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International Logistics Congress in Portorož on the future of logistics—this time also with AI

The 11th *International Logistics Congress, 'Supply Chains in Science and Practice 2024,'* the most important supply chain event in the region, will take place in Portorož from 27 to 29 March 2024.

The event, which brings together all stakeholders in one place every year, will this year assemble more than 600 decision-makers and managers from 15+ countries representing various sectors such as logistics, transport, manufacturing, IT, technology solution providers, education, government, etc. Organized by the [Slovenian Logistics Association](#), this year's Congress will feature more than 30 lectures and over 20 presentations (including international award-winning ones) showcasing best practices. The three-day event will also include various accompanying programs. With its diverse content, the Congress places a strong emphasis on real-life cases and first-hand experiences from companies that have successfully implemented best practices and incorporate them into their daily work

This year's programme will significantly highlight regional presence and its impact on supply chain efficiency, with a strong focus on automation, digitization, and robotics in logistics, production, and transportation. The event will feature numerous international and national speakers and experts sharing their insights, including extensive discussions on artificial intelligence.

Additionally, the prestigious Logician of the Year award is presented annually at the Congress, further highlighting the significance of the event in recognizing outstanding contributions to the field.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

This year's Congress program will be condensed into **five thematic plenums**, featuring **more than 20 different best practice cases from the industry**. The five themes are: the future of logistics, artificial intelligence in logistics services, the development of logistics in the region, the introduction of MES systems in manufacturing companies and its impact on reducing logistics costs, and automation, robotization, and digitalization in transport, logistics, and manufacturing. Additionally, there will be a **research day with presentations of R&D projects from Slovenian and foreign faculties**.

The future lies in integration within supply chains - what is the role of start-ups in achieving this integration?

The future of supply chains will be shaped by a focus on innovation and closer integration between stakeholders. With the rapid advancement of technology, new opportunities are opening up to optimize processes and ensure a more efficient, sustainable, and integrated

supply system. **During the Congress, best practice cases will be presented showcasing the collaboration and integration of different partners within the supply chain, where start-ups have played an essential role** in boosting technology within the logistics industry. **David Luft**, Senior Manager of Corporate Partnerships **at the Plug and Play Tech Center of the University of Southern California, USA**, will present **the technological trends**, how start-ups improve supply chains worldwide and **how to bring this knowledge to small and medium-sized enterprises**. Companies such as **Nestlé and PepsiCo from Belgium, Cargill and Skretting from Norway, CargoX and Usynchro from Slovenia** will present examples of collaboration to improve logistics service, reduce costs, consolidate distribution, collaborate on supply, and digitize trade using blockchain technology.

The event will also feature other international speakers, including **Dr. Nick Vyas**, founding director of the Randall R. Kendrick Global Supply Chain Institute and an associate professor at the USC Marshall School of Business in the US. Dr. Vyas, **who is also consulting and lecturing extensively on supply chains in the United States**, will present **key trends in logistics and offer an outlook for the year 2030 at the Congress**.

Artificial intelligence (AI) in logistics services

In the plenary session on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Logistics**, a field increasingly present in our everyday lives, speakers at the Congress will elaborate on its true value: the optimization of logistics and production processes, where AI significantly reduces the price of products or services. Various concrete presentations on best practices in introducing AI to planning and optimization processes will be delivered by numerous guests from Slovenia and abroad. **The company Gusto from the UK** will highlight a best practice case, demonstrating a **twofold improvement in the efficiency of a fulfillment centre using AI for real-time routing**. **The Port of Koper** will illustrate the use of AI in **container handling to increase productivity**. Representatives from Slovenian companies **T.L.Sirk d.o.o., ATOM (AISS d.o.o.), and Dispo Market (KNEDL d.o.o.)** will discuss **the synergies between AI and TMS** (Transportation Management System) and their involvement in increasing freight capacities.

How regional presence contributes to improving supply chains

Global companies require global partners, so on the second day of the Congress, **during the plenary session 'Logistics Development in the Region,'** speakers will discuss **the advantages of having a one-stop shop for the entire region for logistics service partners**. They will also address the challenges posed by regional demand/supply, both in terms of services and sustainable business practices (ESG standards), which are nowadays considered a necessity and accepted practice. This topic will be explored by representatives of **Slovenian Railways - Freight Transport**, who will present a best practice case of **entering the regional market through a single point of entry**, allowing customers to focus on their business. The **Milšped** company will also present a case of **entering the region through a single channel**. **Erich P. Cossutta**, founder and president of **Dragon Maritime Group**, operating in Koper, Rijeka, and Belgrade, will discuss **efficient ways to transport goods from the sea to the end customer**. **Simon Franko** from **BASF Adriatic** company will highlight the key challenges in supplying the region.

Introducing MES systems in manufacturing

The focus will be on digitization in manufacturing and **the introduction of MES (Manufacturing Execution System) systems**, which are crucial for **optimizing production processes** and

reducing costs All lectures will focus on the **presentation of concrete best practices of MES introduction in large and medium-sized companies from Slovenia and abroad** - representatives of **Marmor Hotavlje** will present the prerequisites for the introduction of an MES system, and representatives of **Danfoss Trata** will present a best-practice case of MES introduction as part of the company's overall digitisation.

Robotisation, automation and digitalisation in transport and logistics

Robotisation, automation, and digitalization in transport, logistics, and production, along with the opportunities they bring, including how Hella Saturnus Slovenia d.o.o. **has increased the speed of its logistics processes eightfold thanks to automation and robotics**, will remain the **focus of the Congress**. The **award-winning logistics project in Germany The digital twin @ILO** (Advanced Indoor Location and Optimisation) will be presented by **Christoph Ehrhardt from Dachser SE**, a German freight company. An automated **high-bay warehouse for the backdrops for the Bavarian State Opera** will be presented by RIKO Ltd., while **best practices in automation in delivery and warehousing** will be presented by **KIOSKY'S from Greece and RWA Raiffeisen Ware Austria AG**, an Austrian wholesale company and provider of the Lagerhaus cooperative in Austria.

RESEARCH DAY

On the last day of the Congress, 29 March, there will also be a **Research Day**, where participants will have the opportunity to learn more about Slovenian and foreign faculties' research and development achievements.

THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL CONTACT POINT FOR THE LOGISTICS INDUSTRY

The goal of the Congress remains the same - to bring together all stakeholders from the industry and region and provide them with best practices and knowledge that the Congress participants can apply to their daily activities.

In this way, the excellent content of the Congress contributes to the longer-term vision and excellent shape of domestic and regional supply chains. According to the Slovenian Logistics Association, **the Logistics Congress has become the largest platform for exchanging ideas, transferring knowledge and networking among the various partners** within the region's supply chains, thus **opening up several new business opportunities and acting as a contact point for supply and customers.**

The event is organised by the Slovenian Logistics Association in cooperation with its partners - the Association for Transport at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia and ACS, the Slovenian Automotive Cluster. This year's Congress is expected to attract around 600 participants from at least 15 countries.

LOGISTIČNI KONGRES

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