



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 20, 2014, VOLUME 10, NUMBER 22

## Slovenia at The World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment in PA

**The World Forum for Foreign Direct Investment 2014 in Philadelphia (PA) from June 16 to 18 gathered key decision-makers and experts in FDI. Slovenia was represented at the event by the Public Agency for FDI Spirit Slovenia and Regional Development Agency Mura.**

One of the highlights of the program was the tasting of Slovenian wines co-hosted by the Spirit agency Slovenia and the Embassy of Slovenia in the U.S. The event, featuring a range of wines from all three Slovenian wine regions, was attended by some 200 guests. They were unanimous in the

praise of the quality and diversity of Slovenian wine offer.

The tasting featured the following wine makers and their wines: Vipava (Pinela and Malvazija), Frešer (Rhine Riesling and Italian Riesling), Steyer (Gewürtztraminer), Krško (Blue Francin Prestige and Italian Riesling Selection), Črnko (Yellow Muscat), Santomas (Mezzo Forte and Antonius Refosco), Štekar (Malvazija and Merlot) and Ronk (Cabernet Sauvignon and Pinot Grigio).



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## Parliamentary Elections

On June 1, 2014 President of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, has called for elections to Slovenian Parliament. The elections for 90 representatives, who will serve for a four-year term will be held on **Sunday, July 13, 2014.**

The national electoral commission launched the official preparations and procedures connected to the elections on June 2. Slovenian citizens may vote in the Slovenian Parliamentary elections if on the date of the election (July 13, 2014) they are at least 18 years old.

Citizens with **permanent residence abroad** will receive their ballots, along with the instructions, at their respective postal addresses. Voters who wish to vote on the premises of the Embassy of Slovenia in

Washington, D.C. can check their data registered in the national electoral register Monday to Friday between 9:30 a.m. and 12:00 noon by phone at (202) 386-6614.

Slovenian citizens **living outside Slovenia temporarily** and wishing to cast their votes for Slovenian representatives in the 2014 European Parliamentary elections had to register as voters by June 12, 2014, on a special registration form.

The polling stations in the United States will be established at the following locations with operating hours **from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** on the day of the election:

- Slovene Home for the Aged (organized by the **Consulate General of Slovenia in Cleveland, OH**), 18621 Neff Road, Cleveland, OH 44119



- **Embassy of the Republic of Slovenia**, 2410 California Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20008

For more information in Slovenian go to:

<http://www.dvk-rs.si/index.php/si/arhiv-drzavni-zbor-rs/leto-2014-predcasne-volitve>

## Slovenian Theater Group Aut of de Boks in Mexico

Between May 26 and 31, the Cosmocomico international festival of alternative theater took place in Zacatecas, Mexico. Next to groups from Argentina, Columbia, Paraguay, and Spain, Slovenian theater group Aut of de Boks presented a play titled Chairs!

Based on the motifs of the drama Chairs! by Eugene Ionesco, the play was developed by students of University of Ljubljana's Academy for Theater, Radio, Film and Television. Next to actors Ana Tomazin and Stane Urbanc, and the director Mateja Kokol, Petra Veber, Ivan Mijačević, Gaja Kutnjak, Karin Rožman, Nika Švab and Mateja Fajt participated in the creating process.



The play was presented twice at the festival – on Friday, May 30 on the premises of Teatro Seguro Social and on Saturday, May 31 in Teatro Calderón. Both times the group won standing ovations

by the audience. Prior to the shows, the director Mateja Kokol introduced to the Mexican and international audience the history of the Slovenian theater; she also held workshops on May 27.

## Stanley Cup Finds its Way Back to Slovenia

On Saturday, June 14, 2014, the LA Kings were crowned for the second time in three years as National Hockey League (NHL) Champions, defeating the New York Rangers by sealing a 4-1 series victory. In a dramatic fifth game, it was Alec Martinez #27, who scored the decisive goal in the 95th minute and brought the Stanley Cup back home to the Staples Center, LA. However, this victory would have been impossible without the best Slovenian athlete at the moment, Anže Kopitar #11.

Kopitar, also known as "Kopi", played a crucial role already during the race to the 2012 Stanley Cup Championship and at that time the 24-year-old Slovenian superstar gained much attention. This year, his outstanding performances led him to become the first Slovenian hockey player to win the Stanley Cup as a scoring leader, with a starring performance in points (26) and goals (5). Already before the beginning of the Stanley Cup play-off final, the former Canadian



LA Kings with the cup after defeating the New York Rangers on June 14.

hockey player Wayne Gretzky, also known as "The Great One", declared Kopitar as the third best player in the NHL and proclaimed the final to be "Kopitar's series". He was right.

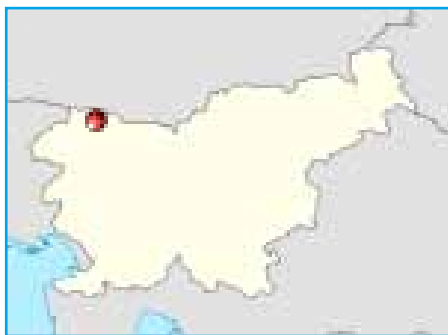
Kopi was born on August 24, 1987, in the small town of Hrušica, located in the northeastern part of Slovenia. Since Kopitar is a Slovenian hockey idol, many Slovenians stayed up all night to watch his performance during the

last play-off final. Already during his race for the 2012 Stanley Cup, his home town of Hrušica decided to screen the games in the town square. This year, the organizers organized a public viewing in the 5,500-seat Sports Hall Podmežakla, Jesenice, where Kopi stood for the first time on his skates. Thanks to Kopi, the Stanley Cup arrived for the first time to Slovenia on July 6, 2012, when despite a heavy rain in Kopitar's hometown of Hrušica, nearly 5,000 people welcomed the Stanley Cup to Slovenia. Stanley Cup will again be back in Slovenia this summer and will enjoy its beauties. The organizers expect that, this time, even more people will come to welcome Kopi and his prestigious trophy. Immediately after the LA King's victory on June 14, Slovenian President Borut Pahor congratulated Anže Kopitar via Facebook and Twitter. Slovenia's ambassador to the U.S., Dr. Božo Cerar, also recognized Kopitar on his latest achievement.



Anže Kopitar brought Stanley Cup to his hometown Hrušica already in 2012.

## Jesenice and Hrušica



The town of Jesenice, which lies on the southern, Slovenian, side of the mountain range of the Karavanke in the Upper Carniola region, got its name from the name of the ash tree (in Slovene: jêsen), which once grew in abundance locally. The German name for Jesenice is Assling, which was first mentioned as early as 1004. At that time, the name Assling only marked an area on the banks of the Jesenica creek. Later, a settlement slowly started to grow around the area where St. Leonard's church is located today.

The history of Jesenice



Panoramic view on Jesenice (Source: [www.slovenia.info](http://www.slovenia.info))

is closely connected with its ironworks and metallurgy. The oldest source on the early history of Jesenice is a list of mining rights, issued to the Carinthian counts of Ortenburg, dating to 1381, but the first settlements in the area were founded on the southern slopes higher

in the Karavanke mountain range. With the development of new techniques of extraction of iron from ore, the need for water energy grew, and the small streams on the slopes of the Karavanke were no longer sufficient. The ore-extracting industry was relocated in 1538, when Bernardo Bucellini from Bergamo gained permission from the Habsburg king Ferdinand I to move the ironworks to a larger water source, the Sava river, creating a settlement that was to become Jesenice. The ironworks, however, continued to mine iron ore on the slopes of the Karavanke.

Different iron foundries belonged to different owners (the Zois, Ruard, and Bucellini families) and did not interact. This situation continued until the 19th century, when the Luckmann family from Ljubljana agreed to modernize the iron foundries through the new shareholder company, the



The town of Jesenice is the cradle of Slovenian ice hockey.

Kranjska Industrijska Družba - Carniolan Industrial Company (KID). Thus, in 1869, all the Upper Carniolan ironworks were joined -- for the first time -- by the Luckmann family under a single administration, with central management in Ljubljana and business administration in Jesenice. The greatest achievement of KID was the discovery of a process for obtaining ferromanganese in a smelting furnace. This innovation brought KID a gold medal at the World Exhibition in Vienna in 1873 and worldwide fame.



Above the town of Jesenice, one can find Golica (6,024 ft), a peak especially known for its fields of wild white narcissi, swathes of which cover Golica and surrounding pastures in late April and early May.

KID was also the basis for a new ironworks facility, which still provides employment today. The new facility started expanding quickly, from medieval-style iron foundries to up-to-date modern ironworks in just a few years. The town of Jesenice grew almost exponentially, with a great influx of people attracted to the newly created jobs.

Today, Jesenice is mostly known as the home of Slovenia's largest steel company, Acroni, and the hockey club, Acroni Jesenice, it sponsored. Unfortunately, the latter no longer exists, but it is hockey club HD Mladi Jesenice

that continues the rich hockey tradition in Jesenice. The club has been very successful, indeed, as Anže Kopitar, its long-time member is now ice hockey center and alternate captain of the Los Angeles Kings of the NHL, the first Slovenian ever to play in the League.

Anže Kopitar originally comes from the village of Hrušica, a settlement 2 miles west of Jesenice along the main road to Kranjska Gora. The settlement has less than 2000 inhabitants and is, next to its famous athlete, best known for the 7,976 m (cca. 5 miles) long two-track Karavanke railway tunnel connecting Slovenia with Austria, which was finished in 1906, and the 7,864 m (cca. 4.8 miles long road tunnel, completed in 1991.



Hrušica is best known for the 7,976 m (cca. 5 miles) long two-track Karavanke railway tunnel connecting Slovenia with Austria, which was finished in 1906.

**DOBRODOŠLI DOMA – WELCOME HOME 2014**

For the fourth successive year, the Government's Office for Slovenians Abroad, together with the Minister for Slovenians abroad, Mr. Gorazd Zmavc, will sponsor the annual meeting of all Slovenes under the slogan "Welcome home." The meeting will feature various cultural events and workshops.

When: Saturday, July 5, 2014

Where: Skofja Loka, Slovenia (The town is located cca. 20 miles from the capital Ljubljana and is easily accessible by public transport.)

More information and the program can be found at: <http://www.dobrodoslidoma.si/>

E-mail your questions to: [pr.urad.slovinci@gov.si](mailto:pr.urad.slovinci@gov.si)

**A CAN'T MISS IN-STORE TASTING!**  
 Appearance by Hudson Valley Celebrity Chef  
**CHEF PETER X. KELLY**  
 Created by Chef Peter X. Kelly and his team to be "the culinary vodka," the perfect vodka for pairing with exquisite dishes; for use in the creation of these dishes; and for the creation of the most dramatic cocktails by chef mixologists.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2014**  
**3:30-7:00 PM**

*Featuring*  
**SLOVENIA**  
 V O D K A

**LE DŪ'S WINES** IN-STORE TASTING AT  
 600 WASHINGTON ST  
 NEW YORK, NY 10014  
 (212) 924-6999

Embassy of Slovenia congratulates all the Slovenes home and abroad on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Slovenia, June 25.  
 Iskrene čestitke vsem Slovencem ob dnevu državnosti!