

POST-WORK FUTURES IN THE EU AND BEYOND:

GROUNDING DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION IN LIVED EXPERIENCE

Permanent
Representation of
Slovenia to the EU

Rue Joseph II 14
1000 Brussels

29 September
2026
13:00 - 16:30

What happens when work - traditionally the central source of our identity, sense of meaning, and belonging - is fundamentally transformed by automation, robotisation, and AI?

This interactive event brings together participants from the EU policy bubble, practising social scientists and citizens. Drawing on anthropology-based research, EU policy insights and citizen experiences, we will explore how communities navigate increasing job uncertainty. Attendees will gain fresh insights into building people-centred support models for a changing labour market in the context of digital transformation, and witness the value of applied anthropology in shaping European policies.

PROGRAMME

13:00 - 13:30

Registration of participants
Sandwich lunch/coffee

13:30 - 13:40

Opening remarks

- **Anita Stanković Pavlič**, Ambassador, Embassy of Slovenia in Brussels
- **Tadas Tumėnas**, Head of the Office, Lithuanian RDI Liaison Office LINO in Brussels
- **Draško Veselinovič**, Director and Member of the Management Board, Slovenian Business and Research Association in Brussels

PART ONE: Speeches & Presentations

I. EU POLICY INSIGHTS

13:40 - 14:00

Algorithmic Management and the Future of Work: Current Developments and Policy Debate

Jasmin Gegenwart, Policy Officer, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Unit B1 (DG EMPL), European Commission

14:00 - 14:20

People, Place, Technology - thoughts on how AI could change work

Antonia Mochan, Deputy Head of Unit at the JRC's EU Policy Lab, European Commission

II. ANTHROPOLOGY INSIGHTS

14:20 - 14:35

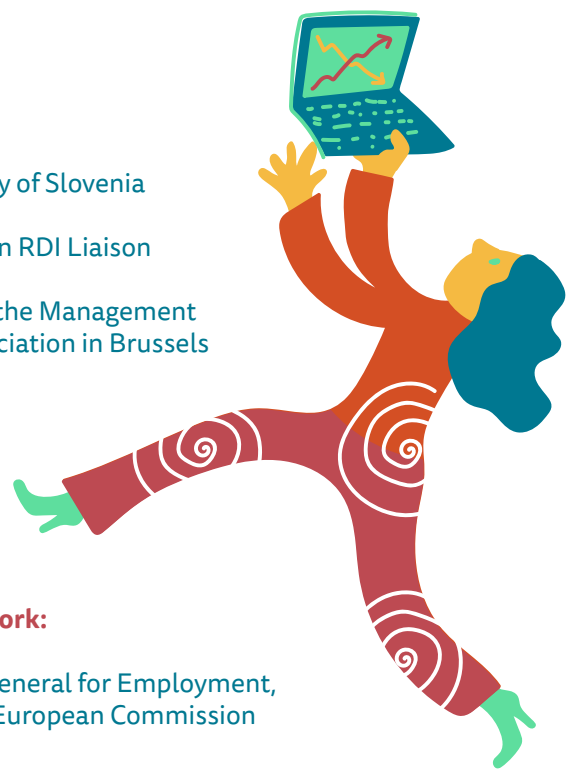
Constructing a new professional meaning: experiences of Lithuanian returnees after years abroad

• **Indra Lukošienė**, PhD candidate at the Center for Social Anthropology, Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)

14:35 - 14:50

Remote work and social change: an anthropological approach

• **Elisabetta Costa**, Associate Professor in Digital Anthropology and Cultures, University of Antwerp (Belgium); Principal Investigator at ERC CoG project ReWorkChange



II. ANTHROPOLOGY INSIGHTS (cont.)

14:50 - 15:10

Imagining post-work futures

- **Prof. Dan Podjed**, Senior Research Fellow, Research Centre of Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts; Professor, University of Ljubljana (Slovenia); Domain Specialist, IRI UL
- **Anja Pogladič**, Researcher, Institute for Innovation and Development of University of Ljubljana (Slovenia)

III. VOICE FROM EU CITIZENS

15:10 - 15:20

Brief presentation of **European Citizens Initiative on Unconditional Basic Income** and the motivation behind it

- **Franz Schaefer**, Activist, co-organiser of the European Citizens Initiative on Unconditional Basic Income

15:20 - 15:25

Coffee top-up / regroup

PART TWO: Interactive Part

IV. WORKSHOP

15:30 - 16:15

Workshop with audience participation: Designing Post-Work Futures in the EU

Automation, robotisation and AI are fundamentally reshaping jobs, workplaces and the role of work in people's lives. Rather than asking only which occupations may disappear in the coming years, this interactive workshop explores how work, professional identities and human values may be redefined in a post-work society.

Drawing on international research projects, including SONATA, MAG-NET and the forthcoming REWORK project, it combines applied anthropology with research on the future of offices and workplaces. Participants will examine which tasks are likely to be automated, which human capabilities and skills may become more important, and how workplaces can continue to support a sense of togetherness, belonging, cooperation and meaning. The workshop will also consider whether automation could help eliminate what anthropologist David Graeber called "bullshit jobs" and whether universal basic income (UBI) could enable fairer and more meaningful ways of organising life beyond paid employment. Working in interdisciplinary groups, participants will develop scenarios for desirable work and post-work futures in the EU and beyond.

The main outcome will be a practical post-work readiness framework with recommendations for policymakers, employers, researchers and civil society.

Facilitators: **Prof. Dan Podjed** (ZRC SAZU and IRI UL) and **Anja Pogladič** (researcher and PhD candidate, IRI UL), Slovenia.

16:15 - 16:20

Wrap up and closing remarks

16:30

Venue closed

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