



Slovenian Presidency
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Information on the Conference „Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future“ and forthcoming activities of the SI EUSDR Presidency

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REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS



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THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future

RATIONALE AND AIMS

- We know that **green and digital transitions** will steer the transformation of societies (including the economy subsystems) in the EU and Danube region. But we have also heard from **dr. Janez Potočnik** that we are actually entering the „Triple Transition“ – the **societal and economical** as well !
- At the Conference we have focused on the expected transformation of societies, the **crucial role of knowledge** in them, **professions of the future**, **mobility of the labour force**, **brain-drain** and the **adaptations needed** in our societies
- We have invited **many stakeholders** to present their views into discussions, from the areas such as **higher-education**, **research institutions**, **private sector**, **policy-makers** and **civil society**



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THEMATIC PRIORITIES

**Towards Knowledge-driven Society and
Professions of the Future**

RATIONALE AND AIMS (2)

- After the conference we are drafting **some recommendations for the final Declaration of the SI EUSDR Declaration**
- We are committed to further develop this **interdisciplinary thematics** within PA7 and maybe in some other priority areas (especially PA9)



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ISSUES DISCUSSED (PANELS)

1. How could "**Knowledge-driven society**" look like in 2040?
2. What **competencies** will the workforce need to have in 2040?
3. Presentation of **international practices** in the field of **forecasting needs** on the **labour market**
4. **The structure of demand and supply** for **products and services** on the markets in 2040
5. How to strengthen **synergy** at the level of **policies and instruments of reform implementation**?



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1. How could "Knowledge-driven society" look like in 2040?

- In this panel we tackled the Foresight approaches. **DG JRC** and **DG R&I** presented their views and findings concerning the potential future...
- **Petra Goran** from **DG JRC** told us that the **Strategic Foresight** they are providing annually to the Commission and Member States is „...a systemic, participatory approach to gain insights about the long-term future“
- Basic question for them is: **“What strategic decisions need to be made in the next decades to ensure a socially and economically sustainable Europe with stronger role in the world?”**



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1. How could "Knowledge-driven society" look like in 2040? (2)

- They provided 4 most likely scenarios for 2050: a) „Glocal Eco-world“, b) Eco-states, c) Green Business and d) Greening through crisis
- When addressing the competencies, they have emphasized 3 very much needed: a) Digital Competencies, b) Sustainability Competencies and c) Personal, social and civic Competencies
- We will need to improve our Education and Training systems to: a) orchestrate processes and relations, b) shape change through systemic policy mixes, and c) navigate uncertainty and complexity



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1. How could "Knowledge-driven society" look like in 2040? (3)

- On the other hand, **Juergen Wengel** from **DG R&I** presented us the **R&I Foresight** and the **European R&I Foresight community**. They support **Strategic planning and monitoring of Horizon Europe**.
- He pointed out **unpredictable disruptions, global and micro-tensions**, relations between **society and nature** and **technology and society**
- A number of resource crisis are foreseen concerning **scarcity of land** and **depletion of soil**. **Circular economy** has some answers for that...



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1. How could "Knowledge-driven society" look like in 2040? (4)

- There had been some useful foresight exercises on the **Danube region**, not least in view of the **ecological significance of the region**, said Wengel. And **flourishing Danube ecosystems** may be a factor to keep and **attract skilled people in the future**.
- He suggested **three scenarios** with different levels of ambition:
 1. **Individual** - human-centric world view
 2. **Collective** - human-centric world view
 3. **Symbiotic-caring** - human-nature relations



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2. What **competencies** will the workforce need to have in 2040?

- This panel had even 7 speakers who were very different stakeholders. **Barbara Leder**, Director of Public Scholarship, Development, Disability and Maintenance Fund and **Anja Šeme** from Company Cosylab, both from Slovenia, presented Competence Centres for Human Resource Development which are strategic partners of the Industry.
- CoC ICT provided more than 100 trainings on hard and soft skills for the partners in the ICT area.



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2. What **competencies** will the workforce need to have in 2040? (2)

- **Urška Zupanec** (Higher Education Division, MHSI, SI) presented a reform of Higher Education in Slovenia concerning the future competencies for **a green and resilient transition to Society 5.0**. Several **disruptive changes** (natural and technological) are affecting Higher Education that has to adapt to these rapid challenges. **Re-skilling** and **up-skilling** are necessary, as well as the **life-long learning**. Based on the values of sustainability the sustainability actions should follow.



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2. What **competencies** will the workforce need to have in 2040? (3)

- **Nadija Afanasieva** from Ukraine presented their future needs for competencies among the labour force. Ukraine will have to be physically rebuilt after the war with Russia and Educational and Research infrastructures renewed.
- The voice of the **young generations** has been introduced by **Anja Filipović** from the Danube Youth Council and **Timotej Homar** from the young Slovenians educated abroad. They have a surprisingly **clear view** what will have to be done and by which competencies and knowledge!



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2. What **competencies** will the workforce need to have in 2040? (4)

- For the efficient Strategic planning every country or region needs an excellent and well-targeted **Smart Specialisation Strategy**. The Slovenian case has been presented by **Gorazd Jenko** from Ministry for Cohesion and Regional Development. **S5** is structured into 3 priority pillars and 9 priority domains. A high synergy of policy mixes is needed!
- 3. Presentation of **international practices** in the field of **forecasting needs** on the **labour market**
 - **Vladimir Šucha** from the European Commission talked about the new skills needed for the new ERA. Societies and humans **transform** fastly ! AI will change our lives and societies profoundly. **EU policy Lab** performs innovative policymaking at DG JRC.



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3. Presentation of **international practices** in the field of **forecasting needs** on the **labour market** (2)
 - **Glenda Quintini** (OECD) has presented her views on **changing skills needs** in OECD countries according to its survey. In developed world most jobs in **shortage occupations** are **high-skilled**. She focused on **how can skills intelligence translate into policy**. Key findings: a) Policy dialogue across a wide range of stakeholders is essential, b) Assessment focused on skills allow more targeted policy making, c) Narrow scope allows for easier implementation of skills analysis, and d) Mixed-method SAAs („Security Advisor Alliance“) are most useful for tailoring and targeting.
 - **Mitja Jermol** (IJS and IRCAI) has asked a rhetorical question in his presentation: Is it even possible to forecast needs in AI labour market ? Everybody expected that **AI will wipe out manual intensive jobs**. It happened just **the opposite: creative industries are under a threat** and will have to get redefined in many aspects... A lot of new job opportunities will be for SSH !



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3. Presentation of **international practices** in the field of **forecasting needs** on the **labour market** (3)
 - **Jan Hrušak** has addressed some issues concerning the big European Research Infrastructures and their needs for skilled labour force: researchers, technicians and managers... A demand for new profiles will increase and some profiles will disappear... Nevertheless, this area (RI) is tremendously important for the quality of research and its results !
4. **The structure of demand and supply for products and services** on the markets in 2040
 - **Janez Potočnik** (Co-Chair, International Resource Panel, UN Environment Programme) has emphasized the importance of responsible natural resource management. **Circular economy** should be seen as an instrument for **strengthening resilience and strategic autonomy**. It is not about owing, it is about using products and services! **Ambition of the EGD (European Green Deal)** is high... but **implementation is uncertain!** We have to **Redefine** the Socio-Economic System ! Therefore we need to redefine „**Progress**“: Meeting societal needs **as a purpose** of a model based on economic ecosystems! We also need to redefine „**Prosperity**“: Embracing **social fairness** for **real prosperity!** Efficiency policies should be complimented by **sufficiency policies.**



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4. **The structure of demand and supply for products and services on the markets in 2040 (2)**
 - We should measure what **really matters** and broaden measures of progress **beyond GDP**, to capture real human wellbeing. And we need to **balance resource use** to meet human development targets equitably for all. We need to stop being humans **in function of economic success** and development and transit to an economy in function of **delivering human needs**. Changing our relationship with nature is ultimately an economic, equity and security imperative to strengthen collective resilience.
 - **Natalija Medica** (Ministry of Economy, Tourism and Sport, SI) has reminded us about our fantasies concerning the **images of the future** in popular films as well as the **statistical predictions for 2050** in a very refreshing way! The world economy could **more than double in size by 2050**, far outstripping population growth, due to continued technology-driven productivity improvements.



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4. **The structure of demand and supply for products and services on the markets in 2040 (3)**
 - Emerging markets (E7) could grow around **twice as fast** as **advanced economies (G7)** on average. As a result, **six of the seven largest economies in the world are projected to be emerging economies in 2050** led by **China (1st), India (2nd) and Indonesia (4th)**! We should consider less production and less consumption, since there is already now a **lack of available natural resources**!
 - There will be a **shift towards products and services that are environmentally sustainable, socially responsible, and ethically produced**. A demand for **renewable energy sources, organic and locally-sourced food and sharing Economy** will increase. Natalija said that she would like to see AI not simply as a tool to increased productivity and therefore to increased consumption, **but to serving humans for a better and richer life**! AI will provide **new business models, change educational systems, bring new personalized products and services...** The **Metaverse** will become **fundamental** to everyday life in 2040.



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4. **The structure of demand and supply for products and services on the markets in 2040 (4)**
 - **Large tech companies** as well as the **average person** will use the metaverse and hardware components. **Ageing** will drive **demand for healthcare products and services**, such as medical devices, pharmaceuticals, and senior care facilities. Also rise of products and services that promote health and wellness, assistive technologies for mobility and independence, and home healthcare services.
 - On Natalija's demand ChatGPT wrote a poem on the year 2040! At the end it says:
„But no matter what the future brings, We must remember the important things, Love, compassion, and empathy too, For without these, our world will never renew.“



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4. **The structure of demand and supply for products and services on the markets in 2040 (5)**
 - **Virág Zsár** (Senior Grant Advisor, HETFA Research Institute, HU) presented her views on the importance of high quality of **Research Management and Administration**. Educational programmes for future RMAs are almost inexistent in Europe! But transversal skills and competencies of RMAs are necessary!
 - **Zdravko Kačič** (Rector, University of Maribor, SI) presented three dimensions of contributions of University of Maribor to the EUSDR: a) European dimension in ATHENA, b) Regional dimension at Danube Rectors' Conference and c) National dimension within the strategy of University of Maribor. UMB contributed substantially with the recommendations at the **DRC Annual Conference in Maribor, in November 10, 2022.**



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5. How to strengthen **synergy** at the level of **policies and instruments of reform implementation**?

- At the last thematic panel **Martina Hartl** (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, AT) addressed a question of **policy challenges** and how to overcome them through cooperation and **synergies**. The way we do policy and many of the instruments is **not adequate anymore**, at national as well as EU level! A specific challenge is the international STI cooperation. AI and improved education are increasingly needed in the future. Martina opened questions on: potentially improved STI cooperation with third countries within the EUSDR, a need of Skills Academies concept for the EUSDR, a role of European Universities in EUSDR and a role of climate policy changes in EUSDR...



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5. How to strengthen **synergy** at the level of **policies and instruments** of **reform implementation**? (2)

- **Viktor Nedović** (Director, Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship (SAIGE) Project, SER) has focused on the Importance of a **mix of different policies and instruments**. A comprehensive approach that **combines policies** to support scientific research, innovation and higher education with effective cooperation at national, European and macro-regional levels is essential for improving the quality of scientific outputs and the **transfer of knowledge to a competitive economy**. The **diverse funding landscape** provides resources, expertise, networking opportunities, and access to international best practices what they experienced in Serbia.



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5. How to strengthen **synergy** at the level of **policies and instruments of reform implementation?** (3)

- **Katarína Cséfalvayová** (Executive Lead, Danube Tech Valley Initiative, SK) has presented a concrete example of a success story in the region: the Danube Tech Valley Initiative (DTVI) that strives to be a new, top-performing **hotspot for innovation** in Europe. It creates **synergies and convergence**, interconnecting existing initiatives, and enabling **bottom-up cross-border interactions** and cooperation between diverse stakeholders in the **Danube region**.



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5. How to strengthen **synergy** at the level of **policies and instruments** of **reform implementation**?
(4)

- My colleague **Gita Zadnikar** (Science Division, MHESS, SI) has introduced us “**The Knowledge Platform**” from our Ministry, a project which aims at **improved synergy** at the level of policies and instruments of reform implementation (Higher Education, Research and Innovation). One of core objectives is also to **strengthen synergies** and exchange **between policy makers and stakeholders**.
- At the end **Tomaž Boh** (Acting Director General, MHSI, SI) and **Petra Česen Čatar** (National Coordinator for EUSDR, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, SI) closed the conference with some concluding summary and thoughts....



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Institutional Priorities – SI EUSDR PRES



Empowering involvement in EUSDR



Improving the strategic governance of EUSDR and MRS



Youth involvement and its role in EUSDR



Embedding process – evaluation and further steps



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THEMATIC PRIORITIES

Transport and Energy Challenges in the Region

Importance of transport for food security, trade, tourism and cooperation

- Sustainable and energy-efficient transport
- Digitalization, innovation, and jobs in transport





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Slovenian EUSDR Presidency Calendar

Main Presidency thematic & capacity building events 2022/2023

Scope

Date

Danube Region Transport Days	28-29 November 2022
Empowering the participation of all countries in EUSDR	2 December 2022
Conference Knowledge-driven society	17-18 May 2023
Young Bled Strategic Forum	25-29 August 2023
Mediterranean Coast and MRS Week	September 2023
Danube Region Transport Days	3-4 October 2023
2 nd Danube Youth Camp & POPRI Start-up Challenge	22-23 October 2023
12th EUSDR Annual Forum 2023	24-25 October 2023



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Slovenian EUSDR Presidency Calendar

EUSDR Management & Governance 2022/2023

Scope

Date

Opening event of SI Presidency	1 December 2022
Informal NC-PAC Meeting	2 December 2022
PAC meeting	16-17 March 2023
7th MRS TRIO Presidencies Meeting	Second half of April 2023
NC meeting	15-16 May 2023
NC-PAC meeting	September 2023
12th EUSDR Annual Forum 2023	24-25 October 2023