



CHECK UPON DELIVERY

**Young Bled Strategic Forum
Bled, 1. september 2013**

— Dear young entrepreneurs, visionaries, and future leaders,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past six months, I participated in many meetings where youth issues were at the center of the discussion. I debated youth policies at Slovenian Government sessions, with youth organizations and private sector, within my own party and at the meetings of the European Council.

And I realized that a discussion about youth without a proper context very quickly becomes like a labyrinth without an exit. And by context I mean taking into account all faces of the society.

While the world is in the midst of turmoil and we are talking about pension reforms, social welfare, redefining our educational system, fixing public finances and about helping private sector start making money again, we often forget that all these things are closely linked.

Trying to fix just youth unemployment, for example, is impossible. We need to figure out the way how we can get out of the current situation as a whole society.

And this is why I felt the importance not to address just the leaders that will be attending the main Bled Forum tomorrow, but to also come here today and encourage you – future leaders – to tackle the challenges that you face not only as young people but the challenges that we all face together.

Today, I wish that you put all your creativity and enthusiasm into finding the solutions and creating a to do list for governments, private companies and yourselves. Each of us has to play our own role, and do our part so that we can collectively make changes happen.

Let me try to add some of key challenges, which should in my opinion definitely find place on this to do list. Key words in no particular order: cooperation between generations, education, digital revolution, innovation, ethics, ambition and proactivity.

Cooperation between generations can be a catalyst of change and education is the key to this change – each generation has something to offer, let it be entrepreneurship experience, knowledge, digital skills, know-how. Once this is shared among generations, your and our challenges can be tackled.

Digital revolution provides information gathering on all possible levels and sectors, but, and this is important, it must include ethics and ethical behaviour.

Ambition is an important element of success, but equally important are innovation and ideas. It is crucial for young people to take risks, overcome personal reservations and be ambitious about their ideas and dreams.

Young people today should not only work hard, but also be proactive in seeing and providing possibilities.

Solving youth unemployment is one of the key priorities of the Slovenian Government. We realize our part in improving your situation, and we are working hard to provide you with more job opportunities, better education and with incentives to become financially independent.

I promise you that I will examine the outcome of this conference and will take my part in addressing the need of young generation with full responsibility.

Thank you.