



Press Release - Ljubljana Manifesto on Higher-Level Reading
Slovenia, Guest of Honour at the Frankfurt Book Fair 2023

As part of its Guest of Honour program at Frankfurt book fair, Slovenia issued The Ljubljana Manifesto on Higher Level Reading. The Manifesto was today published by Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (Germany) and other media in Europe.

Higher-level reading is training for analytical and critical thinking.

Supporters of Ljubljana manifesto call to acknowledge the permanent significance of higher-level reading in the digital era. Higher-level reading exercises metacognition and cognitive patience, expands our conceptual capacities, trains cognitive empathy and perspective-taking. All these social skills are indispensable for informed citizens in a democratic society. Signatories of this manifesto call to acknowledge the permanent significance of higher-level reading in the digital era.

Authors and supporters of Ljubljana manifesto

The Ljubljana manifesto was written by four reading and publishing researchers (André Schüller-Zwierlein, University of Regensburg, Germany; Anne Mangen, University of Stavanger, Norway; Adriaan van der Weel, Leiden University, Netherlands, and Miha Kovač, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia). The Manifesto is supported by the German Academy of Language and Poetry, the International Publishers Association (IPA), the Federation of European Publishers (FEP), PEN International, the International Board of Books for Young People (IBBY), the consortium of European reading promotion organizations (EURead) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). In Slovenia, the Manifesto is supported by the Slovenian Book Agency.

Miha Kovač, curator of the Slovenian Guest of Honour program, said at the presentation of the Manifesto in Ljubljana:

“Higher-level reading is reading of long and complex texts about complex problems that require intellectual patience, force us to self-questioning, train us in perspective-taking, and last but not least, require understanding of rules of logic. By higher-level reading, we deepen and broaden our vocabulary, and train the mind to think in new ways. By putting two book categories – poetry and philosophy – in the center of its program, together with the Ljubljana Manifesto, Slovenia is coming to the Frankfurt book fair with a strong message: **Even in era of screens and artificial intelligence, training in complex thinking by reading complex books is one of the main preconditions for solving complex social, political and cultural problems.**”

Slovenia will enhance this message with a two-day professional programme, in which experts from around the world will discuss the attention crisis, the spread of English reading in continental Europe, writing and AI, and innovativeness in markets with small returns. Information on these events is here:

<https://sloveniafrankfurt2023.com/en/professional-program>

At Frankfurt book fair, endorsed with a short video address by Margaret Atwood, Manifesto will be presented in the presence of Slovenian and German ministers for culture on Wednesday, October 18th in Slovenian pavilion.

From writers' perspective, Manifesto will be discussed by Durs Grünbein, Matthias Göritz and Aleš Šteger Wednesday, 18th October at 19.30 in German national library.

