



Interactive flyer



20 May
World Bee Day

Why are bees and other pollinators important?

- ▶ *For a world without hunger:*
 - Every third spoonful of food depends on pollination;
 - Bee products are a rich source of indispensable nutrients.
- ▶ *For sustainable farming and jobs:*
 - Effective pollination increases the amount of agricultural produce, as well as the diversity of our fields and our plates;
 - It provides jobs for millions of people and is an important source of income for farmers.
- ▶ *For preserving the environment:*
 - Pollinators ensure biodiversity and have positive effects on the entire ecosystem; they also signal the health of local ecosystems.



Why Slovenia?

- Slovenia is a nation of beekeepers, focusing on environmental protection and the future of the planet;
- Slovenians are a genuine beekeeping nation, as one in 200 inhabitants has a hive;
- Slovenia was also the first EU Member State to have introduced legal protection of bees;
- In 2011, Slovenia was one of the first EU countries to prohibit the use of certain pesticides harmful to bees in its territory;
- Beekeeping in Slovenia has gained international recognition due to the country's expertise, and for its particular features, such as its unique painted beehive panels and traditional beehive architecture;
- The Beekeeping Academy of Slovenia was established in 2018. Within the development cooperation system, it spreads knowledge of beekeeping both internationally and in developing countries;
- The Carniolan honeybee (*Apis mellifera carnica*) is regarded as the second most widespread variety in the world and is protected as an indigenous subspecies in Slovenia.



Why 20 May?

- ▶ May is the month of bees:
 - May in the northern hemisphere is a month of rapid development among bees and all other plant life;
 - Meanwhile, the southern hemisphere enters autumn, when hive products are harvested and the season of honey and honey-based products begins;
 - In addition, 20 May is the birth date of Anton Janša (1734–1773), a Slovenian beekeeper, the pioneer of modern beekeeping and one of the greatest authorities on the subject of bees of his time.

Why World Bee Day?

- ▶ Bees and other pollinators are endangered and need to be protected.
- ▶ They are endangered because of:
 - Diseases, such as varroosis, nosemosis and viruses;
 - Lack of food due to intensive farming (monoculture, frequent mowing of meadows);
 - Use of pesticides;
 - New pests, which spread around the world more quickly due to globalisation;
 - Urbanisation, which is shrinking our agricultural spaces;
 - Climate change.
- ▶ The Slovenian Beekeepers' Association therefore launched the initiative within the United Nations to declare 20 May World Bee Day. On 20 December 2017, following three years of international efforts, the Slovenian initiative was unanimously adopted and 20 May designated World Bee Day.



FIVE THINGS TO DO TO HELP SUPPORT BEES AND OTHER POLLINATORS

1. Planting or sowing decorative honey plants on balconies, terraces, meadows and gardens;
2. Making or buying bee nests for your home – on the balcony or the terrace;
3. Avoiding mowing during plants' most active cycles and mowing in evening hours;
4. Spraying, if really necessary, only with pesticides that are harmless to bees and only in calm, windless weather early in the morning or late at night, when bees are no longer around;
5. Raising awareness about the importance of bees and purchasing honey and other bee products from local beekeepers.



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