Dear beekeepers and friends of bees and nature!

3rd International Conference of Beekeeping Organizations, organized in Slovenia, 20 and 21 November 2014

Welcome to participate at 3rd International Conference of Beekeeping Organisations which will take place at the seat of the Slovenian Beekeepers’ Association, Brdo near Lukovica with its main theme presenting
beekeeping organizations’ activities in relation to working with young people in the field of beekeeping. The common goal of the conference is to exchange good experience with working with young people, to set out organizational, technical and other challenges that occur when working with young people, possibilities for their improvement as well as overall quality improvement. The presentations shall answer the following questions: which educational activities are offered, which aspects of beekeeping do activities focus on most, what type of work materials are used, what kind of financial support is given, are there competitions in beekeeping knowledge,... The highlight of the first day will be inaugural meeting of the APIMONDIA Api-tourism Committee - presentation and adoption of the operation program, goals and direction of the Apimondia Working Group on Api-tourism. Another common goal is supporting the initiative on establishing the European Honey Breakfast and its implementation on the exact same day throughout the EU in 2015. The participants will have a chance to attend the breakfast in kindergartens and primary schools where they will get an insight into the project implementation in order to transfer the concept of the campaign into their native countries. Also – innovative providers of Api-tourism services will be visited on a second day.
ApiRoutes presented at 6th International Conference on “Sustainable Tourism 2014”

The 6th International Conference on Sustainable Tourism was held in Opatija, Croatia, in July 2014 by the Wessex Institute of Technology, in collaboration with the Complutense University of Madrid and the Hydrographic Institute of the Republic of Croatia. The conference convened 32 scientists and experts to personally present their research and best practice and was broken into: tourism and protected areas, rural and heritage tourism, sustainable tourism development and strategies. ApiRoutes’ presentation outlined Api-tourism; Transforming Slovenia’s honey traditions into a unique travel experience. The emergence and development of Api-tourism as a novel concept in travel and holidaying is an important component of the green economy and on the basis of innovation and high value-added, tourist products leverage competitive advantages. Indeed, it is in the address of ecological, economic socio-cultural and political issues - i.e. all four primary pillars of sustainable tourism - that provides their greatest competitive advantage.

Frequently asked question - The honey season in Slovenia (written by Mr Franc Sivic)

I cannot remember such a bad harvest, though I’m a beekeeper for over half a century now. Bad weather (wind, low night temperatures and often rains) which lasted throughout the foraging season is certainly guilty
for the poor nectar flow. **Acacia was richly blossoming, but due to the weather did not produce nectar** and also its smell was not as the smell we are used to with acacia. Later on, **linden and chestnut trees failed “to deliver”** as well; and these are tree species, which are otherwise very reliable regardless of producing nectar. **This year we produced barely one-fifth of the average annual production of honey, barely 4 kg per hive.** The market supply will therefore be scarce and prices will increase for sure. A professional beekeeper Renato Garibaldi told me that this year’s honey harvest in Italy is poor too. Also, a friend of Josef Ulz, a former longtime chairman of the Austrian beekeepers complained to me that he doesn’t remember such bad harvests in Upper Styria. **Now we are in August and the bees are fed in order to provide them enough food for the winter.** Sugar is certainly not an equivalent food for the bees and cannot entirely replace the honey but it does represent an emergency escape to save the bee population and bring them safely through the winter until the new foraging season.

**Latvian group of Beekeepers visiting Slovenia impressed by country’s biodiversity and its beekeeping equipment and supplies**

Latvian beekeepers that just finished an Api excursion to Slovenia had an opportunity to visit **Ptuj, Slovenia’s oldest town** - green and hilly winegrowing region rich in tradition, folklore and cultural heritage. Further, they stopped at **The beekeeping Centre of Gorenjska** in the Carniola region as well as at **Brdo near Lukovica, the headquarters of Slovenian Beekeepers’ Association** where they were introduced to centre’s activities. The group tasted a selection of best bee products, particularly the famous honey brandy and innovative beetroot honey, which has medicinal uses. Karst region, a picturesque region covered by olive trees and vineyards offered a visit to a **beekeeper specialized in bee hives**
transport system and of course, Postojna cave, the most visited show cave in Europe.

Don`t miss the opportunity to meet with us:

Warmly invited to attend the presentation of the Slovenian Api-tourism – ApiRoutes at the following congresses:

- 7th Spanish Apicultural Congress, Santiago de Compostela, Spain (VII Congreso Apícola Hispánico), 3.-5. October 2014
- National Apicultural Congress, Colmar, France (Congrès national de l’Apiculture à Colmar), 10.-12. October 2014
- 3rd European Beekeeping Congress, Donaueschingen, Germany, 23.-26. October 2014

Pamela Lanier, an advocate for ecotourism co-authoring the text book with Dr Robert Girling of Sonoma State University entitled “the Good Company- Best practices in EcoTurism and Agriturism” proposed as an addition to her chapter on Agritourism an article about Api-tourism in Slovenia, written by ApiRoutes as this topic – Api travel experiences - is of high interest.

Visit www.apiroutes.com to explore Api Experiences Beyond Beekeeping

ApiRoutes – Api Tourism combines a unique range of experiences captured in unspoiled nature, culture and spirit. It’s very unique approach
to travel - travel as inspiration, education and enrichment. Visit www.apiroutes.com to learn more about Api-Tours & Excursions. Our professional multilingual team is happy to assist you in creating your own Api Experience!

With Love of Bees and Nature,

**Tanja Arih Korošec**, Director Aritours, ApiRoutes

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