

Editorial



With the first half of the year behind us, SBRA has organised a number of conferences, covering a variety of topics: the EU

Innovation Fund; Research security and technologies with dual-use potential in the EU; Strengthening hydrogen ecosystems through cross-regional collaboration and innovation; Biodiversity and Marine Protection in EUSAIR; European Cooperation in Science and Technology; Latest developments in labour migration; as well as the latest calls regarding the EU Defence Fund.

In the fall, SBRA plans to organise a number of conferences, including workshops within the framework of the European Week of Regions and Cities.

Going forward, SBRA has big plans, which include more tailor-made events to spur greater collaboration between Slovenian researchers, innovators, entrepreneurs and the international community. We are always looking to expand our horizons and are open for all sorts of partnerships; do not hesitate to get in touch with us no matter the subject. We strive to develop our business to deliver even greater impact. One of our top priorities for the coming years will also include inviting high-level delegates, particularly those from the EU institutions, to come to Slovenia.

Make sure visit www.sbra.be, or follow us on social media. Stay tuned for more exciting news!

Dr. Draško Veselinovič
President, Management Board
of SBRA

Business Briefs

Slovenia launches a consortium for low-carbon hydrogen



The government of Slovenia has supported the establishment of a consortium of 18 companies, organizations and municipalities for an ecosystem for hydrogen from low-carbon sources – including the Slovenian Academy of Engineering and ELES, the country's electricity transmission and distribution system operator – formed a consortium of stakeholders. The group said it has 6,500 experts available from various fields and decades of experience in industrial engineering. Other partners include: Talum, Slovenian Railways, City of Ljubljana, City of Kranj, among others.

CIRCOTRONIC offers companies a free trial of tools to facilitate the transition to a circular economy

TECOS

As a partner in the CIRCOTRONIC project (Interreg CE), TECOS Slovenian Tool and Die Development Centre provides SMEs in the electrical and electronic equipment manufacturing sector an opportunity to test various tools aimed at facilitating the transition to a circular economy. By applying to a public call for proposals, participating

companies can access these tools for free, receive guidance on their implementation, and contribute to their development through direct feedback during the pilot phase. The deadline for application submissions is June 25, 2025.

Research Briefs

The National Institute of Chemistry is set to officially launch the groundbreaking Center for Development, Demonstration, and Training in Carbon-Free Technologies



The Center for Development, Demonstration, and Training for Carbon-Free Technologies (DUBT) in Slovenia will drive the green transition by advancing battery and hydrogen technologies. Led by the National Institute of Chemistry and co-financed by the European Commission and Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation from the Just Transition Fund, this €30 million project aims to reduce Slovenia's greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40% by 2030. DUBT will feature state-of-the-art labs for battery development and hydrogen conversion, fostering industrial collaboration and positioning Slovenia as a leader in zero-carbon innovations. DUBT is crucial for regional and European green initiatives as it will enhance scientific research, attract European partners, and support regional development.

Official Inauguration of the National Biology Institute (NIB)'s Biotechnological Hub



The National Institute of Biology (NIB) has officially opened its new Biotechnological Hub (BTS-NIB), marking a significant milestone in the development of life sciences in Slovenia. This major research infrastructure hub represents a total investment of 36 million euros, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (80%) and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia (20%). The substantial infrastructure advancements and research equipment upgrades at BTS-NIB will enable NIB researchers to engage more actively in various research and innovation (R&I) processes, foster networking, and enhance research excellence.

FAO Director-General focuses on apiculture and forestry with visit to Slovenia



The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations undertook a three-day visit to Slovenia, engaging with prominent figures in the local apiculture and forestry sectors, both integral to the country's heritage. Slovenia has a rich

tradition in beekeeping. The visit provided an excellent opportunity to meet key stakeholders in Slovenia's agricultural sector, including Nike Krajnc, Director of the Slovenian Forestry Institute. Additionally, a visit was organized to InnoRenew CoE, an independent research institute focusing on renewable materials and sustainable construction, particularly innovative uses of wood aimed at bridging scientific knowledge with industrial applications.

Satellite Telecommunications Network (STN) in collaboration with the University of Ljubljana secures first prize



The University of Ljubljana, in partnership with STN Teleport Slovenia, has clinched the top prize in the inaugural WTA (World Teleport Association) Green Teleport program. This initiative, launched in its first year, encouraged teleport operators to collaborate with engineering departments at local universities and technical schools. The program aimed to engage student teams in developing projects focused on energy-saving and emission-reduction technologies.



and smart cities by 2030. Alongside 52 other pilot cities, the Slovenian cities of Ljubljana, Kranj, and Velenje will participate in the NetZeroCities Pilot Cities program for two years. The goal of the UP-SCALE project is to implement three pilot projects in these Slovenian cities, focusing on utilizing excess heat in high-temperature systems. Additionally, these three cities have established an innovation hub to enhance collaboration and co-creation with stakeholders, serve as repositories for their findings, and raise public awareness about the decarbonization efforts conducted by the Mission for 100 climate-neutral and smart cities.

The project presents a unique opportunity to initiate the development of individual pathways towards climate neutrality. Additionally, it offers a chance to acquire new knowledge and serve as an inspiration for other Slovenian cities and beyond. The project's value is 1.5 million EUR.

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.

Regional Briefs

Project UP-SCALE (Urban Pioneers – Systemic Change Amid Liveable Environments) officially launched

UP-SCALE is part of the Pilot Cities program within the Mission for 100 climate-neutral

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