



Soroptimist Leadership Academy Croatia & Slovenia, 2025

Date: October 10 to 15, 2025

Location:

- HKD NAPREDAK Zagreb, Bogovićeve 1, Zagreb, Croatia
- Hostel Pekarna, Ob železnici 16, Maribor, Slovenia

Lecturers – CROATIA

Our lecturers include leading experts from Croatia:

- **Carmen Majetić-Pavić** – business consultant & psychological counselor, owner of TAGORAS, President of Soroptimist International Club Zagreb Centre (2024–2025)
- **Vedrana Perković-Hadl** – Head of Program and Project Development at BIOCentar and Vice President of Soroptimist International Club Zagreb Centre (2024–2025)
- **Lidija Pavić-Rogošić** – Founder and Director of the non-profit association ODRAZ, Member of SI Club Zagreb Centre since 2007.
- **Vesna Lendić Kasalo, L.L.B. (MA in Law)** – Former Deputy Director, Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs
- **Ines Došen** – Mindfulness & Emotional Intelligence Educator and Business Consultant at Center for Mindfulness IDIS
- **Vedrana Jelušić-Kašić** – Management Board Member at PBZ – Intesa Sanpaolo Group
- **Ivana Gažić** – President of the Management Board, Zagreb Stock Exchange
- **Vjeran Bušelić** – Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of Applied Sciences Zagreb (TVZ)

Lecturer Profiles:



Prof. Carmen Majetić-Pavić is a business consultant, educator, and psychologist, certified in Executive, Wingwave, and Team Coaching. She is the owner of TAGORAS and serves as a consultant to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in the field of organizational and human resource management. With over 20 years of experience in strategic planning, marketing, and HR, she has held managerial and consulting positions at Pliva and Kraš. In 2020, she launched and led a national mentoring program for women leaders in collaboration with the Croatian Employers' Association. Since 2024, she has served as President of Soroptimist International Club Zagreb Centre.



Vedrana Perković-Hadl is Head of Program and Project Development at BICRO BIOCentre, Croatia's biosciences incubator. She has extensive experience in SME lending, sustainable energy, and women's entrepreneurship across several countries. A graduate of Webster University and former leader of its alumni chapter in Croatia, she now serves as Vice President of Soroptimist International Club Zagreb Centre.



Lidija Pavić-Rogošić is Director of ODRAZ – Sustainable Community Development and one of the founding members of SI Club Zagreb Centre. An architect with postgraduate studies in Social Change (London Metropolitan University), she is an expert in sustainable development with over 20 years of experience working with local communities, youth, and women. She is a trainer, author of manuals on community organising, and has worked with the Ministry of Environment and international organizations. She serves on the European Economic and Social Committee and the Supervisory Board of the Croatian Volunteer Centre. She is one of the founders of the SI Club Zagreb Centre.



Vesna Lendić Kasalo, L.L.B. (MA in Law) is the former Deputy Director of the Croatian Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs. She developed strategic, normative, and financial frameworks for state–civil society cooperation, including funding public-benefit programs using EU and state funds. She is an experienced trainer, editor, and project manager for civil society development in the Western Balkans.



Ines Došen is a certified educator in Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction and Search Inside Yourself (a mindfulness and neuroscience-based emotional intelligence program). With 20+ years in strategic marketing and leadership roles, she now helps individuals build resilience, clarity, and optimism. She combines deep business insight with personal growth expertise to support professional and personal development.



Vedrana Jelušić-Kašić is a Management Board Member at PBZ, responsible for Corporate and Investment Banking. She chairs the Supervisory Board of PBZ Leasing and serves on the Supervisory Board of the Zagreb Stock Exchange. Formerly a Partner at Deloitte and a long-term executive at the EBRD, she brings over 20 years of experience in financial advisory, M&A, and sustainable finance.



Ivana Gažić has served as President of the Management Board of the Zagreb Stock Exchange since 2010. She is President of the Supervisory Board at the Ljubljana Stock Exchange and a board member of SEE LINK Skopje and Pan Pek Zagreb. Ivana is also a member of the Croatian Financial Services Supervisory Agency and a certified Court Expert Witness in finance and capital markets. She regularly speaks at leading financial conferences.



Vjeran Bušelić holds a Ph.D. in Information and Communication Sciences and transitioned from a 30-year IT career to academia in 2010. He teaches Information Literacy, Critical Thinking, and Digital Economy at TVZ. A pioneer in Generative AI curriculum, he authored *In Search of Knowledge: Reskilling for Generative AI* (2025). Recognized with multiple Microsoft awards, he also received the “Best Student Career Supporter” award at the Oxford Summit of Leaders in 2014.

Lecturers - Maribor:

Our lecturers include the following experts:

- **Nada Šabec** – Professor of Linguistics at the Department of English and American Studies, University of Maribor; President of SI Club Maribor (2024–2025).
- **Sonja Šostar Turk** – Professor of Textile and Environmental Engineering, Head of Interdisciplinary Research in Health Care, Head of Institute of Balneology and Climatology at the Faculty of Health Sciences; Vice Dean for International Relations at the University of Maribor; Member of SI Club Maribor since 1998.
- **Adriana Magdovski** – Pianist, Professor at the Department of Music, Faculty of Education, University of Maribor; Member of SI Maribor since 2024.
- **Miha Lavrič** – Researcher at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Maribor; Assistant Professor at DOBA Business School.
- **Anita Hrast** – Co-founder and manager of IDRO - Institute for the Development of Social Responsibility; lecturer at DOBA Business School.

Lecturer Profiles:



Nada Šabec holds a PhD in linguistics and is a Professor of English and American Studies at the University of Maribor, Slovenia. A two-time Fulbright grant recipient (University of Pennsylvania; Georgetown University, Washington, DC), her research focuses on sociolinguistics, Slovene-English language contact, and intercultural communication. She has been a guest lecturer at several institutions across Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia,

and New Zealand. Among her works, she authored *Across Cultures: Slovene-British-American Intercultural Communication*. She is a long-time SI Maribor member and its current president.



Dr. Sonja Šoštar Turk is a Professor of Textile and Environmental Engineering at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Maribor, Slovenia. She serves as the Vice Dean for International Relations and is the Head of Interdisciplinary Studies, as well as the Head of the Institute of Balneology and Climatology. Her research focuses on environmental health, hospital hygiene, and food safety. In 2014, she received the prestigious United Nations National Energy Globe Award in the "Water" category for her project SMILES under the 7th EU Framework Programme. Since 1998, she has been an active member of SI Maribor.



Adriana Magdovski, a Slovene pianist, is renowned for her artistry and innovation. Born in Maribor to a Polish-Macedonian family, she won the absolute award at the 21st TEMSIG competition. A graduate of the University of Music and Performing Arts in Graz, Stuttgart, and London, she has performed across Europe and the U.S., collaborating with renowned artists. Now a professor at the University of Maribor and an international lecturer, she is passionate about contemporary music and diverse outreach, embodying the modern musician-scholar by merging tradition with innovation. She has recently joined SI Maribor.



Dr. Miha Lavrič is a researcher at the Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Maribor, Slovenia and Assistant Professor at DOBA Business School. With over 20 years of experience, he focuses on innovative projects that bridge the fields of (micro)biology, (immuno)genetics, applied data science, explainable AI, and augmented reality. He is involved in (inter)national



projects examining the impact of environmental pollution (water, air, and food sources) on human health, and projects exploring the human impact on environmental health (pollution, biodiversity), with an emphasis on awareness and education.



Anita Hrast holds a B.A. in marketing communications and an M.S. in non-profit management. She teaches at DOBA Faculty of Applied Business and Social Studies in Maribor, Slovenia. As co-founder and manager of the Institute for Social Responsibility Development and the Slovene Award for Social Responsibility *Horus*, she specializes in communication, marketing, sustainability, and social impact measurement. She has obtained several international certificates, including ECQA qualification as a social responsibility trainer and a certificate from the Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility School.