

You are kindly invited to attend the conference

Closing the innovation gap: The challenge of Slovenia's and Europe's competitiveness

organized by *The Office of the European Investment Bank Group in Slovenia*
and the *Representation of the European Commission in Slovenia*

9.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 27 November 2024
in the House of the European Union at Dunajska cesta 20, Ljubljana.

The conference will bring the key policies and instruments of the European Commission in the field of competitiveness and innovation and present the EIB Group's financial products supporting these efforts. We will discuss with representatives of investors, researchers, decision-makers, associations and development institutions how to accelerate and support innovation and its commercialization and how to enable businesses to grow and access capital.

09.00-9.30 **Arrival of participants and welcome coffee**

9.30-9.50 **Opening remarks**

- **Dr Jerneja Jug Jerše**, Head of the Representation of the European Commission in Slovenia
- **Dr Simon Savšek**, Head of the European Investment Bank Group Office in Slovenia
- **Nikolina Prah**, State Secretary, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia

9.50-10.15 **European Commission actions to boost competitiveness and innovation**

- **Mary Veronica Tovšak Pleterski**, Director, Directorate-General for Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs, European Commission

10:15 – 10:45 **Panel I: Financial support for innovation for competitiveness, support from the European Investment Bank Group.**

- Moderator: Dr Simon Savšek**, Head of the EIB Group Office in Slovenia
- **Jussi Hätönen**, Head of Division, Directorate of Operations, European Investment Bank
 - **Nicolas Di Pratta**, Senior Banker, Operations Directorate, European Investment Bank
 - **Radosław Ossowski Barbetti**, Senior Banker, Operations Directorate, European Investment Bank
 - **Marta Pazina**, Mandate Manager, European Investment Fund

10:45 – 12:00 **Panel II: What does Slovenia already has to offer and what does it need for more competitiveness?**

- Moderator: Dr Andreja Kodrin**, Member of the Investment Committee of the InvestEU Fund
- **Gregor Rebolj**, Innovator and co-founder of the company, Silicon Gardens, representative of the Slovenian Technology Forum
 - **Andraž Grahek**, Director of Capital Genetics, representative of the Slovenian Technology Forum
 - **Dr Simon Kulovec**, Director of R&D, Podkrižnik d.o.o.
 - **Nina Dremelj**, Management partner, Vesna Capital
 - **Dr Sandra Damijan**, As. Professor, School of Economics and Business, University of Ljubljana
 - **Simon Šimonka**, Director of the Financing and Marketing Department, SID Banka

12:00-12:30 **Closing of the conference, buffet lunch**

The programme will be moderated by Tina Drolc, media representative, EIB. The conference will be held in Slovenian and English. Simultaneous interpretation will be provided into both languages.

Please confirm your presence at k.jakopic@eib.org by
20 November 2024 at the latest. The number of places is limited.

dr. Simon SAVŠEK
Head of Office of the European
Investment Bank Group in Slovenia

dr. Jerneja JUG JERŠE
Head of Representation of the
European Commission in Slovenia