Date: 27 December 2023

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| **OPEN CALL** **for applications for the** **2024 Golden Bee Award** |

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**I. GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE OPEN CALL**

1. **Name and registered office of the organiser**

The Golden Bee Award Committee (hereinafter: Committee), Dunajska cesta 22, 1000 Ljubljana, is calling for applications for the 2024 Golden Bee Award.

The funds for the call for applications are provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia.

1. **Legal basis for the call for applications**

On the basis of the Golden Bee Award Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia *[Uradni list RS]*, No. 36/21, hereinafter: Act) and the Rules on the Golden Bee Award (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia *[Uradni list RS]*, No. 64/21, hereinafter: Rules), the Committee is launching an open call for applications for the 2024 Golden Bee Award (hereinafter: Call).

The Call is published in Slovenian and English.

1. **Purpose and subject of the Call**

The subject of the Call is the submission of applications for the 2024 Golden Bee Award (hereinafter: Award), the highest national award of the Republic of Slovenia for outstanding achievements in the promotion of bees and other pollinators, and in raising awareness of their importance for sustainable agriculture, ensuring food security, protecting the environment and biodiversity, and preserving cultural heritage and human health.

The Golden Bee Award takes into account projects or achievements in relation to the **promotion of bees and other pollinators** that were published in the past seven years (from 2016 to 2023).

The purpose of the Call is to highlight the contribution of individuals, legal entities or international organisations, award the achievements of projects in the field of **promoting bees and other pollinators** and raise awareness and visibility of their long-term importance.

1. **Eligible recipients of the Golden Bee Award**

The award may be given to a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia or a foreign national, a legal person or other organisation established in the Republic of Slovenia or abroad, or an international organisation (hereinafter: Award Recipient).

The Committee gives the Award for a contribution of outstanding importance in the **promotion of bees and other pollinators**.

Article 4 of the Act stipulates that the Award may be given to the same natural or legal person or organisation only once and may not be given posthumously.

1. **Award period**

The 2024 Golden Bee Award is given for a specific topic – **the promotion of bees and other pollinators**.

The Award Recipient receives a cash prize, a statuette and a certificate.The Award is given by the Committee and presented by the President of the Republic of Slovenia. As a general rule, it is presented on 20 May 2024 on World Bee Day.

The Award Recipient is, in principle, expected to attend the award-giving ceremony in Slovenia.

The Award Recipient is announced on the central website of the Slovenian state administration, on the websites of international organisations and on the website:

https://www.gov.si/en/registries/projects/world-bee-day/golden-bee-award/

1. **Awarding authority**

The Award Recipient is chosen by the Committee. In accordance with Article 11 of the Act, the Committee has decided to award a cash prize of EUR 28,000 for 2024 to be paid to the Award Recipient's bank account after the official presentation of the Award.

The Committee's decision on the amount of the cash prize and the Award Recipient is final.

1. **Application submission deadline and application review**

The application form for the Award is available on the central website of the Slovenian state administration, on the websites of representative international organisations (such as [www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)) and on the website https://www.gov.si/en/registries/projects/world-bee-day/golden-bee-award/

The Call will be open up to and including Friday, 15 March 2024.

Applications may be submitted at any time from the date of publication of the Call until the application submission deadline by one of the following:

* By regular post in a sealed envelope to the address:

 **Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food**

 **of the Republic of Slovenia**

 **Dunajska cesta 22**

 **1000 Ljubljana**

 **Slovenia**

 marked **"2024 Golden Bee".**

The name and surname of the sender and the address of the sender must be indicated on the envelope.

* Applications may also be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"2024 Golden Bee"** at the mailroom of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, Dunajska cesta 22, 1000 Ljubljana, during office hours.
* The application may also be sent by e-mail to: **gp.mkgp@gov.si** whereby the application must be made and submitted in the same way as if it were sent by regular post, i.e. by writing **"2024 Golden Bee"** in the subject line of the e-mail and providing the sender's contact details in the body of the e-mail, with attached scans of complete forms signed by hand or electronically, if the applicant uses an electronic signature.

In the event that the Committee finds an application to be incomplete, the applicant will be invited to supplement it. The deadline for supplementing the application must not exceed eight (8) days or be shorter than three (3) days.

The Committee will only consider applications that are complete and were submitted on time.

Applications may be submitted in Slovenian or in English if the applicant is not from the Republic of Slovenia. In the event of discrepancies between the Slovenian and English versions of the Call, the Slovenian version will prevail.

If the Committee receives more than 20 applications, it will appoint a Golden Bee Award Application Review Panel (hereinafter: Panel), which will review and evaluate the applications received and, in accordance with Article 6 of the Act, make a priority list of up to ten nominees for the Award for the Committee.

The Committee’s decision on the Award Recipient is final.

The applicants will be informed of the outcome of the Call in writing in fourteen (14) days after the meeting of the Golden Bee Award Committee or at the latest by 15 March 2024 by e-mail to the address specified in the application form (Form 1).

1. **Person responsible for providing information at the time of publication of the Call**

For further information concerning the Call, please refer to the contact person at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food:

Andrea Mugerle, namely by e-mail at aurea-apis.mkgp@gov.si or telephone on +386 1 478 93 15 (during the Ministry's office hours).

**II. GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS ON PREPARING APPLICATIONS**

1. **Preparation and submission of an application**

The application must be prepared in Slovenian or English and in line with the provisions of this Call.

The applicant must submit the application either in electronic or paper format.

A single applicant may submit an application for no more than three nominees for the Award, in which case a separate application form must be submitted for each nominee.

More than one applicant can submit an application for a nominee for the Award, in which case the applicant submits with the application a completed statement(s) by the co-applicant(s). The statement of support must be obtained prior to submitting an application (Form 4).

The application must include all the forms specified in Section IV of this Call. The forms must be completed in full. In the fields marked, the applicant must enter the required information and tick the appropriate boxes. The applicant must not delete mandatory elements of the forms.

Forms 1, 2, 3 and 4 must be completed correctly, and Forms 1, 3 and 4 must be signed by the applicant (and the co-applicant) and the nominee, and stamped (if the applicant/co-applicant/nominee uses a stamp) in the appropriate places on the forms.

The applicant should also take into account the eligibility criteria.

**Form 1: Application form**

* 1. **Confirmation of the conditions and criteria of the Call.** Indicate (mark the box with an X) that you understand the conditions and criteria of the Call and have attached to your application a signed statement by the nominee for the Award (Form 3).
	2. **General information.** In the table below, please provide general information about the contribution/achievement – e.g. a person’s life work, achievement, contribution, project, implementation period, country, person responsible and partners involved, field and financial resources.
	3. The **applicant** may be a natural person, a legal person or a body governed by public law whose activity concerns the promotion of bees and other pollinators and awareness raising of their importance (Article 3 of the Act).
	4. **Indicate the person who will supplement the application if necessary.** Fill in this section only if the applicant (referred to in point 1.3.) is a legal person.
	5. **A nominee for the Award** may be a citizen of the Republic of Slovenia or a foreign national, a legal person or other organisation established in the Republic of Slovenia or abroad, an international organisation (Article 4 of the Act) or a finished project with the name of the project holder. Please include in the table the following details about the nominee: name of the natural or legal person, academic title (if any), date and place of birth of the natural person or establishment of the legal person, permanent residence of the natural person or address of the legal person and correspondence address (e-mail, telephone, address).

If the applicant submits an application for more than one nominee for the Award, they must submit a separate application form for each nominee.

When several applicants submit an application for a nominee, a Statement of support must be submitted (Form 4). Consent from the co-applicants must be obtained prior to submitting an application.

* 1. **Field for which the 2024 Golden Bee Award is given.** Indicate the field for which the Award will be given in 2024 – this is to confirm that you are aware of the topic of the Award for which you submitted an application.
	2. **Brief introduction of the nominee.** Please provide a brief introduction of the nominee who is competing for the Award with their work or achievement. State from one to five major achievements of the nominee in relation to the topic of the Call in the past seven years (from 2016 until the closure of the Call). Please submit a photograph of the nominee to be shown at the ceremony (in JPG or PDF format).
	3. **Verification.** A statement by the applicant that by submitting the application they confirm they have read, understood and complied with the general conditions and criteria relating to the Award.

**Form 2: Reasoning**

The recommended length of the reasoning (when applicable), excluding attachments, is indicated under each section of the form. Please answer the questions and provide reasons for your choice of nominee, as both the answers and the reasons will be taken into account in evaluating the applications.

The Golden Bee Award takes into account projects or achievements in the **promotion of bees and other pollinators** that were published in the past seven years (from 2016 to 2023).

**2.1. Originality and visibility of the project or the achievement in society** In a short description, summarise what the research/project/achievement is about and why it is relevant to the topic of the Award. Briefly highlight the results and indicate if the promotion is original and visible, if it has potential for innovation and if it is forward-looking.

**2.2. Contribution to raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators** Describe your contribution and the contribution of the project and the predicted impact on various dimensions of sustainable development (economic, social and environmental aspects). State the promotion methods and the contribution to raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators.

**2.3. Promoting the conservation of bees and other pollinators** Summarise all key communication elements of the project or its achievements that contribute to the digital promotion and protection of bees and other pollinators among the general public in order to increase the knowledge of the general and professional public on bees and other pollinators. Indicate whether the achievement of the research/project has the potential to become universally applicable and create a catalytic effect (e.g. transferring the use and results of the project or its parts to other fields). Highlight if vulnerable groups are included in networking and raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators. Emphasise whether the achievement supports functional and healthy ecosystems and agrosystems.

**2.4. New methods and (non-)technological developments and the scientific and research contribution of the project or the achievement with regard to bees and other pollinators.** Briefly describe whether your contribution or project supports the further development of science or the profession in recognising the needs of pollinators and their services. Indicate whether the good practices of the project or achievement promote green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture and pollinator friendly practices in rural and urban areas.

**2.5. Impact on the recognition and protection of the role of bees and other pollinators in ensuring food security, sustainable agriculture and nature conservation.** Briefly describe your achievements in restoring, supporting and enhancing the importance and role of bees and other pollinators. Describe the contribution to improving cooperation between all relevant stakeholders in ensuring sustainable food systems.

**2.6. Horizontal effects on cultural heritage conservation, health, tourism promotion and economic stimulation** Describe the project's or research’s contribution to the professional work of government bodies and the economy related to preserving pollinators, health and medicine, and to enhancing the resilience of rural and urban areas. What are the next steps? Indicate whether achievements have a direct or indirect positive impact on cultural heritage protection, taking into account the sustainable development of urban or rural areas.

**2.7. Further information on the project or the nominee's achievements.** Provide links to more detailed information on the research or the nominee's achievements and indicate any awards won.Submit up to five photographs of the research, achievement, project holder or project group or other images that can be used as communication materials for the presentation of the Award Recipient.

**Form 3: Nominee's statement**

This consists of a written statement by the nominee that their data and images relating to the nomination may be processed and stored for the purpose of the procedures set out in Article 4 of the Act.

**Form 4: Statement of support**

It is a written support to the nomination by the co-applicants. Each co-applicant briefly explains the reasons for supporting the nomination. The statement(s) of support must be obtained from the co-applicant(s) prior to submitting an application.

**III. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF APPLICATION EVALUATION CRITERIA**

Applications are evaluated by the Committee, which reviews only applications that are complete and were submitted on time. Each member of the Committee evaluates each application based on measures and indicators and orally states the reasoning. This is followed by a vote to choose the most appropriate nominee. The Committee chooses the Award Recipient with a majority vote of all members and states the reasons for the decision in writing. In the event of an equal number of votes for and against a nominee, the Chair has the decisive vote (as laid down in Article 7 of the Act).

The 2024 Golden Bee Award takes into account projects or achievements in relation to the research on bees and other pollinators that were published in the seven years prior to the application (as laid down in paragraph two of Article 7 of the Act).

If the Committee receives more than 20 applications for the Award, it will appoint an Award Application Review Panel that will make a priority list of up to ten nominees for the Award, based on more detailed criteria determined by the Committee (as follows from Article 6 of the Act).

When evaluating applications, the Committee and the Panel refer to the following detailed criteria and indicators:

* **originality and visibility in society**
* potential for innovation and enhancing innovation and the visionary character,
* the originality and visibility of the creative work,
* **contribution to raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators**
* the contribution to raising awareness of bees and other pollinators and their importance for society and the economy,
* the contribution to various dimensions of sustainable development (economic, environmental and social impacts),
* **promoting the conservation of bees and other pollinators**
	+ communication elements adequately address the promotion of bees and other pollinators,
	+ better general knowledge of the general or expert public on the conservation of bees and other pollinators (awareness raising, participation of the general public and encouraging cooperation),
	+ networking (specially of vulnerable groups) for awareness raising of the importance of bees and other pollinators for functional and healthy ecosystems and agrosystems,
* **new methods and (non-)technological developments and the scientific and research contribution of the project or the achievement with regard to bees and other pollinators**
* the contribution to the development of science and the profession in promoting the needs of pollinators and their services,
* innovative models for good practices promote green infrastructure, sustainable agriculture and pollinator-friendly practices in rural and urban areas,
* **impact on the recognition and protection of the role of bees and other pollinators in ensuring food security, the protection of bees and other pollinators, the impact on sustainable agriculture and nature conservation**
	+ the contribution to restoring, supporting and enhancing the role of bees and other pollinators, taking into account the main drivers of decline in the numbers of bees and other pollinators,
	+ the contribution to improving cooperation between all relevant stakeholders in ensuring sustainable food systems,
* **horizontal effects on cultural heritage conservation, health, tourism promotion and economic stimulation**
* the contribution to the professional work of government bodies and the economy related to preserving pollinators, health and medicine, which will benefit the society or the green economy,
* an impact and a source of inspiration for cultural heritage protection, taking into account the sustainable development of urban or rural areas.

**IV. FORMS**

The applicant must submit the application either in electronic or paper format by the deadline.

The application is complete only if it contains all the forms that are completed in full and signed (as indicated below), or signed and stamped by the legal representative (if the applicant uses a stamp).

If the application is incomplete or does not contain all the elements listed below and required in the Call even after the request for supplementation, the application will not be considered.

An application is considered to be complete if it contains the following forms:

* **Form 1:** **Application form** (completed and signed)
* **Form 2: Reasoning** (completed)
* **Form 3:** **Nominee’s statement** (completed and signed)
* **Form 4: Statement of support** (completed and signed)

Forms 1, 3 and 4 must also be stamped if the applicant is a legal person.