

ANNUAL BANK CONFERENCE ON DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS (ABCDE)
“Private Sector and Development”
Slovenia, Bled, May 17-18, 2007



INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

*Dear Participant of ABCDE 2007,
We are happy that you will be attending the ABCDE in Bled. Below you will find some useful information concerning your participation in the conference and your stay in Bled.*

Accommodation

Self-sponsored participants may book their accommodation online at www.worldbank.org/abcde-slovenia prior to their arrival.

Contact:

Mr. Boris Ljubic

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Transportation in Slovenia

Getting from the airport to Bled:

Brnik International Airport (Ljubljana airport) is located approximately half-way between Ljubljana and Bled.

Upon arrival at the airport, you will find an ABCDE information desk, where you can address any inquiry you may have.

You may either take a **taxi** from the airport to Bled or book a place in the **shuttle bus IN ADVANCE**. Airport shuttle to Bled can be booked online at www.worldbank.org/abcde-slovenia ('Participants'). Return shuttle can be booked at the conference venue (information desk) on May 17 and 18.

Fare: 1-3 passengers = 45 EUR, 4-5 passengers = 13,00 EUR, 6 passengers and more = 12,00 EUR/person.

You can take a taxi directly from the taxi rank in front of the airport.

Fare: approx. 50 euros (more at night).

Getting from Ljubljana City to Bled:

There is a public bus connection between Ljubljana and Bled. Buses leave every hour and cost approx. 8 euros one way. A taxi ride will cost approximately 60 euros.

NB: If you arrive to Slovenia by air, there is no need to pass via Ljubljana City in order to get to Bled.

Conference Venue – plenary, May 17-18

Plenary sessions of the ABCDE will take place at:

Festivalna Dvorana conference hall, Cesta svobode 11, Bled.

Parallel and breakfast sessions, May 17-18

Parallel and breakfast sessions will take place at:

Park Hotel, address: Cesta svobode 15, Bled.

Registration and badges

Pre-registration will start on Wednesday, May 16, in Hotel Park, from 12 pm till 6 pm.

Thursday, May 17: registration will take place at the conference hall (Festivalna Dvorana), starting from 7.30 am

Friday, May 18: registration will take place at the conference hall (Festivalna Dvorana), starting from 7.30 am

Participants are strongly advised to register on May 16 at the Park Hotel, or as early as possible on May 17, to avoid long waiting lines.

A photo ID is necessary for registration.

Upon registration, participants will receive a badge and a conference folder (with program, list of participants, pen and some general information).

The badge must be worn at all times at the conference venue, including parallel sessions, breakfast and evening events.

Conference Program

The ABCDE will feature three main plenary sessions, five keynote addresses, three series of four parallel sessions and two series of two breakfast sessions.

The conference will start with the Opening Session on Thursday, May 17, at 9 am.

The conference will finish on Friday, May 18, at 5 pm.

Breakfast sessions will take place on May 17 and May 18 starting from 8 am in Hotel Park.

Meals

Breakfast will be provided at the hotels, as well as at Hotel Park during breakfast sessions. Lunch will be served at the Festivalna Dvorana conference hall at 1.15 pm on May 17 and at 12.30 pm on May 18. Coffee, tea and water will be available on a self-service basis at the Festivalna Dvorana throughout the conference.

Evening Program

Welcome cocktail, Wednesday, May 16:

The conference will start with an Opening Cocktail on the evening of May 16, to which all ABCDE participants are invited.

Venue: Bled Castle

Time: 7:30 pm - 10 pm

Shuttle buses will leave for the Castle from the conference hall (Festivalna Dvorana) at 7 pm and back at 10 pm.

Dinner Reception, Thursday, May 17:

All ABCDE participants are invited to a dinner reception hosted by the Ministry of Finance of Slovenia, on the evening on May 17.

Venue: Grand Hotel Toplice, Cesta svobode 12, Bled

Time: 7.15 pm

Participants will be taken to the dinner reception right after the last plenary session.

The reception will start with a Guest Speaker – **Janez POTOČNIK**, Commissioner for Science and Research, European Commission.

A conference badge must be presented at the entrance.

Information at conference venue

General: Information Desk located in the main lobby at Festivalna Dvorana and the main lobby of Park Hotel.

Plenary speakers: Ms. Leita Jones (tel. 0038651 853 463) – papers, session organization; Ms. Irena Bacic (tel. +386 41 380 022) – logistical issues (hotel, travel, finances)

Parallel sessions: Ms. Anna Kuznicka (tel. 0038 651 853 456) – papers, session organization; Ms. Irena Bacic (tel. +386 41 380 022) – logistical issues (hotel, travel, finances)

ABCDE Support Grant: Ms. Irena Bacic (tel. +386 41 380 022) – all issues

Essay Competition: Mr. Pierre Girardier (tel. 0038651 853 458) – Final Jury and Award Ceremony; Mr. Loic Bornard (tel. 0038651 853 459) – logistical issues (hotel, travel, finances)

PhD Workshop on the World Bank: Mr. Pierre Girardier (tel. 0038651 853 458) – speakers and session organization; Mr. Loic Bornard (tel. 0038651 853 459) – logistical issues (hotel, travel, finances)

PSLO Retreat: Ms. Catherine Doody (tel. 0038651 853 464) – all issues

Researchers Alliance for Development (RAD): Ms. Anna Kuznicka (tel. 0038 651 853 456) – Annual Meeting; Mr. Loic Bornard (tel. 0038651 853 459) – logistical issues (hotel, travel, finances)

Media inquiries: Ms. Merrell Tuck – World Bank, Ms. Brigita Mark, Government of Slovenia (tel. +386 14 782 613), Ms. Sabina Kranjec, Ministry of Finance of Slovenia (tel. 386 51 608 404).

Emergency (health, security etc.): Mr. Boris Ljubic (tel. 00386 41 696 475); Mr. Loic Bornard (tel. 0038651 853 459)

The **Conference Secretariat** will be located on the 1st floor of the Festivalna Dvorana conference hall. The Secretariat will handle logistical issues and inquiries that cannot be addressed by the Information Desk.

The **VIP room** (keynote speakers) will be located the 1st floor of the Festivalna Dvorana conference hall.

The **Media Room** will be located the 1st floor of the Festivalna Dvorana conference hall. Accredited journalists may use internet facilities there and have their inquiries answered.

The **Speakers Room** will be located the 1st floor of the Festivalna Dvorana conference hall. Plenary speakers may use this room one hour prior to their session in order to prepare.

Internet

There will be a possibility of using wireless internet (with own computer) in the Festivalna Dvorana conference hall. It will not be possible to use internet facilities in the Conference Secretariat. Plenary speakers and journalists may use internet in the designated rooms.

Slovenia in a nutshell

Population: 2 million

Location: South - Eastern Europe, bordering on Italy, Croatia, Hungary and Austria.

Language: Slovene. English, German and Italian are widely spoken.

Currency: Euro (since January 2007)

Weather expected in May: 20-25 degrees Celsius, with possible passing rains.

Electricity: 220 V

Water: tap water is safe for drinking.

Country code (calling from abroad): 386

Excursions in Slovenia

ABCDE participants will have the opportunity to book excursions at the Information Desk in Festivalna Dvorana conference hall for a moderate fee. Excursions will be organized in the afternoon of Friday, May 18 and on Saturday, May 18.

We wish you a good conference and a pleasant stay in Slovenia!

The ABCDE team

Ministry of Finance of Slovenia & The World Bank