

Editorial



Slovenia has entered the second half of 2026 with a positive economic outlook, supported by resilient domestic

demand, investment and a strong labour market. Following the March 2026 parliamentary election, a new government took office, raising expectations for continued growth and reform.

In line with this encouraging trend, SBRA continued to strengthen its engagement in the first half of 2026 through a series of projects and events. The programme featured a variety of events, including: *The Future of Cities: EU Initiatives and Smart Solutions*, *Slovenian Information Day on the EU Innovation Fund*, *Slovenian Healthcare System: Challenges, Reforms, and the Patient's Perspective*, *Strategy to Scale: Regional Innovation Driving Europe's Green and Competitive Future*, *European Defence Fund Slovenian Info Day 2026*, *IGLO Open: Science-Led Forest Transitions*, *Bridging Circular Value Chains for Permanent Magnets*, *Closing the Automation Gap: Robotics for Textile Handling in Europe*, and *Circular Cities in Action: AI-Powered Tools for Circular Transition at Scale*.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2026, SBRA is preparing for an equally dynamic period, with several new events planned in Brussels and Slovenia. Visit www.sbra.be for the full calendar of upcoming activities. We also encourage you to get in touch if you would like to collaborate with us directly or are seeking Slovenian partners for EU project consortia, initiatives or other joint endeavours.

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
Director and Board Member, SBRA

Business Briefs

SkyLabs, University of Maribor and ESA drive Slovenia's space innovation growth



Slovenian space technology company SkyLabs is investing €5.7 million in a new research and development centre in Maribor, strengthening Slovenia's role in the European space sector. Originating from research at the University of Maribor and collaborating with the European Space Agency (ESA), SkyLabs develops advanced satellite technologies and space systems. The new centre will expand R&D and production capabilities, create high-tech jobs, and support future space missions.

Novartis strengthens Slovenia's position as a global pharmaceutical innovation hub



Novartis has opened a new €600 million aseptic manufacturing facility in Ljubljana, further strengthening Slovenia's role in the company's global pharmaceutical network. The 17,000 m² facility will produce advanced liquid and freeze-dried medicines, combining cutting-edge manufacturing technologies with a highly skilled workforce of 300 employees. As part of Novartis's broader investment cycle in Slovenia, the centre expands the country's capabilities in pharmaceutical R&D, advanced manufacturing, and healthcare innovation.

Uvecto expands Slovenian operations with new €10 million business centre

Slovenian apparel company Uvecto, the producer behind the LELOSI brand, is investing nearly €10 million in a new business centre in Komenda, marking the company's largest investment to date. The 3,000 m² facility will bring together product development, creative teams, production support, and customer-facing spaces, creating around 200 workplaces. The investment follows Uvecto's move to establish its own manufacturing capacity in Slovenia, strengthening supply resilience and supporting further growth.

Cosylab launches advanced treatment planning system for particle therapy



Slovenian technology company Cosylab has launched PlanOne™, an advanced treatment planning system for particle therapy designed to improve precision and efficiency in cancer treatment. The platform combines physics-accurate dose calculations, radiobiological modelling, and an integrated clinical workflow. Building on more than 20 years of expertise in radiation oncology software, Cosylab continues to strengthen Slovenia's position in high-tech healthcare innovation and global medical technology.

Research Briefs

Slovenian physicist receives prestigious ERC Advanced Grant for quantum research

Prof. Dr. Marko Žnidarič from the University of Ljubljana's Faculty of Mathematics and Physics has received a prestigious ERC Advanced

Grant for his project NUMBS – Effective non-unitarity in many-body systems. The project explores how complex quantum systems can be simplified and better understood, with potential implications for quantum technologies. This achievement further strengthens the University of Ljubljana's position among leading research institutions in the region.

New DUBT Center transforms Slovenia's coal region into a green innovation hub



The €32 million DUBT Center (Centre for Development, Demonstration and Training of Carbon-Free Technologies) has opened in Kisovec, turning Slovenia's former coal region of Zasavje into a hub for green innovation. Led by the National Institute of Chemistry, the centre brings together research, education, and industry to accelerate the development of battery, hydrogen, and other zero-carbon technologies. Supported by the EU Just Transition Fund, it marks a major milestone in Slovenia's climate and economic transition.

Regional Briefs

Driving climate-neutral cities: Velenje showcases ZERO MOVE at EUSEW



The Municipality of Velenje showcased its EU-funded initiatives at the European Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW) in Brussels, Europe's leading event for renewable energy and energy efficiency. At its exhibition stand, the team presented the ZERO MOVE project, demonstrating how small and medium-sized cities can reduce transport emissions and advance climate neutrality. Visitors also explored Mission Zero Move, an interactive game that calculates the carbon footprint of journeys to Brussels and compares different travel options. The event provided an excellent opportunity to connect with potential partners and promote sustainable urban mobility.

Building smarter cities: Ljubljana and Zaragoza collaborate on data space



Ljubljana is taking an important step toward a climate-neutral future by joining the international project IPPCP – Platform for Carbon Neutral Cities. In collaboration with Zaragoza and leading European partners, the city is helping to build a next-generation public-private data space designed to transform how urban climate data is collected, shared, and used. Funded by the Digital Europe Programme under the "Data Spaces for Smart Communities" initiative (DS4SSCC), the €2.5 million project runs from May 2025 to August 2026. It is led by the City of Zaragoza, with a strong consortium that includes Ljubljana, Technical University of Madrid (UPM), GeoSpatiumLab, and Envirodual d.o.o..

SHIFT empowers citizens to drive Ljubljana's climate-neutral transition



The SHIFT (Shaping Habits for Innovative Future Transformations) project supports Ljubljana's transition towards climate neutrality by encouraging citizen engagement and sustainable behaviour. Building on the UPSCALE pilot within the NetZeroCities framework and the EU Mission for 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities, SHIFT expands outreach beyond the Mission 100 Innovation Hub to engage communities across the city. Together with the Belgian partner Sapience, an expert in cognitive science and behavioural change, the project develops methods to measure public awareness, understand citizens' perceptions, and generate evidence-based insights to support better policies, informed decision-making, and an improved quality of life.

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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