

Representatives from 20 Countries at the International Logistics Congress in Portorož

The 11th International Logistics Congress 'Supply Chains in Science and Practice 2024' will take place on Wednesday, 27 March, at GH Bernardin in Portorož and will run until Friday, 29 March, when the Research Day will occur. The event will feature more than 35 professional and educational sessions across five thematic panels, including 20 presentations of best practice examples, 5 round tables, and an expected attendance of 600 participants from 20 countries. The event will be officially opened by Mr. Igor Žula, President of the Slovenian Logistics Association (SLZ), the organizer of the Congress, Dr. Markus Mau, President of the European Logistics Association (ELA), Melita Rozman Dacar, M.A., Director of SŽ - Freight Transport (Diamond Sponsor), and Mr. Matjaž Han, Minister of Economy, Tourism, and Sport. On the first day of the event, the 'Logistician of the Year 2023' award will be presented, an award given by the Slovenian Logistic Association for the best, most innovative, and most insightful logistics practices of the past year.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Logistics Congress, the largest international meeting place for knowledge, experience and new business opportunities in the region, brings together all stakeholders - representatives of the logistics, transport and manufacturing industries, IT and technology solution providers, education and government as well as the media - in one place every year. This year's event, organised by the [Slovenian Logistic Association](#), will bring together more than 600 decision-makers and managers from 20 countries, namely Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Macedonia, Nigeria, Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Serbia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.

This year, the Congress programme is divided into 5 thematic plenary sessions with more than 35 lectures and more than 20 best practice cases, focusing on regional presence and its impact on supply chain efficiency. Automation, digitalisation and robotics in the areas of logistics, production and transport will remain the focus of the Congress, which is once again expected to attract a large number of international and national speakers and experts. Artificial intelligence will also be an important discussion topic.

Insights from a Supply Chain Consultant to the US Government about the Future of Logistics

The future of supply chains will be characterized by a focus on innovation and closer integration of stakeholders. Rapid advances in technology are opening up new opportunities to optimize processes and ensure a more efficient, sustainable, and integrated supply system. **During the Congress, we will showcase good practice cases that demonstrate the collaboration and integration of different partners within the supply chain, with start-ups playing an important role** as they have further accelerated technological advancements in the logistics industry. **David Luft**, Senior Manager of Corporate Partnerships **at the Plug and Play Tech Centre at the University of Southern California, USA**, will explain the current **technology trends**, and how start-ups are revolutionizing supply chains globally. He will also discuss **how this knowledge can be applied to benefit small and medium-sized companies**.

At the event, companies like **Nestlé and PepsiCo from Belgium, Cargill and Skretting from Norway, and CargoX and Usynchro from Slovenia** will present examples of collaboration efforts. These initiatives aim to improve logistics services, reduce costs, consolidate distribution channels, and advance the digitization of trade through blockchain technology.

The event will also host other international speakers, among them **Dr. Nick Vyas**, founding director of the Randall R. Kendrick Global Supply Chain Institute and associate professor at the USC Marshall School of Business in the USA. Dr. Vyas, **who has extensive experience as a consultant and lecturer on supply chains in the United States, will provide insights into the most important trends in logistics and offer an outlook for the year 2030 during the Congress.**

Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Logistics Services

In the plenary session on **Artificial Intelligence (AI) in logistics**, which is becoming increasingly prevalent in our everyday lives, speakers at the congress will demonstrate its true value. This lies primarily in the optimization of logistics and production processes, where AI significantly reduces the price of products or services. A number of guests from Slovenia and abroad will present various concrete examples of best practices in introducing AI in planning and optimization processes.

How Regional Presence Improves Supply Chains

Global companies require global partners. Therefore, on the second day of the Congress, particularly in **the plenary session** titled "**Logistics Development in the Region,**" speakers will explore **the advantages offered by a "one-stop shop" regional offering for logistics service partners.** They will also delve into the challenges posed by regional demand and supply, both in terms of services and sustainable business practices, such as adherence to ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) standards, which are now imperative and widely accepted.

Introducing Manufacturing Execution Systems (MES) in Manufacturing

The focus will be on digitalisation in manufacturing and **the introduction of MES systems (Manufacturing Execution System),** which are extremely important **for optimising production processes and reducing costs.** All lectures will focus on **the presentation of concrete best practices of MES implementation in Slovenian and international companies.**

Robotics, Automation and Digitalisation in Transport and Logistics

Robotics, automation and digitalisation in logistics, transport and manufacturing and the associated opportunities they bring remain **the focus of the Congress.**

AS MANY AS 20 BEST PRACTICE CASES

During the 3-day program, a number of experts from different countries will present examples of good practices or solutions that they have successfully implemented in their work and are still implementing today. The best practice cases will include: **Consolidation of distribution in Belgium by Nestlé and PepsiCo**, presented by Dr. Alex Van Breedam, Partner, TRI-VIZOR; **Co-operation in salmon supply between two producers Cargill and Skretting in Norway**, presented by Richard Terme from Cargill; **Collaboration in digitalization of international trade using blockchain technology by CargoX and Usynchro**, presented by Peter Kern from CargoX d.o.o.; **Doubling the efficiency of a fulfillment center with the help of artificial intelligence for real-time routing**, presented by Dejan Petelin from Pareto d.o.o.; **Using artificial intelligence in container scheduling to increase productivity**, presented by Rok Grdina from Luka Koper d.d. and Dr. Luka Bradeško from Solvesall d.o.o.; **Synergies of AI and TMS: optimizing business processes and increasing freight utilization**, presented by Matej Oven from T.L.Sirk d.o.o., Jure Ceglar from ATOM (AISS d.o.o.), and Nikola Balaban from Dispo Market (KNEDL d.o.o.); **Integrated transport services as support for the economy**, presented by Melita Rozman Dacar from SŽ - Tovorni promet, d.o.o.; **Opening up the region via a channel**, presented by Nenad Zdravković from Milšped d.o.o.; **Efficiently reaching the end customer from the sea in the region**, presented by Erich P. Cossutta from Dragon Maritime Group.; **Addressing the most important challenges in the region's supply chain**, presented by Simon Franko from BASF Adriatic; **The future Dachser terminal - the digital twin @ILO - Advanced Indoor Location and Optimization**, presented by Mag. Christoph Ehrhardt from DACHSER SE; **Robotic Warehouse Management System**, presented by Nenad Zdravković from Milšped Group and Bratislav Jovanović from TPSX; **Automated high-bay warehouse for scenery at the Bavarian State Opera**, presented by Tanja Rupnik from RIKO d.o.o. and Florian Kunz from Bayerische Staatsoper; **Warehouse optimization**

through automation, presented by Maximilian Bernhart from RWA Raiffeisen Ware Austria AG; Efficient production monitoring as a prerequisite for increasing efficiency in production and logistics, presented by Vladimir Makuc from Hidria d.o.o.; Prerequisites for implementing an MES system, presented by Luka Romih from Marmor Hotavlje, d. o.o.; MES as part of the overall digitalization of the company and a catalyst for increasing productivity in production and logistics, presented by Prof. Dr. Slobodan Antić from "PIRAMIDA 72" D.O.O.; Higher productivity in production and logistics through the introduction of MES, presented by Klemen Kindlhofer from DANFOSS TRATA, d.o.o.

RESEARCH DAY

On the last day of the congress, 29 March, there will also be a Research Day; the participants will have the opportunity to learn more about the research and development achievements of Slovenian faculties, including the **Faculty of Logistics (UM)**, the **Faculty of Maritime and Transport (UL)**, the **Higher Vocational College L.I.V.E.** in cooperation with the **Impol Group**, **NOA College**, **Pošta Slovenije d.o.o.** in cooperation with the **Faculty of Civil Engineering, Transport Engineering and Architecture (UM)**.

ALREADY THE 11TH CONGRESS WILL CONNECT ALL STAKEHOLDERS

The fact that the congress brings together all stakeholders in the industry is emphasized by the increasing number of participants from a wide range of sectors each year. This year, the congress opens its doors to 600 participants from various sectors, distributed as follows: **10% from industry, 29% from logistics, 25% from transport, 11% from ICT, and 25% from other sectors.**

For the full programme, please visit: logisticnikongres.si

Organizer: Slovenian Logistic Association

Partners: Association for Transport at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry and ACS, Slovenian Automotive Cluster

Slovenian Logistics Association: <http://www.slz.si>

LinkedIn: <https://si.linkedin.com/company/slovenian-logistics-association>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/slz.si>

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