



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

NEWSLETTER

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Slovenian Students Participate in the U.S. Youth Leadership Program



YLPCE brought together 46 youth leaders and adult mentors from Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the United States.

The U.S. Department of State's Youth Leadership Program with Central Europe (YLPCE), implemented by the Meridian International Center in cooperation with Central European partners, this summer for the third time brought together 46 youth leaders and adult mentors from Hungary, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the United States to build cultural bridges and work together to enhance their leadership skills and

solve community problems. The three-week program's focus is to bring together young generations to learn about leadership skills and, moreover, to have them take back to their local communities the experiences in the form of a community project.

The program began with the participants traveling to Washington for an overview of

U.S. history, politics and culture. In the first few days, the group visited the Meridian House in Washington, where they began the course of their activities with a briefing on the U.S. government, and a meeting and participation in a leadership development program, which included conflict resolution and team building workshops.





issues, including environmental awareness, underserved youth, and international hunger relief, and to meet with grassroots organizations which contribute to changing their communities. Throughout the program, American and European participants are to develop well crafted Action Plans to implement long-term collaborative projects addressing specific community needs.

Following the conclusion of the European participants' trip to the United States, 10 youth and adult leaders from Raleigh, NC, and Kansas City, MO and KS, will travel to Serbia and Hungary to learn more about youth initiatives in Europe and participate in workshops to develop their own leadership skills. (Source: Meridian press release: <http://www.meridian.org/press/item/1047-meridian-to-implement-the-2013-youth-leadership-program-with-central-europe-sponsored-by-the-us-department-of-state>)

In the first few days, the group began the course of their activities in Meridian Intl. Center in Washington, D.C., that implemented the YLPCE program.

On Friday, July 12, the group met with the representatives of each of the participating countries' embassy as they presented their home countries and cuisine. The eight Slovenian students and one adult were addressed by Mr. Borut Blaj, First Secretary and Ms. Nuška Zakrajšek of the Slovenian embassy.

In the coming weeks, the students also will visit homes of their American counterparts to experience American culture and the life of an American teenager. From Washington, the students split into two groups to travel to Raleigh, NC, or Kansas City, to focus on their choice of important global

EVENTS

Slovenefest 32nd ANNUAL

The Slovene National Benefit Society (SNPJ) organized on July 12-14, 2013, its 32nd annual Slovenefest, which took place at the SNPJ Recreation Center in the Ennon Valey City, Pennsylvania. Slovenefest is the largest Slovenian cultural festival in North America and every year attracts thousands of participants from several states. This year, it featured more than 20 Slovenian polka bands and button box accordion clubs at five indoor and outdoor venues, which offered a perfect opportunity for learning



Performance by Mladi glas and Planika Dance Group.

the traditional dances polka and waltz, while listening to live performances by Chardon Polka Band, Ron Likovic Band, Mladi glas (Young Voice) and Veseli fantje (Jolly Boys) and others.

The weekend event included Slovenian food and beverages, including Carniolian sausages, potica wall-nut roll cake as well as imported Slovenian beer and wines. Festival guests could also explore the culture of Slovenia through an extensive display of folk attire, crafts and household items in the SNPJ Slovenian Heritage Center museum.

There were also numerous activities for kids. The Olympic-sized pool was open for use. Other family activities included fishing in the SNPJ Recreation Center lake, miniature golf, the trackless train, inflatable houses, a playground, and organized activities.

The program also included the 57th anniversary of the Miss SNPJ Pageant, which has become a highlight of each Slovenefest since 1998. The event was



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attended by the Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, Jure Žmauc, who in his address recognized the importance of the endeavors of Slovenian organizations that are trying to preserve Slovenian heritage.

Joseph C. Evanish, SNPJ National President, stressed that the Festival was once again a big success, marked by the number of visitors attending it and more

than 120 volunteers who had stepped up to help.

The SNPJ, a fraternal benefit society, was formed in 1904 by Slovenian immigrants to provide affordable life insurance to the new Slovenian-Americans and to preserve the Slovenian culture. For more information about Slovenefest, visit www.snpj.org/Slovenian-Culture/Slovenefest



The festival was attended by several thousand people from all over the U.S. and Canada.



Children crafts.

Annual Meeting of the Government Council for Slovenians Abroad

The Government Council for Slovenians Abroad met in a session on Wednesday, July 10, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, upon the invitation by the RS Government Prime Minister Ms. Alenka Bratušek with support by the Minister for Slovenians abroad Ms. Tina Komel.

The Council is composed of representatives of organizations of Slovenian communities in the neighboring countries and those farther abroad, and of Slovenia's ministers and state secretaries dealing with the issues of Slovenian minorities in the neighboring countries and cooperation with Slovenians abroad. The meeting was attended by representatives from Argentina, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Australia, China, Germany, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Also in attendance were Dr. Boris Pleskovič, the President of the Slovenian World Congress, and ministers of the Slovenian Government: Mr. Karl



U.S. representatives on the council are Mr. Ivan Kamin (NY) and Mr. Milan Ribič (OH).

Erjavec, Minister of Foreign Affairs; Mr. Stanko Stepišnik, Minister of Economic Development and Technology; Dr. Jernej Pikalo Minister of Education, Science and Sports; and Mr. Dejan Židan, Minister of Agriculture and the Environment.

Central part of the discussion was focused on the exchange of information on activities of Slovenian organizations abroad. Members

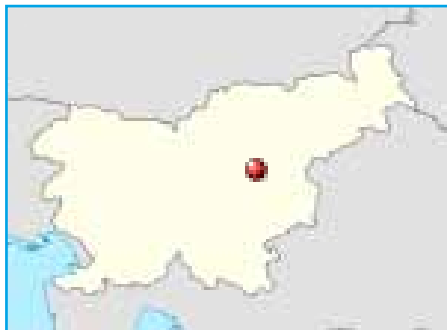
of the Council thanked the Slovenian Government for active and persistent support to their endeavors to preserve Slovenian culture and language among Slovenians living abroad. They particularly underlined the importance of the Office of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for Slovenians Abroad, headed by the minister without portfolio, who is engaged in Slovenian Government's contacts with Slovenian communities abroad.

The Council discussed the challenges faced by the young generations and called for greater participation of Slovenians around the world in economic cooperation with the homeland. The next important step is to upgrade policies and strategies that would provide solutions for new challenges in the fields of culture, language, science, economy, sports, intergenerational cooperation as well as youth and cross-border cooperation.



Prime Minister Alenka Bratušek and Minister for Slovenians abroad Tina Komel were joined by Ministers Erjavec, Stepišnik, Pikalo and Židan.

Laško



The town of Laško is located at the foothills of the Hum hill (1912 ft.) on the Savinja River in Štajersko, the northeastern region of Slovenia. The settlement was first mentioned in written documents dating to 1227, however, it is known to have been settled since the Iron Age, and Roman archaeological finds are common in the area.

With the arrival of the first Slavic settlers, several geographical locations in



The town of Laško is located at the foothills of the Hum hill (1912 ft.) on the Savinja River in Štajersko, the northeastern region of Slovenia. (Source: www.slovenia.info)

the area were named after the original settlers "Lahi" (meaning "settlers of foreign origin"): Lahomšek, Lahomno, Lahomnica, Lahov Graben, and the center of the region - Laško. The local castle, known as the Tabor Castle, dates to the

12th century, but it was first mentioned in written sources only in 1265. It was burned down during Ottoman Raids in the late 15th century and was expanded in the 16th century. The parish church, dedicated to Saint Martin, is a Romanesque building dating to the 13th century, with various later additions and adaptations.

Today, Laško with its immediate and distant surroundings, offers countless possibilities for walks, various visits and excursions. Near Laško, the Jurklošter Carthusian church reveals special stories from the past. The church -- with its unique stone bell tower -- is included in the Transromanica project, which integrates the most beautiful European creations from the Romanesque period.

The tradition of seeking health in the thermal waters in Laško and in the area of the



Tabor Castle dates to the 12th century. (Source: www.slovenia.info)



The region is also known for its beekeeping tradition. (www.slovenia.info)



The annual event "Pivo in cvetje" took place between July 11 and 14. (Photo courtesy: www.pivo-cvetje.si)

nearby Rimske terme reaches back centuries. The Laško spa springs were frequented by Roman legionaries and in the Middle Ages by Christian missionaries, and at the end of the 19th century became a popular summer resort, regularly visited by the Austro-Hungarian emperor Franz Joseph I.

During the last 60 years, Laško has become famous for its excellent medical rehabilitation. Thermana Laško (<http://www.thermana.si/en/>) and Rimske

terme (<http://www.rimske-terme.si/>) have integrated natural features and expert knowledge into an array of medical programs and local wellness experience.

The town is best known for its Laško Brewery, the largest brewery in the country with its beginnings in a small mead and honey shop going back to 1825. The annual event "Pivo in cvetje" (www.pivo-cvetje.si/); a festival of beer and flowers, is the pinnacle of

entertainment in Laško, when the whole town turns for a few days into amusement grounds with performances by top musicians and entertainers. The magnificent fireworks, along with the traditional country wedding and the parade of beer, flowers and traditional customs, are both the traditional fixture and the main attraction of the festival, which this year took place between July 11 and 14. More information is available at: <http://www.stik-lasko.si>



Thermana Laško. (Source: www.slovenia.info)



Monastery of chartusian monks in Jurklošter. (www.slovenia.info)

EURAXESS Science Slam

EURAXESS Science Slam North America 2013 is the first edition of an event giving researchers in North America the chance to showcase their research projects to their peers and the wider public in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere.

Every participant will present a topic related to his/her research to an audience of non-experts. The slam will be given in English in up to 10 minutes and can be supported by video and audio material, ppt. slides and any other kind of media available, as well as by scientific equipment.

If you are a researcher currently based in North America (U.S. or Canada), enter the competition by posting a video featuring your science slam on their LinkedIn site or upload

it on YouTube or DropBox and send the link directly to northamerica@euraxess.net before **10 September 2013**.

Up to 7 entries will be invited to join the EURAXESS Science Slam North America 2013 finals to be held on the campus of the American University in Washington, DC, on September 24, 2013. The performances of the participants will be judged by the audience and the jury based on conceptualization, style and originality.

The winner will be awarded a round trip to Europe (Brussels, Belgium), where he or she will attend the EURAXESS Voice of Researchers Conference on November 21 and 22, 2013, along with the winners of the other EURAXESS Science Slams organized in ASEAN, Japan,



India, China, and Brazil.

The event is open to researchers of any nationality, currently based in North America, active in any field of research.

For full details on how to participate and the Terms and Conditions please check: http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/data/links/usa/docs/Science_Slam_NA_2013.pdf

ANNOUNCEMENT

New Online Class Slovenian 101

In this course, you will be introduced to the Slovenian language in the easiest way possible. You will not learn all that much about grammar and rules, yet you'll be able to acquire the survival knowledge of the language, phrases, etc. From the very start, the course is constructed so that you can use it in everyday situations, with your friends, family and others. The benefit of this course is the link to Tegrity classes, which is found in every online lecture.

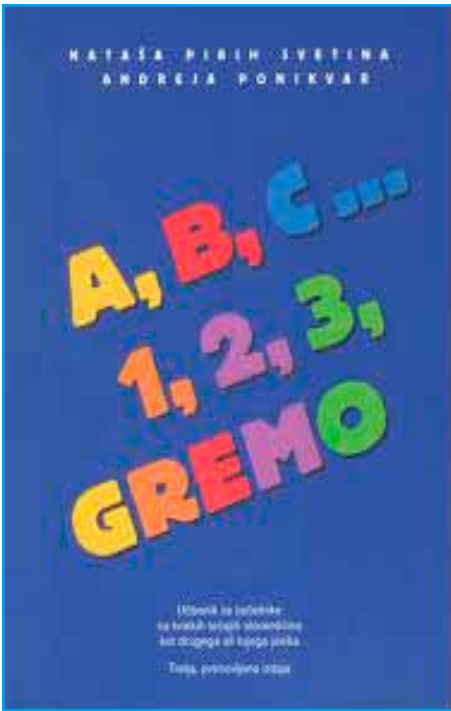
Tegrity classes are like the classroom experience, and have the possibility of rewind. You'll be able to hear every single thing multiple times, voiced by both a native speaker and a beginner American speaker. Therefore, you'll know whether you pronounce it adequately well for your stage of learning. The possibility of rewind is exactly what is missing when learning in the classroom.

Classes are offered at Cleveland State University (CSU)

under the name SLN 101. There are no particular days or hours that you need to do these classes. This makes it perfect for someone who can't come to CSU or Lakeland, while still enabling him/her to learn the language.

Classes are offered for credit points (3 CP) or continuing education. People from all around the U.S. can enroll in these classes, so enroll quickly.

Also, there are three normal classes offered at Lakeland Community College and CSU.



At Lakeland CC, there will be a beginners' class (also using the Tegrity program and a completely new way of learning – all the materials for the online class will be offered in the class also). The class (SLOV 1001) meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6:00 to 7:50 p.m. and earns 4 CP.

Lakeland CC also offers an intermediate class, which will also use the new techniques. The class (SLOV 2001) meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 to 9:15 p.m. and earns 3 CP.

CSU's new campus, located just across the road

from Lakeland, offers also a third year of learning the Slovenian language (MLA 396). The class meets on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:50 p.m. and earns 3 CP, OR can be taken it as a continuing education course for just a fraction of the normal cost.

For more information, contact Luka Zibelnik, visiting lecturer from Slovenia at the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at CSU. He can be reached by e-mail at: luka_zibelnik@yahoo.com

For a Tegrity class presentation of this course go to: <https://tegrity.com/y/17ky2>

TO DO LIST

Slovenia will host EuroBasket 2013

Slovenia will be hosting EuroBasket 2013 between September 4 and 22 in Celje, Jesenice, Ljubljana, and Koper. The sport's venues will see a battle between the national basketball teams of Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Italy, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Montenegro, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

Tickets for the biggest sporting event in Slovenia's independent history have been on sale since July 1. With 87 matches that will be played over the 19 days, 1,100 volunteers will help out with various activities. The final game will be played in the 13,000-seat Stožice Arena in Ljubljana. A host of



accompanying events are also planned to keep the fans busy between the basketball actions. Slovenia's EuroBasket roster will include Phoenix Suns' point guard Goran Dragić.

Information about tickets is available on the EuroBasket 2013 website www.eurobasket2013.org,

and at the official ticket agency www.eventim.si.

The President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor, welcomes European Basketball Championship in the official video available at: <http://vimeo.com/67952039>.

Slovenia & Bach on Capitol Hill

Vibrant contemporary chamber music from Slovenia and by J.S. Bach, with guest soprano Patrice Michaels and pianist Jeffrey Chappell, along with composer Brina Jež and violinist Branko Brezavšek, special guests from Ljubljana.

When: [Wednesday, August 3 at 8 p.m.](#), [Friday, August 5 at 8 p.m.](#), [Sunday, August 7 at 8 p.m.](#)

Where: [St. Mark's Episcopal Church on Capitol Hill at 3rd and A streets SE](#)

Suggested donation: \$20, seniors \$17, students \$12. 16 and under free.

More information: www.chcmf.org.

Consular hours in Illinois

Consular hours will be held at the annual picnic of the Slovenian Catholic/Cultural Center on an as-needed basis. Please, contact Jurček Zmauc the Consul General of the Republic of Slovenia in Cleveland, for an appointment at (1) (216) 589-9220 or by e-mail at gcl@gov.si. Another contact point is the Slovenian Honorary Consul in Chicago, John Vidmar, at (1) (708) 204-4390 or, by e-mail, slovconsul.chicago@comcast.net

Where: [Slovenian Catholic/Cultural Center, 14252 Main Street, P.O. Box 634, Lemont, IL 60439](#)

When: [Sunday, August 11, from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m.](#)

More information: <https://slovenian.center.org>

Exhibition Afghanistan (Un)Ordinary Lives in Cleveland, OH

Slovenian freelance photojournalist Manca Juvan spent a number of years in the last decade in Afghanistan and Iran in order to document the effect of thirty (30) years of war upon daily life. Her body of work entitled "Unordinary Lives" reflects the pathos and ravages of the human spirit but also the resilience and perseverance of the Afghan people.

When: [Ongoing through August 31, 2013](#)

Hours by Appointment: Contact John Kirn, 216-382-2394 or Geri Hopkins, 216-347-9888

Where: [Slovenian Museum and Archives, 6407 St. Clair Ave, Cleveland, OH 44103](#)

More information: <https://www.facebook.com/UnordinaryLivesByMancaJuvan>

<http://www.smacleveland.org/>

The Visual Identity of Slovenia – Design for a State exhibition

This touring exhibition presents the range of designs elaborated for the young state and its institutions by one of Slovenia's top designers, Miljenko Licul. Over the course of his artistic career, Licul has created a number of great works of visual culture that are closely related to the identity of the nation and the state, and are, by any means, the most recognizable visual images of Slovenia's identity to have been created over its 22-year history as a sovereign state.

Licul designed the banknotes for Slovenia's former currency – the tolar. Working together with Maja Licul and Janez Boljka, he also designed Slovenia's euro coins. Miljenko Licul is also responsible for the visual image of Slovenia's biometric passport, ID and health insurance cards, and driver's license. Licul also designed a series of postage stamps with ethnographical motifs.

When: [Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., closing in October 2013](#)

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