



**Dear Friends and Colleagues, researchers, teachers, advisors and other professionals!**

**It is our pleasure to invite you to the VII South-Eastern Europe Symposium on Vegetables and Potatoes in Maribor, Slovenia on 20–23 June 2017.** The symposium is an initiative of University of Maribor, Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Department for organic farming, field crops, vegetables and ornamental plants held under the auspices of the International Society of Horticultural Science (ISHS). The Symposium will be held in north-eastern part of Slovenia, under the slopes of Pohorje hills in the 5 star hotel Habakuk.

The Symposium aims to bring together researchers from diverse fields of study who share a common interest in Horticultural Sciences. The conference will provide the opportunity for scientists, professionals and students to present their latest findings and discuss their current work related to basic and applied aspects on issues of vegetables and potatoes. The symposium will be comprised of plenary and ordinary sessions and poster display sessions. Last day is field trip to vegetable growers in the north east of Slovenia including visiting Ptuj - one of the oldest cities in Slovenia. During the symposium, also meeting and workshop of FAO-Regional Working Group on Greenhouse Crop Production in South-East European Countries will be organized.

The central theme of the symposium is "**QUALITY OF VEGETABLES AND POTATOES**". The thematic concepts and topics will comprise the following areas: **1. Production systems and quality of V&P, 2. Organic V&P production, 4. Short supply chains and other concepts of V&P marketing, 5. Protected cultivation and GAP of greenhouse production on small farms, 6. Biodiversity, 5. Irrigation and plant water relations, 6. General and other topics (including plant protection, etc..).**

Furthermore, we endeavor to offer a high-quality interesting program during the symposium with renowned keynote speakers, as well as an attractive social program. You are welcome to send us abstracts and full papers. **The deadline for abstract submission is on April 20, 2017.**

The symposium website (<http://vp2017.um.si/>) includes information about the preliminary program, the venue and hotel accommodation and sponsorship opportunities.

**We are asking you to inform your colleagues from research and others from companies in vegetable and related businesses about the event.**

We are looking forward to welcome you to Maribor, Slovenia.

Maribor, 3.4.2017

The convener

Prof. Dr. Martina Bavec