Slovenian Business & Research Association

Avenue Lloyd George 7 B-1000
Brussels
Tel + 32 (0)2 645 19 10
E-mail: info@sbra.be
Web: www.sbra.be

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