General Topic

BRIDGING WORLDS WITH AI
Multilingual communication, culture and digital transformation

Bovec, July 12 – 25, 2026

Language is both a bridge and a barrier in the contemporary world in which we live and work. Globalisation has accelerated international collaboration and expanded the reach of integrated, transnational communication networks through global commerce, knowledge exchange and cultural relations. At the same time, linguistic and cultural diversity continues to shape how people learn, interact digitally, exchange knowledge and protect their cultural identities.

In this context, Artificial Intelligence (AI), particularly multilingual language technologies, is emerging as a transformative force. AI is rapidly streamlining interlingual communication while raising important ethical and cultural questions. At the core of this transformation lies multilingual AI driven by advances in Natural Language Processing (NLP). Today, these technologies can analyse, generate and translate human language with unprecedented accuracy. Speech recognition, neural machine translation and machine learning systems have evolved beyond word-for-word translation to capture context, idiomatic expressions and cultural nuance.

These advances are largely enabled by Large Language Models trained on vast multilingual datasets and capable of cross-lingual transfer learning. Linguistic data sources such as multilingual corpora form the backbone of these systems. While major world languages are well represented, many minority and low-resource languages lack sufficient digital data, creating a risk of exclusion in the digital age. In response, AI-based language preservation technologies focus on documenting, supporting and revitalising minor languages, contributing to cultural preservation and digital language inclusion.

In education, AI plays an increasingly important role in supporting multilingualism and enabling new approaches to learning. Intelligent tutoring systems, adaptive language-learning platforms and real-time translation tools allow learners to access knowledge both globally and in their first or home language, improving learning outcomes while fostering intercultural understanding.

In the corporate sphere, AI is reshaping international communication and cooperation. Multilingual chatbots, voice assistants and localisation technologies enable organisations to communicate effectively across linguistic boundaries and adapt content efficiently to diverse markets. However, these developments also raise ethical concerns related to bias, data representation and linguistic dominance. Multilingual AI systems that prioritise dominant

languages risk reinforcing inequalities and marginalising smaller linguistic communities. Ethical multilingual AI must therefore be transparent, fair and explicitly designed to support underrepresented languages.

It is within this broader context that the multilingual Summer School takes shape. Set in the Alps–Adriatic region, an area with a long-standing history of linguistic, cultural and economic interaction, the Summer School offers a unique framework for exploring these dynamics in practice. Held in the municipality of Bovec and conceived around five languages: Italian, Slovene, Croatian and Friulian, it reflects the region's rich linguistic diversity. Together, these languages form a complex mosaic of linguistic structures and cultural expressions, spanning a wide spectrum of digital presence from globally widespread to highly localised and minority languages.

A central focus of the Summer School Bovec 2026 is the role of artificial intelligence in multilingual communication. By combining linguistic diversity, digital technologies and intercultural perspectives, the programme highlights how multilingual competence extends far beyond the humanities and is increasingly essential across disciplines such as science, technology, engineering, economics, environmental studies and data-related fields. Governments and public administrations are progressively recognising multilingualism as a key factor in accessing global research programmes, strengthening cross-border cooperation and participating in international innovation networks. When paired with AI-enhanced technologies, linguistic skills emerge as a core competence of the twenty-first-century economy.

Through its interdisciplinary approach, the Summer School Bovec 2026 equips participants with practical and transferable skills in multilingual communication, digital literacy, critical thinking and intercultural awareness. These competencies prepare students for success in an increasingly international and multilingual higher education environment and labour market.

Finally, *Bridging Worlds with AI*, the guiding concept of the Summer School represents a reconceptualisation of language itself. Rather than viewing languages as obstacles to be overcome, it frames them as resources to be managed for mutual benefit. Responsibly developed multilingual AI can help bridge divides while respecting linguistic diversity and cultural identity. In doing so, the Summer School Bovec 2026 advocates for a digital future in which technological progress goes hand in hand with cultural responsibility, ensuring that no language, and no community, is left behind.

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