



Date: 3 May 2018

P R E S S R E L E A S E

THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS: THE FIRST OBSERVATION OF WORLD BEE DAY IS LESS THAN A THREE WEEKS AWAY

Ljubljana, 3 May 2018 – In less than a month, World Bee Day will be celebrated for the first time around the world. On 20 December of last year, the General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) unanimously adopted a resolution by means of which it declared 20 May World Bee Day. The success is the result of the cooperation between the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association as the initiator and the Republic of Slovenia, and it represents one of Slovenia's greatest diplomatic successes. The main purpose of World Bee Day is to devote at least that day to raising the awareness of the global public of the significance of bees and other pollinators for humanity. At the same time, this is also an opportunity for experts, politicians, members of the economy and the general public to discuss the challenges related to conserving bees and to define specific activities that ensure their survival. Slovenia is very eagerly preparing for the first celebration of World Bee Day.

For the entire month of May, various events focusing on bees and pollinators will be held at different locations around Slovenia. Celebrations will culminate in the period from Friday, 18 May, to Sunday, 20 May, when multiple international events at an expert and political level will be held. For this occasion, Slovenia will issue a special 2 euro coin, which will be in circulation in the euro zone.

- **Friday, 18 May at 9 a.m. (Žirovnica, Pod Stolom Hall): World Bee Conference *Global challenges of beekeeping***

The Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and the Public Advisory Service on Beekeeping, in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food and the Žirovnica Primary School, are organising a World Bee Conference focusing on global beekeeping challenges. The conference will include lectures and a discussion on eight topical segments. Renowned Slovenian and foreign beekeeping experts will discuss pollination, the issue of pesticides, the importance of using bee products in nutrition and apitherapy, the assurance of the quality and safety of bee products, the development of sustainable methods for managing Varroa mites, transferring knowledge on beekeeping, managing bee foraging sources, and promoting bees and bee products. The goal is to determine optimum solutions for resolving problems discovered in beekeeping and to outline short-term goals for their fulfilment.



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
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- **At 7 p.m. (Višnja Gora pri Ivančni Gorici): Unveiling of the Carniolan honey bee memorial**

In the 19th century, the Rothschütz beekeeping family was active in the area of Višnja Gora, and is to be thanked for today's recognisability, reputation, and prevalence of the Carniolan honey bee in the world. Emil Rothschütz provided an incredible contribution to the naming, propagation, and recognition of the Carniolan honey bee. Today, the Carniolan honey bee is an indigenous bee species and a part of the Slovenian national identity. For this very reason, the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association and the Municipality of Ivančna Gorica erected a memorial in the town centre devoted to the Carniolan honey bee, and this memorial will be unveiled on the occasion of commemorating the first World Bee Day.

- **Saturday, 19 May (Brdo Congress Centre, Kranj): International Ministerial Conference *The importance of bees and other pollinators for sustainable agriculture and food security***

Slovenia will host an international ministerial conference on the role of bees and other pollinators. Ministers and other high officials from around 40 countries on all of the world's continents will discuss the role of bees in ensuring food security, combating hunger, and providing ecosystem services for agriculture. Among others, José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the FAO, Karmenu Vella, EU Commissioner for the Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, and Philip McCabe, President of the world association of beekeepers, Apimondia, also confirmed their attendance.

- **Sunday, 20 May at noon (Breznica, Žirovnica): 1st Celebration of World Bee Day**

The first celebration of World Bee Day will begin with a celebration under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, followed by a meeting of Slovenian beekeepers that will be held near the village of Breznica in the Municipality of Žirovnica. Beekeepers, families, and everyone who wishes to celebrate World Bee Day will also be able to visit the so-called Honey Village, where bee products and cottage industry products will be available for purchase from more than 80 stands. Furthermore, people will also be invited to taste culinary specialities made of honey from various regions of Slovenia.

Slovenia is issuing a memorial coin celebrating World Bee Day

On the occasion of celebrating World Bee Day, the Bank of Slovenia will issue a special 2 euro coin. This will be a "commemorative coin" that will be in regular circulation throughout the euro zone. The author of the draft design of the coin selected in a public procurement procedure, Janez Bizjak, sought inspiration in the World Bee Day and the world of bees. As a motif, he used a globe shaped as a honeycomb, i.e. globe-shaped honeycomb.

The issue of the coin is planned for mid-May, with one million coins going into circulation. The coin will be made using two techniques: ordinary minting, which is available at the nominal value of EUR 2.00 per coin), and the minting of coins with intense lustre packed in a plastic coin capsule (the selling price for this product with a 2018 date will be determined later).

The coins will be available for purchase at the branches of the bank Deželna banka Slovenije d.d. selling numismatic products (www.dbs.si/orodja/poslovalnice – click on the "numismatic products" ("numizmatika") link above the map), or online at: www.dbs.si/numizmatika/kovanci



DETAILED PROGRAMME AND INFORMATION FOR THE MEDIA

FRIDAY, 18 May at 9 a.m. (Žirovnica, Pod Stolom Hall):

WORLD BEE CONFERENCE: *GLOBAL CHALLENGES OF BEEKEEPING*

Information for the media:

- **Open to the general public, prior registration is required** by e-mailing Ms. Barbara Dimc at: barbara.dimc@czs.si (at registration state: your name and surname, address, contact information – e-mail/phone no.).
- Participation **for media is free of charge**.
- A participation fee is mandatory for participants:
 - Fee 1 (EUR 7.50 per person): attendance at lectures, including lunch with a drink, coffee, and a World Bee Day badge;
 - Fee 2 (EUR 3.00 per person): attendance at lectures, coffee during the break, and a World Bee Day badge.
- **The official languages** at the conference: Slovenian and English (simultaneous interpretation).
- **Contact information** for the media: Mr Boštjan Noč, president of Slovenian Beekeepers' Association (P: +386 41 860 625, E: nocb@czs.si; dr. Peter Kozmus (P: +386 41 352 997, E: peter.kozmus@czs.si)

Conference programme:

9.00–9.30	Welcome speeches: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dejan Židan, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food;- Boštjan Noč, President of SBA;- Philip McCabe, President of Apimondia;- Leopold Pogačar, Mayor of Žirovnica
9.30	PRESS STATEMENT <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Dejan Židan, Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food;- Boštjan Noč, President of SBA;- Philip McCabe, President of Apimondia;- Leopold Pogačar, Mayor of Žirovnica Location: Dvorana pod Stolom
9.30–10.10	Pollination – an ecosystem service by bees <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lucas Garibaldi (Argentina): Pollination, livelihoods and sustainable agriculture- Danilo Bevk (Slovenia): Status and trends of pollinators



10.10–10.50	<p>The importance of using bee products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pushpendra S. Bhandari (India): The use of bee products in nutrition and apitherapy - Alina Varadi (Romania): The results of the consumption of bee products, recommended doses in Api-nutrition - Jasna Bertoneclj and Nataša Lilek (Slovenia): The importance of the characterization of bee products
10.50–11.30	Break
11.30–12.10	<p>Quality and safety insurance for bee products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lutz Elflein (Germany): Acaricides Residues of Bee Products and Honey Authenticity - Mojca Korošec (Slovenia): The Importance of Slovenian Honey Database for Slovenian Honey Authenticity Verification - Andreja Kandolf Borovšak (Slovenia): Technology-related Risks to Honey Authenticity
12.10–12.50	<p>The development of sustainable methods for Varroa management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Giovanni Formato (Italy): Good beekeeping practices to enhance the efficacy of varroacide low environmental impact treatments - Aleš Gregorc (Slovenia): Varroa control to ensure healthy honey bee colonies
12.50–13.30	<p>Knowledge transfer in beekeeping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jiří Píza (Czech Republic): Knowledge transfer to young beekeepers - Janko Božič (Slovenia): Knowledge transfer in beekeeping
13.30–15.00	Lunch
15.00–15.20	<p>Pesticides and bees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Noa Simon-Delso (Belgium): Honeybees: environmental patients - Anton Komat (Slovenia): Pesticides and the poisoning of bees in Slovenia
15.20-15.40	Break
15.40–16.20	<p>Management of foraging sources of bees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dan Eisikowitch (Israel): Nectar plants and their contribution to agriculture - Boris Seražin (Slovenia): Climate change and associated changes in pasture conditions for bees and challenges for the future
16.20–17.00	<p>Promotion of bees and bee products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mladen Ljubišič (Slovenia) Opportunities and ways of promoting bees, beekeeping products and beekeeping tourism in the international environment - examples of good practices and initiatives for the promotion of beekeeping tourism in the UK market - Tanja Korošec Arih (Slovenia) Beekeeping tourism as an exceptional opportunity in the example of a successful business model in Slovenia

At 7 p.m. (Višnja Gora pri Ivančni Gorici town centre):

THE UNVEILING OF THE CARNIOLAN HONEY BEE MEMORIAL

Information for the media:

- Attendance is free. The event will be held outdoors and will last just over an hour.
- **Prior registration:** Zavod Prijetno domače, Sokolska 8, 1295 Ivančna Gorica; P: +386 1 7812 128, M: +386 41 437 382, E: turizem@ivancnagorica.si, W: www.prijetnodomace.si
- **After the event finishes:** snacks under a tent in the direct vicinity of the memorial, Slovenian music, a tour of an apiary, and a welcome by the local residents of Višnja Gora.

Saturday, 19 May (Brdo Congress Centre, Kranj):

INTERNATIONAL MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE: *THE IMPORTANCE OF BEES AND OTHER POLINATORS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY*

The International Ministerial Conference is organised with the technical cooperation of the FAO.

Information for the media:

- **Prior accreditation is required at website accreditation system:** <http://akreditacije.ukom.gov.si/> (za tuje medije: <http://akreditacije.ukom.gov.si/en/>)
Deadline: 11. May 2018;
- **Accreditation info:** Mrs Andreja Križ, P: +386 1 478 26 04, E: info.ukom@gov.si;
- Media are asked to send information to e-mail info.ukom@gov.si, whether they will arrive to the event venue with **news vehicle** and all necessary data (type of vehicle, number plate).
- **Collection of accreditations** at the information desk on the day of the event, starting at 8 a.m.
- Attendance is **free**. The conference is organised in technical cooperation with the FAO.
- The conference will be **livestreamed** through the website www.worldbeeday.org.
- **Language arrangements:**
 - o Ministerial Conference: simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the FAO (English, Arabic, French, Chinese, Russian, Spanish) and Slovenian; livestream: expected to be in three languages – Slovenian, English, and the language of the speaker.
 - o statement for the media: simultaneous interpretation – Slovenian/English
- **Press center:** journalists will be able to work in the press center in Heros Hall of the Congress center, WiFi will be provided.
- **Photos** of the conference will be available at: <https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/gallery.html>.



- **Logistical support for the media:** Mrs. Andreja Križ, Mrs. Alenka Čebular, Mrs. Andreja Šonc Simčič, Government Communication Office, E: info.ukom@gov.si
- **Contact information for the media:** Mr. Luka Kočevar, Head of the Public Relations and Promotion Service, P: +386 41 495 163, E: pr.mkgp@gov.si

The programme of the International Ministerial Conference:

8.30	<p>Arrival of ministerial delegations to Brdo Congress Centre Reception with coffee and honey potica 'DOORSTEP' STATEMENTS upon arrival</p> <p>Location: in front of main entrance to Brdo Congress Centre</p>
9.00–9.10	<p>Opening of the International Ministerial Conference</p> <p>Opening address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Dejan Židan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia
9.10–10.00	<p>Opening speeches:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Boštjan Noč, President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association – Mr Philip McCabe, President of Apimondia – Ms Sacko Josefa Leonel Correa, African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture – Mr Karmenu Vella, European Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries – H.E. Mr Miro Cerar, Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia <p>PHOTO OPPORTUNITY <i>Location: Grandis Hall, Brdo Congress Centre</i></p>
10.00–10.15	<p>Presentation of the conclusions of the World Bee Conference, held on 18 May 2018 in Žirovnica</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Peter Kozmus, Slovenian Beekeepers' Association, Vice President of Apimondia
10.15–11.45	<p>Session 1: “Bees and other pollinators – their role in increasing food security and fighting hunger”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Video Address: Sir Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Chairman of BRAC (<i>tbc</i>) - Discussion: Heads of delegations (tour de table)
11.45-13.00	<p>Lunch Location: Hotel Brdo</p>

13.00–13.30	<p>FAMILY PHOTO of the Heads of delegations <i>Location: in front of the Brdo Congress Centre or in the lobby of the Congress Centre</i></p> <p>PRESS CONFERENCE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Dejan Židan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia – Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director – General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) <p><i>Location: Glass Hall 1, Brdo Congress Centre</i></p>
13.30–15.30	<p>Session 2: “Bees and other pollinators – their role in providing ecosystem services for agriculture and environment conservation”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Video Address: Ms Cristiana Paşca Palmer, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity - Discussion: Heads of delegations (tour de table)
15.30–15.45	<p>Closing speech by FAO Director – General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director – General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
15.45	<p>Closing address and adoption of the Joint Declaration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Mr Dejan Židan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia



More information of World Bee Day is available at:
<https://www.worldbeeday.org/en/>



SUNDAY, 20 May at noon (Breznica, Žirovnica):

FIRST CELEBRATION OF WORLD BEE DAY

- **Event location:** Žirovnica Equestrian Club (outdoor venue), between the villages of Breznica and Vrba (GPS location: 46 23.413 N 14 9.269 E)
- Attendance is free of charge, prior accreditation is not needed; dress code: casual.
- **Contact information for the media:** Zavod za turizem in kulturo Žirovnica, Žirovnica 14, 4274 Žirovnica, phone no.: +386 4 580 15 03, e-mail: info@visitzirovnica.si

12:00	<p>The first celebration of World Bee Day, under the honorary patronage of the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor</p> <p>The celebration is organised by the Municipality of Žirovnica and the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food.</p> <p>Keynote speaker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- H.E. Mr Borut Pahor, President of the Republic of Slovenia <p>Welcome addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mr José Graziano da Silva, Director-General of the FAO- Mr Boštjan Noč, President of the Slovenian Beekeepers' Association- Mr Leopold Pogačar, Mayor of the Municipality of Žirovnica <p>Cultural programme, food and beverages</p>
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Accompanying programme: from 9 a.m. onwards

Location 1: Anton Janša Memorial Apiary, Breznica

- Entertainment performances

Location 2: Breznica Cultural Hall (a circular path from the apiary will lead through the hall)

- Presentation of the Anton Janša Bee Park in Breznica 2019

Location 3: Promenade on the local Breznica–Vrba road

- Local market
- Performances by street artists focusing on bees
- Entertainment for children: a bee hunt.
- The main stage on the promenade: performances by folk musicians: Brina Vogeljik, Eva and Peter, the Gorje band, an accordion player, etc.



LOGISTICAL INFORMATION FOR REPRESENTATIVES OF FOREIGN MEDIA

Accommodation

Slovenia has a number of highly qualified travel agencies that can help make your trip to Slovenia a smooth experience. All the agencies on our list have many years of experience in accommodating foreign visitors. They can make all the necessary reservations for you, and they also offer other services, such as transport, tours, excursions, all kinds of ticket sales and special programmes.

The agencies on the list are for the most part larger Slovenian operators, who are better equipped for servicing foreign visitors and are also known to inspire trust. Some also have representative offices abroad.

- List of incoming travel agencies: <https://www.slovenia.info/en/business/major-incoming-travel-agencies>
- Aritours Travel Agency, ApiRoutes: E: info@apiroutes.com; W: <http://www.authentic-routes.com/tours-for-beekeepers/beekeepers-details/first-world-bee-day>
- Websites of accommodation providers: Booking.com (www.booking.com), Trivago (www.trivago.co.uk)

Getting to and around Slovenia

Slovenia is situated in Central Europe and borders Italy, Austria, Hungary and Croatia. It is only a few hour drive away from Venice or Vienna. Slovenia is easily accessible from all neighbouring countries, as it has good road and rail connections, with daily flights from many European cities. Since it is a coastal country, you can also get to Slovenia by sea.

Air transport

Air transport from various parts of the world is possible to **Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport**: <http://www.fraport-slovenija.si/en/Main> or to nearest airports in the area:

- Trieste: <https://triesteairport.it/en/airport/>
- Klagenfurt: <http://www.klagenfurt-airport.at/>
- Graz: www.flughafen-graz.at/en/home.html
- Zagreb: <http://www.zagreb-airport.hr/en>

Land transport

Transfer from Ljubljana Jože Pučnik Airport or other neighbouring airports to venues for events organized to mark World Bee Day is possible using **GoOpti** services: www.goopti.com/en/

You can also use your own vehicle or public transportation to get near the venues.



Sightseeing tours and tours for beekeepers

Brochure Follow the bees:

https://www.slovenia.info/uploads/publikacije/publikacije/2018_03_sto_follow_thw_bees.pdf

Organized sightseeing tours and tours for beekeepers have been prepared by Aritours Travel Agency, ApiRoutes E: info@apiroutes.com, P: +386 22 98 360. The packages and individual excursions offered can be found at: <http://www.authentic-routes.com/tours-for-beekeepers>.

While you're staying in Slovenia, you can also visit Slovenia's beauties and places of interest on your own. All the things you can see along with contact information can be found at <https://www.slovenia.info/en/places-to-go/attractions>.

»Feel Green, Active and Healthy Slovenia!«

In Slovenia, the world's first green country by Green Destinations' international standards and a proud recipient of the National Geographic World Legacy (Destination Leadership) Award, its natural and traditional features are a source of fresh experiences for guests from all over the world. Apart from its innovative Green Adventures combined with a surprising luxury of its thermal springs, its opportunities for an active nature holiday, its cuisine that varies with every step you take and its other special features, it is also one of the first in the world to offer innovative and certified forms of apitourism. We are also proud that our capital Ljubljana was awarded the European Green Capital 2016 title. Welcome to Slovenia, the only country with the word LOVE in its name!

You can take a look at what our bee tourism providers have to offer – information on this can be found on:

- **Slovenian tourist information page:** <https://www.slovenia.info/en/stories/honey-for-sweet-moments-and-well-being> (the information is available in 7 foreign languages).
- **The Apitourism website** at <http://www.apiturizem.si/en/>.

