

**Video message by Nataša Pirc Musar, President of Slovenia**  
**Closing conference of the European Year of Digital Citizenship Education 2025**

Dear participants of the closing international conference of the European Year of Education for Digital Citizenship, The Way Forward!

At a time when artificial intelligence is entering our world at an unimaginable speed, it is crucial that we understand digital competences not only as technical knowledge, but also as the ability to understand, judge and create in a digital society. This is precisely why the project “Strengthening Digital Citizenship in Slovenian Educational Institutions”, Digi.dr, is so important. With its integrative approach, collaboration between experts from various fields and a clear vision, it has laid the foundations on which we will and must build a society which knows how to use technology rather than live under its weight.

Education for digital citizenship is no longer a choice, it is a prerequisite for a free and responsible future. If we want our children to be not only users but rather creators of the digital age, we must provide them with tools in schools, kindergartens and at home that will lead them to critical thinking, awareness of responsible online behaviour and protection of their digital identity.

It is therefore particularly valuable that the project promotes understanding of the digital world in kindergartens, among the youngest, and develops guidelines, materials and good practices in primary and secondary schools which help pupils, parents and teachers to build on their knowledge, responsibility and trust. It is important that we know how to use technology safely, creatively and ethically, that we know how to distinguish fact from manipulation, and that we preserve our humanity in a world of algorithms. Only by developing digital literacy and awareness of the consequences of our actions can we create a digital society based on knowledge, cooperation and mutual respect.

I wish you a successful conference and a constructive exchange of views and good practices, with an eye to the future, and I would also like to thank the Council of Europe for its cooperation. All the best!