

Most

Bulletin of the Slovenian Business & Research Association

Editorial



It is really important to mention that Slovenia finally and definitely decided to build the second railway track between Divača and Koper. The decision was even “confirmed”

by people’s vote on referendum. That way or another it is not only an important gain for Port of Koper, the largest seaport in the region, but also for the whole Slovenian and international transport routes together with the newly designed Intermodal Logistic Terminal Ljubljana within the BTC Logistics Center Ljubljana.

All projects were already successfully introduced to the Brussels public and specialists through high level events and conferences organized by SBRA. The projects are also seeking using variety of financial instruments, including those from different European institutions. One of the first is supposed to be blending. SBRA is also planning to organize another high level international transport and logistics conference in 2018 as a follow up to the one organized in 2016.

The other important issue that lately, but this time negatively, struck Slovenia was the surprising decision of the European Commission via delegated act in which they allowed Croatian wine producers to use the already long time protected name of the Slovenian wine Teran. This decision by the Commission caused a lot of controversy among different wine producers from different countries, sending them a message that their wine is not necessarily protected anymore even though they might think it is.

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
President, Management Board

Slovenian Citizens Influence the Future of the European Research and Innovation Agenda

The Slovenian Business & Research Association is one of 24 partners in the EU project CIMULACT. CIMULACT – which stands for Citizen and Multi-Actor Consultation on Horizon 2020 – is engaging citizens, along with a variety of other actors, in redefining the European research and innovation agenda and thereby making it relevant and accountable to society. The project began in October 2015 and will last until 2018.



More than 1,000 citizens met during the winter 2015-2016 at national vision workshops where they expressed their dreams for a sustainable and desirable future. Thereafter a variety of actors including citizens, stakeholders, experts and the project partners translated these visions into 23 suggestions for Horizon 2020 topics along with policy recommendations. The results have been validated, enriched and prioritised by more than 3,400 people consulted online.

In short, CIMULACT has:

- Involved citizens in the actual formulation of the EU research and innovation agendas;
- Provided concrete and unique input to the identification of the future European research agenda by eliciting concerns about, wishes for and visions of desirable sustainable futures from 1000 citizens in 30 countries in Europe;
- Made the European research and innovation agenda relevant and accountable to society by engaging citizens, stakeholders and experts in co-creating research agendas based on real, validated and shared visions, needs and demands;
- Contributed to responsible research and innovation (RRI) in the EU by promoting the engagement and inclusion of the public in the identification of desirable sustainable futures;
- Set a new standard for public participation through the development, testing, training and assessment of methods for citizen and stakeholder engagement;
- Made the building of the future more accessible. It is no longer only a question discussed by policy makers and experts; it is a wider public conversation for a greater democracy.

Currently we are comparing the CIMULACT results to expert-based foresight studies with similar aims of advising for Horizon 2020. This will shed light on what multi-actor engagement can bring to the table. Also, we are working on a lessons learned catalogue as well as an impact assessment. Both will be published in early 2018.

For more information about the project, go to www.cimulact.eu

Photo: Second consultation phase held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Participants providing feedback on the first draft of the research programme scenarios developed during the Scenario Co-creation Workshop.



Most 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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SBRA Welcomes Six New Members in 2017

2017 is proving to be a fruitful year, with SBRA welcoming six new members from both the public and private sectors. From the public sector we are happy to introduce the Ministry of Infrastructure, Ministry of Defence and the Municipality of Dobropolje. The Ministry of Infrastructure’s focus is to boost the quality of rail infrastructure, namely to build a second Koper-Divača railway line, which would ease the flow of goods from coastal to inland areas and abroad. Ministry of Defence is keen to closely follow the developments concerning the European Defence Fund, which will supplement and amplify national investments in defence research. Municipality of Dobropolje, while a small municipality, has big ambitions and is looking to cooperate in EU projects, as well as other EU initiatives.

From the private sector, we are proud to present L-TEK elektronika d.o.o., Podkrižnik d.o.o. and Projekt d.d. Nova Gorica. L-TEK elektronika d.o.o. has earned a reputation as a technical innovator specialising in and focused in research, development and production of electronic modules, electromechanical components and software solutions for a variety of industries. Podkrižnik d.o.o. is involved both in R&D, as well as production. Its research strategy comprises the basic research of potential new power transmission solutions and the optimisation of existing solutions. Lastly, PROJEKT dd NOVA GORICA is one of the most important design companies in Slovenia, and is qualified for the designing of various types of buildings, such as: residential buildings, hotels, cultural heritage buildings, industrial plants, sports buildings, shopping centres, ecological plants, roads, motorways, tunnels and much more.

University of Ljubljana and SBRA organise high-level conference in the European Parliament

On the 12th of April 2017, the Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA) co-organized a half day conference – alongside University of Ljubljana – on the Paramount Questions and Issues of Horizon 2020 and the upcoming FP9 at the premises of the European Parliament in Brussels, Belgium. Much to our delight and honor, four major European Parliament Political Groups (S&D, EPP, Greens/EFA, ALDE) gave their full support to the event. Speakers included the former rector of the University of Ljubljana, Prof. Ivan Svetlik; Mr. Urban Krajcar, the Director General from the Slovenian Ministry of Education, Science and Sport; Mr. Alan Cross, Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission, DG RTD; Prof. Jan Palmowski Secretary General from the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities; Prof. Andreja Kutnar, from the University of Primorska, Department of Applied Natural Sciences; Dr. Romana Jordan, from Jožef Stefan Institute; Prof. Gregor Anderluh, the Director of the National Institute of Chemistry, among others. Members of the European Parliament Ms. Tanja Fajon and Mr. Franc Bogovič also actively participated at the event.



The presentations and round table discussions addressed the challenges facing the upcoming 9th Framework Programme; and assessed the results and impact of Horizon 2020. Focus was also given on how to improve instruments within Horizon 2020. Additionally, Slovenia’s winning Teaming project InnoRenew was presented.

Business Briefs

Bridging the gap between industrial innovation and education



ELES, together with partners from academia and business, is currently half way through H2020 project BioEnergyTrain. BioEnergyTrain identified two areas of knowledge gaps on the post-graduate level within the field of bioeconomy development: biorefinery engineers and bioresource value chain managers.

The goal of the project is to bridge the gap between industrial innovation and education in order to improve the practical orientation of higher and professional education. The goal is also to enable the market up-take of innovative solutions, to create a network of integrated research and industrial infrastructures, to create a forum for stakeholders within the bioenergy value chain and to create a 'network of networks', linking HEIs with stakeholders.

To achieve this goal BioEnergyTrain developed two new master programmes, Biorefinery Engineering and Bioresource Value Chain Management. Both programmes have already enrolled students and courses will start in autumn at the Graz University of Technology in Austria and at the University of Twente in the Netherlands.

For more, go to www.bioenergytrain.eu

Competence Center ROBOFLEX Slovenia

The Competence Center ROBOFLEX (CC ROBOFLEX) is long-term industry development consortia, established by TCS – Toolmakers Cluster of Slovenia, ICT INTESO Group with international open innovation community LENS Living Lab and robotic systems integrator ETRA Ltd. in March 2017 in Celje, Slovenia. CC ROBOFLEX is part of the EU Horizon 2020 funded project HORSE and the 4th

Competence Center (the other centers are in CEA Paris, TNO Delft and TUM Muenchen) in the pan-European network of competence centers on robotics initiative. CC ROBOFLEX operate as a center of the regional digital innovation hub (DIH) on robotics for the flexible, cognitive robotics for manufacturing SMEs. The CC ROBOFLEX mission is to be the organizer of "regional value space" for promotion, demonstration and implementation of advanced robotics systems for the needs of manufacturing SMEs and their value chain' ecosystems.

Designing and developing new, modern and safe ITC tools that enable data exchange

ELES, together with 11 partners from 6 countries including two transmission system operators (TSO), two distribution system operators (DSO), the European Network of Electricity Transmission Operators (ENTSO E), technological companies and research institutions, is in the final stage of signing the Grant Agreement with European Commission for TDX-ASSIST Project. The project is valued at EUR 4.2 million and is financed from the Horizon 2020 European programme. The project encompasses six work packages (WP), where ELES as a cooperating partner collaborates in three WPs.

The main goal of the project aims to design and develop new, modern and safe ITC tools and techniques that enable information and data exchange among different stakeholders within the electricity sector.

Research Briefs

OSMOSE project to address actions required to enable energy transition to renewables



ELES is one of 33 partners from 9 countries participating in the H2020 OSMOSE project. Six TSOs, eleven research partners, together with sixteen industry (manufacturers, solution providers) and market (producers, ESCo) players address the identification and development of

flexibilities required to enable the Energy Transition to high share of renewables. This approach captures synergies across needs and sources of flexibilities, such as multiple services from one source, or hybridizing sources, thus resulting in a cost-efficient power system.

OSMOSE proposes four TSO-led demonstrations (RTE, REE, TERNA and ELES) aiming at increasing the techno-economic potential of a wide range of flexibility solutions and covering several applications, i.e.: synchronisation of large power systems by multiservice hybrid storage; multiple services provided by the coordinated control of different storage and FACTS devices; multiple services provided by grid devices, large demand-response and RES generation coordinated in a smart management system; cross-border sharing of flexibility sources through a near real-time cross-border energy market.

Ethics and values education in schools and kindergartens (ETHIKA)



University of Ljubljana as project leader has successfully completed a 3-year international Erasmus+ project on ethics and values education. The main aim was to provide comprehensive support to school and kindergarten teachers and other educators. Ethics and values education stimulates ethical reflection, awareness, autonomy, responsibility, and compassion in children, provides children with insight into important ethical principles and values, equips them with intellectual capacities for responsible moral judgment, develops approaches to build a classroom or school environment as an ethical community, and to reflectively situates an individual into local and global communities.

Teachers and other educators are often not equipped and ready enough to address themes and approaches of ethics and values education. In order to address this challenge, four outputs were prepared, namely the Manual for teachers and educators, Educational materials and tools, Curriculum proposals and Policy paper on ethics and values education.

For more, go to: www.ethics-education.eu

BID-REX: From biodiversity data to decision-making



While many people may be unfamiliar with the concept of biodiversity, it is generally accepted that it matters and that it must be preserved. One of the challenges in efficient protection of biodiversity is how to transfer knowledge on needs of biodiversity into political and economic decision-making.

One way is to match conservation priorities more closely to regional development policies to deploy robust and effective biodiversity conservation strategies. This is the main topic of BID-REX, an Interreg Europe project. BID-REX aims to enhance natural value preservation through improved regional development policies by reinforcing the link between relevant biodiversity data and conservation decision-making processes. There are 9 partners in the consortium, including the National Institute of Biology, which is based in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

For more, go to: www.interregeurope.eu/bid-rex

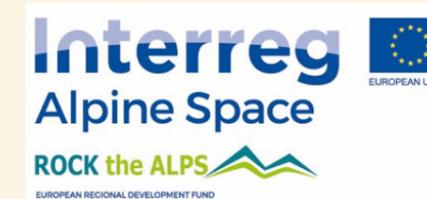
National Institute of Biology leading expert in diagnostics of smallest known bacteria

The researchers at the National Institute of Biology (NIB) are leading experts in diagnostics of the smallest known bacteria – plant pathogenic phytoplasmas, as well as in research of the phytoplasma interactions with different crops, in which they cause economically significant diseases. NIB is currently focusing on phytoplasmas that cause devastating diseases on grapevine, and is currently involved in two projects. Project INGRAPA's main goal is to make progress toward understanding of the molecular basis of grapevine phytoplasma action, which is still extremely rudimentary.

While TROPICSAFE – a Horizon 2020 project with 22 international partners coordinated by the University of Bologna – just began. The project aims to prevent the spread of important bacterial diseases of plants, including phytoplasma diseases, currently found in tropical and subtropical areas in the epidemic phase.

NIB researchers will contribute to the project with their expertise in developing new molecular detection methods for the grapevine phytoplasmas.

Project RockTheAlps – Alpine Forests are Rock Stars!



One of the major threats to the viability and liveability in the Alpine Space (AS) are rockfalls. As forest covers about 40% of AS, forest ecosystem plays a key role in protecting viability and liveability in the AS. In risk prevention/forest management all regional/national authorities are sharing the same needs and challenges but there are still no transnational efforts for searching a common answer. The main objectives of Interreg Alpine Space project entitled RockTheAlps are: 1) development of an innovative AS rockfall assessment methodology, 2) construction of the toolbox for the assessing the protective effect of forests against rockfall, 3) production of the first harmonised map of protection services of forest ecosystems against rockfall for the entire AS, 4) implementation of an economic model to the economic assessment of rockfall protection forest ecosystem services and 5) implementation of guidelines, a Territorial Information System and recommendations. The project began in November 2016 and will conclude in October 2019. University of Ljubljana – Biotechnical Faculty (Department of Forest and Renewable Forest Resources), Slovenian Forest Service and Slovenian Forestry Institute are among 15 partners in the project.

For more, go to: www.alpine-space.eu/rockthealps

Regional Briefs

Municipality of Postojna a prime example of sustainable growth

Municipality of Postojna is in relentless pursuit of sustainable growth for its citizens and organizations. Postojna has currently over 15 projects that are underway or in preparation phase. The

areas that the municipality is currently paying the most attention to are: ecology, entrepreneurship and innovation, cross-border cooperation, refugees, natural and cultural resources, local crafts, youth, green tourism, sustainable city center revival, infrastructure and cultural heritage.

Among the various projects, some of the key projects are: 1. Social inclusion of migrants through sport – Postojna is a pilot city in Slovenia that offered roof to non-accompanied refugee minors that came to Slovenia via migrant flow since 2015. 2. Democratic engagement and civic participation – An international project where Municipality of Postojna and Italian Municipality of Fiumicello, in conjunction with local societies share experiences in the field of refugee integration. 3. Network of centres for creative entrepreneurship, innovation transfer and education – Aim of the project is to establishing a cross-border network of business centers from Trieste, Udine, Gorizia, Koper and Postojna. 4. Sister Cities – Municipality of Postojna is building up a vision of sister cities/twin towns with other cities around Europe. 5. Via Dinarica – Green tourism model with Via Dinarica cycling route for establishing a new balance between hinterland and coastal regions in the Adriatic area.

Bicike(LJ) continues to break records



The increase in cycling is, in addition to numerous infrastructural improvements and other measures, strongly supported by the immensely popular bike rental system Bicike(LJ) in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Since the launch of the system in May 2011 and until 31 June 2017 over 4.3 million journeys were registered. Today the Bicike(LJ) system includes 51 stations and 510 bikes, and the number of registrations since the expansion in March 2017 has increased by approximately 5 %. City of Ljubljana first made it onto the list of the Top 20 Bicycle Friendly Cities in 2015, taking the 13th place. This year it improved its ranking, taking 8th place on the Copenhagenize Bicycle Friendly Cities Index 2017.