

## **konS ≡ PARK – Academy for Contemporary Investigative Art**

Contemporary Investigative Art is characterised by the collaboration of artists with scientists, engineers, technologists and other professionals. In the most optimal conditions for such collaborations, ideas, knowledge, skills, research, testing situations and community participation, can lead to the most innovative ideas. In the thematic investigative - production labs we have set up within the *konS Platform*, we encourage and facilitate connections between artists, scientists and scientific institutions. In this environment, exceptional artworks and ideas are being produced, creating space for original, unexpected, unusual and inspiring perspectives on the present and possible futures. In doing so, they use a variety of new technologies and tools, and raise interesting contemporary issues related to topics such as environment, biotechnology, artificial intelligence, the future of food, robotics, space exploration, etc.

konS ≡ PARK was established primarily to sensitise young people and the general public to change, understanding of science, technology, art and to develop attitudes that help us understand the dynamics of contemporary society in order to empower young people to use new technologies. It consists of a network of creative hubs\* across Slovenia, where creative programmes of exploration and peer learning are being developed.

We are living in a time, when humans have become the most powerful species on the planet and have radically impacted the environment and destroyed the natural balance of the Earth's ecosystems. New scientific knowledge is enabling us to better understand our coexistence with other species, to rethink what the planet has to offer and how we will make use of it, and is reminding us to consider sustainable solutions in many ways. Through the workshops we develop and run at konS ≡ PARK, we try to culturalise the use of new technologies so that young people develop a critical attitude towards them and learn how to use them, as technologies are extremely powerful tools. New technologies can be used in many creative and constructive ways.

Through active participation on the intersection of art and science, we encourage children and youth to discover their potential and develop abilities and skills such as complex problem-solving, innovation, ethical and sustainable thinking, resilience, discovering opportunities, vision etc. We use methods such as investigative and experiential learning, failing better, DIY, working with artists, intellectual emancipation, peer learning and community co-creation.

\*Hubs across Slovenia: Ljubljana Hub, Nukelus (Velenje), ExCenter (Nova Gorica), Sonar (Novo mesto), Inkubator (Maribor)