



ANNUAL REPORT

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PEACE INSTITUTE
LJUBLJANA



ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Ljubljana 2026

AN OPEN-MINDED, THINKING AND POLITICALLY ACTIVE COMMUNITY BASED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY

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MISSION

Through its scientific research and advocacy, the Peace Institute strives for an open community capable of critical thinking and founded on the principles of equality, accountability, solidarity, human rights and the rule of law. The Institute develops research, education and outreach activities in the fields of social sciences and humanities in four thematic fields: politics, human rights and minorities, media, and gender. It is an advocate for marginalised groups and works with them to eliminate discrimination. As a prominent research and civil society actor in Slovenia, the region, and internationally, it is an indispensable reference in its fields of operation. It collaborates with other related stakeholders (institutes, universities, NGOs) and individuals at the local, regional, and international level.

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Strategic workshop, December 2025. Photo: PI Archives



Iztok Šori, PhD,
Director

INTRODUCTION

“When civil society is attacked and science weakened at the same time, we do not lose only organisations, programmes or research institutes. We lose the very capacity to imagine a different, more just world. If money remains the only measure, then it will no longer matter what is right, what is true, what is just or what is in the public interest. The only thing that will count is what pays – and for whom.”

Among the many hybrid wars unfolding around us today, there is also a war against civil society. In most European countries, civil society is facing an ever-broader range of attacks: threats, lies and smears; cuts to funding; “foreign agents” laws; the creation of commissions of inquiry; the filing of SLAPP lawsuits; restrictions on the right to protest; and the gradual expulsion of civil society from public space. Physical violence and threats are also becoming more frequent. At the Peace Institute, we see and feel this all the more acutely because, as an independent research organisation, we work at the intersection of the academic and non-governmental sectors – in the space where knowledge is translated directly into social action, and where pressure therefore becomes visible most quickly.

The targets of this war are trade unions, social movements, civic initiatives and

activists – all those who still insist that society is not merely a market. Non-governmental organisations are on the front line, subjected to constant stigmatisation, primarily – though by no means exclusively – by right-wing and populist political forces. The irony is obvious: non-governmental organisations are often among the most transparent actors in society. As a rule, they disclose their sources of funding, their projects and their work more consistently than many of those who attack them.

This war did not appear overnight. It is closely linked to the crises of the past 15 years. After the 2008 financial crisis, the idea that civil society obstructs economic growth gained strength. During the migration crisis, the belief took hold that civil society’s efforts were an obstacle to security. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the idea that surveillance, a state of emergency and the disciplining of civil society were somehow self-evident became fully normalised. Crises

created political opportunities to change priorities and to settle scores with critical voices.

States, local communities and the European Union began cutting funding for civil society and redirecting it elsewhere – into armament, surveillance, security systems and projects subordinated to the pursuit of economic dominance. In contemporary geostrategic struggles, civil society is not understood as a resource, but as a factor that obstructs the assertion of political, military and economic interests. That is precisely why it must be silenced, exhausted or at least pushed to the margins.

The consequences are very concrete. Because of funding cuts, many non-governmental organisations and independent institutes, especially those working for equality and democracy, have been forced to shut down programmes and lay off staff. One of our most respected partners in neighbouring Croatia had to halve its team within a few years. Such cases are no longer the exception; they are becoming the rule. Behind the grand language of competitiveness, security and the lean state, the result is often very simple: fewer people, fewer programmes and less public space for those working in the interest of the common good.

The most visible manifestation of this war was the abolition of US development assistance through USAID. Funds previously intended for humanitarian aid, developing countries, health programmes, and the strengthening of democracy and civil society are now allocated according to the political judgement of the US president and in line with geostrategic interests – for example, to weaken China or strengthen pro-American initiatives in South America. Here too, the consequences are not abstract. In the Balkans, BIRN – the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network – was left without support. This means less exposure of corruption in the region, less scrutiny of those in power and more room for political elites and media owners.

But in reality, this is not only a war against civil society. It is a war against society itself – against the idea that there is such a thing as the common good; that solidarity, the public interest, human rights, critical thought

and social responsibility exist. Civil society is among the first targets precisely because it still defends this space: the space between the state and the market, the space in which people still act together, not merely each on their own. If this space disappears, little remains: power, capital and fear. Or, more simply still, money remains as the only measure of value.

That is why attacks on civil society cannot be separated from attacks on science, where the main aim is to destroy those fields that are crucial to a democratic society: the social sciences and the humanities. The attacks follow a similar logic and pursue the same goal. In science too, we hear that everything must become more useful, more competitive, more measurable, more profitable. Here too, political smearing takes place, funding is cut and work is made precarious. As if the social sciences and the humanities were redundant. As if understanding society were unnecessary. As if critical thought contributed nothing because it cannot be converted directly into profit. And yet it is precisely these fields that enable us not to accept the world as something natural and inevitable, but to understand it as political – and therefore changeable.

When civil society is attacked and science weakened at the same time, we do not lose only organisations, programmes or research institutes. We lose the very capacity to imagine a different, more just world. If money remains the only measure, then it will no longer matter what is right, what is true, what is just or what is in the public interest. The only thing that will count is what pays – and for whom.

As this annual report also shows, the Peace Institute’s research has for many years been identifying and explaining this process of social regression. But it also shows something else: that this process is not one-way. Despite growing pressures, new forms of political action, solidarity movements and practices are emerging that open up space for more inclusive policies. The Peace Institute contributes to these efforts through knowledge, public engagement and its insistence that inequality, exclusion and violence are not natural states of the world, but the result of political decisions.

2025 IN NUMBERS

30
collaborators

1
programme
group

33
projects

132
bibliographic
units in SICRIS

18
scientific
articles

11
chapters in
monographs

39
conference
papers

24
monitoring
reports

36
media
appearances

20
public events

20
educational
workshops

203
website posts

6256
library units

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Vlasta Jalušič received a certificate of appreciation from the Inter University Centre Dubrovnik

Every year, the Peace Institute researchers participate in the European Identity seminar, which takes place at the Inter University Centre Dubrovnik. Last year, Vlasta Jalušič, as one of the five seminar coordinators, received a certificate of appreciation "for her exceptional dedication in organising and participating in the long-standing series of Identity of Europe courses and for enriching the academic environment of IUC."



Recipients of the awards, Inter University Centre Dubrovnik. Photo: PI Archives

Meeting with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk

In October, representatives of civil society organisations working in the fields of human rights, democracy, equality, migration, and environmental protection met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk. Representatives of the Peace Institute also attended the meeting, highlighting the situation of the erased, who, despite decades of efforts, are still waiting for a fair resolution of their status, as well as the systemic problems faced by migrant workers, who are often exposed to exploitation and precarious working conditions.

Commissioner Türk stressed the key role of civil society in protecting human rights and democracy. At a time when these values are under threat around the world, it is even more important that we defend them at home – within our communities.

Peace Festival in Ljubljana encouraged reflection on a society without weapons

In October, we organised a [Peace Festival](#) at Kongresni trg and Park Zvezda, dedicated to dialogue, creativity, and reflection on a future without violence and weapons. The event featured children's workshops, presentations by peace and nonviolence organisations, and an artistic programme, including poetry and letter readings titled Living Peace.

The afternoon programme included a round-table discussion on current challenges and perspectives in peace politics. The speakers were political scientist and economist Rok Kogej, political scientist and publicist Uroš Lipušček, Peace Institute director Iztok Šori, and RTV Slovenia journalist Boris Vasev. The discussion was moderated by Jaša Jenull. The central event was a people's peace assembly, where participants formulated proposals and recommendations for decision-makers and political parties.



Highlights from the Peace Festival, Zvezda Park. Photo: Jure Merčnik



Meeting with Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Photo: PI Archive

POLITICS



Photo: PI Archive

"Enough of the unprincipled politics leading up to the current wars! Enough lies that there will be no cuts to social services, healthcare, and education due to armaments. Enough of the manipulation that more weapons bring more security!

Now is the time to boldly say NO! NOT IN MY NAME!"

Speech by the Peace Institute Director Iztok Šori,
Rally for Peace: Against Armament, 27 March 2025, Prešeren Square, Ljubljana

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS IN THE FIELD OF POLITICS IN 2025

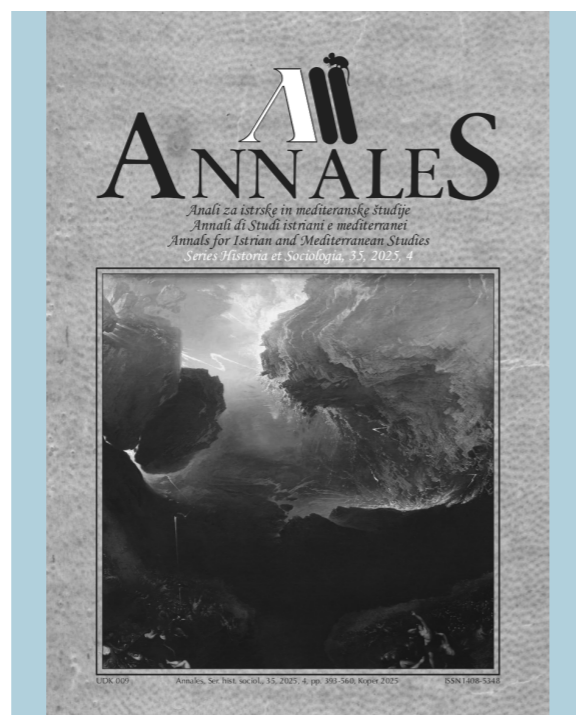
In 2025, we monitored and promoted democratic standards in Slovenia and the European Union (EU). Through our participation in the European Rule of Law Report and our analysis of media freedom and the functioning of civil society, we highlighted growing political pressure on independent institutions, the concentration of media ownership, and the uncertain conditions in which non-governmental organisations operate. In doing so, we helped expose the erosion of democracy and the rule of law.

- 1 In the field of **migration**, we conducted research that revealed the precarious working conditions of migrant workers and highlighted the consequences of restrictive EU migration policies, including increased border controls and the curtailment of peoples' rights along migration routes. A significant part of our work was also dedicated to promoting the political participation of migrant women through public events and inclusive debates. In this way, we contributed to the greater visibility of migrant experiences and to a deeper understanding of structural inequalities within migration regimes.
- 2 In the **social field**, we focused on researching poverty in old age, precarious work, and intersectional inequalities arising from the interplay of gender, migration status, health, and social policy. Through studies, public debates, and expert analyses, we shed light on the structural causes of social exclusion and drew attention to the social consequences of militarisation and the diversion of public funds away from social systems. This work contributed to a deeper understanding of social inequalities and strengthened advocacy for social justice.
- 3 In the field of **discrimination**, through a special thematic series of articles, we have contributed to the development of a critical and interdisciplinary discourse on contemporary forms of hate speech and its social effects, particularly as a mechanism for managing and socially reproducing differences. In this sense, hate speech is not merely what offends, but what defines the boundaries of belonging. The contributions have expanded the understanding of hate speech beyond the realm of criminality or legal categories. In doing so, we have contributed new scientific insights and a professional foundation for educational work and the formulation of public policies in the field of hate speech.
- 4 In the field of **peacebuilding**, we publicly called for a peace-oriented policy, co-organised events and rallies against militarisation and increased military spending, and supported petitions for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. Through the publication of *Letters about Wars and Peace* and an e-book containing testimonies from people in war zones, we brought personal stories about the consequences of war into the public sphere. In doing so, we contributed to strengthening a culture of peace, solidarity, and non-violence, while also influencing public discourse on security and political responsibility.
- 5 In the field of **education**, we participated in a study on international students in Slovenia, which demonstrated many systemic obstacles students face, from complex administrative procedures and housing difficulties to language barriers and discrimination. The findings contributed to a better understanding of the needs of international students and provide an expert basis for designing more inclusive education and integration policies.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Thematic section on hate speech

The thematic section in a special issue of the journal *Annales*, edited by Veronika Bajt, opens up a space for discussions that address contemporary challenges of societal polarisation and contribute to a clearer conceptualisation of hate speech. The hate speech must be understood as more than merely “illegal expression.” It is not only verbal, written, or otherwise mediated aggression, but also a systemic, performative, and relational phenomenon that maintains hierarchies of “race,” class, gender, nation, and other forms of group affiliation. The thematic section explicitly links hate speech to othering as a social mechanism and form of social action with tangible effects: as a tool of governance and a mirror of inequality. Together, these theoretical frameworks reframe hate speech as a boundary-setting mechanism embedded in the politics of inequality. In addition to Veronika Bajt, Peace Institute contributors to the issue included Ana Frank, Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, Sergeja Hrvatič, and Zoran Fijavž.



contributes to strengthening the European Research Area in the field of peace studies, supports young researchers, and expands the impact of research on policy and social practice.

Co-creation of a European Peace Research Network

In 2025, the Peace Institute actively participated in PEACE Research Community Europe, a trans-European network for peace and conflict research supported by the COST programme. Director Iztok Šori served on the network's management board, which brings together research organisations from across Europe and addresses key contemporary issues, including peace and climate change, feminist peace, peace and technologies, and the new architecture of European security. The network

Rule of Law Report 2025

The 2024 *Rule of Law Report* by the Liberties network, in which the Peace Institute also participated, found that Europe's democratic recession had deepened. Countries previously perceived as strongholds of democracy are moving towards authoritarianism, while the use of EU mechanisms to safeguard the rule of law has had only a negligible effect. The comprehensive analysis, produced through the cooperation of 43 organisations from 21 EU countries under the coordination of the Civil Liberties Union for Europe (Liberties), represents the most in-depth independent monitoring of the rule of law in the EU.

In 2024, Slovenia made progress in adopting legislation to protect media pluralism and freedom. However, key challenges remain, including media concentration, the financial crisis of the public service media, and insufficient protection for female journalists. Smear campaigns against NGOs have also continued. In the field of migration, prison overcrowding and the high proportion of imprisoned foreign nationals remain serious concerns, alongside persistent obstacles faced by the erased and long-term residents of Slovenia in obtaining permanent residence.

Posters A Hundred People, A Hundred Quirks

In November, we participated in the selection and award ceremony for the best slogan and poster on the topic *To live peace*, which encourages young people to reflect on tolerance, solidarity and acceptance of diversity. The competition was held in collaboration with the Maribor Association of Friends of Youth, which also conducted 13 workshops in high schools, which we prepared at the Peace Institute. 390 high school students participated in the competition.

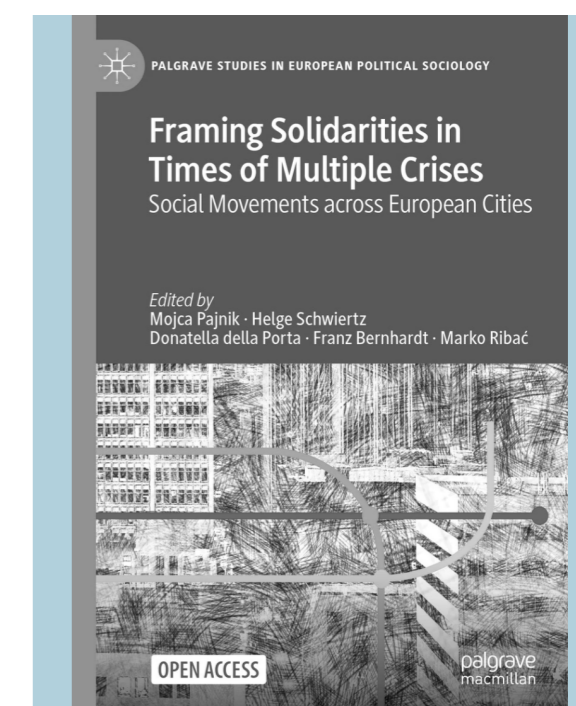
This year's central question – “Can we really achieve peace only with weapons?” – offered young people a space for critical reflection on what peace actually means and how to ensure it. We received 1,066 slogans and 64 posters, which clearly show that young people take peace seriously and understand it as a process based on dialogue, empathy, and courage. Four slogans received awards – *Peace is built, not born.* (Naja Mlaj), *Children deserve schools, not shelters* (Ziga Razpet), *You too can be the reason someone believes in peace.* (Taja Preradović) and *Peace is the only victory without losers* (Rebeka Zorko) – and three posters. Congratulations to the award winners and thanks to all participants, mentors and partners who,

with their work every year, contribute to spreading a culture of peace and non-violence among young people.

Book: Framing Solidarities in Times of Multiple Crises. Social movements in European cities

A scientific monograph, *Framing Solidarities in Times of Multiple Crises: Social Movements across European Cities*, has been published by Palgrave Macmillan. The volume was co-edited by Mojca Pajnik and Marko Ribač from the Peace Institute, together with Helge Schwierz, Donatella della Porta, and Franz Bernhardt.

The book analyses how urban social movements and activist initiatives in five European countries – Denmark, Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and Slovenia – shaped and practised various forms of solidarity in the areas of migration, healthcare, and housing during the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors show how social movements, through new frameworks of solidarity, transformed dominant discourses and contributed to the development of progressive and emancipatory social change. The book is in English and is fully freely available online.



Thinking peace 7: The necessity of armament? Between security, profit and the illusion of peace

In November, as part of the *Thinking Peace series*, a round-table discussion entitled *The Necessity of Armament? Between Security, Profit, and the Illusion of Peace* was held and moderated by researcher Lana Zdravković. The discussion shed light on the rapidly increasing militarisation of Slovenia, Europe, and the world, and raised the question of what possibilities remain for peace politics in times of heightened security concerns.

The participants – philosopher Peter Klepec, defence studies expert Jelena Juvan, and global military spending researcher Nan Tian from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) – warned that increased military spending does not necessarily ensure greater security, but instead fuels arms races, social instability, and the erosion of democratic processes. The discussion emphasised the importance of civilian control over the military and the need for critical public debate on defence policy, while also drawing attention to the necessity of peace activism and the development of policies that move beyond the logic of fear and armament.



Roundtable Discussion: *The Necessity of Armament? Between Security, Profit, and the Illusion of Peace*, 13. 11. 2025. Photo: MI Archive

Political participation for all – for a Europe of equal rights

In 2025, two Residents' Assemblies on the Political Participation of Migrants were held in Ljubljana under the title *Political Participation for All: Towards a Europe of Equals*. The *first assembly took place in June at Špica*, and the *second in November at Kino Šiška*. Together, they were attended by more than 200 migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, representatives of organisations, public servants, and representatives of international institutions.

The events enabled participants to discuss issues related to participation, visibility, and the inclusion of migrant women in society, as well as to exchange experiences concerning housing, language support, discrimination, working conditions, and workers' rights. The assemblies were multilingual, with simultaneous interpretation provided in English, Slovenian, Bosnian, Arabic, and Turkish. Participants worked in thematic groups and formulated proposals and recommendations, which will be forwarded to the City of Ljubljana, the Ministry of the Interior, the Government Office for the Support and Integration of

Migrants, and the Information Point for Foreigners.

The events also created an opportunity for international dialogue with guests from various European organisations and for reflection on how migrant women can actively contribute to building a more inclusive, equal, and participatory society in Slovenia.

Transnationalisation of care for older adults

Majda Hrženjak's research within the project on the transnationalisation of care for older adults sheds light on contemporary transformations of care work and care systems in the European context. In the international journal *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society*, she published an article on the "silent strategies" of managing labour migration in care homes for older adults on Europe's semi-periphery and periphery. Applying the theoretical framework of the affective turn and drawing on interviews with migrant care workers and stakeholders, she analyses how organisations mobilise and instrumentalise the emotions, intimacy, and empathy of migrant workers. These processes, which are not codified in legislation but operate at the organisational levels of recruitment, the micromanagement of work, and the

recognition of experience, create a sense of duty and co-responsibility among workers for the functioning of the system. The research shows that, in a neoliberal context, the boundaries between the economy and intimacy are becoming increasingly blurred, while workers' emotions and subjectivities are emerging as new sites of economic exploitation.

In the journal *Two Homelands*, she published an article on transnational care for older adults between Slovenia and Croatia, in which she analyses the growing mobility of older people who, due to the lack of accessible care in Slovenia, seek institutional care in a neighbouring country. Using the concepts of the care gap, the transnationalisation of care, and retirement migration, and drawing on interviews and institutional analysis, the author defines this form of care as "precarious hybrid transnational care." Older adults in Slovenia retain their rights to healthcare and social benefits on the basis of citizenship, while purchasing care on the market in Croatia, where standards are often lower. The study shows that the transnationalisation of care is not developing solely as a consequence of globalisation, but also as an effect of the interaction between different institutional arrangements in the two countries.



General Assembly: *Political Participation for All – For a Europe of Equal Rights*, 12. 6. 2025. Photo: MI Archive

DATAMIG project annual conference: critical perspectives on the datafication of migration

Co-organised with the Peace Institute, the annual conference of the European COST Action DATAMIG was held at the Faculty of Social Sciences on 5–6 June. Dedicated to debates on the data governance of migration and strategies of resistance, the conference was hosted by the Action's Vice-Chair, Mojca Pajnik, in collaboration with Barbara Beznec and Lori Šramel Čebular. Across the two-day programme, participants from universities, research institutions, civil society organisations and artistic collectives in more than ten countries discussed a wide range of issues related to datafied border surveillance, data justice and creative forms of resistance.

The conference focused on the following key themes:

- Discussions on the development of the key-concepts volume *Migration Data Matters*, grounded in the conceptualisation of core terms such as the datafied border, surveillance regime, asylum data and related

concepts;

- A workshop on tools for researching the data governance of migration, in which participants tested methodological approaches for critically mapping surveillance practices;
- A round table on the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, where speakers examined the implications of new European regulations, digital surveillance and the erosion of the rights of people on the move;
- A seminar marking the 10th anniversary of the “long summer of migration”, entitled *From Corridor to Buffer Zone: Border Reinforcement in the Balkans*, which opened a critical discussion on the renewed consolidation of borders in South-Eastern Europe.

Participants also highlighted the significance of decolonial epistemologies and resistance within practices of solidarity. As part of the meeting, we organised the migrant tour *A City for Everyone*, led by Aigul Hakimova, a licensed tourist guide with lived experience of migration.



Annual Datamig Project Conference, 5.–6. 6. 2026. Photo: PI Archives

SLOVENIA IN GLOBAL MIGRATION FLOWS

Slovenia has the highest number of posted workers per capita in the EU, which means that many foreign workers obtain work permits in Slovenia but never actually work or reside in the country—instead, they are posted to other EU member states. This phenomenon creates the effect of so-called “on-site migration”—the employment of cheaper (migrant) labor without the company having to relocate to low-cost countries. This reinforces the trend of “unfree wage labor” in Europe, which characterizes workers with weak bargaining power and limited rights. These workers often work under poor conditions, with no real choice. The rise of this phenomenon is linked to the local migration industry—a network of agencies, intermediaries, subcontracting firms, and administrative procedures that enable (and often encourage) such migration.

The JUSTMIG project addressed an increasingly urgent question: how the temporary employment of migrants affects European labour markets, workers' rights, and social justice. Over two years of fieldwork, researchers from a range of European institutions examined employment conditions, immigration policies, and the role of intermediary networks in nine countries: Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.

In Slovenia, the number of temporary migrant workers is rising, especially among people arriving from South Asian countries, who often take on physically demanding and poorly paid jobs. Researchers and social partners point to the social segregation of migrants working in difficult conditions in the lowest-paid positions, as well as to workers' indebtedness and the growing

importance of labour intermediaries. They stress that social dialogue and the active involvement of trade unions could improve these workers' employment conditions. The fragmentation of the workforce – driven by different citizenship statuses, varying types of contracts, and work organised through subcontractors – calls for new forms of organising that can strengthen worker solidarity. Experts argue that the state should support trade unions by providing stronger protection for the right to strike.

State authorities and non-governmental organisations can also contribute to the better social integration of migrants through pre-arrival information, advisory support, assistance with language learning, and measures to address housing problems. According to the researchers, the involvement of agencies is the main reason why many migrants arrive with high levels of debt, leaving them vulnerable to super-exploitation. They therefore conclude that eliminating the role of intermediaries should be a priority.



At the 22nd annual IMISCOE conference, held on July 2, 2025, in Aubervilliers, Paris, Maja Breznik presented some of the findings of the international JUSTMIG project. Photo: PI Archive

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

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ONGOING PROJECTS

The Future of Social Dialogue in the Platform Economy: The Case of Slovenia

Project leader at PI: Maja Breznik, coordinator: Maja Turnšek (Faculty of Tourism, Maribor)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/the-future-of-social-dialogue-in-the-platform-economy-the-case-of-slovenia/>

Everyday Life and Life Course of Old People Living in Poverty

Project leader at PI: Majda Hrženjak

Project leader: Vesna Leskošek (Faculty of Social Work, Ljubljana)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/everyday-life-and-life-course-of-old-people-living-in-poverty/>

Practicing Citizenship and Solidarity in Europe “From the Bottom Up”: Local Initiatives, Intersectional Strategies and Transnational Networks

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: Volkswagen Stiftung Foundation

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/enacting-citizenship-and-solidarity-in-europe-from-below-local-initiatives-intersectional-strategies-and-transnational-networks-ecseuro/>

JUSTMIG: Sustainable and Socially Just Transnational Sectoral Labour Markets: Industrial Relations and Labour Market Adjustment to the Rise in Temporary Labour Migration

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt

Funding: European Commission

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/justmig-sustainable-and-socially-just-transnational-sectoral-labour-markets-industrial-relations-and-labour-market-adjustment-to-the-rise-in-temporary-labour-migration/>

Hate Speech in Contemporary Conceptualisations of Nationalism, Racism, Gender and Migration

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt (coordinator)

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/hate-speech-in-contemporary-conceptualizations-of-nationalism-racism-gender-and-migration-2/>

Stimulating and inhibiting factors of international students studying in Slovenia

Project leader at PI: Živa Humer (2024), Leja Markelj

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency and the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation of the Republic of Slovenia

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/target-research-project-stimulating-and-inhibiting-factors-of-international-students-studying-in-slovenia/>

Data Matters: Sociotechnical Challenges of European Migration and Border Control (DATAMIG)

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/data-matters/>

Citizens' Action for Democracy – CitiDem

Project leader at PI: Lana Zdravković

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme

Website:
<https://citizenstakeover.eu/citidem/>
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/citizens-action-for-democracy-citidem/>

Policy Coherence for (Sustainable) Development – Assessment of the Effects of Slovenian National Policies on Developing Countries and on the Sustainable Development of the Republic of Slovenia

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (targeted research programme), Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/policy-coherence-for-sustainable-development-assessment-of-the-effects-of-slovenian-national-policies-on-developing-countries-and-on-the-sustainable-development-of-the-republic-of-slovenia/>

Working Conditions and Job Quality in the Hospitality and Tourism Industry: A Comparative Analysis with Recommendations

Project leader at PI: Maja Breznik

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency, MGTŠ – Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sports

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/working-conditions-and-job-quality-in-hospitality-and-tourism/>

Peace Research Community Europe (PEACE)

Project leader at PI: Iztok Šori

Funding: COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/peace-research-community-europe/>

Empowering Ecosystems of Civil Society Organisations in the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Croatia and Slovenia (PROSECO)

Project leader at PI: Tjaša Turnšek, Brankica Petković

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/empowering-ecosystems-of-civil-society-organisations-in-the-czech-republic-slovakia-croatia-and-slovenia-proseco/>

HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITIES

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND MINORITIES IN 2025

In 2025, we continued our work to protect human rights, with a particular focus on the rights of marginalised groups. Through research, legal representation, advocacy, and public campaigns, we helped strengthen institutional accountability and advance human rights in Slovenia and the wider European context.



Photo: Črt Piksi

We presented a petition, co-created with 35 Slovenian organisations and collectives, calling on the Slovenian government to demonstrate clearly and decisively its commitment to international law, human rights, and the protection of lives. We demand the establishment of safe routes and protection for all those fleeing genocide, war, and persecution; the strengthening and expansion of existing medical evacuation systems; the removal of discriminatory bureaucratic and financial obstacles that endanger lives; and access to international protection and medical care for sick and wounded Palestinian women from Gaza. As stated in the petition: "Our call does not imply support for Israeli plans to forcibly expel the Palestinian population. It is about saving lives – today and now."

Press conference, 22. 9. 2025, Trg Republike, Ljubljana

- 1 In the **field of research**, the AVASCI project enabled us to organise workshops and expert consultations on research ethics. This supported more responsible research practices and helped ensure stronger safeguards for the dignity of marginalised people. Through the FULL-PROOF project, we contributed to a deeper understanding of procedural rights in criminal proceedings, particularly for foreign nationals, and raised awareness of the importance of the right to a fair trial within the European area of justice.
- 2 A significant part of our work focused on the **rights of the erased**. Through legal and advocacy work, and through activities carried out under the Not Forgotten project, we helped preserve public and political memory of the erasure as one of the gravest systemic human rights violations in Slovenia. In doing so, we worked to prevent the social normalisation of injustice and to increase pressure for fair solutions for the individuals affected.
- 3 In the context of **armed conflicts and humanitarian crises**, our public appeals and advocacy activities drew attention to states' responsibility to protect civilians, respect international law, and ensure safe and legal pathways for people fleeing violence. In this way, we contributed to greater public and political sensitivity to issues of humanitarian protection and helped strengthen debate on states' ethical and legal obligations.
- 4 In the field of **combating hate crime**, we prepared a national report under the ENACT project and delivered training for civil society organisations and public institutions. This strengthened the recognition of hate-motivated acts, improved support for victims, and helped reduce secondary victimisation, particularly among LGBTIQ+ people.
- 5 We also paid particular attention to the issue of **statelessness**. Through public interventions and expert contributions, we highlighted systemic gaps in procedures for determining statelessness, as well as the serious risks posed by legal invisibility, especially for children. This helped increase the visibility of the issue and encouraged discussion on the need for legislative and institutional solutions.
- 6 Through the FAIR project campaign, we brought the **EU Charter of Fundamental Rights** closer to the wider public and highlighted its practical relevance in everyday life. This contributed to greater legal literacy and reinforced the understanding of human rights as living norms, rather than merely abstract legal principles.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Unforgotten

The online campaign *Unforgotten* presents six stories of the erased and/or their children, highlighting how the erasure shaped their lives and the lasting consequences it left behind. The Peace Institute has worked on the issue of the erasure for more than two decades and continues to represent erased individuals in procedures to regulate their status in Slovenia. Since the law regulating the status of the erased expired long ago, while erased persons and their family members continue to live in Slovenia without any legal status, we are working to resolve their situation through other legal avenues. At the same time, we remain active in broader advocacy for the rights of the erased, consistently drawing attention to the inadequacy of the measures adopted so far to redress these injustices. These measures were inaccessible to more than half of the erased, and for many of those who were able to access them, they did not improve their situation. We therefore continue to demand comprehensive redress, above all an appropriate statutory framework that would enable all erased residents of Slovenia to obtain permanent residence. We also continue working to ensure that neither

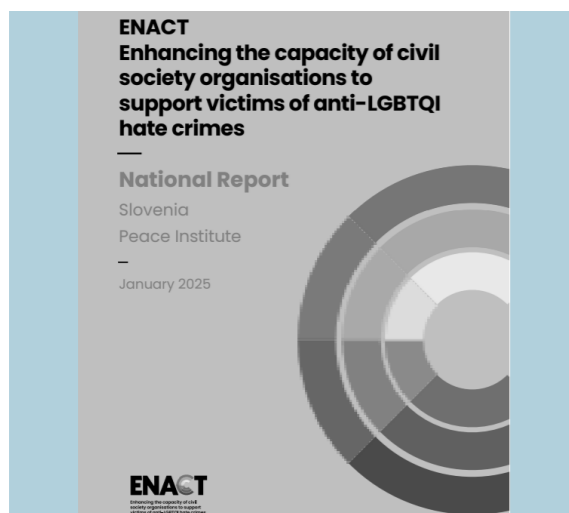
the erasure nor the erased are forgotten.

National report on anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes

The [National Report on anti-LGBTIQ+ hate crimes](#) presents the key findings of research carried out within the framework of the international ENACT project, which is being implemented in six European countries, including Slovenia. The report warns that hostile acts against LGBTIQ+ persons go beyond criminal-law frameworks and also include a broader spectrum of hate-motivated incidents that affect individuals and society, for example the refusal of healthcare. It emphasises the necessity of systematically recognising and addressing all forms of hate violence in order to ensure more effective protection and prevent repeat victimisation.

Building a culture of rights

Through the FAIR project's online campaign *Do you know your rights? Do you know how to exercise them?*, we introduced the EU Charter to the wider public. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is a document setting out the rights and freedoms enjoyed by all residents of the EU. These include the right to freedom of expression, the right to education, the right to privacy, the prohibition of discrimination and the right to a fair trial. The Charter applies to all EU Member States when they are implementing EU law. Its purpose is to protect human rights in the EU and to ensure that institutions and Member States treat all people fairly and with respect. The EU Charter of Fundamental Rights is not merely a symbol; it is a powerful instrument for protecting our freedoms, dignity and equality.



ETHICAL RESEARCH PRACTICES

»In our work, we often hear distressing stories, yet because of systemic gaps we cannot always refer people onwards, even when they are in situations of pronounced vulnerability. This raises ethical dilemmas for us: we want to act responsibly, while also facing limitations that we cannot overcome on our own.«

When researchers encounter vulnerable individuals in the course of their work, they are aware that they are not simply collecting data. They are meeting real people, with their distress, hopes, and life stories – experiences that often affect researchers deeply. It is precisely this human dimension of research that calls for particular sensitivity, reflection, and support.

Ethical research with vulnerable groups is far more than the collection of data or the documentation of facts. It is a process that requires sensitivity, openness, and the ability to listen, as well as care, follow-up, advocacy, and the building of alliances. It involves a chain of supportive activities that are often invisible, yet continually shape research practice. Researchers are therefore confronted not only with methodological questions, but also with ethical dilemmas, emotional burdens, and responsibilities towards the people who share their experiences with them.

Our work places fundamental social values at the centre: health and access to treatment in cases of serious illness, children's right to a safe home and a stable family environment, and the protection of individuals in situations of violence. Although these values should be universal and equally accessible to everyone, vulnerable groups are often pushed to the margins and denied access to basic human rights. We conduct research to identify where systems fail, why such failures occur, and how they can be addressed, while also strengthening the voices of those who are often excluded from the public sphere.



Conference "Together for Ethical Research and Careful, Responsible Professional Work with Vulnerable Populations," 27. 11. 2025. Photo: PI Archives

Researchers themselves also stress that, in practice, situations arise in which the responsibilities of research intersect with the need to provide assistance, requiring careful judgement about how to support interviewees. Such experiences show how closely research work is intertwined with informal forms of support. Vulnerable groups often share stories that reveal deep wounds, powerlessness, and a sense of hopelessness. The stories and experiences addressed within the AVASCI project remind us that ethical research is always bound up with empathy and humanity, especially when it brings us into contact with people in situations of profound vulnerability.

Research is therefore both professional work and a social responsibility: an effort to ensure that no one remains invisible or unheard.

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/avasci/>

FEATURES PUBLICATIONS

LADIĆ, Maja, KOČKOVSKA ŠETINC, Katerina, VUČKO, Katarina, KOGOVIŠEK ŠALAMON, Neža. **V senci napredne zakonske ureditve: kazniva dejanja iz sovraštva zaradi spolne usmerjenosti in spolne identitete: perspektiva žrtve.** *Teorija in praksa: revija za družbena vprašanja*. 2025, vol. 62, no. 2, pp. 257–277. ISSN 0040-3598. dCOBISS, DOI: [0.51936/tip.62.2.257](https://doi.org/10.51936/tip.62.2.257). [COBISS.SI-ID [243446275](https://www.cobiss.si/id/243446275)]

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The Integration of Immigrants into the Social Security System in Slovenia: Analysis of Statistical Indicators, Policies, Public Opinion, and Media Reporting

Project duration: 1. 1. 2025–31. 12. 2027

In theory, successful integration assumes equal rights and equitable inclusion of all members of society, but in practice, immigrants are often excluded from the social security system or their rights are limited. The research focuses on the position of immigrants in Slovenia at the intersection of immigration, the welfare state, and multiculturalism and integration policies. It examines their situation from the perspective of legislation, actual access to social transfers, and the attitude of the population. Special emphasis is placed on the factors that shape residents' attitudes, as understanding them allows for improving policies and creating a more supportive environment for successful integration and maintaining a solidary society.

Website:

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/the-integration-of-immigrants-into-the-social-security-system-in-slovenia/>

Project leader at PI:

Veronika Bajt

Collaborators: Marko Ribač, the research group at the Institute for Ethnic Studies (project leader Romana Bešter) and at Faculty of Social Work

Partners:

Institute for Ethnic Studies (coordinator), Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

NEW PROJECTS

Project leader at PI:

Maja Ladić

Collaborators: Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc, Katarina Vučko

Partner: Minority Rights Group

Funding: European Union

Unforgotten: Advocating for the Rights of the Erased

Project duration: 1. 1. 2025–30. 11. 2025

Strengthening advocacy for the adoption of the already prepared draft law to regularise the status of the erased; increasing awareness among the general public about the problems of the erased, which is necessary to gain support for the adoption of the law; providing legal and psychosocial support to the erased who live in Slovenia without any status and consequently without rights and social protection; and strengthening alliances with civil society organisations and state institutions to increase pressure on the Slovenian authorities to adopt the aforementioned law.

Website:

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/unforgotten-advocating-for-the-rights-of-the-erased/>

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/nepozabljeni/>

Amplifying Voices: Advocacy & Strategic Communication for Impact (AVASCI)

Project duration: 1. 6. 2025–30. 11. 2025

The project aims to strengthen ethical research practices and advocacy for vulnerable individuals with irregular status (such as rejected asylum seekers, the erased, and undocumented persons) who have no, or only very limited, access to legal and psychosocial support. The aim of the project is to develop ethical guidelines for researchers for responsible engagement with vulnerable groups, provide appropriate support to selected individuals through case monitoring, and enhance the knowledge of researchers and professionals on ethical practices, referral mechanisms, and the importance of cooperation among different stakeholders when working with vulnerable persons.

Website:

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/avasci/>

Project leader at PI:

Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc

Collaborators: Amela Meštrovac, Ana Frank, Lori Šramel Čebular

Funding: Liberties within the framework of the European Commission's CERV – STRIVE 2025 programme

ONGOING PROJECTS

FRANET Research Network

Project leader at PI: Majda Hrženjak

Funding: European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/research-network-franet/>

Analysis of Online Hate Speech and Disinformation in Slovenia and Developing of a Proposal for Action

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency (targeted research programme), Ministry of Digital Transformation

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/motivations-experiences-and-consequences-of-returns-and-readmissions-policy-revealing-and-developing-effective-alternatives-more/>

City for Everybody – Building Responsible Action for Inclusive Local Communities (CIFER)

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV) Ministry of Public Administration (NGO Fund)

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/city-for-everybody-building-responsible-action-for-inclusive-local-communities/>

Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmissions policy: revealing and developing effective alternatives (MORE)

Project leader at PI: Veronika Bajt

Funding: Motivations, experiences and consequences of returns and readmissions policy: revealing and developing effective alternatives (MORE)

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/motivations-experiences-and-consequences-of-returns-and-readmissions-policy-revealing-and-developing-effective-alternatives-more/>

Empowering Migrant Voices for Local Integration and Inclusion (EMV-LII)

Project leader at PI: Lana Zdravković

Funding: European Commission, AMIF-2023 programme: Integration and inclusion at regional and local level, Ministry of Public Administration

Website:
<https://diaspora-participation.eu/>

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/projekti/emv-lii/>

EU Charter of Fundamental Rights: Awareness-raising and instruments to promote a culture of rights (FAIR)

Project leader at PI: Katarina Vučko (2024), Maja Ladić

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV), Ministry of Public Administration

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/eu-charter-of-fundamental-rights-awareness-raising-and-instruments-to-promote-a-culture-of-rights-fair/>

ENACT: Enhancing the capacity of civil society organisations to support victims of anti-LGBTQI+ hate crimes

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: European Commission, Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme, Ministry of Public Administration

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/enhancing-the-capacity-of-civil-society-organisations-to-support-victims-of-anti-lgbtqi-hate-crimes-enact/>

FULL-PROOF – Ensuring the due course of criminal proceedings by strengthening respect for the procedural rights of suspects and the accused

Project leader at PI: Katarina Vučko (2024), Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc

Funding: European Commission, JUST programme

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/full-proof/>

Cooperation with the Ombudsperson in the implementation of the tasks and powers of the national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT)

Project leader at PI: Maja Ladić

Funding: Human Rights Ombudsperson

MEDIA

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS IN THE FIELD OF MEDIA IN 2025



First meeting of the Citizens' Assembly on Media and Democracy, 26. 3. 2025. Photo: MI Archive

In 2025, our research and public engagement contributed to greater transparency in Slovenia's media landscape and to a deeper understanding of the structural conditions shaping the operation of the media. Through research carried out in the framework of national and international projects, including MeDeMAP and AFEMED, we developed a more nuanced understanding of the conditions in which journalism operates, media freedom, ownership structures, and political pressures on the media. These findings informed expert, public and political debate.

- 1 By examining **concentration of media ownership**, the production conditions of journalism, and political pressures on the media, we highlighted the economic and political influences that constrain the independence and plurality of the media landscape. A further important contribution was the interactive media ownership network that we developed. This tool strengthens transparency in the media sphere, supports research and journalistic work, and provides the public with accessible insight into ownership links and consolidation processes in the media sector.
- 2 The research findings were actively fed into national and European debates on **media policy, legislation and standards of media freedom**. Through expert contributions to rule-of-law reports and to discussions on reforming the media system, we strengthened the evidence base for policies aimed at protecting media plurality, independence and sustainable financing. In doing so, we contributed to improving the quality of public policy and consolidated our role as an important expert reference point in the field of media.
- 3 We also achieved significant impact in the sphere of public debate and citizen participation. By organising a **citizens' assembly on media and democracy**, we strengthened citizen participation and enabled the public to contribute directly to the shaping of media policy. 30 demands were formulated, expressing societal expectations of free, plural and responsibly functioning media. This contributed to greater awareness of the importance of the media as a public good and of their crucial role in a democratic society.
- 4 We strengthened cooperation with journalists, civil-society organisations and regional networks, thereby enabling the exchange of knowledge and the development of joint initiatives to protect **media freedom and professional standards**. Through this networking, we reinforced the resilience of the media sector against political and economic pressures, as well as solidarity among key actors in the media landscape.
- 5 Through comparative studies and scholarly analyses of **media oligarchisation, authoritarian pressures and the influence of digital platforms**, we further contributed to understanding broader European trends that threaten media plurality and the democratic functions of the media. These findings stimulated more in-depth expert and public debate on the relationship between economic structures, political power and the quality of democracy.
- 6 We actively participated in the development of legislation, particularly in discussions on the **new Media Act**. Through expert proposals, we helped improve solutions relating to the financing of quality journalism, the protection of journalistic autonomy, the regulation of hate speech, and restrictions on media concentration.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Who owns the Slovenian media? New interactive network reveals ownership connections

As part of the AFEMED project, we developed the first online interactive media ownership network in Slovenia, which provides insight into the ownership structures of Slovenian media for the year 2022. The tool reveals connections between media, companies and owners and shows a high level of concentration of ownership in the hands of a small number of individuals.

Users can check who owns a particular media outlet, what profits it generates, and what broader ownership network it is part of. The network can be accessed at: <https://media-ownership.mirovni-institut.si/>.

To make data easier to access, we have also developed a Firefox plugin that displays information about media ownership when visiting websites: <https://addons.mozilla.org/addon/own1/>.

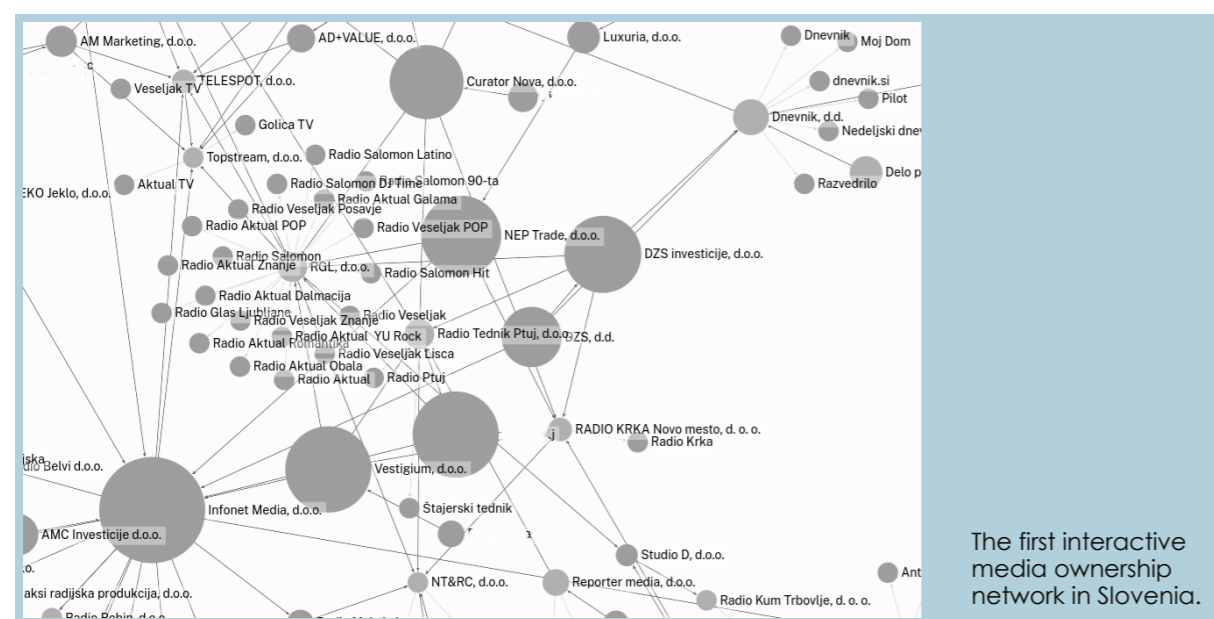
Both tools are intended for the general public and the investigative journalism community and contribute to greater

transparency and understanding of the Slovenian media space.

Report on the Conditions for the Democratic Function of News Media in Slovenia

The research report analyses the production conditions in which news media in ten EU countries (Austria, the Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Slovenia) perform democratic functions.

Based on twelve interviews with journalists and editors of news media in Slovenia, we gained insight into the conditions and practices of the media in providing accurate and reliable information, monitoring government, providing space for public debate, representing cultural, social and political diversity, and enabling public participation in the media and in democratic processes. Through interviews, we also discussed the conditions for media freedom and professional journalism, as well as the relationship between the media and democracy in Slovenia.



The role of critical theory in media research

In the December 2024 issue of the *European Journal of Communication*, an article by Rok Smrdelj and Mojca Pajnik was published on the role of critical theory in researching contemporary so-called hybrid media, in which traditional media and digital platforms intertwine. The authors explain that new digital technologies not only change the way we communicate but also often reinforce existing inequalities and power relations. Using critical theory, they reveal how the operation of digital platforms and their governance strengthen the influence of large technology companies and deepen social differences.

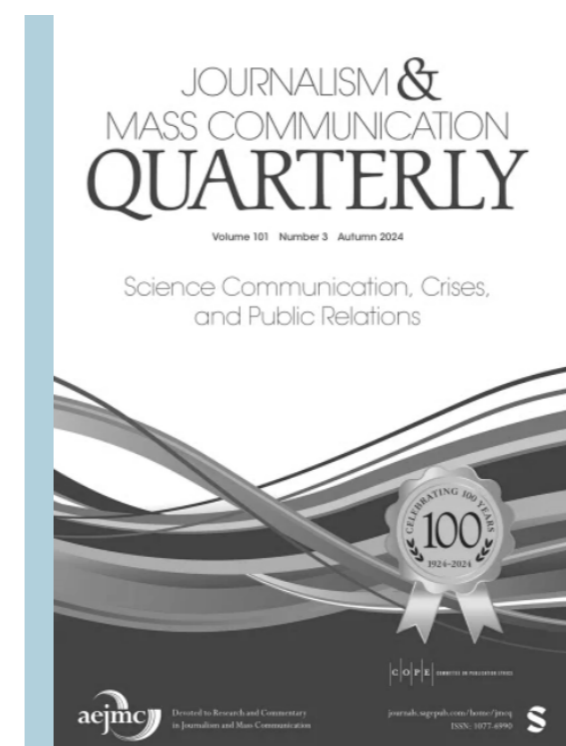
The article emphasises that critical theory enables a better understanding of the deeper social, economic, and political backgrounds of media operations and complements classical empirical approaches in media research. The text is particularly relevant at a time when digital giants are taking an increasingly powerful position and influencing public debate and access to information.



How politics controls the media: From transition to authoritarian populism

In *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, an article entitled *From Transition to Authoritarian Populism* was published, in which Fanni Toth, Mojca Pajnik, and Lana Zdravkovič analyse how political and economic forces have influenced the media in Slovenia, Croatia, and Hungary over the past thirty years.

Based on interviews with journalists, the article offers a historical reflection on the intertwining of political power and economic interests in shaping post-socialist media landscapes. The authors note that media systems in all three countries were particularly susceptible to pressure during periods of government marked by more pronounced authoritarian tendencies. These processes of instrumentalisation were reflected in political control of the media, ownership concentration, and financial pressures that undermined journalistic autonomy. The analysis shows the vulnerability of the media to political pressure, which reinforces political polarisation, reduces public trust, and contributes to the deprofessionalisation of journalism.



THE CITIZENS' PARLIAMENT ON MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY

In 2025, a series of citizen meetings on the topic of media and democracy took place in Ljubljana, aimed at decision-makers both in Slovenia and at the EU level. *The Citizens' Parliament on Media and Democracy*, which met in four full-day meetings between March and May 2025, made 133 proposals and adopted 30 requests for changes to media policy and media practices with the aim of strengthening the democratic role of the media. These relate to ensuring the quality of information, reflecting social diversity and strengthening opportunities for participation in the media, stressing the importance of community media in improving the representation of society in the media, as well as encouraging decision-makers to ensure a higher level of media literacy and addressing inadequate regulation of large media platforms.

The course and results of the assembly confirmed the need to include citizens in the discussion about media and democracy. The Parliament proved to be a suitable tool for gaining insight into citizens' perceptions and expectations regarding the democratic functions of the media. In the design and course of the discussion, the Parliament followed the principle of inclusion. The diverse, albeit non-representative, composition of citizens who did not know each other before showed that in a well-prepared, informed and moderated dialogue, citizens respectfully express and coordinate views and proposals.

The final phase of the Citizens' Parliament will be the presentation of the results to MEPs in Brussels in early 2026. Thanks to the commitment of the participants, four Citizens' Parliaments in Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Ireland have prepared resolutions that will hopefully inspire political and media actors at local, national and European levels.



Presentation of the Citizens' Assembly's demands regarding the media and democracy, 5. 6. 2025. Photo: Jure Merčnik

FEATURED PUBLICATIONS

RADL, Marlene, ČELIK, Burçe, PAJNIK, Mojca, SAUER, Birgit. **Structural Masculinism and Women's Media Ownership in the Context of Authoritarian Populism: A Feminist Political Economy of Communication Perspective**. *International Journal of Communication*. 2025, vol. 19, pp. 825–845. ISSN 1932-8036. [dCOBISS](#). [COBISS.SI-ID [228422147](#)]

SMRDELJ, Rok, PAJNIK, Mojca. **Enhancing the hybrid media system model: The role of critical theory in media and communication research**. *European Journal of Communication*. 2025, vol. 40, no. 1, pp. 55–69. ISSN 0267-3231. DOI: [10.1177/02673231241306249](#). [COBISS.SI-ID [222916611](#)]

TOTH, Fanni, PAJNIK, Mojca, ZDRAVKOVIĆ, Lana. From Transition to Authoritarian Populism: Historical Contingencies of Media Instrumentalization in Central and Eastern Europe. *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly*, pp. 1–26, illus. ISSN 2161-430X. DOI: [10.1177/10776990251323253](#). [COBISS.SI-ID [231049219](#)]

ONGOING PROJECTS

Our Media: A Civil Society Action to Generate Media Literacy and Activism, Counter Polarization, and Promote Dialogue in the Western Balkans and Turkey

Project leader at PI:
Brankica Petković

Funding: European Commission

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/our-media-a-civil-society-action-to-generate-media-literacy-and-activism-counter-polarization-and-promote-dialogue/>

MeDeMAP – Mapping Media for Future Democracies

Project leader at PI:
Brankica Petković

Funding: European Commission

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/mapping-media-for-future-democracies/>

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/mediji-demokracija/>

Affective Media: Transformations of Public Communication

Project leader at PI:
Mojca Pajnik

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/affective-media/>

<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/affective-media-transformations-of-public-communication/>

Defending and Strengthening the Role of Civil Society and Journalists in Protecting Democracy in Slovenia

Project leader at PI:
Brankica Petković (coordinator)

Funding: NEF - Network of European Foundations (Civitates Programme)

Website:
<https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/defending-and-strengthening-the-role-of-civil-society-and-journalists-in-protecting-democracy-in-slovenia/>

GENDER

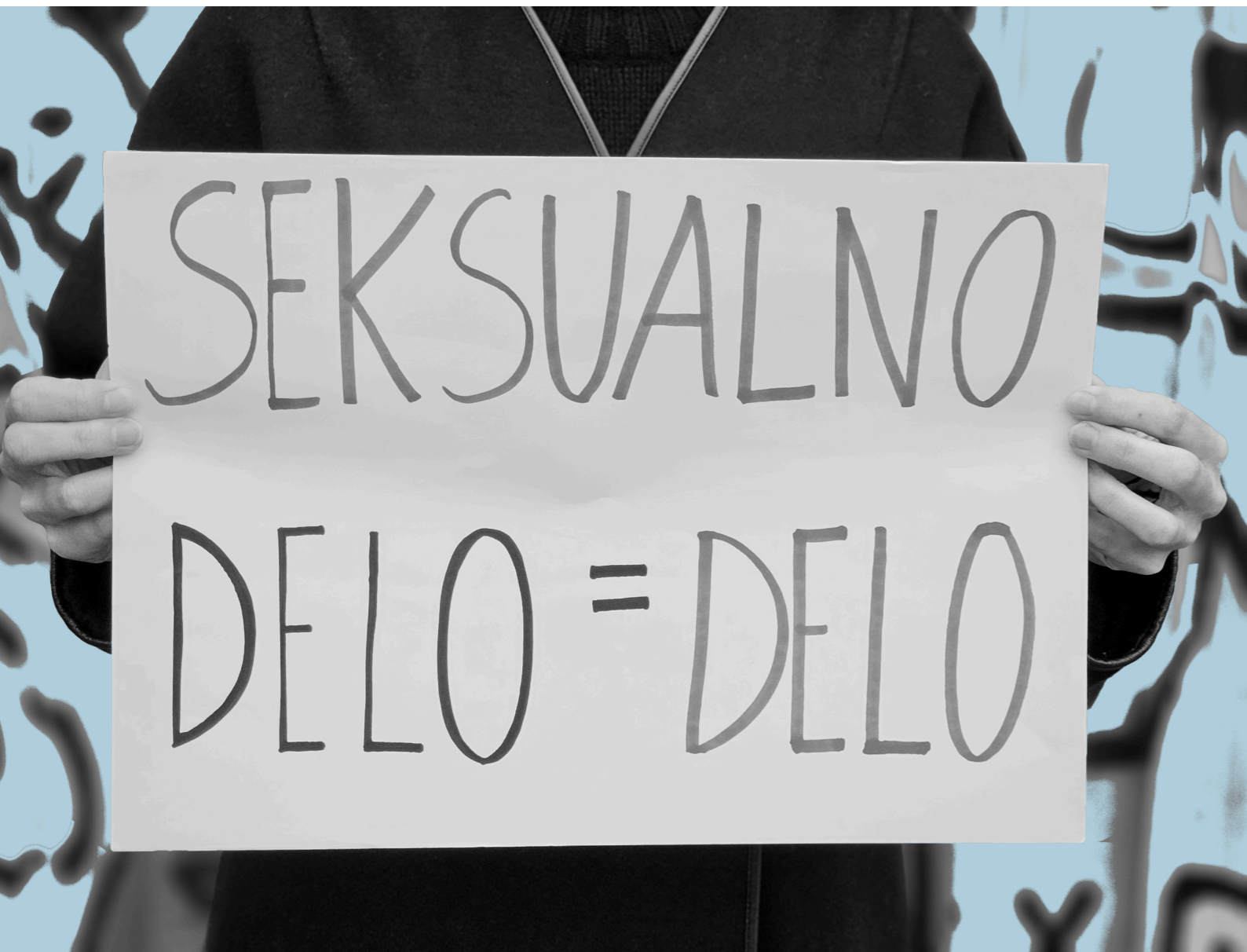


Photo: Archive PI

"It is crucial that we learn to recognize our rights and put ourselves first, because only when we are confident and informed can we work well and safely." (Maja)

A website with recommendations for sex workers to reduce occupational risks (<https://seksualnodelo.si/>) offers information on legislation, options for registering work, occupational risks and strategies for mitigating them, as well as contact information for organizations that sex workers can turn to for help or support.

ACHIEVEMENTS AND IMPACTS IN THE FIELD OF GENDER IN 2025

In 2025, our research illuminated the effects of digitalisation and platformisation on feminised areas of work. Through scholarly articles on sex work in the postsocialist context and a contribution to a monograph on platform-based care work, we showed that while digital technologies create new opportunities, they also reproduce existing inequalities and introduce new forms of exploitation, surveillance and insecurity. These findings contributed to a more nuanced understanding of contemporary forms of precarious work and provided an expert basis for discussions on decent work, platform regulation and the social protection of workers.

- 1 Our **research on anti-gender mobilisations** exposed the strategies and impacts of movements opposing gender equality, reproductive rights and inclusion policies. Comparative analyses and legal studies demonstrated how their discourses become normalised in the public sphere and influence legislative processes across Europe. At the same time, research on feminist responses identified innovative forms of action that strengthen democratic resilience through solidarity, self-organisation and transnational alliances. This work contributed to the development of recommendations for policymakers and to the strengthening of strategies for protecting gender equality.
- 2 A significant part of our work was also devoted to **reducing the stigma associated with sex work**. Through infographics, recommendations and a participatory research approach that involved sex workers at different stages of the research process, we contributed to a more informed public debate. In doing so, we strengthened understanding of actual working conditions in the sector and encouraged the development of policies and practices aimed at improving the safety, health and social inclusion of sex workers.
- 3 In 2025, our research shed light on the impacts of **digitalization and platformization on feminized sectors of work**. Through academic articles on sex work in a post-socialist context and a contribution to a monograph on platform-based care work, we demonstrated that while digital technologies do bring new opportunities, they simultaneously reproduce existing inequalities and introduce new forms of exploitation, control, and precariousness. These findings have contributed to a better understanding of contemporary forms of precarious work and provide a professional foundation for discussions on decent work, platform regulation, and social protection for workers.
- 4 In the field of media, research on **the position of women journalists** revealed the prevalence of sexual harassment, discrimination and threats, as well as systemic barriers that prevent victims from reporting violence. By publicly presenting the results, we contributed to greater awareness of normalised forms of sexism in the media sector and stimulated debate on the need for more effective protection mechanisms and safer working environments.
- 5 Research on **feminist actors at the European level** also played an important role in 2025. Participation in the international FIERCE project and the establishment of a transnational feminist network enabled the exchange of knowledge and good practices, as well as the joint development of initiatives to integrate feminist approaches into EU political processes. This strengthened solidarity between movements and increased the visibility of gender equality issues across the European space.

SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Platform-based care work and inequalities

The Faculty of Social Sciences Publishing House published the monograph *Digitalisation of Work and Life* (*Digitalizacija dela in življenja*, eds. Aleksandra Kanjuo Mrčela and Andrej Kohont), which includes a chapter by Leja Markelj on the effects of platformisation on home-based care work. Care work is highly feminised and undervalued, and often takes place within the informal economy. The growth of digital platforms mediating care work helps address labour shortages and can improve working conditions by increasing the flexibility, visibility and regulation of this work.

The analysis shows, however, that platform-based care work generally fails to meet decent work standards and often preserves existing patterns of worker exploitation. Platforms reshape the market primarily in line with their own interests, while continuing to deny workers adequate social protection, employment security, decent pay and predictable working hours. They also introduce new forms of algorithmic control, further limiting workers' autonomy.

Women in the media: The position of women journalists and women media workers in Slovenia

On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Tjaša Turnšek, in cooperation with the Slovene Association of Journalists, presented the first findings of the *Women in the Media* study, which reveal alarming conditions for women journalists and women media workers in

Slovenia. Despite the high prevalence of violence and harassment, only a minority of victims choose to report it. The main reasons include lack of trust in procedures, fear of negative consequences at work, and lengthy, exhausting processes. Most participants assessed existing internal protocols in media organisations as ineffective and merely formal. The findings underline the urgent need to establish safe, confidential and functioning reporting mechanisms, ensure the consistent implementation of measures, and introduce systematic awareness-raising and training within media collectives.

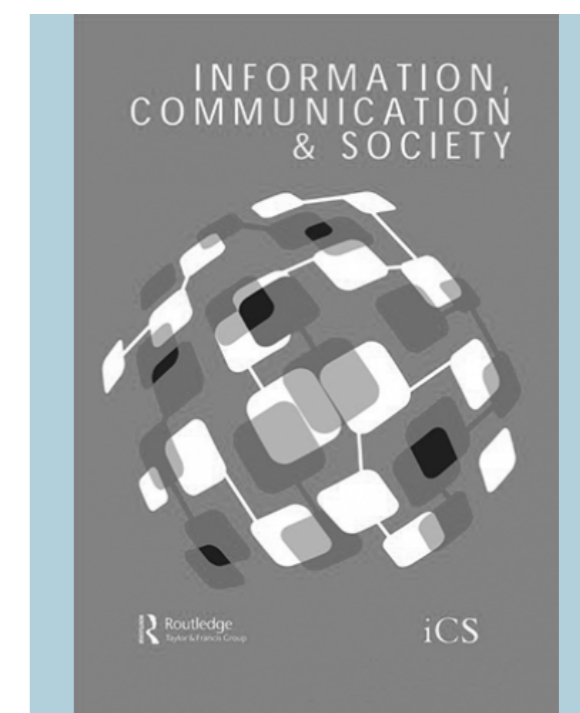


On the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, Tjaša Turnšek, in collaboration with the Slovenian Journalists' Association, presented the initial findings of the study "Women in the Media," 25. 11. 2025. Photo: MI Archive

Digitalisation and affective work in the sex industry

Two scholarly articles were published in leading international journals, examining transformations in sex work in the context of digitalisation, platform capitalism and postsocialist social change.

In an article by Mojca Pajnik and Roman Kuhar, published in *Information, Communication & Society*, the authors draw on a survey and focus groups with sex workers in Slovenia to analyse the opportunities and risks associated with the [digitalisation of sex work](#). They find that digital platforms increase visibility, autonomy and access to markets, but also bring privacy violations, digital violence and technological stress, while maintaining existing inequalities and introducing new forms of exploitation and stigmatisation.



A further perspective is offered by Leja Markelj and Majda Hrženjak's article in *Sociology*, which examines [affective sex work in the postsocialist context](#).

Drawing on an online survey, focus groups and digital ethnography, the authors show that intimacy, emotionality and authenticity are increasingly expected across a broad range of sexual services. This expansion of affective labour intensifies working conditions, as it requires additional emotional investment that is often not adequately remunerated. In Slovenia, this is linked to the individualisation and informalisation of sex work, which may enable greater autonomy while also creating conditions for increased worker vulnerability.

Together, the two studies provide a critical insight into contemporary transformations of sex work, revealing the contradictions between the promises of digital freedom and the reality of growing pressures, insecurity, and new forms of control and exploitation.

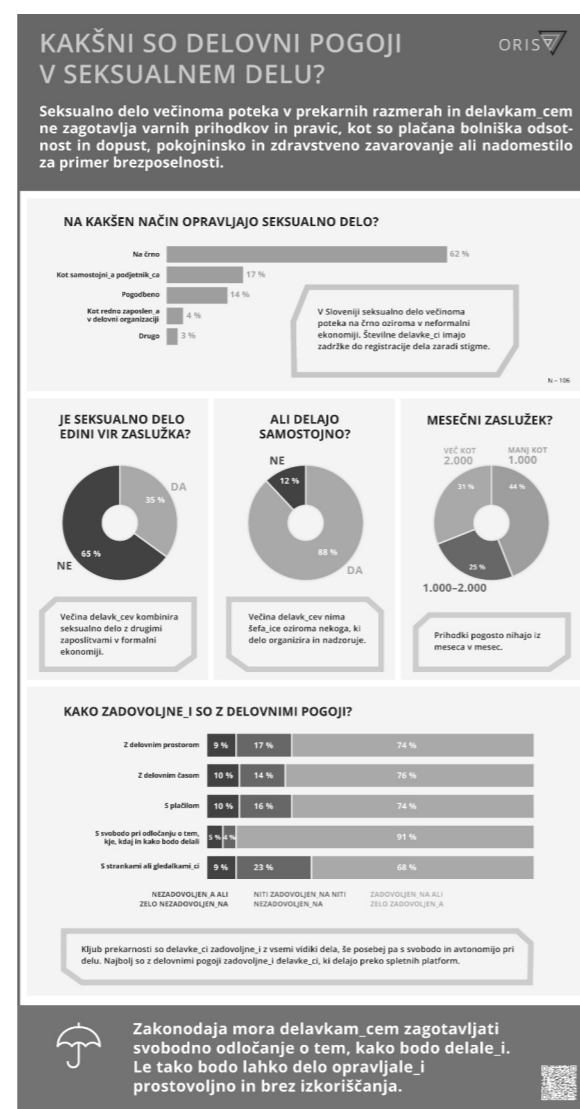
Infographics and recommendations on sex work

Data from research conducted within the project *Occupational Risks in Sex Work at the Intersections of Political Framework and Social Stigma* (ORIS) showed that sex workers face a range of occupational risks. Particularly prominent among these are stigmatisation, violence by clients, health risks, negative effects on private life, and business risks.

To inform the public about actual conditions in the sector, we prepared a series of infographics summarising the key research findings. We also developed recommendations for different stakeholders. We called on policymakers to develop more inclusive and accessible policies aimed at reducing occupational risks. We addressed professional staff with the aim of encouraging professional, respectful and non-judgemental treatment of sex workers in institutional settings. We encouraged the academic community to undertake responsible and ethical research that actively contributes to reducing stigma, and employers to introduce measures to improve working conditions and ensure workers' rights.

We also established a website providing recommendations for sex workers on reducing occupational risks: <https://seksualnodelo.si/>. The website offers information on legislation, options for registering work, occupational risks and strategies for mitigating them, as well as contact details for organisations to which sex workers can turn for help or support. We promoted the website on selected online advertising platforms and in cooperation with the Legebitra association, which carried out testing for sexually transmitted infections for sex workers as part of the Expand programme.

Through the infographics and recommendations, we sought to encourage open and informed discussion of sex work, contribute to reducing stigma, and support the development of policies and practices that take account of sex workers' actual needs and improve their safety, health and social inclusion in the long term.



FEMINIST MOVEMENTS FOR THE REVITALISATION OF DEMOCRACY IN EUROPE

“One of the key strengths of feminist organising in Slovenia is its trans-thematic orientation. Feminist groups do not treat gender as an isolated issue, but link it to broader social, economic and political conditions, such as capitalism, economic inequality, environmental justice and migration. For this reason, they often cooperate in alliances with other social movements.”

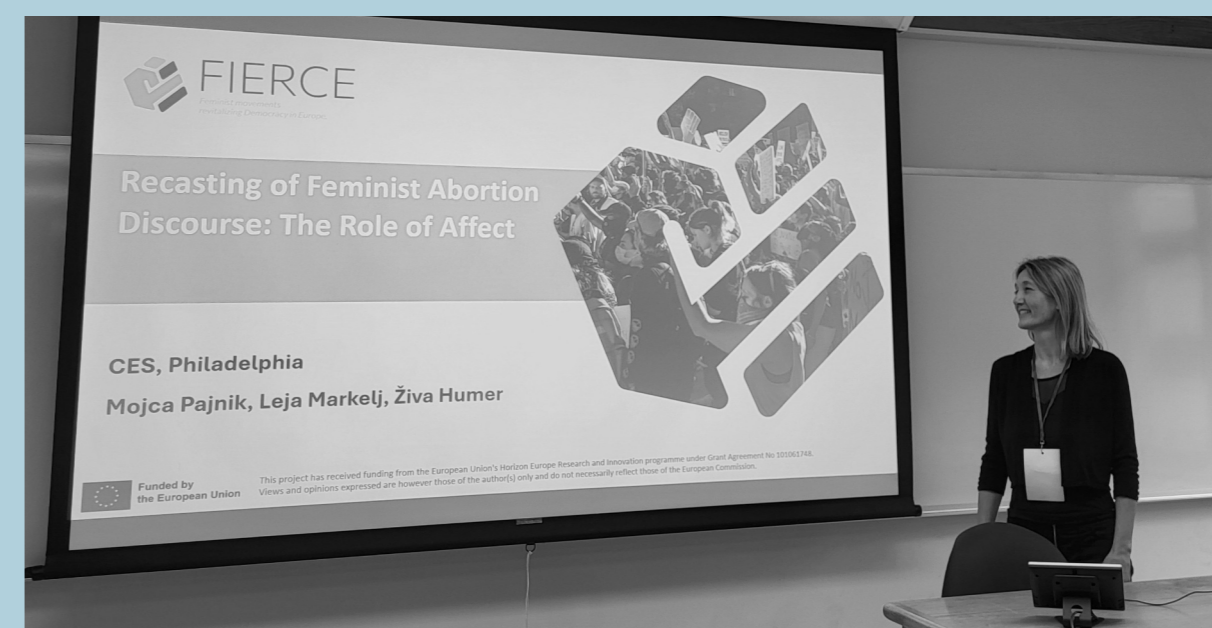
Leja Markelj, 20. 6. 2025, Closing Conference of the FIERCE project

In 2025, the international research project FIERCE involved extensive research, networking and dissemination activities aimed at strengthening the feminist movement for the revitalisation of democracy in Europe and developing democratic innovations in response to growing anti-gender pressures across Europe.

Mojca Pajnik and Leja Markelj presented findings on contemporary feminist mobilisations in Slovenia in a chapter of *Feminist Movements in Time and Space: A European Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan). In the chapter, they analyse the historical development of the

movement and its transition towards decentralised, trans-thematic forms of action that connect gender issues with struggles against capitalism, authoritarianism and racism. They place particular emphasis on the diverse strategies of feminist activism, from bottom-up mobilisation to political action and cross-sectoral alliances.

The research findings were also presented at the workshops of the European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR) at Charles University in Prague. Leja Markelj presented a paper on feminist responses to [attacks on the right to abortion in Italy and Slovenia](#), co-authored with Anastasia Barone, Giada Bonu Rosenkranz and Rok Smrdelj and published in *Interdisciplinary Political Studies*. The analysis shows that, despite formal protection, the right to abortion is subject to indirect pressures, including the spread of disinformation, conscientious objection and discriminatory practices in healthcare. Feminist movements respond by developing democratic resilience, both through institutional action and through informal forms of solidarity: in Italy, by mapping institutions where doctors exercise conscientious objection and by accompanying women to healthcare facilities; and in Slovenia, through transnational solidarity, the dissemination of



Mojca Pajnik's presentation at the CES (Council of European Studies) conference "Legacies and Ruptures: Making Sense of Europe," Philadelphia, 25.–27. 6. 2025. Photo: MI Archive

credible information, and the production of knowledge “from below” that addresses concrete barriers to accessing abortion.

We also presented the findings at the CES, *Council of European Studies* conference in Philadelphia, where Mojca Pajnik delivered a paper co-authored with Leja Markelj and Živa Humer on how anti-gender actors strategically mobilise emotions such as fear, compassion and anger to legitimise and normalise pronatalist positions. The analysis contributes to a better understanding of the role of emotional mobilisation in processes that reshape public discourse.

The dissemination activities concluded with the FIERCE project conference in Brussels in June, entitled *Feminist Futures for the Revitalisation of Democracy in Europe*. At a round table on feminist approaches to democratic crises, Leja Markelj highlighted

the importance of strengthening feminist networks, adopting an intersectional approach, and building connections with other social movements as key responses to growing anti-gender threats. She also underlined important achievements of the feminist movement in Slovenia, including the preservation of access to abortion, contraception and assisted reproduction, the redefinition of sexual violence, and the legal recognition of equality for same-sex partnerships.

By connecting research, activism and policymaking, the FIERCE project contributes to understanding contemporary anti-gender mobilisations and to developing strategies for strengthening democracy, gender equality and human rights in Europe.

FEATURES PUBLICATIONS

BARONE, Anastasia, BONU ROSENKRANZ, Giada, MARKELJ, Leja, SMRDELJ, Rok. *Feminist Responses to Anti-Abortion Attacks in Italy and Slovenia. Building Democratic Innovations in Contexts of De-Democratization*. *Interdisciplinary political studies*. 2025, no. i.e. vol. 11, iss. ie no. 1, pp. 129–147. ISSN 2039-8573. [COBISS.SI-ID [243656963](#)]

MARKELJ, Leja, HRŽENJAK, Majda. *Affective Sex Work in a Post-Socialist Context*. *Sociology*. 2025, vol. , issue, 19 pp., graphics. ISSN 1469-8684. DOI: [10.1177/00380385251357534](#). [COBISS.SI-ID [249904643](#)]

MARKELJ, Leja, PAJNIK, Mojca. *Trans-thematic Action: Contemporary Feminist Mobilizations in Slovenia*. In: BONU ROSENKRANZ, Giada (ed.), DELLA PORTA, Donatella (ed.). *Feminist movements in time and space: A European perspective*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, cop. 2025, pp. 195–224. Palgrave studies in European political sociology (Online). ISBN 978-3-031-77274-0. ISSN 2946-6024. , DOI: [10.1007/978-3-031-77274-0_7](#). [COBISS.SI-ID [226877187](#)]

ONGOING PROJECTS

Gender, Democracy and Neoconservative Anti-gender Movement

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/gender-democracy-and-neoconservative-anti-gender-movement/>

FIERCE – Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: European Union, Horizon Europe programme

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/fierce-feminist-movements-revitalizing-democracy-in-europe/>
<https://fierce-project.eu/>

Democratisation at Stake? Comparing Anti-Gender Politics in Central and Eastern Europe and the Near and Middle East

Project leader at PI: Mojca Pajnik

Funding: COST

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/democratization-at-stake/>

Social-ecological dynamic models of mental health: The burden of complex crisis among workers in critical occupations

Project leader at PI: Živa Humer

Funding: ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

Website: <https://www.mirovni-institut.si/en/projects/socioecological-dynamic-models-of-mental-health/>



FIERCE Project Closing Conference, Brussels, 20. 6. 2025. Photo: MI Archives.

ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

Scientific council

President: Mateja Sedmak, PhD, until 8th September 2025, then Mojca Pajnik, PhD

Members:
Mojca Pajnik, PhD (until 8th September 2025), Tanja Rener, PhD, Uršula Čebtron Lipovec, PhD

Director: Iztok Šori, PhD

Managing director: Franja Arlič, AM

Board

President: Roman Kuhar, PhD

Members:
Darko Štrajn, PhD
Vlasta Jalušič, PhD
Lev Kreft, PhD
Lana Zdravković, PhD
Marko Ribač, PhD

THE STAFF

In 2025, the Peace Institute had 30 staff members. Our team of researchers and advocates, most of whom hold doctoral degrees, brings together expertise in sociology, political science, law, philosophy, communication studies, computer science, and economics. Most staff members are active in the media and participate in expert bodies and international networks. Four staff members also teach at universities. The Institute regularly hosts interns from Slovenian and international universities, who receive training through our ongoing projects. Over the past year, our team also underwent several changes. We wished Katarina Vučko every success in the next stage of her career; during her time at the Institute, she developed the field of legal studies and played a key role in uncovering the full scope of the erasure. We also wished librarian Martina Kerec well and welcomed Barbara Škrabar Cerar to the team, where she continues Martina's work. We thanked Anteja Tomašič and Sandi Abram for their exceptionally successful collaboration, as they continue their research careers at other institutions.



Iztok Šori, PhD
director



Franja Arlič, MA
managing director



Amela Meštrovac
Expert assistant



Ana Frank, PhD
researcher



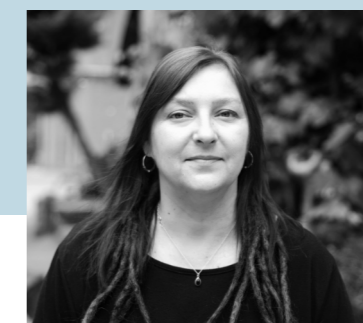
Anteja Tomašič
assistant



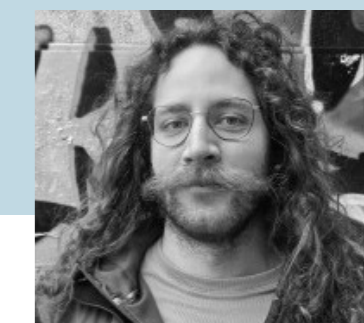
Barbara Škrabar Cerar
librarian



Brankica Petković, MA
researcher



Jasna Babić Zrimšek, MA
communications coordinator



Jurij Smrke
assistant



Katarina Vučko
consultant



Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc
assistant



Lana Zdravković, PhD
researcher



Leja Markelj
assistant



Lori Šramel Čebular
expert assistant



Maja Breznik, PhD
researcher

NETWORKING AND PROFESSIONAL COLLABORATION

MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH NETWORKS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

ASEN, Association for the Studies of Ethnicity and Nationalism (Veronika Bajt, member)

Carework Network (Majda Hrženjak, member)

COST Action: Platform Work Inclusion Living Lab P-WILL (Maja Breznik, board member)

COST DATAMIG network, Data Matters: Sociotechnical Challenges of European Migration and Border Control (Mojca Pajnik, Vice-Chair)

COST network Democratization at stake? Comparing Anti-Gender Politics in CEE and NME countries (Antigender-Politics) (Mojca Pajnik, member)

COST Action: CA21141 Grassroots of Digital Europe: From Historic to Contemporary Cultures of Creative Computing (GRADE) (Jurij Smrke, member)

Council for European Studies (Mojca Pajnik, member)

Divided Societies, Inter University Centre Dubrovnik (Mojca Pajnik, co-director of the study programme)

Eurofound, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Maja Breznik, national correspondent)

European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, ERCI (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)

European Commission on Sexual Orientation Law – ECSOL (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)

European Consortium for Political Research, ECPR (Mojca Pajnik, Vlasta Jalušič, members)

European Network against Gender and Violence (Vlasta Jalušič, member)

European Sociological Association (Majda Hrženjak, member)

Global Carework Network (Majda Hrženjak, member)

Habilitation Committee, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (Mojca Pajnik, member)

Identity of Europe, Interuniversity Centre Dubrovnik (Vlasta Jalušič, course co-director)

International Law Association – Committee Migration and International Law (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, representative of Slovenia, Sergeja Hrvatič, member)

International Law Association – Committee on Human Rights in Times of Emergency (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, representative of Slovenia)

International Populism Research Network, Kiel University (Mojca Pajnik, member)

Commission for Ethics in Research, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana (Mojca Pajnik, member)

Coordination of independent non-profit research and infrastructure institutes (KOsRIS) (Iztok Šori, member, PI representative)

Department of Communication Studies, Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana (Mojca Pajnik, Head of Department)

Odysseus Academic Network of Experts in Asylum and Migration (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)

Peace Research Community Europe (Iztok Šori, inclusion coordinator)

Slovenian Communication Society (Mojca Pajnik, member of the supervisory board)

Slovenian Sexological Society (Veronika Bajt, Leja Markelj, members, and Iztok Šori, member)

Slovenian Sociological Society (Veronika Bajt, member of the presidency, Maja Breznik, Majda Hrženjak, members, and Iztok Šori, member)



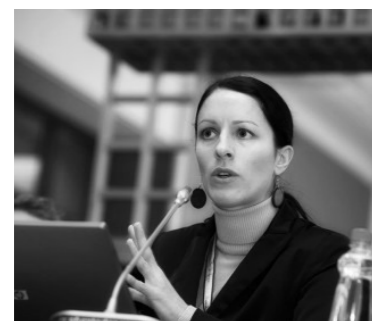
Marko Ribač, PhD
researcher and assistant



Majda Hrženjak, PhD
researcher



Maja Ladič, PhD
researcher



Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, PhD
researcher



Mojca Pajnik, PhD
researcher



Martina Kerec
librarian



Sergeja Hrvatič
junior research fellow



Saša Panič
researcher



Sandi Abram, PhD
researcher



Veronika Bajt, PhD
researcher



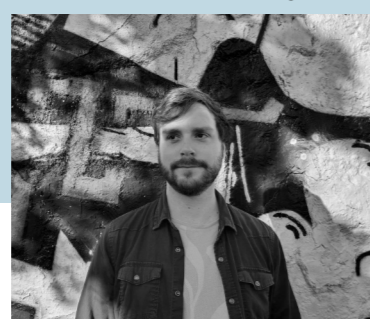
Urška Hartman
assistant office manager



Tjaša Turnšek
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Živa Humer, PhD
researcher



Zoran Fijavž
junior research fellow



Vlasta Jalušič, PhD
researcher

Council of the Archive of Social Science Data (ADP) (Iztok Šori, member)

The Crimmigration Control International Network of Studies (CINETs) (Neža Kogovšek Šalamon, member)

UNETCHAC, The Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict, (Sergeja Hrvatič, member)

Scientific Council of the Peace Institute (Mojca Pajnik, member)

MEMBERSHIPS IN OTHER NETWORKS, COUNCILS, COMMISSIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

Civil Liberties Union Europe (Iztok Šori, PI representative)

City of Women Association, Ljubljana (Lana Zdravković, Amela Meštrovac, members of the general assembly)

International Law Society for Slovenia, (Sergeja Hrvatič, member)

EELN, European Equality Law Network (Katarina Vučko, member)

ENS European Network on Statelessness (Katarina Vučko, PI representative)

Voice of the people (Brankica Petković, PI representative)

LEAP, Legal Experts Advisory Panel (Katarina Vučko, PI representative)

Interdepartmental Commission for Human Rights (Katarina Vučko, PI representative)

MIH, Migration Integration Hub (formerly EWSI, European Web Site of Integration) (Lana Zdravković, MI representative, coordinator for Slovenia)

Migration and development (Lana Zdravković, coordinator and PI representative)

Migration Forum (Lana Zdravković, coordinator and PI representative)

Citizen Science Network (Brankica Petković, MI representative)

Alliance for Equality (ZEN) Network (Leja Markelj, MI representative)

Governing Board of the Peace Institute, Ljubljana (Lana Zdravković, Marko Ribač, employee representatives)

Section of organisations in the field of migrant integration, Social Chamber of Slovenia (Maja Ladič, Lana Zdravković, Katerina Kočkovska Šetinc, members)

South East European Network for Professionalization of Media, SEENPM (Brankica Petković, PI representative)

Strategic Council of the Government of the Republic of Slovenia for the Prevention of Hate Speech (Brankica Petković, civil society representative)

Expert Council for Gender Equality at Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities (Majda Hrženjak, member)

Council of the Centre for Peace Studies, Zagreb (Lana Zdravković, member)

Sophia Publishing House (Maja Breznik, founder and member of the Publishing House Council)

Zavod Oštro, Center for investigative journalism in the Adriatic region (Mojca Pajnik, member of the Expert Council)

Women's Lobby of Slovenia (Živa Humer, member of the Lobby's Council)

MEMBERSHIPS IN EDITORIAL BOARDS OF SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS

Družboslovne razprave [ISSN: 0352-3608] (Iztok Šori)

Global media and communication [ISSN: 17427665, 17427673] (Mojca Pajnik)

Hannah Arendt Net [ISSN: 1869-5787] (Vlasta Jalušič)

Journal of alternative and community media [ISSN: 22065857] (Mojca Pajnik)

Men and masculinities [ISSN: 1552-6828] (Majda Hrženjak)

Migracijske i etničke studije [ISSN: 1333-2546, ISSN 1848-9184] (Mojca Pajnik)

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS

Aalborg University, Denmark

ADYFE, Belgium

Academy of Police Force in Bratislava (APZB), Slovakia

Albanian Media Institute, Albania

Alliance4Europe, Belgium

Alma Mater Studiorum – Università Di Bologna, Italy

Alternatives Europeennes, France

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Berlin Senate, Germany

Bianet, Turkey

Bulgarian Helsinki Committee Association (BHC), Bulgaria

Centar za mirovne studije, Croatia

Center for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Centre for European Constitutional Law, Greece

Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS), Belgium

Center for Social Studies, Portugal

Center for the Study of Democracy, Bulgaria

COFAC – Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural, CRL (Universidade Lusófona), Portugal

Comillas Pontifical University – University Institute of Studies on Migration, Spain

Community Medien Institut für Weiterbildung, Forschung und Beratung (COMMIT), Austria

COSPE, Municipality of Empoli, Italy

CROSOL – Croatian Platform for International Citizen Solidarity, Croatia

De Burcht Institute, The Netherlands

Democracy International e. V., Germany

Documenta – Centre for Coping with the Past, Croatia

Journalists' Association of Slovenia

Economic Faculty of Belgrade University, Serbia

Eumans, Belgium

European Alternatives Berlin, Germany

Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana

Faculty of Humanities, University of Primorska

Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana

Faculty of Tourism, University of Maribor

Faculty of Criminal Justice and Security, University of Maribor

Faculty of Arts, University of Ljubljana

Fondazione Giacomo Brodolini, Italy

Forum Dos Cidadaos Associacao, Portugal

Foundation Mediacentre Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

France Terre d'Asile, France

FSLUX, Municipality Schifflange (including rural region), Luxembourg

Georg-August Universität Göttingen (UGOE), Germany
 Glopolis, the Czech Republic
 Háttér Society (HS), Hungary
 Heraklion Development Agency, Greece
 Innovative Prison Systems (IPS) (Portugal), Portugal
 Institut Mines-Télécom (IMT), France
 Institute for Social Research, Croatia
 Institute of Ethnology and Folkloristics, Croatia
 Jožef Stefan Institute
 Institute of Contemporary History
 Istituto Degli Innocenti di Firenze, Italy
 Koç University, Turkey
 Kosovo Press Council, Kosovo
 Gmajna Cultural Society
 Lapsus – Laboratorio di analisi storica del mondo contemporaneo, Italy
 Linköpings University (LiU), Sweden
 Lithuanian Gay League (LGL), Lithuania
 Macedonian Institute for Media, North Macedonia
 Malmö University, Sweden
 Malý Berlín, Slovakia
 Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, Ireland
 Menedek, Hungary
 Municipality of Empoli, Italy
 Municipality of Graz, Austria
 City of Ljubljana
 Municipality of Lustenau, Austria
 Migrant advisory board Graz, Austria
 Minority Rights Group, Great Britain
 Migration Policy Group, Belgium
 Montenegro Media Institute, Montenegro
 moveGLOBAL e. V., Germany
 National Institute of Public Health, Slovenia
 Nature Commune, Italy
 Novi Sad School of Journalism, Serbia
 Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften – OeAW, Austria
 Faculty of Education, University of Ljubljana
 PIC – Legal Center for the Protection of Human Rights and the Environment
 Platform for the International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants (PICUM), Belgium
 Pod črto
 Polish Academy “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” – APAIC, Romania
 Polish Academy of Sciences, Polska
 Polish Platform for Homeland Security (PPHS), Poland
 Portuguese Women's Platform, Portugal
 Prosvasis, Greece

Red Barnet (SCD), Denmark
 Međimurje Region, Croatia
 Rete Lenford – Avvocatura per i diritti LGBTI+, Italy
 Scuola Normale Superiore di Florence, Italy
 Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa, Italy
 SEENPM
 Association of Municipalities and towns of Slovenia
 Smart Venice, Italy
 Social Action and Innovation Centre (KMOP), Greece
 Stand Up For Europe, Belgium
 STEM – Institute for Empirical Research, the Czech Republic
 Südwind, Austria
 Surt Fundacio de Dones Fundacio Privada, Catalonia, Spain
 SYMBIOSIS, Greece
 Symfilios, Cyprus
 Tallinn University, Estonia
 The Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of The University of Oxford (UOXF), Great Britain
 The European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Austria
 The Kentro Merimnas Oikogeneias Kai Paidiou (KMOP), Greece
 University of Brescia (UNIBS), Italy
 University of Girona (UdG), Spain
 Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain
 Università Ca'Foscari (UNIVE), Italy
 Università di comunicazione e lingue, IULM, Italy
 University of Bern, Switzerland
 University of Barcelona, Spain
 University of Hamburg, Germany
 Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), Belgium
 Universiteit Maastricht – Studio Europa Maastricht, The Netherlands
 University of Cambridge, Great Britain
 University of Gdansk, Poland
 University of Jyväskylä, Finland
 University of Tartu, Estonia
 University of Vienna, Austria
 University of Bologna (UNIBO), Italy
 University of Klagenfurt, Austria
 University of Regensburg, Germany
 Charles University, the Czech Republic
 Jagiellonian University, Poland
 Human Rights Ombudsperson of the Republic of Slovenia
 Verein für Männer- und Geschlechterthemen Steiermark, Austria
 VILABS, Greece
 Vrije Universiteit Brussel, the Fundamental Rights Research Centre (FRC), Belgium
 Association of Free Trade Unions of Slovenia

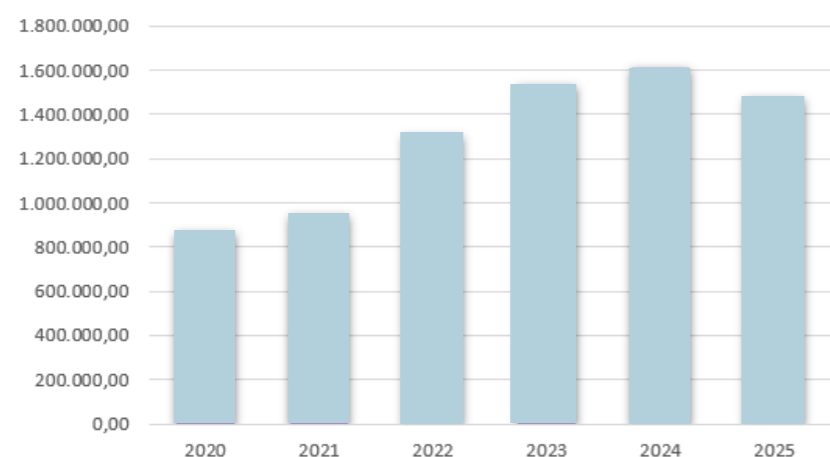
FINANCIAL OPERATIONS

In 2025, total revenue amounted to EUR 1,478,838, slightly below the level recorded in 2024, which was an above-average year in terms of funding. The decrease in revenue was mainly due to a smaller number of newly awarded projects under European Commission and ARIS calls for proposals. This fluctuation is to be expected within a project-based funding system and is linked to call cycles and application success rates.

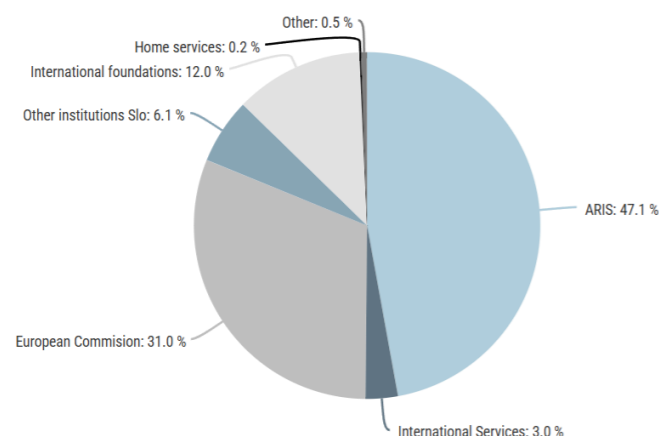
The funding structure remains relatively balanced. Stable programme funding accounted for 38% of total revenue, project funding for 46%, funding from international foundations for 12%, market-based services for 3%, and other sources for 1%. This distribution confirms that the Institute maintains a combination of a stable core of funding and competitively secured project funds.

Viewed across the four-year period since the introduction of stable funding, revenues remain at a comparable level, with 2024 standing clearly above the trend. The year 2025 therefore marks a consolidation following a period of growth. The Institute maintains a stable programme group and continuity in its research work, both of which are essential for long-term success and for the continued acquisition of domestic and international projects.

Revenue trends over the past six years



Sources of funding



LIST OF FINANCIERS

ARIS – the Slovenian Research and Innovation Agency

European Commission (EU):

COST, European Cooperation in Science and Technology

- Erasmus+
- Justice (JUST)
- The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) programme
- Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund (AMIF)
- Social Prerogative and Specific Competencies Lines (SOCPL)

European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA)

Horizon Europe Programme

Ministry of the Economy, Tourism and Sport (MGTS)

Ministry of Digital Transformation (MDP)

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs (MFEA)

Ministry of Public Administration (MPA)

NEF – Network of European Foundations (Civitates Programme)

Open Society Foundation

Volkswagen Foundation

