

Intervention of Secretary of State for Education, Science, Research and Sport of the

relevant stakeholders and strengthen our commitment and accountability in the implementation of SDG4.

- **Inclusive and quality education**, especially of young people, plays a major role in this process. Through education on sustainability, we lead young people towards the adoption of core ethical values and solidarity and successively to an understanding that helping the most vulnerable and excluded people is the best expression of humanity.

Culture

- Placing culture at the heart of development policies is the only way to ensure an inclusive and equitable development. Promoting respect for cultural diversity is the only way to facilitate understanding and peace.
- Despite the severe impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on cultural sector, the international cooperation in the field of culture has continued thanks to UNESCO. Slovakia is very pleased with the successful inscription of transnational nominations of the **Danube Limes** as well as the **Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests of the Carpathians and Other Regions of Europe** on the World Heritage List, which already includes 8 Slovak sites of an outstanding universal value.
- Intangible, living, heritage forms an integral part of the Slovak culture, identity and history. It represents a crucial tool in promoting cultural diversity and sustainable way of living. Slovakia actively develops its know-how in safeguarding and developing its living heritage. Slovak **candidature to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2022** is an expression of its true devotion to share Slovak expertise with partners in UNESCO.

Science

- **Artificial intelligence** has a potential to radically transform our lives. Artificial intelligence can indeed represent a catalyst for a great progress of humanity. Nevertheless, it can also bring many challenges such as the increase of inequalities and tensions within societies. Thus, we need human-centred artificial intelligence that fosters sustainable development and inclusive human progress.
- The adoption of the

protect freedom of speech and expression. If this balance is jeopardized,