

**Nagovor ministra Boštjana Koritnika
udeležencem Konference predsednikov parlamentov
Jadransko - jonske pobude**

(Tema nagovora: Razvoj digitalne družbe – priložnosti in pasti za mlado generacijo,
ki vstopa na trg delovne sile)

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Allow me to start this short speech today with a **challenging question for you**: what should you say to a person that is afraid of digitalization because she/he believes it might be a way for loosing a job?

The answer is very simple: **digitalization won't just take your job - but it might change it. And that's not bad at all!**

Since covid pandemic entered our world, we've had a chance to **see the true dimension of the benefits and possibilities of using digital technologies clearer.**

In Slovenia, too, we learned how these **technologies can make** our daily tasks and operations **easier or more difficult.** We have seen how important it is for every citizen to be provided with the **right access**, the **right skills** and the **right support** to make the most of the given opportunities that digital technologies offer.

As the world becomes more digital every day, **a certain level of digital skills is needed** in private and professional life.

Just a year ago, **one third of adults** in the European Union who were employed or looking for work - that is more than 75 million people – **didn't even have basic digital skills.**

EVERYTHING IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND HAVING THE RIGHT PEOPLE ON THE RIGHT PLACES.

Therefore, for the better future we should enhance **strategic workforce planning** and recruit **people that are innovative and collaborative.** Or even better: we should all become innovative and collaborative. Also, **redesigning jobs and processes is important** in order to enable greater efficiency and innovative thinking in the ways of working.

Finally, **continuous upskilling and reskilling is crucial.** Today, skills need to keep pace with new technologies and complex society problems, or they risk becoming obsolete. I'm not talking only about technical specialisations or digital skills for everyone, but also about critical thinking, creativity, innovation, problem-solving, anticipating future scenarios. Even more: **the most important skill for the future will be the ability to continuously learn and adapt.**

I strongly believe **we can do it.**