Date: 1 December 2022

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| **OPEN CALL** **for applications for the** **2023 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: the Committee), Dunajska cesta 22, 1000 Ljubljana, is calling for applications for the 2023 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: the Act) and the Rules on the Golden Bee Award (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [*Uradni list RS*], No 64/21; hereinafter: the Rules), the Committee is launching an open call for applications for the 2023 Golden Bee Award (hereinafter: the 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 2023 Golden Bee Award (hereinafter: the Award), the highest national award of the Republic of Slovenia for outstanding achievements in relation to the conservation of bees and other pollinators, the protection of bees and other pollinators, and raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators for sustainable agriculture, ensuring food security, preserving the environment and biodiversity, and cultural heritage and human health.

The Golden Bee Award takes into account projects or achievements in the field of **research on bees and other pollinators** that were published in the past seven years (i.e. in the period 2015–2022).

The purpose of the Call is to highlight the contributions of individuals, legal entities and international organisations, to reward the achievements of projects in the field of **research on bees and other pollinators**, and to increase the visibility of bees and pollinators and raise awareness 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 Award Recipient receives a cash prize, a statuette and a certificate.

The Committee gives the Award for a contribution of outstanding importance in relation to **research on 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 Golden Bee Award is given for the calendar year 2023 and for the topic of the Award – **research on bees and other pollinators**.

The Award is given by the Committee and presented by the President of the Republic of Slovenia, normally on World Bee Day, usually on 20 May 2023.

The Award Recipient is announced on the central website of the Slovenian state administration, on the websites of international organisations and on the website [www.gov.si](http://www.gov.si).

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 2023, 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 [www.gov.si](http://www.gov.si).

The Call will be open up to and including Wednesday, 1 March 2023.

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

* 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 "**2023 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 "**2023 Golden Bee**" at the mailroom of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Food of the Republic of Slovenia, Dunajska 22, 1000 Ljubljana, during office hours.
* Applications may also be sent via email to the email address **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 "**2023 Golden Bee**" in the subject line of the email and providing the sender’s contact details in the body of the email, 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 established in 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: the 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.

Applicants will be informed in writing of their (non-)selection in the call for proposals within fourteen (14) days following the end of the meeting of the Golden Bee Award Committee or by 5 May 2023 at the latest at the email address indicated 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 of the Republic of Slovenia – Ms Andrea Mugerle:

* by email at aurea-apis.mkgp@gov.si or
* telephone on +386 1 478 93 15 (business hours 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday to Friday).

**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 accordance 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 may 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/nominee/co-applicant 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, provide general information about the contribution/achievement – e.g. 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 is related to research on bees and other pollinators and to raising awareness 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, or an international organisation (Article 4 of the Act). 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 (email, 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. **Subject of the 2023 Golden Bee Award.** Indicate the field for which the Award will be given in 2023 – 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.** Provide a brief introduction of the nominee whose work or contribution is being considered for the Award. List minimum one to maximum five of the most important research achievements of the nominee over the last seven years (from 2015 to the call closing date) related to the field of research which is the subject of the topic of the Award. It is recommended that a photograph of the nominee be attached which will be displayed at the Award 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 (where necessary), excluding attachments, is indicated under each section of the form. Answer the questions and provide reasons for your choice of nominee, as the latter will also be taken into account in the evaluation of the applications received.

The Golden Bee Award takes into account projects or achievements relating to **research on bees and other pollinators** that were published in the past seven years (i.e. in the period from 2015 to 2022).

**2.1 Originality and visibility of the project/achievement in society.** In a short description, summarise what the research or project or achievement is about and why it is relevant to the topic of the Award. Briefly highlight the results and indicate whether the research is original and widely debated and whether it demonstrates an innovation potential, enhances the integration of new knowledge and provides a visionary look to the future.

**2.2 Contribution to raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators.** Describe your contribution to or the (planned) impact on raising public awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators to society and the economy and need for action.

**2.3 Promotion of the conservation of bees and other pollinators.** Describe whether your activities or research or project achievements adequately address important research challenges and their contribution to reducing the decline of bee populations and the diversity of pollinators. Summarise all the key communication elements of the research or project achievements that contribute to improving the general knowledge of the general or professional public on bees and other pollinators. Indicate whether the achievement of the research/project has the potential to become universally applicable, create a catalytic effect (e.g. transfer of use and dissemination of research results to other fields) and strengthen partnerships in the context of networking.

**2.4 New methods and (non-)technological developments and the scientific and research contribution of the project/achievement with regard to bees and other pollinators.** Briefly describe how (a method or a model) you are bridging the gap concerning knowledge on the diversity and condition of bees and other pollinators at the local, national, European and global levels. Describe the research/project contribution to the further development of science or the profession in identifying the needs of pollinators and the pollination services which they provide. Summarise innovative business models and good practices with a special focus on adaptation to climate change, biodiversity protection and indirectly on the provision of ecosystem services. Describe the potential contribution to action (monitoring, evaluation, awareness raising) related to the pollination services of pollinators and organisms for the development of beekeeping and good agricultural practices, ecosystem risk management and humane medicine and for the benefit of the wider society and the ecosystem and nature conservation.

**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 strengthening the role of bees and other pollinators, taking into account the main drivers of the decline in the numbers of bees and other pollinators. Describe the contribution to improving cooperation between all important stakeholders in providing human and animal food security, taking into account environmental, technological and economic impacts and risks.

**2.6 Horizontal effects on cultural heritage conservation, health, tourism promotion and economic stimulation.** Describe how involvement in the activities/research/project contribute to the professional work of government bodies and the economy in relation to the conservation of pollinators, health and humane medicine and to the benefit of the wider society and green economy. What are your next steps? Indicate whether your achievements have a direct or indirect positive impact on the protection of cultural heritage in the context of sustainable urban and rural development.

**2.7 Further information on the project/achievement.** Provide links to more detailed information on the activities/research/achievement and indicate any awards won.Submit up to 5 photographs of the research, achievement, project promoter or project group or any other pictorial material that can be displayed as communication material when presenting the prize-winner.

**Form 3: Nominee’s statement**

This consists of a written statement by the nominee that their data and pictorial material 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**

This is a written support to the nomination by the co-applicant(s). 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 gives a brief oral presentation of the application. 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 2023 Golden Bee Award takes into account projects and achievements in relation to the research on bees and other pollinators that were published in the last seven years prior to the nomination (as referred to in paragraph two of Article 7 of the Act).

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

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

* **originality and visibility of the project/achievement in society**, including:
* innovation potential and strengthening of innovation/visionary character,
* integration of new knowledge, originality and visibility of creative work;
* **contribution to raising awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators**, including:
* contribution to raising public awareness of the importance of bees and other pollinators to society and the economy,
* need for action;
* **promoting the conservation of bees and other pollinators**, including:
	+ appropriate addressing of important challenges by contributing to reducing the decline in the bee population and the diversity of pollinators,
	+ improvement of general knowledge of the general/professional public on the conservation of bees and other pollinators (awareness-raising, involvement of the wider society and promotion of cooperation, networking),
	+ catalytic effect;
* **new methods and (non-)technological developments and the scientific and research contribution of the project/achievement with regard to bees and other pollinators**, including:
* bridging the gap concerning knowledge on the diversity and condition of bees and other pollinators,
* contribution to the development of science and the profession in identifying the needs of pollinators and the pollination services they provide,
* innovative business models for good practices in climate change adaptation and biodiversity protection and the benefit of ecosystem services,
* contribution to action (monitoring, evaluation and awareness-raising) relating to the pollination services of pollinators and organisms for risk management and development in beekeeping, agriculture and humane medicine and for the benefit of the wider society, animal welfare and nature conservation;
* **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**, including:
	+ contribution to restoring, supporting and strengthening the role of bees and other pollinators in relation to the main drivers of decline in the numbers of bees and other pollinators,
	+ contribution to improving cooperation between all important actors in providing human and animal food security, taking into account environmental, technological and economic impacts and risks;
* **horizontal effects on cultural heritage conservation, health, tourism promotion and economic stimulation**, including:
* contribution to the professional work of governmental bodies and the economy in relation to the conservation of pollinators, health and humane medicine and to the benefit of the wider society and the green economy,
* demonstrated impact on the protection of cultural heritage in the context of sustainable urban and rural development.

**IV FORMS**

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

The application is complete if it contains all the forms, completed in full and signed (as indicated below) and 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: Application justification** (completed)
* **form 3:** **Nominee’s statement** (completed and signed)
* **form 4: Statement of support** (completed and signed)

If the applicant is a legal person, forms 1, 3 and 4 must be stamped.