



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND
DISTANCE EDUCATION



Annual Report

2025



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Greetings from the ICDE President

Kia ora ("Life to you!")

We live in challenging international times. While many countries retrench their international commitments, organisations such as ICDE become more important for facilitating global conversations related to the world's most important need: inclusive, scalable, and sustainable education. We have much to learn from and contribute to one another. ICDE becomes a still more important global membership association as we face common challenges and solutions.

Our World Conference remains a major focus and it was a pleasure to co-host the event with Professor Giselle Byrnes of Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa, alongside Open Polytechnic Kuratini Tuwhera. Delegates from over 50 countries enjoyed Aotearoa New Zealand's hospitality and from all accounts the conference was a major success.

The conference theme of 'ako' reminds us of the integrated meaning of teaching and learning, and the importance of indigenous voices and wisdom. Our keynotes and presenters provided a rich international tapestry of scholarship and insight that will benefit all members through the recordings and proceedings soon to be released.



"ICDE becomes a still more important global membership association as we face common challenges and solutions."

Mark Nichols, ICDE President

On behalf of all members I would like to again acknowledge the dedication and professionalism of our Secretariat, based in Norway with the support of the Norwegian Government. We also need to acknowledge the wise insight and considerable commitment demonstrated by our departing Board members, Dr Neil Fassina, Professor Ebba Ossiannilsson, and Professor Melinda Bandalaria.

We are grateful to welcome Professors Maragret Korosec, Kgomotso Moahi, and Joane Serrano to the Board. At various times as a Board we meet at unusual hours; it is part of having a global reach and representation. In the pages of this Annual Report you will see it is all so very worthwhile.

Ngā mihi ("The words conclude"),

A handwritten signature in white ink, appearing to read 'M Nichols', written over a dark background.

Mark Nichols

President of the International Council for Open and Distance Education

Reflections from the ICDE Secretary General

The year 2025 unfolded against a backdrop of geopolitical shifts, increasing uncertainty, and mounting pressure on public finances. Across many regions, reduced investment in education has had real consequences for institutions, educators, and learners alike, affecting the capacity of many ICDE members and partners to deliver at the scale and pace that global ambitions demand.

Yet it is precisely in such times that international collaboration in education becomes most critical. When resources are constrained and priorities contested, we must not lose sight of the transformative power of working together across borders. ICDE's purpose statement — together we shape inclusive, scalable and sustainable education — is not aspirational rhetoric; it is a strategic imperative.

In 2025, the first year of implementing ICDE's new strategy, our collective efforts demonstrated how value is created beyond individual contributions. More than 150 individuals were mobilised across ICDE's governance bodies, expert committees, networks and advocacy groups, illustrating the multiplier effect of a small, non-profit global association. Impact is generated through shared commitment, expertise, and a willingness to learn from one another.

ICDE's strength lies in its diversity. With members in more than 90 countries, we represent a broad range of educational systems, contexts and experiences. What unites this diversity is a steadfast commitment to inclusive educational design, enabling learners — regardless of financial capacity or life situation — to access learning throughout their lives.



“When resources are constrained and priorities contested, we must not lose sight of the transformative power of working together across borders.”

Torunn Gjelsvik, ICDE Secretary General

As funding pressures intensify, ICDE will continue to serve as a platform where expertise is shared, voices are amplified, and global ambitions are translated into action.

Above all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to our members. Your commitment, generosity in sharing expertise, and willingness to collaborate across borders are the true drivers of ICDE's impact. It is your engagement that gives life to our purpose and makes our collective work meaningful.

Torunn Gjelsvik
ICDE Secretary General

This is ICDE



A global community of over **350** members and partners in **90+** countries in all world regions.



Non-profit NGO advancing inclusive, scalable, sustainable education, **globally**.



Consultative partner to **UNESCO** since 1969 and hosted by Norway.



Current international initiatives mobilise over **150** individual member representatives.

- We unite educators, policymakers, and innovators globally, fostering bold collaboration and sharing cutting-edge expertise.
- Through influential publications, we lead the dialogue on inclusive, scalable, and sustainable education.
- Our events drive international collaboration and inspire progress across borders.
- Our members champion inclusive education worldwide, amplifying impact for all learners.

For over **85 years**, ICDE has played a key role in global education, championing inclusive education. Throughout its history, the organisation has adapted to learners' evolving needs, fostering innovation and supporting quality education through its member network.

ICDE unites the international community via its biennial World Conference, hosted by different member institutions in various regions. This unique approach of showcasing diverse local expertise for the global community has fostered international collaboration, offering opportunities for sharing ideas and building global connections among educators, policymakers and innovators.

Even as technology and pedagogy have evolved, ICDE's mission remains steadfast—ensuring quality education for all, regardless of background or geography.

Supported by an annual grant from the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills, ICDE's vision has been empowered by the Norwegian Government. For more than 35 years, this enduring partnership has allowed ICDE to connect Norwegian educational excellence with international innovation, strengthening links that advance online and flexible learning. Through this special collaboration, Norway's impact to educational progress echoes well beyond its borders.



ICDE Activity Across the Globe

Throughout the year, ICDE actively participated in **15** events in **11** different countries across **5** world regions.

Our main event was the ICDE World Conference in Wellington which gathered around 500 delegates from 50 countries around the theme *Ako: Exchanging ideas for inclusive, scalable, and sustainable education.*

1. Portugal

ICDE launched its first OER micro courses in Portuguese with the Open University of Portugal in Lisbon in March.

2. Australia (virtual)

The ICDE President represented ICDE in webinar on accessibility co-hosted with the Australian Council on Open and Digital Education (ACODE).

3. Tanzania

Senior Adviser Anaïs Malbrand presented the ICDE OER project for Portuguese speaking countries at the eLearning Africa Conference in Dar-es Salaam in May.

4. Norway

ICDE engaged in three different events in Norway: The Lillehammer Lifelong Learning Virtual Conference in February, hosted by the University of Inland Norway; an international seminar on lifelong learning and Norway's progress towards SDG4 in June, co-hosted by Kristiania University of Applied Sciences and Flexible Education

Norway (FUN), and FUN's annual conference in November. A special AI workshop for members moderated by ICDE Technology and Innovation Network lead Julie Lindsay from Australia was held in Oslo.

5. Italy

The ICDE Secretariat chaired two workshops at the EDEN DLE Conference in Bologna, one with ICDE members and Europe GAC leads Open University UK and Arden University, and another with ICDE Partner European Training Foundation. The Secretary General was an invited speaker for the closing session.

6. China

The ICDE Secretary General gave keynote presentations at the Global Smart Education Conference in August and the AAOU Conference Conference in October, both held in Beijing. At the GSE, she also moderated panel session on Inclusive, Scalable and Sustainable Education and Lifelong Learning, co-hosted with Beijing Normal University. Ukrainian member Atmospheric School represented ICDE in the World Digital Education Alliance Conference in Wuhan in May.

7. France

Co-lead Chrissi Nerantzi of the ICDE Open Education Network chaired a World Cafe on AI at the UNESCO Digital Learning Week in Paris in September, supported by the ICDE Secretariat.

8. Brazil

The Open University of Portugal presented the ICDE OER Portuguese Project and courses at the 16th Lusophone Conference on Open Education in Goiana in September.

9. Botswana

The Secretary General chaired a panel session on ICDE's Global Advocacy with participation from Africa and Oceania task forces at the PCF11 Conference in Gaborone, hosted by Botswana Open University in September.

10. Malaysia (virtual)

The Secretary General gave a closing speech at the International Digital Education Conference 2025, hosted by Universiti Sains Malaysia in October.

11. Aotearoa New Zealand

ICDE Board members and Secretariat team joined our hosts, the Open Polytechnic of New Zealand and Massey University in Wellington for the 30th ICDE World Conference in November.



The Year 2025 in Highlights



Senior Adviser Anaïs Røed Malbrand presented the Portuguese OER Project at the eLearning Africa conference in May.



Secretary General Torunn Gjelsvik and Vice-Chancellor of the Open University of Botswana, Prof. Kgomotso Mochi at the PCFI Conference in Gaborone.



From the launch of "Mega-Universities and Opening Universities by design" at the ICDE World Conference in Wellington. Edited by ICDE President, Dr Mark Nichols, with a special foreword by Sir John Daniel, the book features contributions from members across the global ICDE community.



ICDE welcomed an Executive Leadership delegation from Beijing Open University to Norway in September and visited our Norwegian member Kristiania University of Applied Sciences.



The ICDE Secretary General, Torunn Gjelsvik, and Senior Adviser Sophia Javaid attended the EDEN Annual Conference in Bologna, Italy in June.



Senior Adviser Anaïs Røed Malbrand travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden in September to meet with the New Zealand delegation ahead of the ICDE World Conference in Wellington.



Winners of the ICDE Prizes of Excellence 2025. From left to right: Secretary General Torunn Gjelsvik, Mrs Wosilat Ainodion on behalf of Prof. Olufemi Peters of National Open University of Nigeria, Prof. Joseph Duarte, Open University of Catalunya, Prof. Morten Flate Paulsen, NooA and ICDE President Mark Nichols.

30th ICDE World Conference 2025

The 30th ICDE World Conference took place in 2025, serving as the largest global event for ICDE members and the broader community. This leading international academic conference has a long-standing tradition and draws hundreds of delegates from around the world. Participants represent all regions and various roles within inclusive education and related sectors.

The 2025 ICDE World Conference, co-hosted by New Zealand's Open Polytechnic and Massey University, took place at Tākina Convention and Exhibition Centre in Wellington, from 10–13 November 2026. Centred on the theme “AKO: Exchanging ideas for inclusive, scalable, and sustainable education,” the event featured diverse sub-themes and an agenda focused on innovation, indigeneity, and educational quality.

The conference program, developed to ensure thematic diversity and technical excellence, featured distinguished keynote speakers from global institutions who were perceived as a standout strength of the Conference, building effectively on each other's content. Around 400 abstracts were received and accepted across various contribution types, with authors participating in concise talks, full papers, workshops, panels, and poster sessions. Additional highlights included a complimentary tour of Massey University's National Academy of Screen Arts. The social program was warm, engaging, and highly valued, offering meaningful opportunities for networking and connection.

Pre-conference events, including the ICDE Global Doctoral Symposium, ICDE Global Presidents' Forum, the ICDE Technology and Innovation Workshop and the Education Policy Forum strongly enriched the program as well.

The conference welcomed around 500 participants from over 50 countries, delivering a vibrant, internationally engaged atmosphere and cultural resonance for all attendees.



ICDE Global Presidents' Forum 2025

The 2025 ICDE Global Presidents' Forum (GPF) took place during the pre-conference day of the ICDE World Conference 2025. It brought together nearly forty leaders in Open, Flexible and Distance Learning (OFDL) to discuss whether scaling education compromises quality by addressing the following question: “Scale and quality: is there a conundrum?”

The consensus among participants was that expanding OFDL does not inherently diminish the quality of education. The forum highlighted the need to redefine quality to include access, flexibility, and societal benefits, emphasised advocacy for broader stakeholder recognition, and called for robust evidence to demonstrate OFDL's effectiveness.

Key discussions focused on OFDL's unique advantages—flexibility, inclusivity, scalability, and sustainability—as well as the importance of alumni success, innovative assessment methods, and context-specific quality criteria.

The forum concluded that inclusive, scalable education models are becoming mainstream and that quality frameworks must evolve to reflect their growing impact.

ICDE Educational Policy Forum (EPF) 2025

The ICDE Educational Policy Forum (EPF) 2025 was held during the pre-conference day of the ICDE World Conference 2025 and convened over 250 education leaders to advance inclusive, scalable, and sustainable tertiary education across the Australasian and Pacific regions.

The Honorable Penny Simmonds, New Zealand Minister for Vocational Education, gave an opening address in which she highlighted systemic pressures such as demographic changes, workforce shortages, funding constraints, and digital transformation.

The forum showcased strong consensus on the need for innovative funding, digital transformation, educator readiness, and long-term, evidence-based strategies to ensure that future education systems are accessible, relevant, and impactful for all learners.

Key results include the adoption of the Tākina Accord, which establishes eight guiding principles and five immediate actions for higher education policy, emphasizing student-centeredness, indigenous knowledge, lifelong learning, flexible quality assurance, and the equitable recognition of Open, Flexible, and Distance Learning (OFDL).

30th ICDE World Conference 2025

ICDE Technology and Innovation Workshop

This hybrid Workshop was a key pre-conference event for the ICDE World Conference. Designed as an interactive and practice-oriented session, this largest ever ICDE workshop united over 60 participants from across the global ICDE community to explore innovative approaches that support inclusive education.

Run by the ICDE Technology and Innovation Network leads, the workshop centred on collaborative problem-solving and cross-border knowledge exchange.

“The workshop was great for meeting different people and getting out of your comfort zone.”

- Participant



Workshop leads: Lisa Jacka (left) and Julie Lindsay (right) from the University of Southern Queensland.

Teams engaged in structured group activities that encouraged the identification of current challenges in technology-enhanced learning and the co-creation of potential solutions. The workshop placed particular emphasis on the role of emerging technologies—especially AI—in shaping future-oriented pedagogical models and strengthening institutional capacity.



ICDE Global Doctoral Symposium (GDS) 2025

The GDS gathered a diverse international group of emerging scholars for a full-day pre-conference hybrid gathering dedicated to advancing research in the field of inclusive education. The symposium, led by Prof. Aras Bozkurt from Anadolu University, welcomed 20 students, experts and guest speakers, allowing for meaningful academic exchange and direct engagement between doctoral researchers, senior academics, and ICDE community members.

This special event showcased a wide range of doctoral research, reflecting global educational challenges and commitments to inclusivity and innovation. Participants presented work on topics such as blended teacher education models, workplace learning design, AI ethics in teacher training, geospatial tools for improving distance education, and strategies for enhancing learning outcomes for marginalized or underserved student groups. Thanks to the symposium’s sponsor and ICDE member Hamdan Bin Mohammed Smart University, and the ICDE Global Doctoral Consortium initiative, students from Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and North America were able to connect in person.

Throughout the day, the symposium fostered rich discussions on emerging educational methodologies, policy needs, and the evolving role of technology in inclusive learning. This was a special supportive space for researchers to refine their ideas, build professional networks, and contribute to ICDE’s broader mission of shaping sustainable and equitable education worldwide.



Other ICDE Events in 2025

UNESCO Digital Learning Week 2025

At the UNESCO Digital Learning Week in Paris in September 2025, Chrissi Nerantzi, co-chair of the ICDE Open Education Network, supported by the ICDE Secretariat, hosted a bilingual “World Café” in French and English exploring AI’s impact on open education.

About 30 global delegates participated in creative, small-group discussions and art-based activities, focusing on assessment and the importance of collaborative, democratic AI.

The event emphasized safeguarding, diversity, and curiosity-driven learning, highlighting the need for ethical, inclusive educational futures.

UNESCO Norway event with Kristiania University of Applied Sciences and Flexible Education Norway

Together with Norwegian members Kristiania and Flexible Education Norway, ICDE co-hosted a special seminar in May that brought together key stakeholders from the Norwegian education sector and experts exploring best practice in advancing lifelong learning for all in the final stretch towards the UNSDGs 2030.

Speakers included representatives from the Norwegian UNESCO Commission, Norwegian employers’ and trade association Abelia, the Norwegian Parliament’s committee for education and research, and the University of Southern Queensland (UniSQ) Australia.

Discussions focused on best practices, the need for skills in AI and digitalisation, and the importance of cross-institutional collaboration, quality assurance, policy development, and resource innovation to achieve UN SDG 4.

Following the seminar, we put words into action in the form of a practical workshop on AI agents in education led by ICDE member University of Southern Queensland’s Dr Julie Lindsay, chair of ICDE’s Technology and Innovation Network.



Participants engaged in the “World Café” workshop



Panel discussion on lifelong learning moderated by Secretary General Torunn Gjelsvik (from left to right): Jens Barland (Pro-rector Kristiania), Lise Selnes (Parliament representative Labor Party), Dr. Julie Lindsay (Chair of ICDE’s Technology and Innovation Network), Øystein Søreide (CEO Abelia) and Kyrre Lekve (Chair of Norwegian National Commission for UNESCO).



AI workshop with Dr Julie Lindsay

ICDE Global Advocacy Campaign

In 2025, the GAC further amplified ICDE members' global voice, enabling advocacy in regional and national contexts. Originally launched in 2022, the campaign progressed into a new phase aligned with the ICDE Strategic Plan 2025–2028 and its purpose statement: "Together we shape inclusive, scalable and sustainable education". The renewed mandate confirmed the campaign's role in mobilising members globally.

Throughout the year, six regional task forces were active, engaging local members and stakeholders to contextualise ICDE's purpose statement and address region-specific priorities. These task forces focused on developing shared messages, identifying regional challenges, and contributing evidence-informed insights to the global ICDE community.

The campaign also expanded member engagement by promoting participation in regional events. By fostering cross-regional exchange the GAC contributed to strengthening collective action and enhancing our impact across all world regions.



ICDE Senior Adviser Sophia Javaid (left) with regional task force leads

ICDE Senior Adviser Anaïs Røed Malbrand with OEN Chairs, Rob Farrow and Chrissi Nerantzi



ICDE Global Community Action

In 2025, ICDE continued to serve as a catalyst for international collaboration, inspiring inclusive, scalable, and sustainable learning. By empowering our community to share knowledge, innovate, and connect local actions to global progress, our community demonstrates how unity across borders can spark new ideas and positive transformation for the future of education for all.



ICDE Open Education Network

The ICDE Open Education Network debuted in June 2025 as an inclusive, member-led initiative. Its scope extends beyond OER to encompass open-source software, open data, open AI models, open standards, and open content.

Its objectives are to foster knowledge sharing, collaboration, and project development among ICDE members, connect research with current practices, and contribute relevant knowledge products to the ICDE Global Arena. The network is chaired by Rob Farrow from the Open University UK and Chrissi Nerantzi from the University of Leeds.

ICDE Technology and Innovation Network

In 2025, TIN continued to advance as ICDE's global initiative for educational innovation, fostering open sharing and dialogue around online learning, emerging tools, and digital pedagogies. Chaired by Julie Lindsay and Lisa Jacka from the University of Southern Queensland, TIN's inclusive membership encouraged cross-institutional collaboration, supporting projects that focused on AI-enabled learning, innovative curriculum, and "glocal" teaching practices that integrate both global and local perspectives.

TIN orchestrated a range of activities, including online meetings, joint problem-solving sessions, and the creation of thematic sub-groups to address different aspects of technology and education. Members also created projects that explore advanced AI-infused learning design, global collaborative models, and technology-driven pedagogies. These initiatives provided members with opportunities to improve practice, adopt proven global approaches, and experiment with new technologies in a supportive environment.

By year's end, TIN had firmly established itself as a dynamic global community, with a hive of activity, empowering members to innovate and grow through shared knowledge and collaborative engagement.



ICDE Expertise

ICDE Portuguese OER Project

The ICDE Portuguese OER Project advances the UNESCO OER Recommendation across Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, Latin America, and the Caribbean, and was completed in 2025.

Its main objectives include translating, culturally and legally adapting, and migrating an OER course on OER basic concepts into Portuguese, catering to both general learners and policymakers in Portuguese-speaking nations.



The project established a group of 26 OER experts, including legal and accessibility specialists, to guide adaptation and governance, and build on a former adaptation of the courses for a Francophone audience. Both course versions were translated and hosted on the Open University of Portugal's Moodle platform, in multiple content formats, with ongoing enhancements based on expert feedback and terminology adaptations. All materials are downloadable and supplemented by additional Portuguese open education resources.

A virtual launch for the courses was organized in March 2025 and drew 203 participants from 12 countries.

ICDE Quality Committee

The ICDE Quality Committee gives advice and collects knowledge on the latest developments of quality work related to inclusive, scalable and sustainable education within their institutions and respective regions.

The Committee consists of seven Focal Points on Quality and is chaired by Linda Amrane-Cooper from the University of London. The Focal Points have a leading and coordinating role for quality enhancement of open, flexible and distance learning within their institutions and represent seven different regions.



*ICDE Quality Committee
Chair,
Linda Amrane-Cooper*

Key activities in 2025:

- The Quality Resources section in the members' area of ICDE's website has been further developed with quality resources from various regions, including introductions and cross-references
- A panel session at the ICDE World Conference in Wellington titled "AI in Action: Global Quality Perspectives on the Application of AI in Education", with participation from Ecuador, New Zealand, United Arab Emirates and the UK
- The development of a free ICDE member consultancy service launched in January 2026. The committee members advise on quality related questions and institutional quality assurance and enhancement of various provisions of education.

The 7 Regional Focal Points of the Quality Committee in 2025 were:

- **African Region:** Prof. Cristine Ofulue, Director of the Regional Training and Research Institute for Distance and Open Learning (RETRIDOL), National Open University of Nigeria
- **Arab Region:** Prof. Fatima Saleh, Director of Quality Assurance Center, Beirut Arab University
- **Asian Region:** Genevieve Cadaoas, Head of Quality Assurance at Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Philippines
- **Oceania Region:** Prof. Tim Cooper, Dean of Teaching and Learning, University of Otago, Aotearoa New Zealand
- **Latin American Region:** Mary Morocho Quezada, UTPL (Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja) and Deputy Director CALED (Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Quality in Higher Distance Education), Ecuador
- **European Region:** George Ubachs, Managing Director, EADTU (European Association of Distance Teaching Universities), Netherlands
- **North American Region:** Dylan Barth, Vice President of Innovation and Programs, OLC Online Learning Consortium, USA

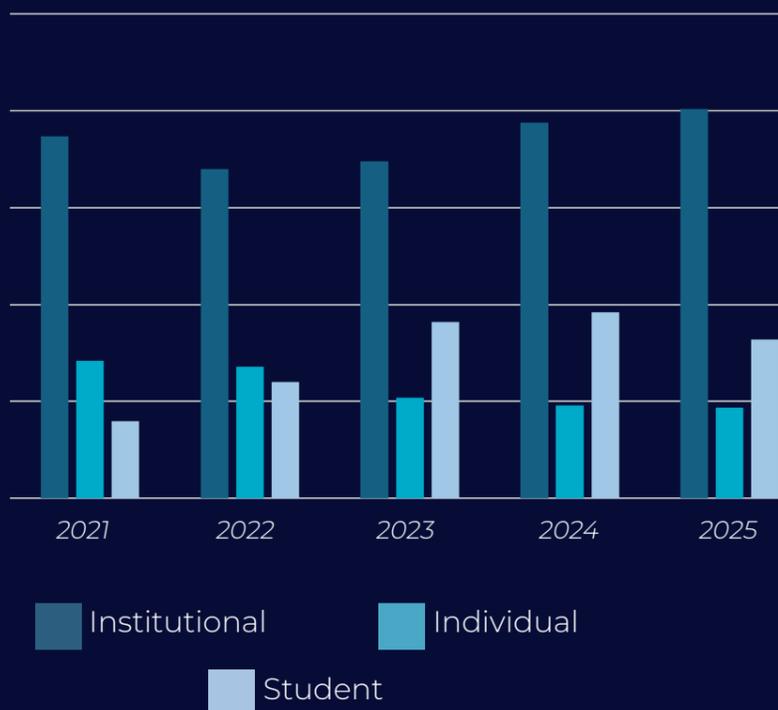
ICDE's Community in 2025

In 2025, we celebrated our highest institutional member total since 2019 as we reached over 200 institutions, organisations and schools! Our global network welcomed 55 new members joining across our membership categories.

Since 2023, institutional membership numbers have continued to strengthen, primarily as a result of effective recruitment through referrals from satisfied current members. Both active student and individual memberships in 2025 saw slight decreases compared to the previous year, aligning with the priorities outlined in our current Strategic Plan.

There remain ongoing challenges for certain regions within our member base in retaining ICDE membership due to financial and political developments. This was particularly evident in North America, where several Institutional members withdrew in response to prevailing education policies. By ensuring open access to essential resources, shared knowledge from our community, and continued global advocacy for the wider cause, we aim to support those who are unable to formally engage in our initiatives.

ICDE Membership 2021 - 2025



ICDE Membership 2025



Institutional

Total: 201
New: 24



Individual

Total: 47
New: 13



Students

Total: 82
New: 16



Honorary

Total: 17



ICDE Senior Adviser
Sophia Javaid with ICDE
individual member,
Morten Flate Paulsen

In 2025, ICDE continued to strengthen its partnerships through targeted collaboration and joint activities aligned with ICDE strategic goals.

These focused on three common pillars throughout the year:

- (1) joint promotion and visibility exchange,
- (2) knowledge sharing and capacity building, and
- (3) development of joint activities, events, and field actions.

Some of our partner highlights:

- **European Training Foundation (ETF)** Joint activity to support the ICDE European GAC task force, and co-organisation of sessions and webinars on digital education and open education, including at the EDEN Conference.
- **FLANZ** Collaboration focused on communications exchange, joint virtual events, regional insight for the GAC Oceania task force and a key supporter for the preparation and execution of the 30th ICDE World Conference in New Zealand
- **UNESCO ICHEI** Co-hosting of a virtual workshop introducing the International Institute of Online Education (IIOE) course platform.
- **ACODE** Joint webinar, focusing on accessibility in education and aligning with the ICDE World Conference theme of inclusive, scalable, and sustainable education, with participation of the ICDE president.
- **Aga Khan Foundation** Co-organisation of a webinar to demonstrate Aga Khan's innovative approach to producing accessible, high-quality, and affordable digital learning content. The session highlighted their development model, tools, and workflows, showcasing scalable best practices that support ICDE's global priorities in open and inclusive education.

Engagement with UNESCO in 2025

ICDE has been in a formal consultative partnership with UNESCO for almost 60 years. As the oldest and only global membership association specializing in open, flexible and distance education, ICDE has demonstrated its continued relevance by supporting UNESCO through changing times, policies, pedagogies and technologies.

Through its consultative partnership, ICDE serves as a bridge between global policy development and practical implementation in the field—linking policies and regulatory frameworks on the one hand with institutional practice, professional expertise and innovation on the other. This role grants ICDE members a collective voice at UNESCO while also enabling UNESCO and national authorities to draw on grounded, practice-based insights from diverse education systems worldwide.

As awareness of and commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda becomes increasingly strategic for educational actors, ICDE's consultative partnership with UNESCO is highly valued by our community. By supporting the implementation of global education policies and recognition frameworks, and by gathering feedback on how these function in practice, ICDE contributes to making global commitments actionable, relevant and effective.

A few highlights from ICDE's engagement with UNESCO during 2025:

- Webinar on Open Educational Resources in Vocational Education and Training, co-hosted with the European Training Foundation and UNESCO-UNEVOC
- Launch of two OER micro courses in Portuguese, in partnership with UNESCO and the Open University of Portugal
- Targeted workshop for ICDE members with UNESCO ICHEI's Institute of Online Education
- Participation at UNESCO Digital Learning Week with the World Café: "Dare to Think Differently: Imagining Open Education with AI", chaired by the ICDE Open Education Network



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization



Open Praxis is ICDE's peer-reviewed open access scholarly journal focusing on research and innovation in open, flexible and distance education. The aim of Open Praxis is to provide a platform for global collaboration and discussion of issues in the practice of the field.

The journal is hosted by ICDE institutional member Anadolu University from Türkiye. The editorial team since 2023, led by Editor in Chief Prof. Aras Bozkurt, has continued to mobilize reviewers and authors, secured continuous publication of articles and issues and improved the journal's online presence through social media.

Open Praxis has firmly established its prestige within the international academic community, evidenced by its dual indexing in Scopus and the Web of Science Core Collection (ESCI). These indices are the gold standard for research visibility, and the journal's inclusion in Clarivate's Journal Citation Reports grants it an official Journal Impact Factor of 0.9. This metric, which ranks the journal 326th out of 756 in the Education & Educational Sciences category, places it comfortably in the second quartile (Q2).



Open Praxis Editor in Chief,
Prof. Aras Bozkurt

The journal's influence is further validated by its Scopus CiteScore of 2.4, which similarly achieves Q2 status across two distinct fields: ranking 729th out of 1,620 in Education and an impressive 100th out of 287 in Library and Information Sciences. Together with strong indicators such as the SJR, these figures demonstrate that Open Praxis is not only a recognized title but a highly competitive one, maintaining a solid mid-to-high tier position among global education research journals.

In 2025, four volumes of the journal were published. More information at openpraxis.org

Open Praxis



About the ICDE Control Committee

The ICDE Control Committee shall ensure that ICDE's funds are used in accordance with applicable law, decisions and grants, and that the financial dispositions made are in accordance with the Constitution of ICDE and relevant board resolutions. The ICDE Control Committee shall further ensure that the internal financial control of the Secretary General is appropriate and justifiable. The Control Committee has tasks that go beyond what an external auditor is concerned and must therefore carry out its own information gathering and checks in addition to the auditor's work

The Control Committee shall ensure that the accounting is reliable and that the annual accounts and interim reports give a correct expression of ICDE's operations and financial position. When reviewing the accounts, the control committee shall assess the financial position, management and operation of ICDE.

Comments of the Control Committee to the 2025 Accounts

The Control Committee has reviewed the minutes of the Board and other relevant documentation. The Committee has received the information requested from the Secretary General and from ICDE's auditor, Grant Thornton, and has reviewed the Annual Accounts for 2025. The Committee has no findings regarding the use of funds, internal financial control, or compliance with applicable decisions and grants.

The Committee notes, however, the updated outlook for the Norwegian government grant and the related financial forecast, as described in the accounts and supports the Board's adoption of an Action & Mitigation Plan to address the situation through 2026, including cost discipline, active funding efforts and related contingencies.

On this basis, and consistent with the disclosures in the accounts, the Control Committee recommends that the Annual Accounts for 2025 be approved by the Board.

Malaysia/Ecuador/Norway, 25 February 2026

*Ansary Ahmed, Santiago Acosta Aide, Mette Villand,
Snorre Qveim-Leikanger (Acting Chair)*

2025 ICDE Board Election

Three seats on the ICDE Board, all representing institutional members, were open for election for the 2026–2029 term. Candidate nominations were accepted from June through August 2025, with voting taking place between September and October.

The ICDE Nomination Committee approved five eligible candidates for the institutional seats. Following their mandate, the Nomination Committee recommended three preferred candidates for the available seats. The committee is concerned with regional, gender and cultural diversity within the ICDE Board. It is tasked to take into account the present composition of the board, to give prominence to diverse competencies and backgrounds, and to consider renewal versus continuation of Board members.

Three candidates were elected by ICDE Institutional members. The election results were officially announced during the closing session of the 30th ICDE World Conference in November 2025.

The ICDE Board from 1 January 2026 (new Board members in bold):

- Mark Nichols, New Zealand (*President*)
- Mpine Makoe, South Africa
- Andreia Inamorato, Brazil (*representing individual members*)
- **Margaret Korosec, United Kingdom**
- **Kgomotso Moahi, Botswana**
- **Joane Serrano, Philippines**

ICDE Board Meetings

The ICDE Board met four times throughout the year, one of the meetings took place face-to-face in conjunction with the ICDE World Conference in Wellington. These meetings led to key updates and governance decisions impacting activities for 2025 and 2026.

ICDE members can access the ICDE Board minutes for 2025 on the **ICDE Members Area**.

ICDE Permanent Secretariat Staff in 2025



Torunn Gjelsvik
Secretary General



Anaïs Malbrand
Senior Adviser
for Projects and
Events



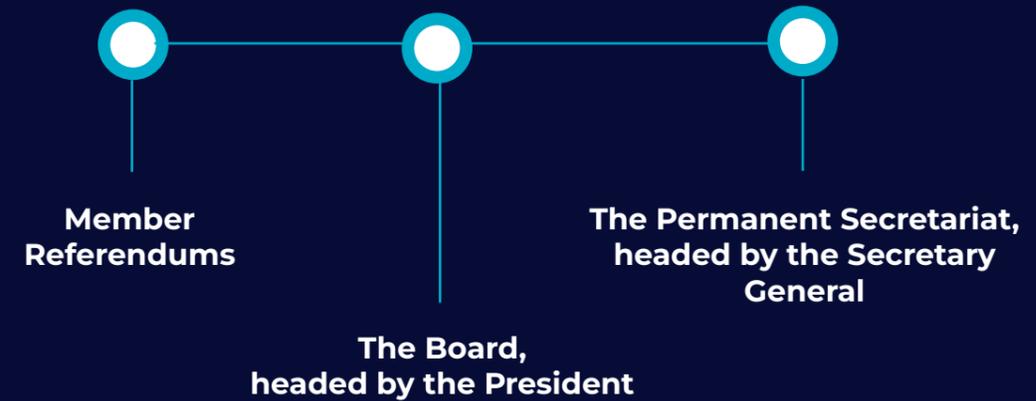
Sophia Javid
Senior Adviser for
Membership and
Communication



Anna Fredriksen
Communication
and Administration
Adviser

Organisation

ICDE is an independent, self-governing, non-profit and non-governmental legal entity. The association is governed by the following business bodies:



In addition, the Board is supported by the **Control Committee** and the **Nomination Committee**.

ICDE Board 2025



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New Zealand



Melinda Bandalaria
Chancellor, University of the Philippines
Open University, Philippines



Neil Fassina
President, Okanagan College Canada



Andreia Inamorato
Executive Director, University of Loyola,
Spain *(Representing individual
members)*



Mpine Makoe
Executive Dean, College of Education,
UNISA, South Africa



Ebba Ossiannilsson
Former Vice-President, Swedish Asso-
ciation for Open, Flexible and Distance
Education, Sweden

ICDE Control Committee 2025:

- Ansary Ahmed, Malaysia
- Santiago Acosta Aide, Ecuador
- Mette Villand, Norway
- Snorre Qveim-Leikanger, Attorney at Law, Norway

ICDE Nomination Committee 2025:

- Belinda Tynan, Australia (Chair)
- Aras Bozkurt, Türkiye
- Torhild Slåtto, Norway



INTERNATIONAL
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