

Editorial



In 2025, the Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA) reaffirmed its role as a vital bridge between Slovenian

stakeholders, EU institutions, and interested parties from the EU and associated countries by hosting a series of high-level events focused on innovation, education, and cross-border collaboration. Highlights included two info days in Slovenia on the Innovation Fund and the European Defence Fund, as well as the Smart Factories of Tomorrow event in Brussels, which explored Industry 4.0/5.0 and brought together EU policymakers and business leaders.

In May, SBRA addressed the urgent issue of reskilling through a seminar on EU micro-credentials and quality assurance. June featured the conference Fostering Research and Educational Synergies Across Southeast Europe and the Western Balkans, which brought together rectors and EU officials to deepen regional collaboration. EU Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva delivered a keynote speech emphasizing the importance of strengthening EU-Western Balkans relations, with a focus on the Competitiveness Fund and FP10.

The second half of 2025 promises to be equally dynamic, with several events planned during the European Week of Regions and Cities. Visit www.sbra.be to stay informed and register early, as space is limited. If you're looking for partners or support for a project, our members span all sectors and have a strong track record of securing EU funding.

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
President, Management Board of SBRA

Business Briefs

Riko wins major €120Million tender to modernise Jesenice rail hub



Slovenia's engineering powerhouse Riko has emerged as the sole bidder and front-runner to upgrade the strategic Jesenice railway station, in a project valued at an estimated €120.7 million (ex. VAT). Announced by the Ministry of Infrastructure, the upgrade will modernise tracks, platforms and signalling, aligning the station with TENT priorities and supporting increased freight and passenger capacity on the Ljubljana-Jesenice corridor.

Slovenia innovation at Expo in Ningbo showcases ChinaCEEC



Slovenia, honoured as Guest of Honour at the 4th ChinaCEEC Expo, featured twin national and commercial pavilions spotlighting green innovation, smart tech, electric gliders and robotics. State Secretary Matevž Frangež led a 25company delegation spanning AI, blockchain, port logistics and more, emphasising Slovenia's role as a hub for Chinese-EU cooperation in sustainability and advanced technologies.

Algeria and Slovenia strengthen space Ties with SkyLabs partnership

The Algerian Space Agency (ASAL), the Slovenian Space Office, and representatives from



both countries' space industries convened in Algiers to lay the groundwork for collaboration in space technologies and applications. ASAL has identified SkyLabs as a strategic partner to provide key technologies for its upcoming satellite constellation missions. This emerging bilateral cooperation in space programs between Algeria and Slovenia is set to be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), underscoring its strategic significance for both nations.

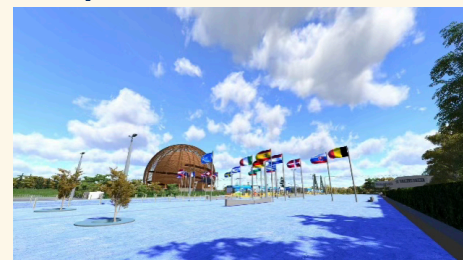
Port of Koper unveils modern passenger terminal



Slovenia's only commercial port, Luka Koper, has inaugurated a new 1,037m² twostorey passenger terminal - coinciding with 20 years since its first cruise ship arrival. Featuring a panoramic terrace, café, and protocol hall, the terminal enhances operational efficiency and passenger experience while seamlessly connecting the historic old town with the Adriatic. A public area promotes community use, marking a significant upgrade in cruise tourism infrastructure for the region.

Research Briefs

Slovenia becomes CERN's 25th full member, strengthening its role in European research



On June 21, 2025, Slovenia officially became the 25th full member of CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research. This milestone follows nearly three decades of collaboration, including Slovenia's associate membership since 2016 and active participation in CERN's ATLAS experiment. The move grants Slovenia voting rights in CERN's governance and co-ownership of its infrastructure. Minister Igor Papič emphasized that this achievement underscores Slovenia's commitment to science and innovation, supported by significant investments in research funding.

Slovenia launches AI factory with University of Ljubljana at the helm



The University of Ljubljana will play a pivotal role in establishing Slovenia's new Artificial Intelligence Factory, backed by European funding secured through EuroHPC JU. The initiative includes a state-of-the-art supercomputer, housed at a hydropower-powered data centre in Maribor, designed to support AI model development, research, and applications across sectors like green transition, healthcare, and science. Led by IZUM with partners including the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Computer and Information Science (FRI), the project will also offer training, consulting, and tools for businesses, academia, and government.

Novo Mesto to host Slovenia's fourth public university, boosting regional development

Slovenia is set to establish its fourth public university in Novo Mesto, marking a significant step toward strengthening higher education in the region. The new university will unify three existing

institutions—the Faculty of Information Studies, the Faculty of Industrial Engineering, and the Grm College of Rural Development—under one umbrella. It will offer Bologna-accredited bachelor's, master's, and doctoral programmes.

This initiative, strongly supported by local authorities and key economic stakeholders such as Krka and the regional Chamber of Commerce, aligns with national cohesion policy objectives. It aims to drive research, innovation, and talent development in Southeast Slovenia. The university will also build on its existing collaboration with the Rudolfovo Science and Technology Centre Novo Mesto – a new member of the Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA) – further integrating academic and technological advancement in the region.

Teja Potočnik: Europe's Young Inventor Prize winner



Slovenian researcher and Nanomation founder Teja Potočnik has been named among the ten winners of the European Patent Office's Young Inventors Prize, selected from 450 global innovators. Her LithoTag automated platform revolutionizes nanomaterial-based semiconductor manufacturing by embedding unique markers, enabling efficient graphene and quantum dot integration at scale. The technology could enhance chip performance and reduce datacentre energy use up to 10%.

Regional Briefs

Ljubljana's EffiComfort Project Among Top EUI Innovations

The EffiComfort project led by the City of Ljubljana has been selected



for co-financing under the European Urban Initiative programme, with a focus on energy transition and urban technologies. The project introduces a new, innovative model for energy renovation and improving energy efficiency in public and residential buildings, aiming to overcome the limitations of traditional energy renovation approaches. EffiComfort will implement a "Comfort as a Service" (CaaS) model, which includes advanced real-time energy management and performance-based financing, with adaptable thermal comfort precisely aligned with users' needs. The goal is to reduce energy consumption in pilot buildings by up to 25%, improve indoor environmental quality, and train energy professionals to maintain and expand the model beyond the project's duration.

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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