



**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 thematic** within PA7 and maybe in some other priority areas (especially PA9)



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 IRCAl) 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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## Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future

### 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 reacher 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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## Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future

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

### 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 Co-ordinator 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

- **Vital 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 <sup>nd</sup> Danube Youth Camp & POPRI Start-up Challenge	22-23 October 2023
<b>12th EUSDR Annual Forum 2023</b>	<b>24-25 October 2023</b>



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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**