



## MEET OUR TEAMS

### University of Žilina

#### Faculty of Management Science and Informatics

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Our faculty, the Faculty of Management Science and Informatics, was founded in 1990 as the first faculty of “informatics” (computer science being more correct) in the former Czechoslovakia. Our education and research activities are focused on two main fields - ICT and management (including business and economics). We have really an interdisciplinary environment at the Faculty. This combination of two fields of education and research makes us unique in Slovakia. We have nearly 1400 students in three levels of higher education and about 90 teachers. There are a lot of IT and business companies in Žilina and the surrounding region. We have very good cooperation. Earlier focus on applications of our research results to transport was shifted to new areas - healthcare, intelligent transport systems, IoT, clouds... We are proud of our graduates employed all over the world, working in Google, Microsoft, Cisco, Sygic, GoodRequest, ESET, Ringier Axel Springer.

#### How does TEACH4EDU4 project fit into this mission?

We know we have to be in touch with the newest trends. Not only in the ICT but in education as well. We need to be effective in the education of future ICT experts. They need to be prepared for their future positions of leaders and investigators. With a relatively high number of students and a middle-scaled number of teachers, we are looking for a balance between traditional and innovative teaching methods and forms. It is very difficult to find a new teacher for ICT because of the lack of ICT experts in companies. Participation in the Teach4Edu4 project could support us and save our time. We can improve our education skills and techniques together with our foreign partners thanks to the synergy that is arising from our cooperation.

#### What is your role in the TEACH4EDU4 project?

I am a project coordinator of the project team. At the same time,

I am the Erasmus+ coordinator and vice dean for international cooperation. I facilitate all information from the Steering Committee and international project meetings to my colleagues that are teachers of different ICT courses.

Our Faculty is involved in all intellectual outputs of the project and it is a leader of the last one. I am glad that we can contribute with our contacts to the IT industry in Slovakia and Czech Republic. In fact, we will more learn than teach about the new innovative education forms and methods. For our Faculty, project participation is a unique opportunity to increase our efficiency in the education process.

#### What is the most exciting aspect of taking part in TEACH4EDU4?

Our project team members are mostly graduates of our Faculty. They are passionate about their work - the education of new ICT experts. They are experts in their own special education and research areas. To be honest, we all are too busy to study new trends in education. I am very happy that thanks to the Teach4Edu4 project we can be involved in uncovering, learning, and developing new experience and skills in the field of Education 4.0.

#### In your opinion, which of the competences expected by the Industry 4.0 do you find most important?

Yes, it is really difficult to answer this question. We need to develop competencies in technical, methodological, social, and personal areas. I can see that decision-making and the ability to work in a team are challenging. But we cannot forget to develop efficient orientation and intercultural skills are very important as well. And of course, entrepreneurial thinking. I am not able to define only one of the most important competence. But probably these five that I mentioned are the most important.

In the future, it will be very important to be able to make good decisions and to be able to defend them. Teamwork will be essential. But not only in my own team, in a small group of people. The world becomes smaller and without intercultural skills cooperation is binding. You can be an expert in programming, you can develop an excellent application, but you need to know how to sell it or at least, what is your sales department speaking about when they ask you for cooperation when promoting it.

#### How can we can make students more engaged and motivated to develop these competences?

We can do it through internationalisation of their study programmes. I think that all they need is to have experience with international and interdisciplinary cooperation during their study. Of course, we will not be able to engage and motivate all of them but it is really crucial. Another way to do it is to involve them in research projects and to projects for our industry partners. They definitely need to have experience of teamwork, decision-making, entrepreneurship and leadership already during their study, for example in the frame of the master’s degree study.

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