



NEWSLETTER

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Slovenian Finance Minister and Central Bank Governor Visit Washington



Minister Čufer and central bank governor Jazbec in Washington last week.

Slovenian Finance Minister Uroš Čufer and Governor of Slovenian Central Bank Boštjan Jazbec paid a visit last week to Washington, D.C., to attend the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Both held a series of meetings at the margins of the annual meeting: both with representatives of international

financial institutions as well as groups of investors. The Slovenian officials presented to their counterparts and investors the economic and financial situation in Slovenia and measures the government has been taking.

Minister Čufer stressed to the media that the investors had been well informed about the situation, which had improved a lot since the April IMF-World

Bank meeting. "When we summed up with investors what we have done since then ... it is more or less clear we delivered on our promises," he outlined. (Note that Austrian group Ring International acquired on Wednesday, October 16, a 73.12% stake in coatings maker Helios from a consortium of mostly state-owned banks and insurance companies. The signatories of the deal said



that the sale was an important milestone on Helios's way toward becoming the industry's leading company in Europe.)

Čufer and Jazbec were

also among representatives of 188 countries that took in the main event on Saturday, October 12 -- the session of the International Monetary and

Financial Committee and the joint World Bank-IMF Development Committee. (Source: STA)

DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Slovenian Development Days

The fifth Slovenian Development Days, a two-day event dedicated to international development and humanitarian aid, took place at the City Museum of Ljubljana on October 16-17, offering an overview of Slovenia's and E.U.'s policies in the field. The event was organized jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and SLOGA, a Slovenian NGO platform for development cooperation and humanitarian aid providing an opportunity for both Slovenian and foreign experts, representatives of governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, and the academia to discuss current events in the field of Slovenian and international development cooperation.

The conference featured a series of high-profile guests, including European Commissioner for International Cooperation, Kristalina Georgieva, as well as senior officials from the U.N. and OECD. Six panel debates were dedicated to the coordination of development policies, gender equality, climate change, global learning, global volunteering, and the role of small countries as donors. Georgieva spoke mainly about E.U. policies, since the E.U. is the biggest donor of international aid. She emphasized that Europe must continue to foster solidarity as its basic value.



Opening event at the fifth Slovenian Development Days. (Photo credit: MFA/MZZ)

Foreign Ministry State Secretary, Bogdan Benko, who acts as Slovenia's development minister in international fora, on the occasion stressed, that development aid was a key component of the E.U.'s "soft power". He also outlined that Slovenia has been allocating the bulk of its aid, about 70% according to Benko, to Western Balkans as its primary sphere of interest. "We've supported the strengthening of democracy, reconciliation, rule of law and accession to the E.U. and NATO. ... It is in our interest for this area to develop and, by extension, offer our economic opportunities," he said.

More broadly, debates touched on the period after 2015, when the current

Millennium Development Goals expire. Slovenia is advocating a "comprehensive global framework", striking a balance between eradication of poverty and sustainable development. Rashid Khalikov, director of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said that Slovenia had many sources and called the country to creativity in providing aid. Director of Lithuanian Foreign Ministry's Development Cooperation and Democracy Promotion Department, Laima Jurevičiene, also underlined the need for creativity of small countries, adding that these should look for their niches also in international humanitarian aid.

(Source: STA, MFA)

Writer Pahor Receives European Citizens' Prize

Slovenian writer, Boris Pahor, received from the European Parliament its European Citizens' Prize 2013 in Brussels on Wednesday, October 16, noting in his speech that Europeans need a Europe with social ethics and active identity. The Italy-based author said he was honored to receive the prize for the "European man" and thanked all Slovenian members of the European Parliament for nominating him for the prize.

Boris Pahor was at the ceremony the keynote speaker among the 43 prize winners from 21 E.U. member states. He was, in fact, given the prize earlier in Slovenia as the celebration of his 100th birthday culminated on August 26 in a gala ceremony at the SNG Opera and Ballet Theater.

The acclaimed author and a living witness to the horrors of 20th century totalitarianisms, who is a member of the Slovenian minority in Italy, became also the first Slovenian



Boris Pahor. (Photo www.europarl.si)

to be declared an honorary citizen of Trieste, when Mayor Roberto Cosolini conferred the title to him on August 23.

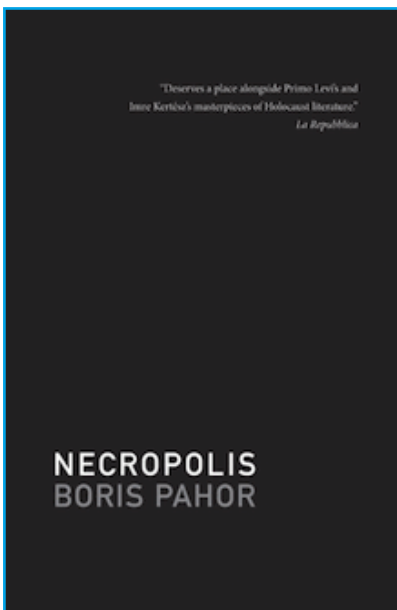
Growing up in Trieste, he witnessed the persecution of Slovenians by the Fascists before WWII, was imprisoned by the Nazis during the war and was banned from entering Slovenia by the Communists after publishing an interview in which fellow writer Edvard Kocbek spoke about summary post-war killings.

However, Pahor is considered one of the best known Slovenian writers. His fame in Europe stems from publications about the atrocities in Nazi concentration camps, but in Slovenia and among Slovenian minority in Italy he is well known for his social and political engagement, in addition to his writing. Pahor is best

known for his novel "Necropolis" (also available in English in translation by Michael Biggins) describing his experience of the Nazi labor camp Mittelbau-Dora near Nordhausen, Germany. He is also known for the collection of novels entitled *Grmada v pristanu* (The Bonfire in the Quay), and the novels *Nomadi brez oaze* (Nomads without an Oasis) and *Spopad s pomladjo* (A Difficult Spring).

The European Citizens' Prize has been conferred annually since 2008 to individuals who have distinguished themselves in strengthening European integration by promoting European cooperation.

An excerpt from Boris Pahor's renowned book, *Necropolis*, will be available to U.S. readers in a few weeks on electronic network via Storyville app (<http://storyvilleapp.com/>)



Bachelor, Master Theses and Doctoral Dissertations Competition

The Government Office for Slovenes Abroad has announced The Award-Giving Competition for Bachelor and Master Theses and Doctoral Dissertations on topics

A: Slovenes in neighboring countries

B: Slovenes in emigration/abroad.

The aim of the competition is to promote research studies by undergraduate and postgraduate students on issues related to Slovenes in neighboring countries and abroad. The ultimate goal is to raise awareness of the importance of preserving Slovene identity in the mother-country as well as outside its borders.

Candidates from the Republic of Slovenia and abroad may apply. Authors of Bachelor and Master theses or Doctoral dissertations dealing with the topics related to Slovene communities outside the borders of the Republic of Slovenia that have been successfully defended at any university in or outside Slovenia may apply to this competition.

The theses or dissertations that have been entered into other similar competitions may also apply. The theses or dissertations that will be defended in the period from November 1, 2012, to October 31, 2013, will be taken into account.

The awards will be distributed in the following way: three for theses or dissertations dealing with the topic of Slovenes living in neighboring countries and three for theses or dissertations dealing



with Slovenes living abroad; the award for the best written paper in either field in the amount of 800 euros (approx. \$1,080), and two awards in the amount of respectively, 600 and 400 euros (resp. approx. \$810 and \$540) will be given to the second and third best paper. On the basis of the expert committee's proposal, the Office may decide to increase the number of the awards in one of the categories, but the total number of awards should not exceed the total number of the awards to be distributed (i.e. 6 awards) or the total amount of the fund of 3,600 euros.

At the winners' request, the Office will issue a recommendation for the best theses or dissertations to be published.

The expert committee will evaluate the Bachelor and Master theses and Doctoral dissertations dealing with various topics in relation to Slovenes living in neighboring countries and abroad, based on the following criteria: the originality of the topic, the approach, the applicability of papers in relation to the preservation of Slovene identity outside the borders of the Republic of Slovenia and its connection with the motherland, professionalism, complexity and

interdisciplinarity of papers.

By participating in the competition, the authors are deemed to have given their consent for the papers to be kept in the archive of the Office.

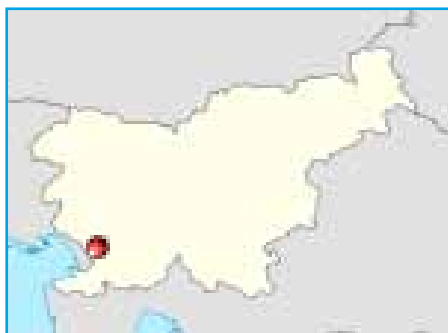
Method of application and deadline

The candidates should send or deliver one copy of their papers bound together and equipped with a hard cover, the certificate of successful defense of the respective paper (the date of its submission must be evident) and a short curriculum vitae (including personal data and details of e-mail contact)) to the Government's Office for Slovenes Abroad address (Komenskega 11, 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia)

Only papers sent or delivered by **December 10, 2013** (inclusive) will be accepted; the results of the competition will be announced by the end of April 2013. The award-giving ceremony is expected to be held in spring/summer of 2014.

Additional information may be obtained at the following telephone number: (001)(386) (1) 230-8011 (every workday between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., CET) or by e-mail: zvone.zigon@gov.si

Divača



Divača, a large cluster village in the Karst region of Slovenia, is bordered in the northwest by the Vremščica mountain (1027 m; 2,950 ft.), and in the north by the Čebulovica hill and Divaški Gabrk.

The village, known for homemade sheep cheese and a popular destination for hikers, was an important intersection on the Vienna-Trieste railway already during the period of the Austro-Hungarian empire. From here, the main railway branched off to Pula and Koper. The railway is also the reason why Divača developed relatively quickly in the beginning of the



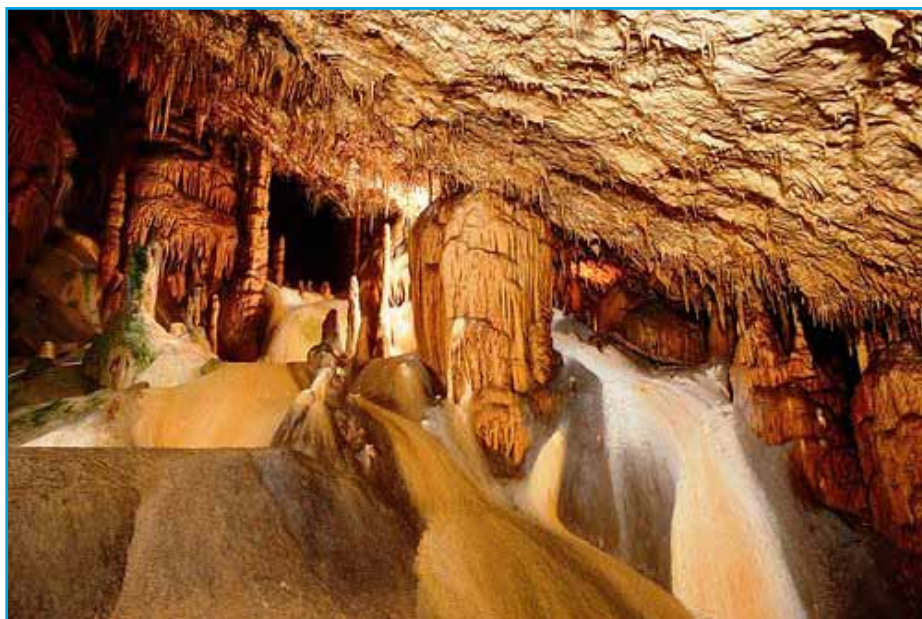
Škrateljnova house from the 17th century. (Photo: <http://www.tic-divaca.si/>)

20th century. Divača is still an important road and railway crossroads of the region. To this day, a steam locomotive of historical value has been on view at Divača's new railway station to commemorate its contribution to the development of the village.

In the past, the area was famous for its numerous inns, in which "furmani" (wagon drivers) used to stop and take a rest.

After World War II, the scenery changed greatly as the place expanded through construction of many apartment buildings. However, Škrateljnova house remains as a well preserved example of Karst architecture from the 17th century and nowadays houses the Museum of Slovenian Film Actors. One of the most beautiful pilaster entrances on Karst can also be seen on the church of St. Anthony, which stands in a constructed paddock in the middle of the village and dates back to 1728.

The surroundings of Divača hide numerous karst caves: Kačna cave (the most romantic wild abyss in the world), Divača cave, Koševa cave, the precipices Risnik, Radvanj, Bukove doline, and Krgunci, and the famous UNESCO-protected Škocjan Caves Park. A traditional walking excursion along the Reka river takes place every April, and the Škocjan Festival in June and July. (Source: www.slovenia.info, SPIRIT Slovenia)



Škocjan Caves. (Photo: <http://www.tic-divaca.si/>)

FRU FRU THEATRE at the Kids' Euro Festival 2013



A celebration of European arts for kids at the largest children's performing arts festival in the United States, with 250 free performances, workshops and films! Slovenia's FRU FRU Theatre will present a puppet show: *My Umbrella Can Also Be a Balloon! (Moj dežnik je lahko balon)* by Ela Peroci. The show is the winner of five stars as "Best Children's Show" (1999) at the Edinburgh's legendary Fringe Festival. For ages 3 to 10; duration: 30 min. All performances are free. Registration is required.

When: Sunday, October 27 at 1:00 p.m.

Where: Hill Center, Abraham Lincoln Hall, 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003

When: Monday, October 28 at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Kennedy Center Millennium Stage, 2700 F St, N.W., Washington, DC 20566

When: Tuesday, October 29, time TBD

Where: Ross Elementary School, 1730 R St., N.W., Washington, DC 20009 and Petit Scholars, 2940 12th St. N.E., Washington, DC 20017

When: October 30 at 10:00 a.m.

Where: Library of Congress, Young Reader Center, Thomas Jefferson Building, Room LJ G31 (ground floor), 10 First St. S.E., Washington DC 20540

More information and registration: <http://kidseurofestival.org/slovenia-perf/> and <http://kidseurofestival.org/my-umbrella-is-a-balloon-too/>

Martinovanje in New York

Slovenian Union of America's New York City branch is hosting martinovanje (St. Martin's feast), a traditional folk festival that celebrates the year's new wine.

When: Sunday November 10, at 12 noon

Where: 62 Saint Mark's Place, New York, NY 10003 (8th Street between 2nd and 1st Avenues)

Admission: \$20 per person.

RSVP by October 20 to vajkusa@aol.com

[Exhibit The Slovenes of Southeast Kansas in Franklin, KS](#)

An exhibit titled "The Slovenes of Southeast Kansas" will be held at the [Miner's Hall Museum in Franklin, Kansas](#), from October 1 through the end of the year. The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Presentations and talks related to the Slovenes will be held on [October 20, November 21, and December 3](#). Admission is free to the museum and presentation.

Further information may be obtained by contacting minershallmuseum@yahoo.com.

[Third Annual Slovenian Fall Film Night in CA](#)

When: [Friday November 1, 2013 at 7 p.m.](#)

Where: Slovenian Hall at, 2101 Mariposa St., San Francisco, CA.

More information: Honorary Consul Thomas J. Brandi at tjb@brandilaw.com and <http://www.slovenianhall.com/>.

[Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend in Cleveland, OH](#)

The National Cleveland-Style Polka Hall of Fame and Museum presents the 50th Annual Thanksgiving Polka Party Weekend at the [Downtown Marriott Hotel](#) in Cleveland, Ohio, [November 28, 29 and 30, 2013](#). The Polka Hall of Fame annual Awards Show takes place Saturday, November 30, at [Euclid Auditorium in Euclid, Ohio](#).

For more information visit <http://www.polkafame.com/> or contact Joe Valencic at jvalencic@yahoo.com or (216) 496-4646.

[SlovenSki Calendar for 2014 Ski Season](#)

SlovenSki Weekend

Where: WINDHAM MOUNTAIN, NEW YORK

When: Friday, January 31 to Sunday, February 2, 2014.

Slovenian GS Ski Race championship on Saturday.

SlovenSki trip #1 (Presidents Week)

Where: SUN VALLEY, IDAHO

When: Monday, February 17 to Sunday, February 23, 2014.

Total cost \$1,495.00 from LaGuardia, NY to Boise, Idaho.

6 nights lodging at Sun Valley; 3 bedroom condominiums, 5-day ski pass.

Kids under 15 stay and ski FREE.

Call for air info from other airports: Cleveland, Toronto, Chicago

SlovenSki trip #2

Where: ASPEN / SNOWMASS, COLORADO

Top of The Village 3 bedroom Condominiums, ski in, ski out.

When: Monday, March 24 to Sunday, March 30, 2014

Snowmass is home of 2014 Nastar Nationals Ski Championships during last week of March.

[More information and application:](#)

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