EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE 1965-2025

SBRA
Slovenian Business & Research Association
Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje

The Downsides of Digitalisation in Education:
Reading and learning in the age of AI

8 December 2026 | 09:30 – 13:00

Permanent Representation of Slovenia to the EU,
Rue Joseph II 14, 1000 Brussels

As digital technologies and artificial intelligence become increasingly embedded in education, it is more important than ever to understand not only the opportunities they offer, but also their potential impact on how we read, think, learn and develop. The growing use of screens in educational settings raises important questions about neurocognitive development, well-being and the skills needed for meaningful learning. At the same time, the emphasis on technological innovation risks overlooking the essential contribution of the humanities and social sciences to critical thinking, literacy and a deeper understanding of human development. This event will explore the evidence behind these concerns and consider how education and research can respond to digital transformation in ways that put human learning, well-being and intellectual development at the centre. It will also invite a broader reflection on how not only our ways of knowing, but also our understandings of the human, knowledge, and education are being transformed.

Programme

Moderated by Dr. Draško Veselinovič,
Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)

09:00 – 09:30	Welcome coffee and registration of participants
09:30 – 09:40	Opening Remarks • ***Dr. Draško Veselinovič**, Director, Slovenian Business & Research Association (SBRA)* • ***H.E. Anita Stanković Pavlič**, Ambassador, Embassy of Slovenia to Belgium, Luxembourg and Cabo Verde*
09:40 – 09:50	Keynote address • ***Prof. Dr. Igor Ž. Žagar**, Director, Educational Research Institute (ERI)*
09:50 – 10:00	Europe's Digital Education Agenda: What should progress look like? • ***Adrian Dușa**, Head of Unit, Digital Education, STEM and AI Literacy, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission*
10:00 – 10:10	Digitalisation in schools: Are we asking the right questions about learning • ***Tommaso Dalla Vecchia**, Head of the Schools and Teachers' Development Department, European Schoolnet*

10:10 – 10:30	Neurocognitive evidence from reading and learning from screens: Digitalisation strikes back • ***Prof. Dr. Igor Ž. Žagar,*** *Director, Educational Research institute (ERI)* • ***Markus Schönberger****, iMotions Neuroscience Research Consultant, Motions, Denmark-Germany (Berlin)*
10:30 – 10:50	Reconceiving literacy in the Digital Age: Humanities Traditions, Embodiment, and the Future of Education • ***Assoc. Prof. Dr. Janja Žmavc****, Head of the Center for Discourse Studies, Educational Research Institute (ERI)* • ***Prof. Dr. Lisa Storm Villadsen****, University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
10:50 – 11:00	Humanities as Thinking Technologies: Gender, research, and other things in between • ***Dr. Valerija Vendramin****, Head of the Center for Social and Anthropological Studies, Educational Research Institute (ERI)*
11:00 – 11:20	Interventions focusing on the well-being of children, youth and adults in education: Development, implementation and evaluation in an international perspective • ***Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ana Kozina****, Head of the Center for Evaluation Studies Function, Educational Research Institute (ERI)* • ***Prof. Dr. Margarida Gaspar de Matos****, Catholic Portuguese University, Lisbon, Portugal*
11:20 – 12:00	Roundtable discussion: Beyond STEM: Why humanities and social sciences matter for research and innovation and how they complement with the tech EU projects *Moderated by:* • ***Dr. Mitja Sardoč****, Head of the Center for Philosophy of Education, Educational Research Institute (ERI)* *Participants:* • ***Prof. Dr. Igor Ž. Žagar****, Director, Educational Research Institute (ERI)* • ***Adrian Dușa****, Head of Unit, Digital Education, STEM and AI Literacy, DG Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, European Commission* • ***Agueda Gras,*** *Head of the Science Education Department, European Schoolnet* • ***Evelina Bränvall (TBC)****, Chair, Universities Informal Liaison Offices Network (UnILiON)* • ***Massimo Busuoli (TBC)****, Director, Norwegian University of Science and Technology's (NTNU) Brussels office* • ***Assoc. Prof. Dr. Janja Žmavc****, Head of the Center for Discourse Studies, Educational Research Institute (ERI)*
12:00 – 12:10	Conference Conclusions
12:10 – 13:00	Networking Lunch