

Editorial



The first half of 2023 has gone by quickly, but much has been accomplished by SBRA, not least organising over a dozen conferences in both Brussels and Slovenia; in-person and online. The events covered a number of issues, including: the Innovation Fund; the European Chips Act; Regional Innovation Valleys; the role of hydrogen in the EU energy system; among others.

Two conferences in particular drew exceptional interest: A strategic consultation on modern health policies held at the National Council of the Republic of Slovenia; while its focus was on reforming the healthcare system, “harm-reduction” stood out as one of the key points. The other conference, organised on 23 May at the Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU, covered a very specific but nevertheless pertinent topic: The Research Needs for a Fire Safe Sustainable Built Environment. To summarize the conference conclusions: the European Commission should create a unit to specifically cover fire safety; as well as ensure greater funding for fire safety research. For those interested in the conclusions and recommendations for both conferences, they are available on our website.

In the Autumn, we have several events in the pipeline, including a conference dedicated to the European Defence Fund. You're warmly invited to visit our website for further details.

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
President, Management Board
of SBRA

Business Briefs

Google planning quantum tech centre in Slovenia



Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation Minister Igor Papič has announced that the US tech giant Google plans to launch a quantum technologies centre in Slovenia. In fact, doctoral students could already start this autumn or early next year at the very latest. Hundreds of engineers are expected to graduate on an annual basis. The plan is to educate doctors in the field of quantum technologies. Professor Dragan Mihailović, who has held two prestigious ERC grants, is directly involved in the project.

Slovenia signs historic agreement for development



At the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, Prime Minister Robert Golob ceremoniously signed an agreement between business, science and politics entitled "For a smart, sustainable and competitive Slovenia". This is a historic agreement on strategic cooperation between the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia (GZS), the Coordination of Independent Research Institutes of Slovenia

(KosRIS), the Slovenian Rectors' Conference (RKRS), and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of technological development and innovation breakthrough. It will contribute to the achievement of Slovenia's high development goals – higher quality of life for citizens, environmental sustainability and high value added.

Conference on the Internationalisation of the Economy

The 5th National Conference on the Internationalisation of the Slovenian Economy entitled “Greenovated in Slovenia” took place on 20 June in Maribor, Slovenia. The event brought together both entrepreneurs and researchers, whom discussed the visibility of Slovenia abroad, global trends in international business, as well as market niches for innovative and breakthrough solutions. Slovenian business clubs which operate worldwide, including SBRA – and are supported by SPIRIT Slovenia Business Development Agency – were also present at the event; with a special B2B matchmaking session proving especially useful for Slovenian companies planning to expand into foreign markets.

Research Briefs

Slovenia becomes a member of the Integrated Structural Biology – European Research Infrastructure Consortium



Instruct-ERIC is the research infrastructure of the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures (ESFRI) in the

field of structural biology and biophysics that provides access to state-of-the-art technologies to all European researchers, both academic and industrial. Structural biology is one of the mainstream disciplines in the field of life sciences, which enables the interpretation of molecular mechanisms at high resolution to the atomic level, through the use of complementary high-tech approaches. Slovenia status as a full member was achieved through the national consortium of the National Institute of Chemistry, the Centre of Excellence for Integrated Approaches in Chemistry and Biology of Proteins, the Jožef Stefan Institute, the National Institute of Biology, the University of Ljubljana, the University of Maribor and the University of Nova Gorica.

TECOS Slovenian Tool and Dye Development Centre one of 37 partners of the NEUMANN project



TECOS is a partner in the ambitious NEUMANN project (Novel Energy and propUlsion systeMs for Air domiNaNce). In particular, TECOS is involved in the project work package focused on advanced thermal barrier coatings for a more efficient protection of aircraft turbine blades and vanes for the thermal protection. More specifically, TECOS will be responsible for adhesion tests and coating. The project has a total value of 56.5 million Euros.

University of Nova Gorica at the forefront of major machine learning

The University of Nova Gorica has secured funding for a five-year machine learning project called SMASH, as part of which fellowships will be awarded to



50 post-doctoral researchers for research to develop cutting-edge machine learning applications for science and humanities. The researchers will also have access to Vega, Slovenia's largest supercomputer, which is operated by the Institute of Information Science, one of the partners on the project.

Ljubljana University Incubator joins DeepTech Alliance



The Ljubljana University Incubator is the first such organisation from the wider region to join the prestigious alliance. It is the ninth member of what is a collaboration of deep tech startup incubators associated with Europe's leading technical universities. Its goal is to improve the performance of the most technologically advanced and globally ambitious startups by providing them with comprehensive support.

Regional Briefs

Conserving biodiversity and promoting natural science education in the Kozjansko Regional Park



The Kozjansko and Obsotelje Biosphere Reserve in Slovenia has been selected among 5 sites for the first cycle of the

“Promoting sustainable development through UNESCO’s programmes and sites” project, under a 3-year partnership between UNESCO and the abrdn Charitable Foundation (aCF). The site is one of the country’s most important nature conservation areas regarding biodiversity and is monitored through the site project titled “Dry meadows and Kozjansko and Obsotelje Biosphere Reserve”.

MADE IN: Crafts and Design Narratives project winner of European Heritage Awards 2023

MADE IN is a platform that brings together designers, researchers and curators, who are all dedicated to exploring heritage through contemporary production. It promotes the invaluable role of crafts in shaping local identities and ensuring the sustainability of communities. Funded through the Creative Europe Small Cooperation Programme, MADE IN spanned from 2018 to 2021. Additional support came also from Centre for Creativity in Slovenia. The Museum of Architecture and Design in Ljubljana was a key and active partner in the project.

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.

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Published: July 2023