



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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15 Years of ITF - Enhancing Human Security

The Slovenian-run fund for demining and mine victims assistance, ITF Enhancing Human Security, marked its 15th anniversary with a ceremony at Brdo pri Kranju on Monday, April 15, at which ITF director Dorijan Maršič pointed out that the fund had collected more than US\$ 375m and carried out over 2,880 projects since it was founded. He noted that the ITF had cleaned almost 126 million square meters of mine-infested areas and destroyed a total of 73,308 mines and other explosive devices in the last 15 years.



Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec addressing a ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of the Slovenian-run fund for demining and mine victims assistance, ITF Enhancing Human Security.

The ITF Enhancing Human Security is a non-profit organization, established by the Government of Slovenia in March 1998, in close partnership with the United States. The initial aim of the 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 South East Europe.

As the European Commission acknowledged the ITF as the reference model of regional organization in demining action, the ITF was asked by mine-affected



countries and donors to expand their operation to other mine-affected regions and countries as well, e.g., Cyprus, the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. The constructive partnership between Slovenian state bodies, the ITF and other donors has facilitated the rehabilitation of children from Gaza, and provided training for Palestinian therapists and medical specialists and the rehabilitation of victims from Libya.

The President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, said in his address on Monday that “[i]n the 15 years of operation, the ITF has gained a lot of credibility and trust at home, and made a name for itself in the international community.” He pointed out furthermore that the ITF is of extreme importance in the context of removing the negative consequences of conflicts and assisting the victims with assistance.

Foreign Minister, Karl Erjavec, underlined Slovenia’s



ITF marked its 15th anniversary with a ceremony at Brdo pri Kranju on Monday.

foreign-policy activities in international security and disarmament. Holding the Presidency of the Ottawa Convention, Slovenia is actively engaged in efforts to reduce the humanitarian effects of landmines and attain the final objective of a world free of landmines. The ITF will face certain challenges, from maintaining the level of donations and seeking new operational niches to potential changes in its legal status, explained Minister Erjavec. He also said that the Slovenian Government would continue to provide the necessary support.

In 2012, the ITF raised \$21 million, 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.

More information on ITF projects and activities: <http://www.itf-fund.si/>, where one can also get involved as a donor.



R2P Meeting and Conference in Slovenia

The Ministry of Foreign affairs hosted on April 10 the first regional meeting of national focal points on Responsibility to Protect (R2P) for Europe. The objective of the meeting was to raise awareness of R2P and enhance the role of the countries in the region in this respect. "We must do everything in our power to prevent crimes against civilian population," State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Božo Cerar, underlined at the very outset, urging the countries to appoint R2P focal points as soon as possible. High-level guests included Mr. Adama Dieng, Special Adviser to the U.N. Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide.

Slovenia has been supporting the R2P concept since its very beginning and has contributed significantly to the adoption of articles 138 and 139 of the World Summit Outcome Document (2005), in which the countries unanimously confirmed and defined the concept founded on three pillars, namely, the responsibility of the state, the assistance of the international community, and its intervention. Its main focus is the prevention of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.

Since its introduction in 2005, the concept has progressed visibly. Nevertheless, some



Address by State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Božo Cerar.

challenges still persist when it comes to its implementation. It requires countries, international and regional organizations as well as civil society to invest additional efforts. Through its multilateral and bilateral activities, Slovenia will continue to promote R2P and assist in its implementation. The meeting in Brdo pri Kranju in Slovenia is a reflection of Slovenia's support, which will encourage a wider discussion within Europe.

The meeting was attended by Edward Luck, former Special Advisor of the U.N. Secretary-General on R2P; Simon Adams, Director of the Global

Center for the Responsibility to Protect; Richard Stanley, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Stanley Foundation; Ilze Brands Kehris, Director of the Office of the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities; and ICC representatives.

Special Adviser Dieng also met with President Borut Pahor and Minister of Defense Roman Jakič, and held a lecture at the Faculty of Social Sciences, open to the public.

The discussion continued at the Faculty of Law on April 11 at the Responsibility to Protect in Theory and Practice Conference, with the objective to create an opportunity for scholars and practitioners to engage in an interdisciplinary academic debate on the theoretical and practical implications of the concept of Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The conference chaired by Vasilka Sancin, PhD, Assistant Professor of International Law, was organized as a forum where international legal experts and researchers had the opportunity to participate in a discourse with international political scientists to advance the scientific research on the issues related to R2P and the applicability of the concept in practice. The next conference will be held in Ljubljana in 2015.



Prof. Mark Vlasic of Georgetown University addressing the participants of the R2P conference at the Ljubljana Law Faculty.

Feed Me with Your Words at Disappearing Act V

Running from April 10 to 21, 2013, in cooperation with the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, DC, the Czech Center, jointly with European Union National Institutes for Culture and other European partners is presenting the fifth annual edition of the Disappearing Act European Film Festival in New York. The expanding festival, which was launched in 2009 to showcase the vitality of contemporary European cinema, is an official project of the European Union National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) and has been, in its fifth edition, screening 25 contemporary films from 25 European countries, with opening night held at the IFC Center on April 10, when Swedish film drama *Play* directed by Ruben Östlund was screened.

The Slovenian film shown at the festival on Wednesday, April 17 evening, was *Feed Me with Your Words* (Nahrani me z besedami) by the young Slovenian



writer 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, and casts renowned Slovenian actors Sebastian Cavazza, Jure Henigman, Boris Cavazza, Maša Derganc and Miranda Caharija.

The screening was held at the Bohemian National Hall and

attended by a diverse audience and members of the Slovenian community in New York. The screening was supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, the Ministry of Culture, and the Slovenian Film Center (<http://www.film-center.si/>). For full schedule, full film descriptions and more information on the festival see: www.DisappearingAct.org.

Shanghai Gipsy at CIFF

The 37th annual Cleveland International Film Festival, the largest film festival between New York and Chicago, kicked off on April 3 with an opening night gala and screenings of *The Kings of Summer*, a coming-of-age film that was shot last summer in Greater Cleveland. The 12-day festival showcased 180 feature films and 165 short films from 65 different countries. The main venue for almost all screenings was Tower City Cinemas in downtown Cleveland.



A scene from the film *Shanghai Gipsy*.

Among nearly 2,000 films that were submitted for consideration, three films from Slovenia were screened. The screening of *Shanghai Gypsy*, by director Marko Naberšnik, was on Saturday, March 13, introduced by the Consul General of Slovenia in Cleveland, Mr. Jure Zmauc. Clevelander Joe Valencic wrote the English subtitles for the film. The showing was sponsored by the Cleveland Consulate General and the Slovenian-American Business Association.

Shanghai Gypsy is the saga of the Mirgas, a fun-loving and charismatic Slovenian Romani clan, whose upward mobility over the course of four generations has led them far from their traditional way of life. Based on the novel *The Untouchables* by Feri Lainšček, this bittersweet story won the best screenplay award at the Montréal World Film Festival.

Historian and film producer Valencic also

introduced a documentary by Damijan Kozole, *The Long Vacation*. In the poignant historical investigation, the film focuses on three individuals to personalize the effects of a controversial law enacted when Slovenia proclaimed its independence in 1991. Slovenia was also represented at the CIFF as a co-producer of *Halima's Path*, by Croatian director Arsen A. Ostojčić.

CULTURE

Bread and Circuses at Kansas City FilmFest

On Saturday, April 13, Slovenian comedy *Bread and Circuses* (*Kruha in iger*), directed by Klemen Dvornik, was presented in Alamo Drafthouse Mainstreet Theater in Kansas City, within the annual Kansas City FilmFest. The FilmFest in April each year features more than 100 local, regional, national and international films. The Kansas City FilmFest is a major cultural event in Kansas City and the Midwest, attracting audiences and visiting artists from around the world. Throughout its history, it brought in more than 200 top filmmakers from around the world to share their work and insights.



A scene from the film *Bread and Circuses*.

The story of the film *Bread and Circuses* has a scent of nostalgia about socialistic Yugoslavia's last breaths, looking forward into brighter future days as, in 1987, Communist Slovenia, the Novak family wins a spot on the popular quiz show and a trip to the big city. But their experience of appearing on the program turns out to be much different than their perception of the show as seen on their television set at home. Still, the

power of the medium makes a mighty impression on teenage son Simon (Jurij Drevenšek), a valuable lesson for the changes to come to Slovenian society in the 1990s.

The film received the Audience Award at the 2011 Slovene Film Festival. The screening of Slovenian film at the Kansas City FilmFest was sponsored by Honorary Consul of Slovenia Ms. Barbara Koval Nelson.



Crngrob



Crngrob is a small village near the medieval town of Škofja Loka, Gorenjska. Much of the history of the village is dominated by that of its church.

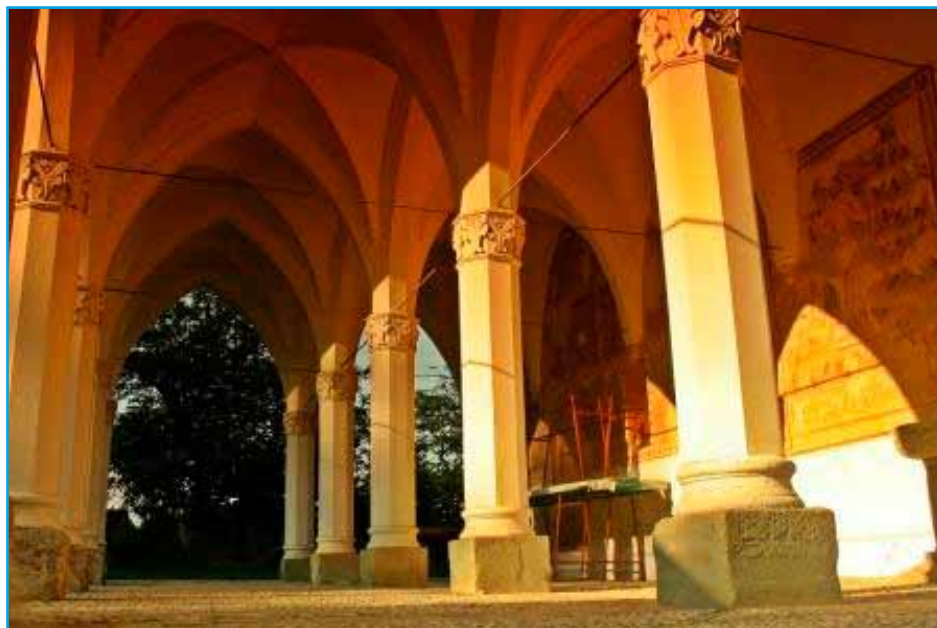
Crngrob is a small village near the medieval town of Škofja Loka, Gorenjska. The unusual name Crngrob (meaning 'black grave') most likely derives from the German word 'Erngruben' (literally 'at Erngrub'; the name is a compound of *ern* 'to plow (up)' or *erde* '(fertile) soil' + *grube* 'depression, basin'), which is found in ancient documents; however, because the name has a mysterious ring, there are various explanations of its origin. The name may refer to a mammoth's rib dug up at the site, to a robber's hideout in a cave, or to the small fertile valley where the settlement is located. Another story goes that the governor of Loka (popular short name for Škofja Loka), opposed the building of a large tower at Crngrob, because it threatened to be higher than the one in Loka. He climbed the scaffolding and a gust of wind sent him plummeting to the ground, and black grass allegedly grew over

his grave.

The name Crngrob has been recorded in documents from the 13th century onward. Much of the history of the village is dominated by that of its church. The Church

of the Annunciation is known to be the best piece of medieval art history in Slovenia. A well-known pilgrimage church, it gained its present appearance over a century ago when the last part was added, although its origins lie as far back as the 13th century. It features Romanesque, Gothic and Baroque elements and has become one of the greatest artistic monuments in Slovenia. In medieval times, as many as 28 different processions of pilgrims from far and wide came here at Pentecost and, even until the last century, 900 masses a year were said here.

First to be built was a smaller Romanesque church, containing some murals from around 1300, as early Gothic frescoes depict the Life of Our Lady. In the mid-14th century, the building was extended westwards, doubling its length. A bell-tower was constructed on its southern side. The outside walls were decorated with frescoes



Arcades in front of the church are the place where scenes from the Slovenian film *Cvetje v jeseni* (Blossoms in Autumn) were filmed.



Holy Sunday fresco by Janez Ljubljanski illustrates for the faithful the activities prohibited on the Sabbath.

depicting Christ's Passion. These can still be seen under the portico. Other remnants from this period include the Gothic portal and windows. On the façade under the

portico at the main entrance to the church, a famous Holy Sunday fresco illustrates for the faithful the activities prohibited on the Sabbath. This is the mid-15th century work of the painting workshop of Janez of Ljubljana. A Gothic painting of Saint Christopher on the bell-tower wall dates to 1464.

A second array of frescoes, portraying the scourging of Christ and the kiss of Judas, is preserved on the northern side of the nave. In time, the long narrow church became too confined and, as a result, the bell-tower was demolished and the church widened along its whole length. The unusual width led the builders to dividing the one nave into three. At the same time, a third array of frescoes was added to the northern wall by Master Volbenk (who signed himself 'Bolfgangus, 1453'). These frescoes depict the life of St. Volbenk, St. Ann with

Mother and Child, the Nativity, and the Three Kings. In 1551 and again in 1666, the church was raised by two storeys.

The church boasts some exceptionally valuable works of art. The high altar is the largest Baroque gilded altar in Slovenia, a masterpiece of local carving and decoration. It was made in 1652 by the Ljubljana master craftsman Jurij Skornos and gilded by Jakob Jamšek from Loka. The giant composition of the statues, pillars and decorations draws the eye heavenward into the surrounding aureole of light. Amid this Baroque splendor hangs an oil painting by the master artist Leopold Layer, who was also responsible for the Stations of the Cross in the church. The columned portico, the work of Molinaro, a master-builder from Loka was added in 1858. (Source: France Stele: Škofja Loka)

ENVIRONMENT

'Green Light World Flight' North Pole 2013

On Monday, April 22, Slovenian Matevž Lenarčič, pilot and photographer, is going to start the North Pole 2013 project, a follow-up to last year's successful 'Green Light World Flight' project of circumnavigating the globe, after taking off in the ultra-light aircraft Virus SW made by the Slovenian producer Pipistrel. The goal of this year's project, which includes aspects of high technology, innovation and knowledge in connection with global challenges, is to fly over the North Pole and collect black carbon data.

The project is of scientific relevance for the Arctic and the world, and technological background is crucial for the good completion of the project. A combination of the Pipistrel ultra light-weight plane and the Aethalometer measurement device by the Slovenian producer, Aerosol, will make possible measurements of black carbon concentrations, one



M. Lenarčič.

of the most significant generators of climate change and Arctic ice thaw, at low altitudes with the smallest possible environmental impact.

The project is supported by the Government Communication Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, whereas Foreign Minister

Karl Erjavec will also escort Lenarčič to Ljubljana's Jože Pučnik Airport to wish him a safe journey.

To track Matevž Lenarčič on his adventure please see: <http://www.worldgreenflight.com/index.php?id=27>

Consular Hours in New York City

The consular officer from the Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia in Washington, DC, will hold consular hours and provide consular services (authentications, certifications, passport applications, etc.) in New York City **on Friday, May 17, 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.

To schedule an appointment, please, fill out the form available at the embassy's website and send it to the Embassy of Slovenia at vwa@gov.si by May15, 2013, to allow

the embassy enough time to verify your data.

The embassy will suggest the time of your appointment and give you further information on the documentation you need to bring along. You may also visit the embassy website <http://washington.embassy.si/> (Consular Affairs, Visas) for documents required for most consular services. Please note that the consular fee must be paid with a Money Order made out to "Embassy of Slovenia". Cash, personal checks or credit cards will not be accepted.

Due to security reasons, prior appointment is needed to enter the premises of the Mission.



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. The 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. 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.

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 Milošević, 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 or call (202) 625-2361.

Translate Slovenian language with PORTOS

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 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.

The weekly Embassy Newsletter, produced by the Embassy of Slovenia in Washington, is available on: www.washington.embassy.si.
 Send us your comments or request for a subscription on: vwa@gov.si,
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