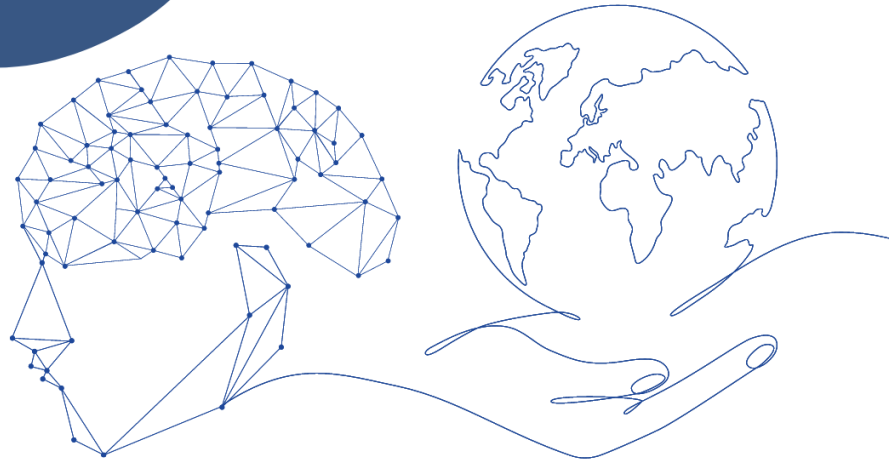




Slovenian Presidency  
of the EU Strategy  
for the Danube Region

# Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future

17 - 18 May 2023  
Congress centre Brdo, Slovenia



## EUSDR Conference “Towards Knowledge-driven Society and Professions of the Future”

17–18 May 2023

Brdo Congress Centre (“Splendens Hall”), Brdo pri Kranju, Slovenia

Brdo + ONLINE (Zoom platform)

[Register here](#)

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The acceleration of green and digital transitions will steer the transformation of societies (including the economy subsystems) in the EU and Danube region. The labour market and employment opportunities will follow suit. Slovenian EUSDR Presidency, therefore, devotes attention to the expected transformation of societies, the role of knowledge in them, professions of the future, mobility of the labour force, brain drain and the resulting adaptations needed in our societies. These changes will affect our cooperation and connectivity in the region! The conference thus gives the opportunity to a broad range of stakeholders to provide their views in the discussion, such as higher education and research institutions, the private sector, youth, policy-makers and civil society.

***But just what will be the role of knowledge in these societies of the future, how will the changes affect the cooperation in the Danube region, and how can our societies adapt?***

The conference will focus on the expected transformation of the knowledge-driven society, the implications for the current and future needs of the labour market, and the effect of digital transformation. It will provide a platform for sharing ideas and experiences and identifying emerging trends while engaging strategic foresight perspectives. The event will also aim to foster international collaboration and policy synergies and significantly contribute to the **2023 Slovenian Presidency of the EUSDR**.





# Agenda

Day 1 – Wednesday, May 17, 2023

## REGISTRATION

11:30 – 12:30 Registration (onsite)

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch for onsite participants (“Heros Hall”)

## WELCOMES

14:00 – 14:15 **Marko Štucin** (State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, SI)

**Matjaž Krajnc** (State Secretary, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, SI)

14:15 – 14:25 Opening remarks from PA7 and the European Commission  
**Johan Magnusson** (DG REGIO, Team Leader Danube-Baltic, EC)  
**L’ubica Pitlová** (PA7 Co-Chair, SK)  
**Viktor Nedović** (PA7 Co-Chair, RS)

## HOW COULD “THE KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN SOCIETY” IN 2040 LOOK LIKE

14:25 – 15:10 Strategic Foresight perspective  
**Petra Goran** (DG JRC, EC)

R&I Foresight perspective  
**Nikolaos Kastrinos** (DG R&I, EC)  
**Jürgen Wengel** (DG R&I, EC)

15:10 – 15:25 Q & A

## WHAT COMPETENCIES WILL THE WORKFORCE NEED TO HAVE IN 2040

15:25 - 16:30 **Ben Kriechel** (Economix Research & Consulting) (tbc)  
**Irena Kuntarič Hribar** (Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, SI) (tbc)  
**Duša Marjetič** (MHSI, Higher Education Division, SI)  
**Nadija Afanasieva** (Director, Ukrainian Institute for International Politics, PA9, UA)  
**Matúš Mihalko** (Danube Youth Council, SK)  
**Timotej Homar** (VTIS Association–Association of Slovenians educated abroad, SI)  
**Gorazd Jenko** (Ministry for Cohesion and Regional Development, SI)  
Q & A



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16:30 – 16:45 Coffee break (“Heros Hall”)

#### INTERNATIONAL PRACTICES IN THE FIELD OF FORECASTING NEEDS ON THE LABOUR MARKET

16:45 - 17:45 **Vlado Šucha** (Ambassador of the EU to Slovakia, EU)  
**Stefano Scarpetta** (Director, ELS, OECD) (tbc)  
**Frank Siebern-Thomas** (Head of Unit, DG EMPL, EC) (tbc)  
**Georg Mildenerger** (University of Heidelberg, Baden-Württemberg, PA8, DE) (tbc)  
**Jan Hrušák** (Senior Research Fellow, Czech Academy of Sciences, CZ)

17:45 - 18:00 Q & A

19:00 – 21:00 Dinner (“Elegans Hotel Brdo”)



#### Day 2 – Thursday, May 18, 2023

#### THE STRUCTURE OF DEMAND AND SUPPLY FOR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES ON THE MARKETS IN 2040

9:30 - 10:30 **Janez Potočnik** (Co-Chair, International Resource Panel, UN Environment Programme)  
**Natalija Medica** (METS, SI)  
**Alexandr Hobza** (Head of Unit, DG R&I, EC) (tbc)  
**Virág Zsár** (Senior Advisor, HETFA Csoport, PA8, HU)  
**Zdravko Kačič** (Member of DRC Presidency, Rector of University of Maribor, SI)

10:30 – 10:45 Q & A

10:45 – 11:00 Coffee break (“Heros Hall”)

#### SYNERGY AT THE LEVEL OF POLICIES AND INSTRUMENTS OF REFORM IMPLEMENTATION

11:00 – 12:00 **Martina Hartl** (Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research, AT)  
**Viorel Vulturescu** (Director, Ministry of Research and Innovation, RO) (tbc)  
**Katarína Cséfalvayová** (Executive Lead of the Danube Tech Valley Initiative, SK)  
**Julien Guerrier** (Director, Common Policy Centre, DG R&I, EC)  
**Bernard Magenhann** (Deputy Director General, DG JRC, EC) (tbc)

12:00 – 12:15 Q & A



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## CONCLUSIONS

**12:15 – 12:45**      **Tomaž Boh** (Acting Director General, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, SI)

**Petra Česen Čatar** (National Co-ordinator for EUSDR, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, SI)

**13:00 – 14:30**      **Lunch (“Heros Hall”)**