



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 11, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 1

## Pahor Sworn in as the 4th President of Slovenia



**Borut Pahor was inaugurated as the new President of the Republic of Slovenia in a ceremony in the National Assembly on Saturday, December 22. He pledged to uphold the constitutional order and work for the good of the country to the best of his abilities.**

The newly elected President Borut Pahor took over the duties from his predecessor, Dr. Danilo Türk, on Sunday,

December 23, 2012, when he was received with military honors at the presidential palace in Ljubljana.

In the highest elective office in the country, he succeeded Milan Kučan (1992-2002), Janez Drnovšek (2002-2007) and Danilo Türk (2007-2012).

The 1991 Constitution gives the president limited powers, including calling general elections, naming the prime minister-designate, nominating

the judges of the Constitutional Court, promulgating laws, and appointing ambassadors at the government's proposals.

Subsequent legislation has slightly expanded these powers, giving the president the authority to nominate key office holders such as the central bank governor, human rights ombudsman, Court of Audit president, information Commissioner, and the members of the Commission for the Prevention of Corruption.



# Government Office For Slovenians Abroad - Public Invitations For Tenders For Financial Support In The Year 2013



neighboring countries, as well as those of other Slovenians living abroad.

Also, **priority is given to projects of cross-border cooperation, economic and scientific development, and youth issues.**

Public Invitations for Applications grant eligibility to apply for financial support to applicants who are individuals or legal entities located outside of the Republic of Slovenia, as well as those located in the Republic of Slovenia, whose activities in the Republic of Slovenia aim to connect and care for Slovenians abroad.

The documentation for the above mentioned Public Invitations for Applications is available on the website of the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad, which can be found at <http://www.uszs.gov.si/>.

Interested parties can also obtain the documentation in person at the Office's headquarters on weekdays between 9:00 and 14:00 hours, and at any of the Republic of Slovenia's Embassies or Consulates General, during their office hours.

**The deadline** for filing the applications is up to and including **February 2, 2013.**

For any additional clarifications and information, please contact the Government Office for Slovenians Abroad via email: [urad.slovinci@gov.si](mailto:urad.slovinci@gov.si)

Based on the Act on Relations between the Republic of Slovenia and Slovenians abroad (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 43/06, 76/10) and Government Decree on the granting of financial support for maintenance and development of the Slovene identity outside of the Republic of Slovenia (Official Journal of the Republic of Slovenia, no. 139/2006), the Government Office of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad published two Public Invitations for Applications on December 28, 2012.

Public Invitations for Applications cover:

(1) Area A: Financial support in 2013 for Slovenian autochthonous national community in the neighboring countries; and

## (2) Area B: Financial support in 2013 for Slovenians living abroad.

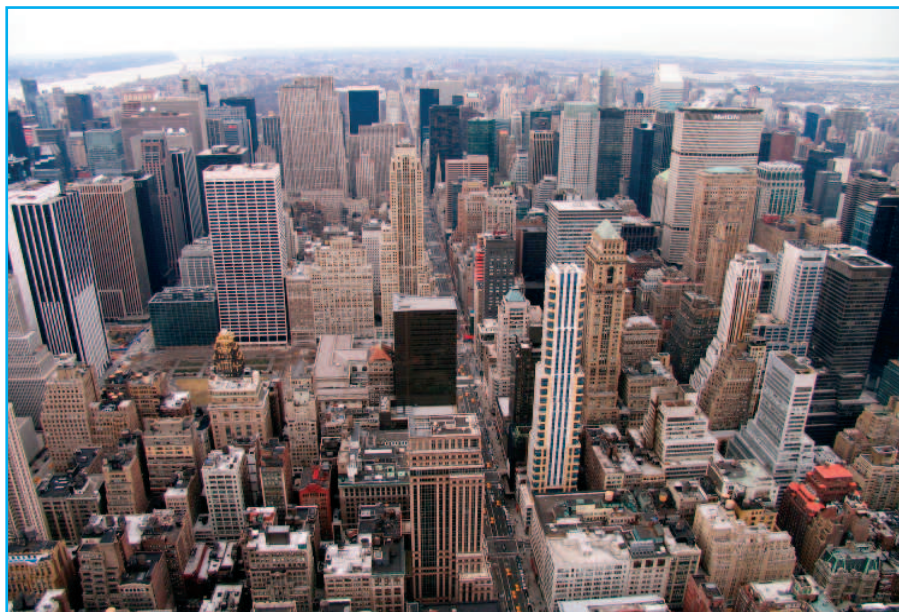
Both Public Invitations for Applications aim to stimulate activities among Slovenians living abroad, that:

- consolidate and maintain their national, linguistic and cultural identity
- pave the way for their interaction and mutual connection
- enable them to maintain their links with the Republic of Slovenia
- enable the maintenance of the structures and activities of Slovenian autochthonous national community in

## Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer at the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will be holding consular hours and providing consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City on **Friday, February 1, 2013**, at the premises of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Slovenia to the United Nations, located at 600 Third Avenue, 24th Floor, New York, N.Y. 10016. However, visa and residence permit applications can only be submitted in Washington, DC.

To schedule an appointment on February 1, please send an e-mail to the Embassy of Slovenia at [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si). Please, list your full name, contact information and consular service requested.



The embassy will set the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring. You may also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for

required documents for most consular services.

Due to security reasons, persons without an appointment will not be able to enter the premises of the mission.

EMBASSY

## Welcome to the New Economic Counselor

The Embassy of Slovenia is delighted to announce an addition to its staff. We want to welcome Mr. Gorazd Renčelj, who took the post of Economic Counselor starting Monday, January 7.

Mr. Renčelj, who was previously posted as an economic counselor at the Slovenian Embassy in London, U.K., has been appointed for four years. We wish him

good luck in his endeavors to strengthen the economic cooperation between the two countries as we firmly hope that together we will be a compatible team, able to realize our professional and personal goals.

Mr. Gorazd Renčelj,  
Economic Counselor at the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C.



## Ski Resorts in Slovenia, part 1



Kope and Robniško Pohorje.

### Mariborsko Pohorje

Mariborsko Pohorje is Slovenia's biggest ski center, with more than 25 miles of ski slopes at altitudes ranging from 1060 to 4350 feet. The slopes, which are connected by 5 chairlifts, 16 ski-lifts, and by a gondola, are suitable for skiers of all ages and skill levels.

Despite the tourist offer, the diverse Pohorje has managed to preserve all its splendor, and numerous natural and cultural sights and ethnological particulars. Mariborsko Pohorje also offers 16 miles of cross-country skiing courses, as well as first-class wellness-spa centers and other special winter experiences, such as swinging on a giant swing, offering a view of the second largest city in Slovenia – Maribor, winter horseback riding, snowshoeing,

night sledding, treasure hunting, and numerous entertainment shows.

A special ski pass purchased for Mariborsko Pohorje is also valid for some other ski centers in Slovenia, namely Ribniško Pohorje, Kope, and Kranjska Gora.

Back in 1964, Pohorje and Maribor hosted the first ladies' alpine skiing World Cup, which is, thanks to excellent organization and a great atmosphere created by several thousand fans, firmly anchored at the top of the world ski events still today. This year the event will be held on the weekend of January 26.

### Kope and Ribniško Pohorje

Ski resorts in the western part of Pohorje – Kope, Ribniška koča and Ribnica na Pohorju –

are perfect for spending winter vacations with friends and family or simply for outdoor relaxation. Cross-country skiers also will find their winter paradise here: between alpine huts Ribniška koča on Ribniško Pohorje and Grmovškov dom on Kope there are nearly 10 miles of well prepared cross-country tracks with a beautiful view of the valleys and the mountain peaks of Peca, Raduha and Savinjske Alpe.

Kope also serves as a perfect place for snowboarding, ski trekking, ski schools, and snow terraces. To make the stay on Kope more exciting, one can also go sledding and walking through the plains covered with snow and surrounded by pine forests.

On Ribnica na Pohorju, one can night ski on the FIS trail and on the new medium-difficult trail. The remodeled Sitar home, with apartments, mountain wellness and a wine shop, ensures a first-class stay, while the Ribnica apartment complex pampers its guests with 4-star apartments, a restaurant and a seminar room.

### Kranjska Gora

A summer and winter tourist resort in northwestern Slovenia near the borders with Austria and Italy, Kranjska Gora touches Triglav National Park to the south. The imposing peaks of the Julian Alps, the vast forests stretching from Mojstrana to Rateče, and the ski areas among

them attract hikers, alpinists, bicyclists, and skiers. The ski slopes are appropriate for all types of skiers, with a capacity of 21,400 skiers per hour.

Beginners and recreational skiers can explore the terrain in Kranjska Gora, Martuljek and Planica, whereas the trail in Podkoren is more appropriate for skilled skiers. The best skiers in the world compete annually on this run for the Vitranc Trophy in World Cup men's giant slalom and slalom races.

The Kranjska Gora ski lifts have the longest history in Slovenia. They are easily reached since they are located near international highways and, because of their altitude (the lower station lies at 2667 feet),



Kranjska Gora.

they offer favorable weather and snow conditions. Additionally, they offer night skiing, sledding, free outdoor kindergarten, a snow park, ski equipment

rental, high-quality ski schools, a competition polygon, a snow beach with a diverse culinary offer, ski-mountaineering, and cross-country ski trails.

## BUSINESS

# Slovenia with New "SPIRIT"

On January 1, 2013, an innovative concept for promoting Slovenia was initiated within the framework of the new "SPIRIT" agency, tasked with promoting Slovenia as an investment and tourism destination, and advancing domestic enterprise and technological development.

In late October, the government adopted a decision to establish the Slovenian Public Agency for Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Development, Investment, and Tourism, or SPIRIT Slovenia. The new agency took over the duties performed by three existing agencies: the Public Agency of the Republic of Slovenia for Entrepreneurship and Foreign Investments (JAPTI), the

Slovenian Tourist Board (STO), and the Slovenian Technology Agency (TIA).

Integration represents the ambition of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia in the pursuit of rationalization of the functioning of public administration, as well as reorganization to ensure more consistent, transparent and targeted support for the Slovenian economy, while improving its competitiveness.

The mandate of SPIRIT Slovenia is to independently perform regulatory, professional and developmental activities aimed at boosting competitiveness, taking responsibility for promoting the Slovenian economy, promoting



Slovenia as a tourist destination, developing entrepreneurship, and promoting innovation, technological development, foreign investments and the internationalization of companies.

SPIRIT Slovenia operates within the framework of the Ministry of Economic Development and Technology. The first head of the new agency is Boštjan Skalar, who was appointed by the government as an interim director for a period of up to six months, after which a full-time director is to be appointed.

### **Concert of the 4 Saxess Saxophone Quartet in NYC**

The renowned Slovenian musicians Lev Pupis, Tomislav Žužak, Primož Fleischman, and Dejan Prešiček will play compositions by Slovenian and American composers as well as arrangements based on Slovenian folk songs. On the occasion of the Slovenian Cultural Day, the opening remarks will be given by the Ambassador of Slovenia, Roman Kirn.

When: [Sunday, January 27, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.](#)

Where: [St. Cyril Parish at 62 St. Marks Pl. \(East Village\), New York, NY 10003](#)

Admission free.

### **Slovenian Designer Sanja Grcić presents Firma in NYC**

Firma by Sanja style is described as Street Couture: instinctive, innovative and alternative, with clever detailing and a slight sporty touch. Firma builds new concepts of designing clothes out of a wide range of tailoring and cutting knowledge. Firma by Sanja made its first presentation in RSPOP-up in 2011 and is coming back to NYC with the collection Inside Straight. In the meantime, Sanja opened in Ljubljana her store Koda 386 (international dial code for Slovenia), which was proclaimed by The New York Times Travel as one of the best designers' corners in town: <http://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2012/11/18/travel/18Ljubljana-6.html>.

When: [January 14-31, M-F at 11 a.m.- 8 p.m., SAT noon - 7 p.m.](#)

Where: [501 Lexington Ave. at the Roger Smith Hotel](#)

Opening reception: [Tuesday, January 15 at 6 p.m.](#)

More information:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Firma-Ljubljana-by-Sanja-Grcic/179198485497176>

### **Slovenian Cultural Evening at the Embassy of Slovenia**

Through food, drink, a short film that highlights the scenery, culture and people of Slovenia, and live music by the Slovenian saxophone quartet, 4 Saxess, experience the rich Slovenian culture. In cooperation with Things To Do, Inc. – Young Professional Cultural Society.

When: [Thursday, January 24, 2013, at 7:15 p.m.- 9:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington DC 20008](#)

Admission: \$45.00

More information and registration: <http://www.thingstododc.com/>

### **Beyond by Michael Benson**

A spectacular photography exhibition of images from space.

When: [Monday through Friday 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM](#)

Where: [Embassy of Slovenia, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008](#)

More information about the work of Michael Benson on: <http://www.kinetikonpictures.com/>

### **SlovenSki Program for 2013**

Schedule:

February: 1-3, 2013, SlovenSki weekend Windham, NY

February 15-23, 2013, SlovenSki trip to 3 Vallees, France

March 18-24, 2013, Nastar Nationals Aspen/Snowmass (qualified racers)

April 1-7, 2013, SlovenSki week in Sun Valley, ID

More information and application form: [John F Kamin, 61-32 75th Place, Middle Village, NY 11379, phone: \(718\) 424-2711, email: \[Jfkamin@verizon.net\]\(mailto:Jfkamin@verizon.net\)](#)

The weekly Embassy Newsletter, produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is available on: [www.washington.embassy.si](http://www.washington.embassy.si).

Send us your comments or request for a subscription on: [vwa@gov.si](mailto:vwa@gov.si),

Editor: Nuška Zakrajšek