

International Consortium for Educational Development Network Profile

Network Name URL	Asociácia pre kvalitu vo vysokoškolskom vzdelávaní Slovak Association for Quality Enhancement in Higher Education
Mission / Aim / Focus	To improve the quality of learning and teaching in Slovakia by enhancing the competences and working conditions of higher education teachers.
Brief History	<p>We are a group of 13 academic developers who regularly meet and communicate to exchange the experience from running courses for higher education teachers in Slovakia and on issues related to university education. This includes colleagues leading educational development courses and initiatives at 10 institutions: American Chamber of Commerce Slovakia, Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts, Catholic University in Ružomberok, Comenius University in Bratislava, Dubnica Institute of Technology, Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, University of Economics in Bratislava, University of Trnava, University of Technology in Košice and University of Žilina.</p> <p>Since 2017, we have prepared three workshops and an international conference and in 2019 the members of our network met in Bratislava with ICED president Allan Goody. Last time we met in November and December 2020 to discuss the draft of the statutes of our association. We have had our statutes registered on 26 April 2021 with the Slovak Ministry of Interior so we are formally registered as a civic association.</p>
Membership types	<p>According to the statutes, our association has both an institutional and individual membership. We prefer having institutional members to become perceived as a legitimate representative of Slovakia's higher education institutions in issues related to quality education. The law in Slovakia, however requires all civic associations also to have individual membership.</p> <p>As stated in the statutes, any higher education institution or any legal person that can prove educating higher education teachers or students in Slovakia can become a member of the association. Similarly, any person working at a higher education institution in Slovakia or any other institution and their responsibilities include educating HE teachers or organising academic development activities can become a member of the association.</p> <p>Currently, we have 4 institutional members - University of Technology in Košice, Dubnica Institute of Technology, University of Žilina and Catholic University in Ružomberok - and we continue admitting further members.</p>

Legal Structure	NGO (civic association)
Governance / Operating Structure*	<p>Zhromaždenie členov (Assembly): is composed from the delegates named by the statutory representative of each member institution. The assembly decides about the main directions for development of the association and about its programme. It meets once a year at minimum and when issues are decided by voting each member of the association has one vote. The Assembly approves the budget and the report from the Commission of Controllers.</p> <p>Správna rada (Council) is the executive body of the association. It has 3 or 5 members given the number of the candidates. Council members are elected by the Assembly. The Council is headed by the Chair who represents the association and is elected by and from the Council members.</p> <p>Kontrolná komisia (Controllers) is a three-member body that oversees funding, any property owned by the association and spending of association finances.</p>
Funding Sources	So far, we have financed our activities mainly from external grants, like the Erasmus+ grants and from regular funding that individual institutions have at disposal (used to cover, for example, the travel costs to participate in the meeting). The statutes of the association include a provision on introducing a membership fee.
Activities** Detail separately	<p>Since 2018, we have organised three specialised workshops and one international conference to exchange information about existing practice. One of the workshops was attended also by a high ranking executive from the Slovak Ministry of Education. We have been meeting three or more times per year (mostly online) to present the developments at each institution related to educational development, progress of courses, new projects and ED initiatives. In 2021, we applied as a partner for an international collaborative Erasmus+ grant “Belong” to enhance well-being and mental health of university students and teachers at 6 project partner institutions.</p> <p>Together with Comenius University and Central European University we co-organise a workshop entitled Internationalisation, student-centred learning and management of change that will take place in Vienna on 23 and 24 September 2021.</p>
Publications	In 2018 we published a book with SEDA (Early Career Academics' Reflections on Learning to Teach in Central Europe, 2018, e-book and printed)

	<p>https://www.seda.ac.uk/Early-career-academics-reflections-on-learning-to-teach-in-Central-Europe</p> <p>In 2018, we also proposed a specialised issue of the International Journal of Academic Development on pedagogical conversations and after we got the proposal approved, we helped at editing and reviewing the papers for the issue. Accepted articles now have been published as online publications. We are very grateful to ICED for sponsoring publication of a double issue.</p>
Special initiatives	<p>University of Economics has accredited one course for its staff members with SEDA and works towards accrediting two more courses with SEDA. Also Comenius University has accredited a course with SEDA and should have another course accredited in September 2021. For the 2020 ICED conference in Zurich we had proposed 4 panels and all of them were approved. After the conference had been cancelled, we contributed to the conference proceedings with two papers.</p>
Connections with other networks, agencies, etc	<p>We are in touch with colleagues who work as academic developers in the Czech Republic (Masaryk University), Poland (Jagiellonian University) and Hungary (University of Szeged). We have a particularly good cooperation with the colleagues from SEDA.</p>
Contact Details (name & email)	<p>Dr. Gabriela Pleschová, Comenius University in Bratislava Gabriela.pleschova@uniba.sk</p> <p>Dr. Jaromír Novák, University of Economics in Bratislava Jaromir.novak@euba.sk</p> <p>Lead members</p>
Social media	<p>Under construction</p>
Other relevant information	<p>We would like to become a full ICED member preferably this year. We very much look forward to attending the ICED 2022 conference and to contributing to other ICED initiatives.</p>
Date last updated	<p>24 July 2021</p>