

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, mingling</i>
9.30 – 9.50	<i>Greetings (dean, UNIDO, Ministry of agronomy, Ministry of Economy, Labour and Sport)</i>
9.50 – 10.00	<i>Organisational issues</i>
10.00 – 10.20	<i>First keynote speaker: Dr. Peter Kozmus, acting president of Apimondia Beekeeping development: importance and roles of beekeepers' associations- and organisations.</i>
10.20 – 10.40	<i>Second keynote speaker: dr. Victoria Soroker. Challenges in management of honeybee colonies</i>
10.40 – 11.00	<i>Q&A</i>
11.00 – 11.30	<i>Coffee break</i>
11.30 – 11.50	<i>Legal issues regarding beekeeping – what needs to be settled; Andrej Šalika, Ministry of agronomy</i>
11.50 – 12.10	<i>Honey under the prism of food safety: Negative impacts of fraud (adulteration) and possible regulations, Dr. Mojca Korošec</i>
12.10 – 12.30	<i>Pollinators under climate changes stress; what can we learn from stingless bees Dr. Peter Kwapong</i>
12.30 – 12.50	<i>Q&A</i>
12.50 – 13.45	<i>Lunchtime, mingling</i>

Working sections from 13.45 – 15.15

Section A: Sustainable beekeeping – management and healthcare (chairs: dr. Aleš Gregorc, dr. Lucija Žvokelj).

13.45 – 14.05:	<i>First keynote speaker: Honeybee selection and queen rearing, Dr. Aleš Gregorc</i>
14.05 – 14.25:	<i>Second keynote speaker: Honeybee protection- and health, disease recognition and management Dr. Lucija Žvokelj</i>
14.25 – 15.10:	<i>3 participants' 15-minutes' addresses</i>
15.10 – 15.30:	<i>Q&A</i>

Section B: Beehive- related services (e.g. apitherapy, apitourism, api-wellness) Chairs: dr. Janko Božič, Dr. Sonja Sibila Lebe

- 13.45 – 14.05: *First keynote speaker:* Apitherapy: applications for nutrition and specific medical use, **dr. Janko Božič**
- 14.05 – 14.25: *Second keynote speaker:* Apitourism: the crown of adding value to beekeeping, **dr. Sonja Sibila Lebe**
- 14.25 – 15.10: 3 participants' 15-minutes' addresses
- 15.10 – 15.30: Q&A

15.45 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.

In case of heavy rain: instead of visiting the Botanical garden, an ad hoc round table would be organised on topics that proved to be most interesting to the audience during the first day's sessions.

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)*

19.30 & 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 address: Publishing on honeybees and beekeeping,
Dr. Robert Brodschneider, Coloss & IBRA
Second keynote address: Organizing and leading extension work in beekeeping, **Dr. Linde Morawetz**
- 9.40 – 10.40 **Round table:** Knowledge transfer in beekeeping: let's talk about bees and about communication to- and with beekeepers. Participants: Dr. Robert Brodschneider, Dr. Aleš Gregorc, Dr. Janko Božič, Dr. Victoria Soroker
Moderation: Dr. Linde Morawetz
- 10.40 – 11.00 Q&A
- 11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee break*

11.30 – 13.30 Presentation of the beekeeping sector by continents& countries (10 min per country) Afrika (*Algeria*, Kenya, Mozambique, Zambia), Americas (Peru), Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan), Europe (Albania, Norway, Ukraine, Slovenia)

13.30 – 14.15 *Lunch*

Work in sections from 14.20 – 15.20)

Section C: Knowledge transfer in beekeeping (chairs: dr. Janko Božič, Brane Kozinc.

14.20 – 14.40 *First keynote address:* Presentation of best and worst practices (Bangladesh, Africa): why innovations are crucial for successful beekeeping, **Brane Kozinc**

14.40 – 15.00 *Second keynote address:* New technologies in contemporary beekeeping, **Dr. Janko Božič**

15.00 – 15.20 Q&A

Section D: Awareness, branding and trademarks (chairs: Tanja Arih Korošec, Dr. Sonja Sibila Lebe)

14.20 – 14.40 *First keynote address:* Branding in beekeeping, **Tanja Arih Korošec**

14.40 – 15.00 *Second keynote address:* Education in beekeeping: from preschoolers to adults, **Nina Ilič**

15.00 – 15.20 Q&A

15.20 – 15.40 Conclusions of the conference (5 minutes per section)