

Editorial



Slovenia was one of the first countries which sent its Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) programme to the European Commission. Slovenia's "green" segment of the

programme represents 42%, in contrast to the minimum set by the EC of 37%. The other important and mandatory area of the programme is digital transformation, set by the EC at a minimum of 20% of all received money. Slovenia share of the total of 750 billion EUR in the RRF is 0.8% or 5.7 billion EUR – 5.2 billion EUR directly from the RRF fund. Within this, 1.6 billion EUR are subsidies and 3.6 billion EUR in loans. However, for now Slovenia does not plan to use all the money disposable via loans.

Slovenia's priorities are: Green transition at 1.1 billion EUR; Smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth at 0.8 billion EUR; Health and social security at 0.4 billion EUR; and digital transformation at 0.3 billion EUR (all figures represent planned usage of subsidies and loans). Additionally, Slovenia is expected to receive app. 4.6 billion EUR from the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Of the total, cohesion funds will constitute app. 3 billion EUR; and natural resources and environment 1.6 billion EUR. In the previous framework programmes for research and innovation, Slovenia has been historically efficient; therefore, a similar success is to be expected in the current Horizon Europe (within all its 3 pillars, including Widening participation). Slovenian Business and Research Association was, is and will continue to help and support various stakeholders to be successful in implementing a plethora of EU funds.

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
President, Management Board

Business Briefs

INCIT-EV: User-centric electric mobility

The Faculty of Electrical Engineering of the University of Ljubljana and the Slovenian transmission system operator ELES are

participating in the European project INCIT-EV, whose main goal is to develop and test various electric vehicle charging technologies that will improve the user experience and further stimulate the electrification of transport.

The project will also develop a platform to support the planning and integration of charging infrastructure. The Faculty of Electrical Engineering is intensively involved in this part of the project, focusing on an assessment of the impact of electric vehicles on the operation of electricity networks.

For more, go to: <https://www.incit-ev.eu/>

SI4CARE: Social Innovation for integrated health CARE of ageing population in ADRION Regions



SI4CARE is an international project in which the University of Ljubljana acts as the leading consortium partner in collaboration with partners from seven countries. The whole consortium consists of 10 project partners and 18 associated partners. The project, which started on 1 December 2020, is worth EUR 2.37 million and co-financed by the INTERREG ADRION 2014–2020 programme.

The main objective of the project is to contribute to the creation of a transnational effective ecosystem for the application of social innovation in integrated healthcare services for the ageing population across ADRION countries, through a joint collaboration network and a unique strategy translated into regional and national action plans, implemented and monitored through pilot projects, after testing innovative approaches and backed by an ICT decision support system. This objective contributes to the topic of social innovation, as SI4CARE aims to tackle the needs of ADRION ageing population for long-term healthcare, especially in remote areas, by creating a collaborative environment to co-design solutions and engage large transnational community representing all relevant actors.

For more, go to: <https://si4care.adrioninterreg.eu/>

Research Briefs

National Institute of Chemistry is fighting viral infections with engulfing nano-shells



Viral infections affect millions of people every year and cause tremendous human suffering and costs to society. For approximately 70% of all WHO listed viruses, no treatment is available and the antiviral drugs that do exist must be applied very early after infection to be effective. The current COVID-19 pandemic is only one such example. The National Institute of Chemistry (NIC) with the VIROFIGHT consortium proposes a new approach to fight viral infections, to address the lack of broadly applicable antiviral treatments, and to create means for combating emerging pathogens.

The biocompatible nano-shells developed by the researchers combine DNA origami, protein design and in-vitro evolution. Their interior will be coated with a layer of virus-specific molecules for strong and specific virus binding. These binding effects will be tested at laboratory scale on a variety of viruses. To achieve this technological target, the interdisciplinary project integrates experts on supramolecular chemistry, molecular nanoengineering, and virology.

For more, go to: <https://www.virofight.eu/>

National Institute of Biology contributes to better water management via the Eco-AlpsWater project



Eco-AlpsWater is an acronym for "Innovative Ecological Assessment and Water Management Strategy for the Protection of Ecosystem Services in Alpine Lakes and Rivers" project. The main aim of Eco-AlpsWater is to improve the traditional monitoring approaches using advanced

DNA sequencing techniques such as metabarcoding approaches, from fish to bacteria. The main goal is to analyse environmental DNA in waterbodies (which allow rapid species identification at low costs), and develop smart technologies such as automation in data processing, data storage and information retrieval.

The project is now in its final year and analyses of eDNA samples are in full speed. The National Institute of Biology is sure interesting findings will be discovered when comparing with the traditional monitoring results. Only with this novel and tested tools, can we contribute to more sustainable and argued water policy decisions.

For more, go to: www.alpine-space.eu/projects/eco-alpswater/

Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Built Environment



InnoRenew CoE has launched Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the Built Environment (IPBE), an open access journal that publishes peer-reviewed research at the nexus of sustainability, health and the built environment. Researchers are welcome to contribute their original findings, reviews, short communications and registered reports on emerging science and innovation in renewable materials, sustainable design and bio-based technologies. Visit IPBE webpage to submit your work and join InnoRenew CoE in the journey towards co-creating a better and more sustainable environment.

For more, go to: <https://ipbe.innorenew.eu/ipbe>

UK-Slovenia Researcher Mobility

The Slovenian Research Agency, the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN) Slovenia and the British Embassy in Ljubljana coorganised an online presentation of research programmes 'UK-Slovenia Researcher Mobility'. Despite the UK's departure from the EU, several mobility options will remain available to researchers from both countries. Expert presenters from the UK and Slovenia spoke about mobility schemes and presented the UK's role in the Horizon Europe programme. A special session dedicated to

travel and immigration rules outlined the changes researchers must now consider when planning their stay in the UK.

For more, go to: <https://www.arrs.si/en/>

Winner of the Mentor of the Year award

The Young Academy of Slovenia (Mlada akademija) has announced the winner of the Mentor of the Year award, intended for the best Slovenian mentor of doctoral students. The Mentor of the Year award was held for the fifth time in cooperation with the Slovenian Research Agency.

A total of 96 applications received confirms the importance of being aware of good mentoring practices, which are full of challenges, even more so during these difficult times. Of these, 23 were submitted in English. This year's winner was Prof. Dr. Emil Erjavec from the Biotechnical Faculty, University of Ljubljana.

For more, go to:

<https://www.mladaakademija.si/>

Regional Briefs

Sustainable tourism certifications in the Mediterranean region



The Mediterranean region is facing a change in tourism consumption patterns due to the increasing demand and intensifying competition, therefore its delicate natural and cultural balance can only be maintained through responsible and sustainable planning. Sustainable tourism certification can be a useful tool for respecting the principle of economic, environmental, and social equilibrium in the tourism industry.

Project LABELSCAPE aims to create a solid background for efficient policy changes in the field of sustainable tourism certification. Project leader Nika Razpotnik Visković emphasises that Mediterranean destinations are challenged by constant demand to improve the quality of tourism offer, need to strengthen cooperation between tourism providers, and necessity

to communicate with the visitors. Sustainable certification is an effective way to set a course in this direction.

LABELSCAPE is an Interreg Mediterranean project led by the Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (ZRC SAZU).

For more, go to:

<https://labelscape.interreg-med.eu>

URBforDAN Project introduces a revitalized Golovec hill

The European project URBforDAN – Management and Utilization of Urban Forests as Natural Heritage in Danube Cities, for which the City of Ljubljana is the leading partner, is prolonged and extended until 30 September 2021. This gives project partners an additional opportunity for further successful implementation of project activities and measures, which are aimed at protecting "green city lungs" of cities.

In Ljubljana, together with Slovenian Forest Service, new information boards, signposts, direction boards and wooden totems were set up on the Golovec hill, with the purpose to guide, inform, raise awareness and educate users of the urban forest. Eight entry points to the Golovec hill have been established, three forest playgrounds and two special relaxation "quiet" areas with wooden platforms marked.

For more, go to: <http://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/urbfordan>

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

Rue Belliard 40, B-1040 Brussels
Tel +32 (0)2 786 3071
E-mail: info@sbra.be
Web: www.sbra.be

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