

To celebrate European Diversity Month in May 2021

“DIVERSITY and INCLUSION in EDUCATION”

will take place on 25th of May 2021, at 13.00 CET



(follow the program on our [web page](#), where we will update the speakers list)

SPEAKER BIO

***Damir Orehovec**, State Secretary at the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport,
Republic of Slovenia*



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Dr. Sonja Merljak Zdovc, *journalist, editor of the online children's magazine Časoris*



As a journalist, she pays a lot of attention to topics related to diversity. She prepares articles on multiculturalism and the integration of children into society, as well as on how to prevent discrimination. Her project “Stories of the Children of the World”, with which she wanted to give a face to immigrants in schools, received two international awards.

She is also the ambassador of Diversity Charter Slovenia, and Časoris is a signatory of the Diversity Charter.

Marko Strle, *Principal at Center for Communication, Hearing and Speech Portorož*



After completing his secondary education at the Koper High School, he enrolled in undergraduate studies of special education at the Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana in 1993, and successfully completed it in 1998. In 2006 he completed his postgraduate studies in defense of his master's thesis and obtained a scientific title.

In May 1998, he found his first job at the Elvira Vatovec Training Center in Strunjan, where he first worked as an educator in homeschooling and then as a teacher and a peripatetic teacher. In

the school year 2007/2008 he was employed at the center in Portorož where he worked as a special teacher and since March 2008 has been elected to the position of headmaster of the center, which he still holds today.

By this time, he had further education and training in various fields. Obtained Reading and Writing Critical Thinking (RWCT) licenses; Behavioral-cognitive method of treating students with reading difficulties; Developing positive self-evaluation of children and adolescents.

The most up-to-date education and training of recent years are ongoing theory of choice or reality therapy (EIRT) training and completed training from Feuerstein's Instrumental Enrichment Program (Feuerstein Institute).

In October 2016, Marko Strle received the highest award of the Republic of Slovenia in the field of education, the Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Education of Children with Disabilities.



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Goran Popović, *Principal at Primary School Livada*



Goran Popović, born in Belgrade in 1961. He is living in Slovenia since 1994. By profession, he is a classroom teacher and a social educator.

Since 2011, he has been the principal of the Livada Primary School, which is attended by students from 27 different countries around the world and where 18 different languages are spoken. Out of approx. 400 students, almost 100 students study from home.

My personal motto (and school motto) is - people are only divided into good and bad!

Prof. Gregor Deleja, *Principal at grammar school Celje - Center*



Gregor Deleja (1980) received his degree in Music Pedagogy from University of Maribor. - He is headmaster and professor of music at grammar school Gimazija Celje - Center and consultant of many youth projects in Celje and Slovenia. In 2002 he co-founded the Art Society of Celje, one of the leading non-profit organisations for development and encouragement of culture and art in the region, where he now works as an events manager. He also acts as an events manager and a music producer for the House of Culture Celje, an institute and an architectural project, established in 2009, which operates in the field of artistic creation and its reproduction. Occasionally he composes and arranges music for many choirs and orchestra; he also received Perlach Research Award from University of Maribor in 2001 for one of his compositions. He is a member of Astor Piazzolla inspired Quintet Gamma, artistic director of two men's chamber choirs (Oktet 9 and FaVoZa), both achieving national and international prizes at various competitions. He was also a singer in one of the leading chamber choirs in Slovenia (Canticum) with numerous international awards. He is a founding member of Rotary Club of Barbara Celjska, a Paul Harris fellow, former vice president of the Lucijan Marija Škerjanc Foundation responsible for audio and sheet music production, former member of the national and international program board of Forum of Slavic Cultures. He is a board member of Duke of Edinburgh International Award Slovenia, member of several expert groups at the National Institute of Education, board member of National Upper Secondary School's Union and director of Confucius Classroom Celje.



Marjan Smonig, *Head of unit, School of Economics and Business,
University of Ljubljana*



Graduated from the SEB LU (1977). Held several positions in private and public sector as Division Head (Lesna Corporation), Secretary of the Board (SISEOT) and Head of the Department (Ministry of Economic Relations and Development). He was Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Slovenia dr. Janez Drnovšek for international economic affairs and member of negotiation team for Slovenia – EU Association Agreement. In the period 1996-2001 he was Counselor (economic affairs) and Head of Mission a.i. (2000) at the Slovenian Embassy in Washington, D.C., USA. Before rejoining SEB LU in 2016 Mr. Smonig was Project Manager in Lek Pharmaceuticals, a Novartis company, Secretary General of the SEB LU and Head of the Office of the Minister of Finance (2003-2004 and 2014-2016). Mr. Smonig was also Pew Fellow at SFS, Georgetown University, USA.

Boris Jokić, *Ph.D., Director of Institute for social research, Croatia*



He holds a degree in psychology from the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Zagreb and a Ph.D. from the University of Cambridge. Currently he is leading projects on educational aspirations of students and national monitoring of the effects of COVID-19 pandemic on the educational system of Croatia. titled “Educational aspirations of pupils at transitional periods of Croatian elementary education: nature, determinants and change (COBRAS)”. He was a member of the National Council of Education and is one of the authors of the current Croatian strategy of education, science and technology. He was the leader of the Comprehensive Curricular Reform of early and pre-school, elementary and secondary education in Croatia. The ideas, processes and values in this reform led to mass protests of support all over Croatia with over 50 000 people participating.



Goran Luburić, mag.oec., Vice dean for Academic Affairs, Zagreb School of Business



As a Head of Marketing and Finance he leads and coordinates all marketing activities at Zagreb School of Business. He is also Vice Dean for Academic Affairs, proven to be very interactive with students and maintaining a problem-solving attitude in every situation. He supervised the whole rebranding process of Zagreb School of Business and the organisation was later in 2018 acknowledged with the national Superbrands award. He initiated and managed successful implementation of Marketing and Communications graduate study programme and syllabus reform at Zagreb School of Business in 2018, modernizing particular courses and refreshing teaching staff in order to make learning outcomes better for all enrolled students, resulting in reputation rise on domestic education market.



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