

On Monday March 31 I gave at the [Future of the Internet](#) conference, organized by the European Commission. As Slovenia is holding the EU presidency in this term, the event took place in Bled, the Northern part of country, on a picturesque lake in the Alp region. The conference hall was packed with 250 officials, mostly senior computer engineers who are running the big IT research program we mostly only read about. To give you an idea: Europe has committed 9.1 billion Euros for ICT funding in the next so-called Framework Program Seven (FP7) period. I was the only non-technical, non-commercial, humanities person to speak during the opening session, after the keynote of William Dutton, a social scientist and director of the [Oxford Internet Institute](#). After briefly having gone through some of the INC projects I explained the key ideas behind 'net criticism' and the unique mix of critique and creativity that in my view is possible if you involve artists, activists and humanities scholars in the discussion about the core architecture of the internet. Arts and humanities should get rid of their e-syndrome and disassociate themselves from the 'cultural heritage' industry that is merely interested in digitizing the past. There is a 'digitally native' next generation of young researchers/artists now, fully capable of keeping up with the geeks that is capable of not only intervene in the current but also shape the future architecture of the net. If you're interested in the audio-visual archive of the event, [here it is](#). It is not enough to criticize, research and reflect. What we need is a metadisciplinary and planetary culture of 'critical anticipation'.