

Portorož, April 7, 2023 - Today, organized by the [Slovenian Logistic Association SLA](#), the record jubilee 10th International [Logistics Congress](#) of the Supply Chain in Science and Practice concluded in the Grand Hotel Bernardin in Portorož, Slovenian, bringing together 480 participants from more than 15 countries in one place. In the framework of 5 panels, 30 lecturers and experts has presented examples of good practices, and again successfully connected stakeholders from the field of logistics, transport, manufacturing companies, providers of information and technological solutions, representatives of education and the state, which is also the goal of the congress. The focus of this year's Congress was green transformation, while the red thread had remained robotization and automation in logistics, transport and production. The congress presented the area of comprehensive green transformation, the role of connecting northern Adriatic ports into the "NAPA" community, robotization and automation in production and logistics, good practices of energy management in companies, and optimization and digitization in transport.

On the last day of the Congress, there was also a *Research Day*, during which participants could learn more about the development and research achievements of the Slovenian faculties - **Faculty of Logistics (UM)**, **Faculty of Maritime Studies and Transport (UL)**, **Higher Transport School Maribor, Sledenje d.o.o.**, **The Faculty of Civil Engineering, Traffic Engineering and Architecture (UM)**, and a presentation of the **Pošta Slovenije Hekathon and its winners** was also held.

Slovenian Ministry of Infrastructure Accepts the Cooperation Hand of Logisticians

In her introductory speech on the first day of the Congress, the **Slovenian Minister of Infrastructure, Alenka Bratušek, MS.c** emphasized that the transport logistics industry is extremely important for the Slovenian country and that it offers many opportunities for economic development. She said that the Ministry actively participates in the planning of basic strategic and development documents for infrastructure and transport logistics, and with the help of digitalization of processes, it tries to facilitate the control of physical documents by supervisory authorities, such as the introduction of the eCMR waybill in the field of road transport. She reminded that Slovenia is in the process of building a second railway track between Divača and Koper and a third development road axis, and that projects aimed at eliminating bottlenecks on the railway and road network are continuing, also with the aim of enabling the development of the port of Koper, which is a key generator of logistics services for goods flows for the countries of Central and South-Eastern Europe, which offers Slovenia the opportunity to exploit its competitive advantage due to its geographical location. She also emphasized that with the high degree of harmonization of data within the EU, the introduction of a simplified digital information system also regulates the field of maritime transport, which is also the result of the integration of the northern Adriatic ports into the NAPA association. At the end of her speech, she said that the Ministry accepts the hand of cooperation from all present, and that it is open to new proposals and suggestions.

Mr Igor Žula, President of the Slovenian Logistic Association, SLA (Organizer of the Congress), said that the green transformation, which is also the overarching red thread of this year's Congress, is not only a change of facade or a transition from "diesel" to gas and the introduction of photovoltaics, but much

more than that, especially activities aimed at increasing productivity, such as optimization of trips and utilization of cargo space in transport, optimization with automation, robotization, digitalization and the introduction of "lean" concepts in production and logistics, etc. In his opening speech, Mr Žula also spoke about the **legacy of the Congress** and recalled the organization of the first Congress 10 years ago, when there were around 130 participants from 10 countries, and that SLA conscientiously pursued the goal of uniting all stakeholders in the industry, which they succeeded in doing every year up until today. According to him, the Congress is the biggest platform for networking, exchanging ideas and important conversations about the development of logistics in Slovenia and the wider region. He also called on the representatives of the academic sphere, the Ministry and the Slovenian economy to cooperate, which in his opinion, is still insufficient.

At the event, as part of the opening address, **Mr. Goran Softić, director of Metrans d.o.o.** (Diamond Sponsor of the Congress), emphasized that logistics must never fail, because then everything else stops. The global pandemic, instability in Europe and elsewhere have greatly changed the dynamics of the economy and logistics, and logistics must always follow the demands of the customer, who has increasingly demanding requirements. He emphasized that the greatest advantage is the people who participate in this process, and that the Metrans group emphasizes the importance of cooperation.

Lifetime Achievement and Logistitian of 2022 Awards

The [Logistitian of the Year](#) and a special award for [Lifetime achievements in logistics](#) have also been held as part of the logistics congress for many years. The **Logistitian of the Year 2022** award, given by the Slovenian Logistics Association, is awarded on the basis of seven main criteria, namely on the basis of organizational, technological, informational, economic, development, environmental and safety excellence and on the basis of performance indicators of logistics operations.

During the first day of the Congress, the Chairman of the Committee for Awarding the title of Logistitian of the Year, **Mr Robert Biček**, said at the award ceremony: »Every year, within the framework of the Slovenian Logistic Association, we award the honorary title of Logistitian of the Year to the most successful individual, who in the current year achieved exceptional achievements with his/her work and innovative approach in the field of logistics and supply chains. Among all the candidates, **Ms Nataša Pogačnik from SIGR d.o.o. earned the flattering title for 2022.**«

The recognition for **Lifetime Achievements in Logistics** was received by the current director of logistics at the company **Mercator d.o.o. Mr Marko Cedilnik, PhD** who started his 35 years of experience in logistics at Smelt company, and continued in a wide variety of positions, from warehouse controller, through warehouse operations manager, wholesale sales manager and warehouse transport manager, all the way to director of the logistics sector, which counts more than 1,000 employees, a function he still holds today. His achievements include the title of **Logistitian of the Year 2007**, which is awarded annually by the Slovenian Logistics Association. He also takes care of the development of logistics in Slovenia all the time, even as a professor at the Faculty of Logistics, in an academic sense, as he actively participates in the creation of numerous popular, professional and scientific contributions in internal and other public publications, and he helps students with (co)mentoring on the way to a successful diploma defense.

The organizers especially congratulate both award recipients for their important achievements and efforts to develop Slovenian logistics.

Record-breaking Congress 2023 in numbers. See you again in 2024!

The aim of the Congress to connect all stakeholders in the industry is supported by the fact that more and more participants from a wide variety of industries attend it every year. This year's Congress opened its doors to more than **480 participants from the following industries: 15% industry, 26% logistics, 25% transport, 11% ICT, 23% other**, and was **supported by 58 sponsors, 11 media partners, 7 supporters and 3 partners**.

The Organizers and all the creators of the Congress would like to thank the record-breaking support from the participants, sponsors, media, supporters, partners and many individuals who make sure that the supply chains in Slovenia are really efficient every day. They are already announcing the **11th Congress, which will take place in Portorož from March 27 to 29, 2024**.

Organizer: Slovenian Logistic Association, **Partners:** Transport Association at Slovenian Chamber of Commerce and ACS, Slovenian Automobile Cluster, **Contractor:** Proevent d.o.o.

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