



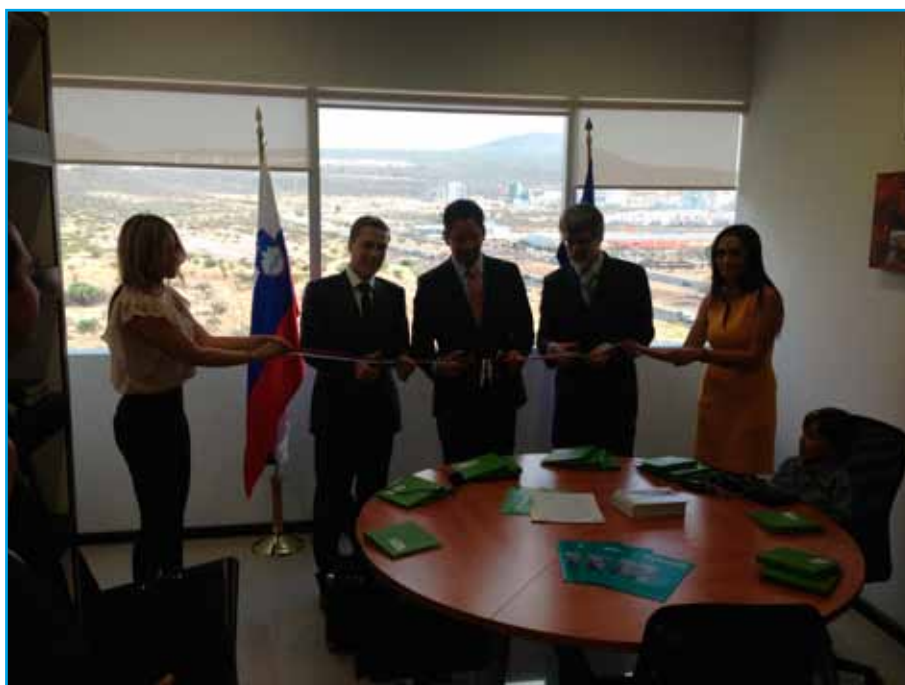
REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 4, 2013, VOLUME 9, NUMBER 13

## Opening of New Honorary Consulate in Mexico

**On Wednesday, April 3, Director-General for Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr Marjan Cencen, together with Minister for Labor at the State of Querétaro Tonatiuh Salinas Muñoz, opened an Honorary Consulate of the Republic of Slovenia in Queretaro, headed by the Honorary Consul Danijel Muršec.**



From left: Honorary Consul of Slovenia in Querétaro Danijel Muršec, Minister for Labor at the State of Querétaro Tonatiuh Salinas Muñoz and Director-General for Bilateral Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Marjan Cencen, cutting the sash on the premises of Honorary Consulate.

Mr. Muršec, born in Maribor, Slovenia, is a director and a co-owner of the company TBP S.A. de C.V. in the State of Querétaro. He works in the fields of export-import, consulting and business managing, and is the founding member of a Mexican-Slovenian business club.

The opening was attended by government officials of the State of Querétaro, chamber of commerce representatives, media representatives as well as numerous businessmen. In the opening statement, Honorary Consul Muršec presented Slovenia as a key international



player in several different fields, whereas Director-General Dr. Cencen and Secretary Muñoz emphasized the importance of enhancing economic cooperation between Slovenia and Mexico.

The opening of the second honorary consulate in Mexico will facilitate bilateral relations between Slovenia and Mexico, primarily on economic issues, and enhance the image of Slovenia in Mexico. Today Mexico

is on the pathway to become one of the most developed countries in the world. In this regard the State of Querétaro is an example of a dynamic and progressive economic development.

Prior to the opening political consultations were held between Slovenia and Mexico. On the Slovenian side the consultations were headed by Director-General for Bilateral Relations Dr Marjan Cencen.

Together with the Head of the Department for Economic Promotion at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, Milan Majhen, Dr Cencen had meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Head of Mexican Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, EU Ambassador in Mexico and representatives from COMCE and ProMexcio.

## INTL. DAY OF MINE AWARENESS

# 15 years of ITF – Enhancing Human Security

The Slovenian-run ITF Enhancing Human Security fund held a press conference at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia on April 3, 2013, in order to mark the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action and the 15th anniversary of ITF's activity in the area of developmental and humanitarian aid.

ITF Enhancing Human Security is a non-profit organization, established by the Government of Slovenia in March 1998, in close partnership with U.S. The initial aim of ITF was to provide humanitarian aid to Bosnia and Herzegovina, reflecting the active engagement of Slovenia in the aftermath of the Balkans conflict in the '90s. Since its inception, the ITF has focused its fundraising activities and support on humanitarian mine action in S.E. Europe. As the European Commission acknowledged the ITF as the reference model of regional organization in de-mining action, the ITF was asked by mine-affected countries and donors to expand their operation to



The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia has pledged to support the international 'Lend Your Leg – Roll Up Your Pants Leg' campaign.

other mine-affected regions and countries as well, e.g., Cyprus, the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

In 2012, the ITF raised \$21,048,780.82, which were used for implementing various projects cross-cutting with the main objective of enhancing security of people living in conflict-affected areas, including contributions totaling over \$10 million donated through the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement of the U.S. Department of State's

Bureau of Political-Military Affairs. The funds have been used for humanitarian demining and conventional weapon-destruction projects in Southeast Europe and south Lebanon. The donation reaffirms continued excellent cooperation between the ITF and its key partner, the United States.

In 2012, the projects were implemented in 19 countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Egypt, Gaza/Palestine, Ukraine, Kosovo, Lebanon,

Lithuania, Macedonia, Georgia, Libya, Cape Verde, Montenegro, and Serbia. In 2012, the ITF Enhancing Human Security joined the global 'Lend Your Leg' action (<http://www.posodisvojonogo.si/>), campaigning to ban the use of landmines and to promote solidarity with mine victims. Launched in Colombia in 2011, the action spread to numerous other countries. This year's ITF campaign in Slovenia has focused on raising awareness of the unregulated legal status of mine victims and promoted their full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms as enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. More information on ITF projects and activities: <http://www.itf-fund.si/>.



Mr. Goran Gačnik, Deputy Director of the ITF; Dr. Božo Cerar, State Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Dorian Marsič, Director of the ITF - Enhancing Human Security fund.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EU Open House - Volunteers Needed

On **May 11, 2013**, diplomatic representations of Member States of the E.U. and the E.U. Delegation to the United States in Washington, DC, will celebrate Europe Day by organizing the seventh annual E.U. Open House day. Embassies of all 27 member countries and Croatia and the E.U. Delegation will open their

doors **from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** showcasing their art, culture, and food, and introducing the European Union to the public. Last year, over 2000 people visited the Slovenian Embassy, and this year even more visitors are expected.

Since the event has gained extreme popularity and success, we are looking for volunteers to

help us welcome the guests and to direct visitors to the embassy at the nearby bus stop.

To register and for more information, please contact [nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si](mailto:nuska.zakrajsek@gov.si). Please sign up by **April 26, 2013**. Orientation and training session will be held at the Embassy of Slovenia on Thursday, May 9 at 5:30 p.m.

## CONSULAR AFFAIRS

### New Criteria for Acquisition of Slovenian Citizenship

A new decree on criteria for establishing compliance with national interest requirements for acquiring the Slovenian citizenship in accordance with Article 13 of the Citizenship Act (Extraordinary Naturalization) was adopted. The provision of Article 13 allows for the granting of citizenship of the

Republic of Slovenia to persons of Slovenian descent if this is in the interest of the country because of scientific, economic, cultural, national or similar reasons.

The decree limits the applications for citizenship to individuals of Slovenian descent up to the second generation in direct descent. Moreover, the applicant will

have to demonstrate a multiannual active connection with the Republic of Slovenia and a minimum of five year activity in Slovenian associations, schools of Slovene language or Slovenian expatriate, emigrant or minority organizations.

The new criteria will enter into force for applications submitted from **April 4, 2013, onwards**.

# Goričko



Vineyards, orchards, meadows and fields of various cultivated crops are scattered like a mosaic and are harmoniously interwoven with and complement the settlements, villages and individual farms.

Goričko is an idyllic landscape park in northeast Slovenia, enclosed by three other landscape parks in the neighboring Austria and Hungary: Naturpark Raab in the west and Országi Nemzeti Park and Kerka-mente Naturpark in the east. The idea to form a tri-national landscape park in the areas not yet affected by industrialization was born in early '90s.

Goričko Landscape Park covers a long-settled region, where traces of the prehistoric urn burial culture, Romans, Slavs, Germans, Hungarians, and Turks can still be found. The name Goričko comes from the word "gorice," which is what the local people call the hills, which were formed long ago. The softly rolling hills formed by the currents on the floor of the former Pannonian Sea stretch away in every direction. Almost everywhere fossil seashells

millions of years old can be found.

The Goričko region has been covered by forest for more or less its entire history and hence has never been densely settled. The remains of settlements from early migration periods have been confirmed at the edges of the region, i.e., in the basins of the Ledava and Krka rivers and the Kobilanjski creek. The most important pre-historical settlement is Bukovnica.

Goričko is a land of extensive farming. Vineyards, orchards, meadows and fields of various cultivated crops are scattered like a mosaic and are harmoniously interwoven with and

complement the settlements, villages and individual farms. Since the soil is not very fertile, frugality and wisdom of prudent exploitation of soil, sun and rainfall are required. There is still enough space for numerous animals and plants, and, according to tradition, almost every farmer has at least a small vineyard where he produces "his own" wine.

As far back as the Middle Ages, the Goričko inhabitants were already famous for their fruit-growing and orchards with trees bearing several hundred kinds of fruits, which still grow today. In some places, the old rustic architecture is still preserved as well as some crafts, which elsewhere have already disappeared. One can find numerous old mills, old thatched-roofed farms, centuries-old Protestant



Goričko lies in the northeast part of Slovenia.



The Grad castle in the village of Grad has 365 rooms – as many as there are days in a year – and is the largest castle in Slovenia. (Photo: T. Jeseničnik)

and Catholic churches. Most of Prekmurje's Protestants (Evangelicals and some Calvinists) today live in Goričko, and one of the first organized Protestant communities during the Reformation was at Sv. Benedikt (Kančevci), where a monastery operated during the Middle Ages.

The information center of all three landscape parks and the headquarters of Goričko Landscape Park is in Grad castle in the village of Grad (meaning "castle"). The Grad castle has 365 rooms – as many as there are days in a year – and is the largest castle in Slovenia. The fortification stands on a rise above the village of Grad, in the middle of a larger park. The building is medieval in its foundation, which has been confirmed by the recently discovered old entrance with a pointed portal arch and a mechanism for raising the drawbridge. An older fortification was mentioned in 1214. The

mighty rondelle extensions are from the Renaissance. The entire structure is one of the largest castle architectures of the 17th and 18th centuries, as evidenced by the ground plan of the Baroque peripheral construction. The perimeter of the ground plan is polygonal. The inner yard is surrounded

by various two-storey arcades, which stand on brick columns. On the south side, the chapel with its Baroque bell tower from the first half of the 18th century leans up against the wall.

The counts of Železno ran the estate from 1208 to 1269, then the Omodas and, after 1365, the Szechys, later the Batthyánys, Nádasdys, from 1830 the Szécsényis and between the two world wars, before the occupation by the Soviet Army, the industrialist G. Hartner. Several legends are connected with the castle, one of them about a dragon with a golden crown, which supposedly lived in it. People also claim that energies pour out of the depths beneath the castle courtyard, which are felt like heat or itching skin. All this is surrounded by a magnificent park with unusual tree species, designed in English style.

More information available at: [www.park-goricko.org](http://www.park-goricko.org), [www.goricko.net](http://www.goricko.net)



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**Slovene Language Table in Seattle, WA**

You are cordially invited to attend the Slovene Language Table -- an hour of informal conversational practice in Slovene for intermediate students of the language -- each Thursday during spring quarter from 11a.m. to 12 noon in the Suzzallo Espresso Cafe, located in Suzzallo Library on the UW-Seattle main campus. Both regular and occasional attendees are welcome. First meeting has already taken place on Thursday, April 4.

For more information, contact Michael Biggins, Affiliate Professor, Slavic languages and literatures, University of Washington Libraries, Box 352900, Seattle, WA 98195-2900 USA, e-mail: [mbiggins@uw.edu](mailto:mbiggins@uw.edu) or [slovenska.miza@gmail.com](mailto:slovenska.miza@gmail.com).

**Bread and Circuses (Kruha in iger) at Kansas City FilmFest**

A comedy with a scent of nostalgia about socialist Yugoslavia's last breaths. Directed by Klemen Dvornik and produced by RTV Slovenija/Studio Arkadena in 2011. In Slovenian with English subtitles. Running time: 94 min. Event is sponsored by Honorary Consul of Slovenia Ms. Barbara Koval Nelson.

When: [Saturday, April 13 at 8:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Alamo Drafthouse Mainstreet Theater 5, 1400 Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64105](#)

More information and tickets: <http://schedule.kcfilmfest.org/detail/event/bread-and-circuses> or <http://kcfilmfest.org/>.

**Concert of violinist Anja Bukovec**

The Embassy Series in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia presents the superb Slovenian violinist Anja Bukovec, accompanied by George Peachey on piano. Anja's technical perfection is complemented by a recognizable style, unique interpretation and communication with the audience. She performs as a soloist, wins international competitions and fascinates audiences all over the world. Music by Miloševic, Jerry Bock, Vic Mizzy, Marc Shaiman, Mihael Rožanc, Ludwig van Beethoven, Astor Piazzolla, Sergei Rachmaninoff, Fritz Kreisler.

When: [Friday, May 3, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.](#)

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

Price: \$100/including buffet/wine. Order online at [www.embassyseries.org](http://www.embassyseries.org) or call (202) 625-2361.

**Slovenian American Heritage Foundation - 2013 Lecture Series:  
The Installation of the Dukes of Carinthia (Koroška), by Dr. Vladimir Rus**

An ancient custom in medieval Carantania (Karantanija) reveals the Slovenians' unique "from the bottom up" electoral process of choosing their "vojvoda" (duke). This custom was maintained for centuries, even while Slovenians were part of the Holy Roman Empire and Austria. In 2014, Slovenians will celebrate the 600th anniversary of the last such ritual conducted in the Slovenian language in 1414.

When: [Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.](#)

Where: [Lower Hall of the Slovenian Society Home, 20713 Recher Avenue, Euclid, Ohio.](#)

Event is free and open to the public. A coffee and strudel social will follow the lecture.

More information: [ahiti@hgfarchitects.com](mailto:ahiti@hgfarchitects.com).

## E.U. Film Festival DISAPPEARING ACT V

In cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, D.C., the Czech Center in New York City, jointly with European Union National Institutes for Culture and other European partners, will present the Fifth Annual Edition of the Disappearing Act European Film Festival in New York to run April 10-21, 2013. The expanding festival is an official project of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) and will screen 25 contemporary films from 25 European countries, with opening night at the IFC Center and screenings at the Bohemian National Hall and the Museum of the Moving Image (MoMI).

The Slovenian film shown at the festival will be [FEED ME WITH YOUR WORDS \(NAHRANI ME Z BESEDAMI\)](#), Slovenia, 2012, directed by [Martin Turk](#). Walking a fine line between mystery, thriller and psychological drama, Turk's debut feature follows an estranged father and his older son on an anguished trip. Cast: Sebastian Cavazza, Jure Henigman, Boris Cavazza, Maša Derganc, Miranda Caharija. The film is official selection of São Paulo International Film Festival.

When: [Wednesday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m.](#)

Where: [Bohemian National Hall, 321 East 73rd Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues, New York.](#)  
Subway: 6 to 68th Street Hunter College or 77th Street.

[Free admission, on a first-come, first-served basis.](#)

For full schedule and more information see [www.DisappearingAct.org](http://www.DisappearingAct.org)



## 37th Cleveland International Film Festival

The Consulate General of the Republic of Slovenia is proud to be an official partner of the Medical Mutual Community Engagement Program of the 37th Cleveland International Film Festival (CIFF), presented by Dollar Bank, which will take place April 3-14, 2013, at Tower City Cinemas. The 37th CIFF will screen 178 feature films and 164 short-subject films from 65 countries. Tickets go on sale to members only on Friday, March 15 and to the general public on Friday, March 22. Ticket prices for films are \$12 per film for CIFF members and \$14 for non-members.

When: Slovenian film [SHANGHAI GYPSY](#) is scheduled to screen on [Friday, April 12 at 3:35 p.m., Saturday, April 13 at 9:10 a.m., Sunday, April 14 at 9:10 a.m.](#)

Where: [Tower City Cinemas, 230 Huron Road, Cleveland, OH 44113](#)

Use code SLOV to receive \$2 off the ticket price. Tickets will be available online at [www.clevelandfilm.org](http://www.clevelandfilm.org), by telephone (1)(877) 304-FILM at the Ulmer & Berne Film Festival Box Office in the lobby of Tower City Cinemas, or by mail using the Program Guide order form.

### Slovenian Language Workshop in Ohio

Experienced and enthusiastic workshop leaders will conduct five weekly sessions that feature essential knowledge of language and culture. Slovene for beginners will take place **Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m. from April 1 to May 2.**

Where: **Bowling Green State University Campus, Bowling Green, OH**

On-Line Registration at <http://cee.bgsu.edu/lsg/>

For more information call (419) 372-8181, (419) 372-2180 or e-mail [lsg@bgsu.edu](mailto:lsg@bgsu.edu) Cost \$95.00.

### Translate Slovenian language with PORTOS

Six extensive bidirectional dictionaries with over 1.200.000 words and extra features -- now available on iPhone® & iPad®. The Portos dictionary provides a very efficient and user friendly way for looking up words in various dictionaries from and into Slovenian language.

The Portos collection includes six extensive bidirectional dictionaries:

English to Slovenian (99,000 words), Slovenian to English (91,000 words)  
 German to Slovenian (129,000 words), Slovenian to German (145,000 words)  
 Italian to Slovenian (84,000 words), Slovenian to Italian (89,000 words)  
 French to Slovenian (64,000 words), Slovenian to French (65,000 words)  
 Spanish to Slovenian (59,000 words), Slovenian to Spanish (65,000 words)  
 Croatian to Slovenian (155,000 words), Slovenian to Croatian (180,000 words)

Available at <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/portos-dictionary/id588224780?ls=1&mt=8>.

More information: <http://facebook.com/PortosDictionary>

### Taste of Slovenia: A Real Food Tour May 16-23, 2013

Slovenian-American, Sylvia P. Onušič, PhD, licensed nutritionist, and Saša Božič of Panoramic Travel Groups, Ljubljana, Slovenia, invite you to join them on a merry romp through Slovenia's local and traditional food venues, 8 days, 7 nights for \$1855 land price, which includes meeting food personalities Valentina Novak, Dr. Janez Bogataj, Dr. Janko Božič, Aleš and Vesna Kristančič of Movia Wineries, Slovenian chef, Tomaž Kavčič of Gostilna Pri Lojzetu and many more. Three- and four-star hotels throughout the trip. Price includes all expenses, fees, hotel and most meals. The tour includes Ljubljana, the Adriatic Coast, Goriška Brda, the Karst, Stanjel, Vipava Valley, Julian Alps, Lakes Bled and Bohinj, Kamnik, Velika Planina, Cerknica Lake, Snežnik Castle, and more.

For detailed information, including the itinerary, see the Taste of Slovenia blog at <http://www.foodtourslovenia.wordpress.com> or call (814) 736-8782. You can subscribe to the blog, which regularly publishes updates on the latest in Slovenian local food, Slow Food, new restaurants, reviews, recipes.



### Doing Business in Slovenia

The Doing Business in Slovenia 2013 publication, issued last week, is an excellent source of comprehensive and up-to-date information about the Slovenian economy. Please, find it at:

[http://poslovniportal.si/Doing\\_Business\\_Slovenia.php](http://poslovniportal.si/Doing_Business_Slovenia.php).