

REPORT FROM THE 6th INTERNATIONAL SPE BALKAN SKI CONFERENCE

Kranjska Gora, Slovenia, 8–12 March 2026

The 6th international scientific and professional conference took place in Kranjska Gora, Slovenia. The event was organized by the Slovenian Institute for Kinesiology Research at the Science and Research Centre Koper, in collaboration with the Ski Instructors Association of Slovenia (SITAS) and the Faculty of Sport and Physical Education, University of Niš, Serbia.

The scientific excellence of the conference was ensured by ten invited speakers, all recognized experts in alpine skiing and snowboarding. The afternoon sessions featured lectures by distinguished presenters, including Paul Garner, PhD (UK), Pete Allison, PhD (USA), Dieter Bubeck, PhD (Germany), Andrew Horrell, PhD (UK), Vanessa Mann (Germany), Kaja Teraž, PhD (Slovenia),



Figure 1: In addition to practical workshops on the snow, the conference programme included academic lectures, specialist presentations and panel discussions

Slika 1: Program konference je poleg praktičnih delavnic na snegu vključeval tudi znanstvena predavanja, strokovne predstavitve in panelne razprave

Uroš Marušič, PhD (Slovenia), David Schuiling (USA), Sandi Murovec (Slovenia), and Hannes Rottensteiner (Austria). The invited lectures were followed by engaging presentations from conference participants, organized into various thematic sessions covering the key areas addressed by the conference.

The professional quality of the conference was further elevated by the national ski demo teams from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia. These teams complemented their theoretical knowledge with practical on-snow sessions held in the mornings. A highlight of the event was the “Demo Team Show”, where participants had the opportunity to witness outstanding synchronized skiing techniques performed by national ski school demo teams.

Participants from 16 countries contributed scientific and professional presentations addressing current topics. Presented papers reflected the central concept of the conference “Science, Practice and Education” and the main theme of the conference “Fun and Safety in Today’s Skiing - The New Role of Ski Instructors/Coaches in Winter Sports and Society”. The published abstracts provide insight into recent developments in key areas such as safety and injury prevention, ski technique development, as well as modern methodological and didactical approaches to ski instruction. These contributions have been included in the Book of Abstracts, which is available on the official conference website.

The conference was also attended by honorary guests, including renowned Slovenian skiing legends such as Bojan Križaj, Jure Franko, Jure Košir, and Mateja Svet, whose presence further enriched the event. An important contribution to the overall event was also made by ski equipment manufacturers and conference sponsors, who organized daily ski-testing sessions and detailed presentations of their equipment. These were featured in the SPE Balkan SKI Magazine, a special edition that was once again published alongside the conference.

Although the conference took place during unusually warm, spring-like weather in March, skiing conditions remained favourable. The sunny weather contributed positively to the overall atmosphere of the event. Overall, the conference was highly successful, and participants are already anticipating the next edition, scheduled for March 2027.

Kaja Teraž and Rado Pišot

POROČILO S 6. MEDNARODNE KONFERENCE SPE BALKAN SKI

Kranjska Gora, Slovenija, 8.–12. marec 2026

Šesta mednarodna znanstvena in strokovna konferenca je potekala v Kranjski Gori v Sloveniji. Dogodek je organiziral Inštitut za kineziološke raziskave Znanstveno-raziskovalnega središča Koper v sodelovanju z Združenjem učiteljev in trenerjev smučanja Slovenije (ZUTS) ter Fakulteto za šport in telesno vzgojo Univerze v Nišu (Srbija).

Za znanstveno odličnost konference je poskrbelo deset vabljenih predavateljev, priznanih strokovnjakov s področja alpskega smučanja in deskanja na snegu. V popoldanskem delu konference so potekala predavanja uglednih strokovnjakov, kot so Paul Garner (VB), Pete Allison (ZDA), Dieter Bubeck (Nemčija), Andrew Horrell (VB), Vanessa Mann (Nemčija), Kaja Teraž (Slovenija), Uroš Marušič (Slovenija), David Schuiling (ZDA), Sandi Murovec (Slovenija) in Hannes Rottensteiner (Avstrija). Vabljenim predavanjem so sledile zanimive predstavitve udeležencev, razporejene v različne sklope s področij, ki jih je obravnavala konferenca.

Strokovno raven konference so dodatno obogatile nacionalne demonstracijske ekipe iz Bosne in Hercegovine, Bolgarije, Romunije, Srbije, in Slovenije. Te so svoje teoretično znanje nadgradile z jutranjim praktičnim delom na snegu.

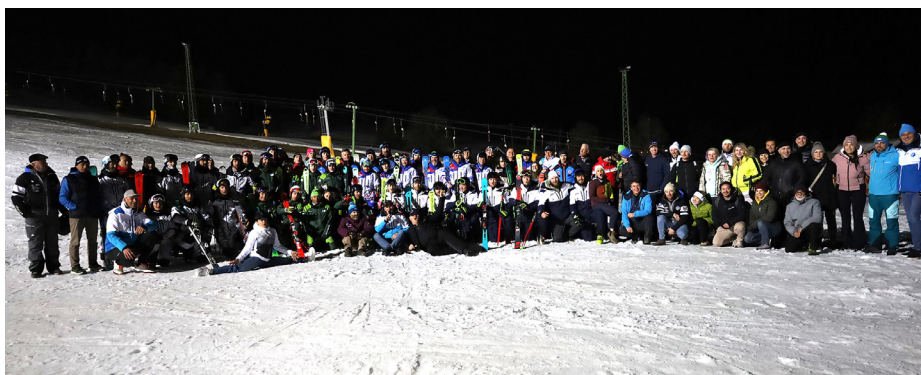


Figure 2: Participants of the 6th SPE Balkan SKI International Conference 2026 at Ski Center Kranjska Gora, Slovenia.

Slika 2: Udeleženci 6. mednarodne konference SPE Balkan SKI 2026 v smučarskem centru Kranjska Gora.

Poseben vrhunec konference je bil večerni dogodek Demo Team Show, na katerem so lahko udeleženci občudovali vrhunsko smučarsko tehniko demonstracijskih ekip nacionalnih smučarskih šol.

Udeleženci iz 16 držav so prispevali tudi svoje znanstvene in strokovne predstavitve aktualnih tem. Predstavljeni prispevki so se navezovali na osrednje vodilo konference Znanost, praksa in izobraževanje« ter glavno temo Zabava in varnost v sodobnem smučanju – nova vloga učiteljev in trenerjev smučanja v zimskih športih in družbi. Objavljeni povzetki ponujajo vpogled v najnovejše razvojne usmeritve na področjih varnosti in preprečevanja poškodb, razvoja smučarske tehnike ter sodobnih metodoloških in didaktičnih pristopov pri poučevanju smučanja. Prispevki so vključeni v zbornik povzetkov, ki je objavljen na uradni spletni strani konference.

Konference so se udeležili tudi častni gostje, med njimi priznane slovenske smučarske legende, kot so Bojan Križaj, Jure Franko, Jure Košir in Mateja Svet, ki so s svojo prisotnostjo dodatno obogatili dogodek. K celotnemu dogodku so pomembno prispevali tudi proizvajalci smučarske opreme in podporniki konference, ki so ob tej priložnosti pripravili vsakodnevni test smuči in podrobne predstavitve ponujene opreme, ki so bile objavljene v posebni reviji SPE Balkan SKI Magazin, ki je tudi tokrat izšla med trajanjem konference.

Kljub nenavadno toplim, skoraj pomladnim temperaturam v marcu so bile razmere na smučiščih ugodne. Sončno vreme je pozitivno vplivalo na celotno vzdušje dogodka.

Konferenca je bila zelo uspešna, udeleženci pa se že veselijo naslednje izvedbe, ki je predvidena marca 2027.

Kaja Teraž in Rado Pišot