

**INVITATION**  
**6th International Conference TO LEARN IS TO BUILD Festival**

***For the future of the planet***

**10 November 2021 - Biotechnical Centre Naklo- Secondary School and  
Gymnasium, Strahinj 99, Naklo, Slovenia**

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**Dr. Darja Piciga** holds a PhD in psychological sciences and has been working for decades in the fields of the knowledge society – education, and research, development and innovation. For over ten years, she is also focusing on current challenges of sustainable development, especially in connection with climate change and the transition to a green economy, and is conceptually developing a European Integral Worlds approach. She is the author of several books and over 100 published professional and scientific papers. Among other things, she is the lead editor and author of the book *Integral Green Slovenia* (published by Routledge, 2016) and a key figure of the Citizens' Initiative for an Integral Green Slovenia. She is the editor of the Climate Dossier supplement in EOL magazine.

Until the end of 2020, Dr. Piciga pioneered at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning in the transfer and application of modern European guidelines for the environment and the low-carbon, circular and bio-economy in Slovenia (the current European Green Deal). After retirement, she continues her mission as an independent expert.



**Dr. Dr. Ana Vovk** Full Professor, double PhD in Environmental Geography. She studied at the University of Vienna and the University of Ljubljana, is employed at the University of Maribor and lectures at the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Agriculture and Life Sciences. She is the founder of two international centres, the International Centre for Ecoremediation at the University of Maribor and the Dole International Centre for Self-Sufficiency as a continuation of the Learning Ground for Self-Sufficiency. She develops innovative global knowledge for a sustainable future and writes books and manuals on sustainable self-sufficiency. Her aim is to put academic knowledge into practice to improve people's lives. She works with countries in Africa and Asia to develop ecosystem approaches for self-sufficiency. At the International Centre for Subsistence she has set up an ecosystem farm, a vitality centre with a tea house and a herbal house, where she lives a sustainable lifestyle based on respect for natural resources in conjunction with the natural environment.



**Peter Svetina**, Ombudsman. Special educator and social entrepreneur; he has devoted his entire career to social welfare, education and the work of disability, humanitarian and voluntary organisations. After his studies, when he was only 25 years old, he took over the management of the disabled living unit at the Mengeš Rest Home, and his career path soon led him to Carinthia in Austria, where he worked for the Lebenshilfe (life support). In addition to his work as a pedagogical leader, he also coordinated the work of the four institutions of this organisation, which helps people with disabilities to organise their life activities. After returning to Slovenia, he furthered his professional career by working with Šent, the Slovenian Association for Mental Health, which he helped to establish the Karso Employment Centre for the Disabled in Pivka, where he was also the director. Before becoming the fifth Ombudsman in Slovenia in February 2019 with the support of 89 Members of the National Assembly, he founded Grunt, an institute for social entrepreneurship in rural areas, with farmer Matija Zadrgal in Komenda. In all his roles, he actively works to protect the rights of those who are most vulnerable in society. He believes that people need to be cared for in their own home environment, which is why community care is one of the focal points of his agenda.



**Jože Prah** is employed by the Slovenian Forest Service as a district forester. He started his volunteer work at a very early age, in 1974, in the Lisca Sevnica Mountaineering Society and thus joined the Slovenian Mountaineering Association, where today he is a member of the Executive Committee and the President of the Interdivisional Committee of the Mountaineering Societies of Zasavje and Posavje. He is one of the founders of the Ostrovrharji Svibno Tourist Association. Jože Prah is also the chairman of the Commission for European Footpaths in Slovenia. He is a co-author of several development policies in the wider Slovenian area and a founding member of the Association for the Development of the Slovenian Countryside. The Smart Villages, Wood is Beautiful, Posavje Trails of Pleasant Experiences, the Hiking Festival and other projects are systematically intervening in the development of the environment. He is the initiator of tourist and other events such as Charcoal Days, Rafting on the Sava River, Charcoal Trail Hike, Forest Week, Chat on the Best Trail... He is also the President of the Slovenian Charcoal Association and the Sopota - Laško Forest Owners' Association. He is proud of the excellent cooperation between ZGS and KTRC Radeče. He is also a founding member of the Slovenian Ecological Movement. He is especially proud of his work as a mentor in the Study Circles under the auspices of the Andragogical Centre of Slovenia, the Slovenian Forest Service and KTRC Radeče. Within the My Land - Beautiful and Hospitable project, he is the initiator of the competition and evaluation for the Best Thematic Trails in Slovenia and a member of the evaluation committees of the TZS youth projects. He has received many special awards (DS, TZS, PZS, ACS, LZS, municipal, etc.) for his contribution and his diligent

volunteer work. His words are: "I am doing exactly what I want to do. I believe in the good of people, Nature and the Forest."

## **INVITATION TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

The Biotechnical Centre Naklo - Secondary School and Gymnasium invites **teachers, counsellors, librarians of primary and secondary schools, educators and other professional staff of educational institutions, teacher trainers, pedagogical consultants and researchers in the field of education to participate in the International Conference on Upbringing and Education.**

**The aim of the conference is to present professional achievements and examples of good practice in the field of education and education to the research question; **How do we inspire young people to act sustainably?****

The central theme of this year's festival is: **For the future of the planet.** We will discuss the fundamental question of **how to inspire young people to act sustainably.** We will present successful practices of cooperation with educational institutions at home and abroad and focus on interesting and good practices. As the central theme suggests, we also want to talk about the current social developments of our time.

We will discuss the following thematic areas:

1. Sustainable examples at home and abroad.
2. Innovative approaches to teaching for sustainable action.
3. Relational communication.

Presentations of papers from abroad will take place in the morning. The plenary session will take place from 13.00 - 15.00. Presentations of papers from Slovenia will follow in the afternoon.

Registration for the conference will be required in advance.  
<https://forms.office.com/r/yYYQJ1SLAz>

We look forward to your participation and attendance at the conference.

Festival Organising Committee,

Andreja Ahčin, Principal