

MariBee – a Bee- and beekeeping conference,

Organised by UNIDO, University of Maribor, and University of Ljubljana

14-15 Sept. 2026 in Maribor/Slovenia

Monday, 14 September 2026

Departure from Maribor-centre (free bus shuttle at 8.15 and 8.55)

8.30 – 9.20	<i>Registration, coffee mingling</i>
9.30 – 9.45	<i>Greetings (dean, Maribor tourist board, mayor)</i>
9.45 – 9.55	<i>Organisational issues</i>
10.00 – 10.20	First keynote speaker: Dr. Peter Kozmus, acting president of Apimondia Beekeeping development: importance and roles of beekeepers' associations- and organisations.
10.20 – 10.40	Second keynote speaker: dr. Victoria Soroker . Challenges in management of honeybee colonies
10.40 – 11.00	Third keynote speaker: dr. Sonja Sibila Lebe . Apitourism: the crown of adding value to beekeeping products & services
11.00 – 11.20	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.20 – 12.50	Presentation of the beekeeping sector by continents& countries (10 min/ country) Afrika (Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia), Americas (Peru), Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), Europe (Albania, Ukraine, Slovenia)
12.50 – 13.05	Discussion
13.05 – 14.00	<i>Lunchtime, mingling</i>

Working sections from 14.00 – 16.00

Section A: Honeybee protection- and health, disease recognition and management (chairs: dr. Aleš Gregorc, dr. Metka Pislak Ocepek). *Keynote address: Dr. Metka Pislak Ocepek*

- *Prevention of fatal use of pesticides and other chemical agents*
- *Bee health management*
- *Bee feeding*

Section B: Beehive products (quality, safety, adulteration) (chairs: dr. Mojca Korošec, dr. Victoria Soroker). *Keynote address: Dr. Mojca Korošec*

Topics:

- Honey under the prism of food safety: Negative impacts of fraud (adulteration) and possible regulations
- Safety of other beehive products (e.g. pollen, propolis, beebread, tinctures etc.)

Section C: Beehive- related services (e.g. apitherapy, apitourism, api-wellness) Chairs: dr. Janko Božič, Dr. Dilbara Muratova. *Keynote address: dr. Janko Božič. Apitherapy, use of bee products and bees for nutrition, wellbeing, and specific medical use.*

16.00 Departure (on foot) from the premisses of the FALST through the Faculty's Botanical garden: underway, visit to the observation apiary and to the honey plant corner. If you opted to book the meals, the entrance fee is included in the price.

17.30 Departure from the Botanical Garden: participants who have **not booked the meals** will be brought to the city centre***, the rest of the participants departs for the conference dinner to the Glamping resort Sončni raj (Sunny Paradise) – we'll taste wines from the wine fountain, and those who dare, will be able to cross the nearby valley by zip-line.

**** Participants who have not booked the meals and would be interested in visiting the Europark shopping centre can be dropped off in front of the centre (open until 21h, walking distance to all recommended hotels in the city centre)*

20.30 Transfer from the "Sončni raj" property back to the hotels (Maribor city centre)

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Bus to the venue departs at 8.00 and 8.40

8.30 – 8.55	Gathering
9.00 – 9.40	Plenary session (2 x 20 min.) First keynote speaker: Dr. Aleš Gregorc. Honeybee selection and queen rearing Second keynote speaker: Dr. Linde Morawetz. Organizing and leading extension work in beekeeping
9.40 – 10.30	Round table: Knowledge transfer in beekeeping: let's talk about bees and about communication to- and with beekeepers! Participants: dr. Linde Morawetz, Dr. Robert Brodschneider, Dr. Sonja Sibila Lebe, Nina Ilič. Moderation: Dr. Vicotoria Soroker
9.40 – 9.55	Dr. Robert Brodschneider: Publishing on honeybees and beekeeping, Coloss
9.55 – 10.10	Nina Ilič: Education in beekeeping: from preschoolers to adults
10.10 – 10.30	Victoria's questions to round table participants
10.30 – 10.45	Discussion
10.45 – 11.05	<i>Coffee break</i>

Work in sections from 11.05 – 13.00)

Section D: Bee-management and beehive innovations (chairs: dr. Janko Božič, Brane Kozinc. *Keynote address: Brane Kozinc). Brane Kozinc: Presentation of best and worst practices (Bangladesh, Africa): why innovations are crucial for successful beekeeping*

- Robotisation in beekeeping

- Adaptation of beehives to different climate and climate changes
- Coping with changing forage conditions

Section E: Pollinators under climate changes stress (chairs: dr. Danilo Bevk, Dr. Robert Brodschneider, Dr Aleš Gregorc) *Keynote address: Dr. Peter Kwapong, Stingless bees*

- Future-proof of commercial use of alternative pollinators: wild bees, stingless bees, other pollinators; adaptation/response to forage shortages
- Possible adaption to climate changes

Section F: Branding and trademarks (chairs: Tanja Arih Korošec, Dr. Mojca Korošec) *Keynote address: Branding in beekeeping Tanja Arih Korošec*

- Characterisation of honey quality, base for added value and specific trademark
- Why branding is so important – the brand promise
- Branding in beekeeping and in tourism

13.00 – 13.30 Conclusions of the conference (5 minutes per section)

13.30 – 14.15 *Lunchtime for those who have booked the meals*