

Speech of Vinko Logaj, Minister of Education of Slovenia

Closing conference of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education

Dear Madam President of the Republic of Slovenia, Ms. Nataša Pirc Musar,

Dear participants, esteemed guests, and all others present.

Welcome to the closing conference of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education. This marks the end of an important European initiative and lays the groundwork for future development.

At a time when digital technologies are transforming every aspect of our lives and we are confronted with the virtually limitless possibilities of artificial intelligence, education for digital citizenship is essential for full, responsible participation and co-creation in modern society. The digital environment offers countless opportunities, but it also presents risks and challenges that require thoughtful consideration and coordinated action — both in practice within educational institutions and at the systemic level. European and international cooperation plays a crucial role in helping us understand the potential effects and complexities of issues related to modern digital technologies, including artificial intelligence. For this reason, we believe it is essential to pay appropriate attention to the human and social dimensions in this context, as emphasized by the Council of Europe.

Through the establishment of the Strengthening Digital Citizenship in Slovenian Educational Institutions project, Digi.dr, we are laying the foundations for the long-term integration of digital citizenship education content into our education system. The project content directly addresses key issues in education and training, which are also emphasized in the context of curriculum reform.

Today's conference, which we are hosting in Slovenia in cooperation with the Council of Europe, offers an opportunity to assess our progress and outline concrete steps for the future. The Council of Europe's Road map for Digital Citizenship Education provides a practical framework for further action. Slovenia will contribute its experience and best practices, particularly in areas such as strengthening media literacy, promoting digital well-being, and encouraging the ethical use of technology.

As I have often pointed out, digital skills are the key to safely navigating the digital world and a prerequisite for using digital tools, which have become indispensable in a digital society.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Council of Europe for its partnership and support, and to all participating institutions and individuals in Slovenia for their professionalism and commitment to our shared goals.

I wish all participants an inspiring and successful conference.

Thank you very much, and good luck.