



Proclamation of thousands of graduates on the 280th anniversary of the Novo mesto Gymnasium

Dear Slovenes,

We, the graduates of the Novo mesto Gymnasium of all generations, on the 280th anniversary of its founding, proudly and gratefully commemorate one of the most important anniversaries of Slovene education.

280 years ago, on August 8, 1746, the Novo mesto Gymnasium was founded by the [founding charter of Empress Maria Theresa](#) - the [first public gymnasium in the Habsburg Monarchy](#). This act set a solid starting point for the development of education, culture, science and public life in Slovenia.

On October 4, 2018, [a commemorative plaque](#) was placed on the facade of the former gymnasium next to the Franciscan church in Novo mesto in gratitude to the people of Novo mesto who were so wise, far-sighted and courageous in 1744 that they suggested to Empress Maria Theresa that she establish a gymnasium in Novo mesto.

Over almost three centuries, the Novo mesto gymnasium has educated thousands of young people. Among its graduates are scientists, teachers, doctors, engineers, entrepreneurs, artists, priests, athletes, cultural figures and many others who, with their knowledge and work, have contributed to the development of Dolenjska, Bela Krajina, Slovenia and the international community.

On this great anniversary, we, the graduates of all generations, would like to respectfully thank our professors, employees, parents and everyone who, over the decades, has created an environment in which knowledge was the highest value.

At the same time, we are aware that the future of Slovenia depends on the quality of education, openness to new knowledge and willingness to cooperate. In the era of rapid development of science, digital technologies and the use of artificial intelligence tools,

curiosity, critical thinking, creativity, ethical responsibility and mutual trust remain the foundation of a successful society.

Therefore, we call on all residents of Slovenia to:

- respect knowledge and education as the greatest investment in the future;
- support young people in their development and creativity;
- preserve cultural and scientific heritage and connect it with modern achievements;
- strengthen cooperation between generations and between institutions at home and abroad;
- together create an open, connected and creative Slovenia.

With pride in our rich heritage and confidence in the future, we make a common commitment:

- Let the knowledge acquired in the past be an inspiration for the future.
- Let cooperation between people be the path to progress.
- Let responsibility towards future generations be our common guideline.

On the occasion of the 280th anniversary of the founding of the gymnasium, an [eMonument to thousands of gymnasium graduates](#) is being created - a permanent digital space of shared memory and cooperation. It is intended to preserve the history of the gymnasium, collect personal testimonies, photographs, documents, research and other contributions from high school graduates of all generations. Each contribution represents a part of the mosaic of a common heritage that connects the past, present and future. eMonuments of high school graduates are a component of cultural heritage.

eConnecting high school graduates from all schools in Slovenia offers an extraordinary potential for networking, maintaining contacts and mutual support. Digital platforms can bridge generational and geographical distances and create a lasting community. This is especially important in an increasingly digitalized society and in conditions of accelerated use of artificial intelligence tools.

May the 280th anniversary of the Novo mesto Gymnasium be a celebration for all of us who believe in the power of knowledge, responsibility and cooperation. Novo mesto Gymnasium is one of the cradles of Slovene education and its 280-year tradition represents a part of the common cultural and educational heritage of Slovenia.

Long live the Novo mesto Gymnasium! Long live the knowledge that connects generations!

In Novo mesto, August 8, 2026

[Novo mesto Gymnasium graduates of all generations](#)