

# Curriculum vitae

## **ŽIGA VAVPOTIČ**

### **Summary**

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**Žiga Vavpotič** is a chairman of council and strategy director of Ypsilon Institute, an entrepreneur, graduated economist, student and author of My Very Own Book.

Žiga's main interests are **social responsibility and social entrepreneurship**, which he connects with four topics: youth, philanthropy, society and responsibility. He is connecting and cooperating with different organizations and people. He is writing and giving lectures.

He was born on 14th December 1984 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. He started planning his life goals already in primary school after having visited Japan as a representative of a Slovenian primary school, and thus having met "the big world«. From that time on, his life has been going on with a dizzy pace.

Žiga has numerous interests, however he is particularly focused **on the youth issues**. He founded the Institute for the Youth as early as he attended the Bežigrad Grammar School. He founded the online Univerza za življenje (University for life), was a co-initiator of the Economic Forum founded by the University of Ljubljana - the Faculty of Law, was 4 years a regular contributor to the Radio of Slovenia (Youth Program) and was two years a director of the Socius Business Club. He runs the Slovenian office of Dream Foundation (ex Hakes International) together with Monika Bizjak. He is also a passive co-ordinator for Slovenia for the Salzburg Global Seminar and the Youth Employment Summit.

He owns company GlobalDreamVision, is a chairman of council and program director of Ypsilon Institute, a board member of the Eco Ventures International. He shows his interests for Public and Non-profit Organizations as member of Executive Board of UNICEF Slovenija, chairman of council of Institute SLED and member of council of Institute PaMeT.

Žiga **was awarded for his activities with different awards**, also titled Unesco Youth Ambassador for his successful international activities. In 2000, he became the youngest member of Mensa Slovenia. In 2004, he became the youngest member of the Microsoft Office Information Worker Board of the Future initiated by Bill Gates. He was also a columnist on the Global Youth Voice issues for The Kansas City Star Newspaper, he writes columns for Newspaper Šolski razgledi, his articles and thoughts were published by different media.

Having been granted several scholarships for his work, Žiga could afford to have perfected his knowledge not only in the country but also abroad, and has been welcomed by several governments as a consultant on the youth issues. He is member of several organizations.

**»It's time to start believing in our dreams, and turning them into reality, «** Žiga says. And his dreams are really big. His ambition is to develop his GlobalDreamVision to a well-known global company **that would be capable of listening to the people, and helping them to a better life.**

He is accepting past experiences with **high gratitude**. In many of them he left a trace, some of them influenced his current work but all of them were great preparation for his future. His short term focus is on Ypsilon Institute, following social entrepreneurship focus. His long term goal is to create a strong Foundation, where he will be able to join different capitals that he is creating with his work.

**Žiga's motto is: »Live and leave a trace.«.**

*Listen to the mustn'ts child  
Listen to the don'ts  
listen to the shouldn'ts  
the impossibles  
the won'ts  
listen to the never haves  
then listen close to me  
ANYTHING can happen child  
ANYTHING can be.*

*(Shel Silverstein)*

*It is time that we start believing in our dreams and turning them into reality.  
Live and leave a trace.*

**PERSONAL DATA:**

Nationality: Slovene  
Sex: male  
Date of birth: 14 December 1984  
Place of birth: Ljubljana, Slovenia

**Business address:**

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Blog: [www.zigavavpotic.com](http://www.zigavavpotic.com)

## Activities and occupations

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Strategy Director, Ypsilon Institute, 2009 -  
Owner and chairman of the company GlobalDreamVision pllc, 2008 -

Member of UNICEF Slovenia Executive Board, 2009 -  
Member of UNESCO ASPnet Programming Council for Slovenia, 2009 -  
Chairman of Council, Institute SLED, 2009 -  
Board member of Eco Ventures, USA, February 2004 -

## Past experiences

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Manager of Socius Business Club, 2008 – 2010  
Chairman of Council, Foundation MojaFundacija, 2009 – 2010  
Country coordinator for Hakes International, together with Monika Bizjak, 2006 – 2009  
Co-leader of Ecademy Slovenia, 2008 – 2009  
Regular contributor to the Slovenian National Radio – Youth and children programme, 2003 – 2008  
Country coordinator of Youth Employment Summit, 2002 - 2007  
Founder and director of the Institute for the Youth, 2003 - 2006

## Formal education

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|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 1999       | Oš Ledina, primary school ( <i>average grade 5 out of 5</i> )   |
| 2003       | Gimnazija Bežigrad, secondary school ( <i>average grade 4,76 out of 5</i> )   |
| 2003 – /04 | University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Law   |
| 2004 –     | University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, Political Sciences, International Relations  |
| 2007 – /09 | University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, HR   |
| 2009       | International School for Social and Business Studies – Economy<br>Bachelor of Economic Sciences   |
| 2009 –     | University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Social Sciences, 2nd cycle Master Study,<br>Programme Management of Public and Non-profit Organizations |
| 2009 –     | University of Nova Gorica, Faculty of Law, 2nd cycle Master Study, Programme<br>Law   |

## Other education

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|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 2009        | Social Marketing Summer School, IEDC and National Social Marketing Centre UK, SI                         |
| 2009        | Basic Mediation training course (Slovenian Mediators Association)  |
| 2009        | LSPR (London School of PR) - CSR School (pilot project)  |
| 2008        | London School of Public Relations  |
| 2007        | Dr. Edward de Bono's Six Thinking Hats Course and Lateral Thinking Course                                |
| 2007        | Discover Management Programme, IEDC – Bled School of Management, 5 ECTS                                  |
| 2005 - 2007 | Different workshops on marketing, including national championship in direct marketing (among the best 8) |
| 2004 - 2005 | speaker's licence for journalists by Radio Slovenia  |
| 2004        | The Johns Hopkins University, Youth Organizing Institute, training programme, Vukovar, Croatia           |
| 2004        | World Colleges, Wales, UK, summer school   |
| 2003        | University of Plymouth, UK, communication in youth project   |
| 2003        | Cambridge College Youth Leadership Training Programme  |

## Honoured titles, awards

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Award for the best article about innovation in student section 2008, INCO movement, 2009  
National championship in direct marketing, Lisac & Lisac, 2007 (among the best 8)  
Salzburg Global Seminar (*www.salzburgseminar.org*) Alumni Leader in Slovenia, April 2004 -  
Member of Microsoft Information Worker Board of the Future (*the youngest among the 13 emerging thought leaders from around the world*), May 2004 – May 2005  
Global Youth Voice panellist, The Kansas City Star Newspaper (*one of the 12 youngsters from around the world*), March 2004 – March 2005  
UNESCO ambassador, appointed by ASP Net and UNECSO Commission, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2003  
Cambridge College Certificate Youth Leadership Training Program, 2003  
Award for research works by the City of Ljubljana, 1998, 1999

## Memberships

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Slovenian organizations     | Slovenian Reading Association, 2009 -<br>Slovenian Mediators Association, 2009 -<br>Slovenian Manager Association, 2008 -<br>IRDO - Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility, 2008 -<br>UNICEF Slovenia, 2008 -<br>Liberal Party ( <i>the youngest member of the committee for international relationships and committee for schooling</i> ) 2000 – 2009<br>Youth Liberal Democracy of Slovenia ( <i>a member of the executive board, Ljubljana region</i> ) 2000 – 2009<br>Liberal Academy ( <i>the youngest when became a member</i> ), 2002 -<br>Slovenian Association for International Relations ( <i>the youngest when became a member</i> ), 2003 – 2009<br>Slovenian Association for Political Sciences, 2003 -<br>Forum 21, 2004 -<br>Student Council of International School of Social and Business Studies (representative of the third academic year and a member of academic council), 2008 - 2009<br>Slovenian Society of International Commercial Law ( <i>the youngest when became a member</i> ), 2003 – 2005<br>Friends of the Youth Association, 1998 - 2005<br>The Atlantic Council of Slovenia, 2003 - 2005<br>Slovenian Statistics Association, 2003 – 2005 |
| International organizations | Rotary International (Rotary Club Zgornji Brnik), 2008 -<br>Salzburg Seminar Alumni, 2003 -<br>Peace Child International, 2003 -<br>TakingITglobal, 2002 -<br>Mensa International ( <i>the youngest in Slovenia when became a member</i> ), 2000 -<br>Youth Employment Summit, 2002 - 2008<br>Pioneers of change, 2002 - 2005<br>Global Youth Alliance, 2002 - 2005<br>Global Youth Assembly, 2003 – 2005   |

## **Additional skills**

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### *Languages*

Slovene (mother tongue), English (active), German (passive), Russian, Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian (basic), understand some Latin.

### *Computer skills*

(note: 5 excellent)

Word: 4

PowerPoint: 2

Outlook: 3

Internet: 5

### *Other skills*

Driving license

Ski teacher license

Sailing license

Golf license

## **Conferences and trainings**

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Youth Parliament, 1996, 1997, 1998, Slovenia

UNESCO Camp, 1997, Slovenia

1<sup>st</sup> World Youth conference - Ten Priorities for New Millennium, 1999, Hawaii

Youth of Unity, 2001, USA

Education for a Better Human Future, 2001, Indonesia

Africa Speaks, 2001, Zimbabwe

Youth Employment Summit , 2002, Egypt

Communication in youth projects, University of Plymouth, 2003, UK

Vienna International Model UN (VIMUN), Vienna, 2003, Austria

2<sup>nd</sup> World youth conference – Solidarity, Tolerance and Sustainable Development, 2003, Morocco

Forum 2000, 2003, Czech Republic

Salzburg Seminar Session 413, "Engaging Youth in Community Development" (the youngest fellow in the Seminar history), Salzburg, 2003, Austria

Youth and Globalization, Council of Europe, 2004, France

First IW Dream Week, main U. S. campus in Redmond, Washington, 2004, USA

Young people can change the world, summer school, Wales, 2004, UK

World Youth Congress, Prepcom, University of Stirling, Scotland, 2004, UK

World Youth Festival, Barcelona, 2004, Spain

Training program for social change activists, Vukovar, 2004, Croatia

EuroBiz 05, Business Development Congress, Ljubljana, 2005, Slovenia

Third World Youth Congress, Stirling, Scotland, 2005, UK

Field Trip UNICEF, 2008, Burkina Faso

IJ-6 The Sixth Conference on Innovation Journalism, Stanford University, 2009, USA

## **E-conference**

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Youth Strategy, 2003, World Bank

Defining Roles for Youth and the Next Generation of Leaders, February 2004, WB

Youth and Education, March & April 2004, World Bank

## **Delegations and exchanges**

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Japan, 1999  
Zimbabwe, head of European delegation, 2001  
Brussels (EU and NATO), 2002  
Sweden, head of delegation of 20 pupils, 2002  
Cuba, head of delegation of 8 pupils, 2002  
Brussels (EU and NATO), 2002  
World Youth Festival, head of Slovenian delegation (27 people), 2004

## **Founder, co-founder**

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Institute for the Youth, 2003  
Global Dream Vision, Žiga Vavpotič s. p., 2005  
Economic Forum, Faculty of Law, University of Ljubljana, 2005  
University for Life, 2006  
Globaldreamvision pllc, 2008  
E-kreativa pllc, 2009  
Institute MojaFundacija, 2009  
Institute Sled, 2009  
Institute Ypsilon, 2009  
Institute PaMeT, 2009

## **Researches**

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The youth in the society, Slovenian youth in EU, Slovenian in foreign countries, Effective use of energy in housekeeping, Globalization, Conflict, different researches during studying, topics: international relations, economy, and HR, Public and Non-profit organizations.

## **Current research interests**

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### ***SOCIAL RESPONSIBILIY AND SOCIAL ENTREPRENUERSHIP***

#### ***THE YOUTH:***

Opinion about young people and the youth in the society, the youth employment, talented youth, the youth and entrepreneurship, the youth projects and organizations in Slovenia, and in the world.

#### ***PHILANTROPY:***

Relationships between corporate world and humanitarian organizations, foundations, fund raising, social economy, trust and ethics, values, management of organizations

#### ***SOCIETY:***

Globalization, sustainable and international development, international relations (diplomacy), poverty, development aid, MDGs (Millenium development goals), BRIC countries, mediation, networking, lobbying, conflicts management, cross-cultural management, public relations, intellectual capital.

#### ***RESPONSIBILY:***

Personal development, solving international issues, communication skills, relationships, personal development, leadership, success, IQ, EQ, SQ, financial intelligence, personal finance and investing, conflict management.

#### ***OTHER:***

Chocolate, royal families, etiquette, Slovenian politics, the future.

## Scholarships

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National scholarship for talented youngsters, 1999 - 2004  
Scholarship for the Youth Unity, Kansas City, 2001  
Scholarship for Conference Education for a Better Human Future, Indonesia, 2001  
Scholarship for the Youth Employment Summit, Egypt, 2002  
Fellow Scholarship for Salzburg Seminar Session 413, 2003

## Speeches, workshops

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The human rights day, UNESCO, Unesco youth ambassadors, *Future*, Ljubljana, 10 December, 2003  
40 years of Slovenian Institute of Quality and Metrology, *Vision*, Ljubljana, 23 September 2004  
Conference: Everything is possible, Tallinn, Versus Newspaper, How to sell your ideas in the wide world, 30 October 2004  
Reading 2.0., Workshop with My Very Own Book for School librarians, 2010  
Reading 2.0., Lecture to Librarians at Professional Wednesday, 2010  
World Book Day, Primary School Ledina, 10 April 2010

## Book, articles, essays

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Vavpotič Žiga, My Very Own Book, September 2008 ([www.own-book.com](http://www.own-book.com))  
BLOG: [www.zigavavpotic.com](http://www.zigavavpotic.com)

Božič, Vavpotič, Večer (newspaper), 24 September 2002, Kako do delovnih mest za 500 milijonov mladih (How to get jobs for 500 million young people), article  
Vavpotič, Žiga, Discussion about the future of Slovenia hosted by the President of the Republic Slovenia, 2003, Values – the youth, contribution  
Vavpotič, Žiga, Discussion about the future of Slovenia hosted by the President of the Republic Slovenia, 2004, Public diplomacy, contribution  
Vavpotič, Žiga, The Youth Radio, Radically reducing world poverty: What is our role?, 2004, essay  
Vavpotič Žiga, Delo (newspaper), 5 July 2004, Butalci ali bodoči intelektualci? (Blockheads or future intellectuals?), opinion  
Vavpotič Žiga, student magazine Element, 2007-2009, articles about Personal Development  
Vavpotič Žiga, Šolski razgledi, 2009-, columns

## Interviews

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National TV NEWS, Japan  
National TV NEWS, Zimbabwe  
National TV NEWS, Morocco  
RFI - Radio France International  
CNN  
Several interviews in Slovenia

## Recommendations

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More than 20 national & international recommendation letters can be issued on request.