

ICDE Activity Plan

2023-2024



INTERNATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR OPEN AND
DISTANCE EDUCATION

International Council for Open and Distance Education - ICDE is a global, not for profit and non-governmental membership organization with the vision to achieve the potential of Open, Flexible, and Distance Learning (OFDL) created through our members and learning communities. Our members are institutions, associations, individual experts and students, all aiming to create opportunities for learners across continents to have equal and equitable access to quality education.

This Activity Plan builds on the ICDEs Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2024, and the results from the Activity Plan 2021-2022. It outlines the expected outcomes and prioritized specific objectives for ICDE for the last two-year period from 2023-2024.

During the past couple of years, heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic which caused major disruptions to education worldwide, a major strategic priority for ICDE has been to increase the impact of its global advocacy for quality, accessible open, flexible and distance education. By launching the ICDE Global Advocacy Campaign, the association has been able to activate members and partners globally through the implementation of regional and specific task forces. In the next two years, the goal is to activate task forces in every world region, to connect and share experiences among members across the globe, and by this enable greater regional and national influence through ICDE's global advocacy for OFDL.

ICDE will continue to engage members and partners in activities relevant to the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNESCO Futures of Education initiative, and the UN Transforming Education Call to action on Digital Learning for all.

Our impact is measured by the success of our members, who we will continue to support in their work on OFDL by hosting and participating in high-level events and conferences, and connecting relevant actors and stakeholders together for collaboration, knowledge sharing and innovation. Our globally distributed members continue to be actively engaged in ICDE committees, networks, and projects, and we truly believe this is one of our association's most significant assets.

ICDE is proud to announce that the next ICDE World Conference will take place in Costa Rica, 6-10 November 2023, hosted by our long-standing members UNED Costa Rica in the capital San José. As the World Conference 2021 which was planned to take place in Brazil unfortunately was cancelled due to the pandemic, we are pleased to see the next ICDE World Conference still taking place in the Latin America region.

ICDE will continue to engage members in networks, expert groups, projects, and a broad range of activities related to the prioritized areas of Quality, OER and Innovation in education. Research and new knowledge will be strengthened through the re-launch of the ICDE Global Doctoral Consortium, as well as through the continuous development of ICDE's open scholarly journal Open Praxis, with a new editorial team in charge from 2023. And finally, an updated ICDE website is under development, with the aim to recruit new members and partners, and to stay relevant to current members as the global go-to knowledge hub in the field of Open, Flexible and Distance Learning.

We hope to inspire new actors and motivate them to engage with ICDE to achieve the potential of OFDL for a more sustainable world. You may find more information about joining ICDE as a member or partner on our website – icde.org.



Torunn Gjelsvik

Secretary General

International Council for Open and Distance Education - ICDE



Increase the impact of ICDE's advocacy regarding OFDL globally and enable greater regional and national influence through members and partners.

Expected outcomes of SO 1:

By the end of 2024, ICDE should have initiated Global Advocacy Campaign (GAC) task forces in all world regions, with evaluations and recommendations for the future. ICDE will have influenced 1-2 regional/national OFDL related policies. 2-3 members/partners from each world region engaged in ICDE events/activities related to implementation of OFDL to achieve education for all.

Prioritized specific objectives:

- 1 ICDE footprint in policy discussions and publications related to OFDL globally.
- 2 Engage and support members/partners in North America, Africa and Europe to lead regional GAC Task Forces.
- 3 Curation of OFDL related advocacy material and knowledge sharing from ICDE GAC task forces through the new ICDE website.

Suggested activities:

- ✓ To deliver collaborative outputs on thought leadership and leadership capacity from ICDE leadership events, including commitment to partnership and collaboration among partners and members.
- ✓ ICDE to participate in global and regional forums and events to advocate for OFDL on behalf of, or through members and partners.
- ✓ Implement storytelling as part ICDEs global advocacy for OFDL through the new website and other communications channels.



Extend the global reach of ICDE membership to underrepresented regions, sectors, and stakeholders as well as underrepresented and disadvantaged learner populations.

Expected outcomes of SO 2:

By the end of 2024, ICDE should have at least a total of 10 new members from either Latin America, Africa and/or Oceania. At least 5 new partnerships established representing regional and sectoral diversity. At least 2 new members or partners focusing on disadvantaged learners.

Prioritized specific objectives:

- 1** Membership recruitment campaign targeting Latin and South America through regional partnerships for the ICDE World Conference 2023 in Costa Rica.
- 2** Deepen and extend ICDEs relationships with strategic regional and global partners from various sectors.
Continue to encourage members and partners engagement in activities with relevance to the UN's Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UNESCO Futures of Education Initiative, and the UN Transforming Education Call to action on Digital Learning for all.
- 3**

Suggested activities:

- ICDE is involved and participates in global forums, networks, and events relevant for OFDL and disadvantaged learners.
- Identify value propositions for public-private partnerships with specific focus on infrastructure, equipment and competencies required for the provision of quality OFDL
- Identify value propositions for partnerships between industry and education to achieve lifelong learning, relevant skills development and validation of competencies
- Identify value propositions for external partners and donors to support the ICDE Global Doctoral Consortium, with particular focus on disadvantaged learners.



Maximize the relevance and value of ICDE to its members through the prioritized areas of quality, OER, and innovation in education.

Expected outcomes of SO 3:

Increased number of members/partners engaged in ICDE events, activities, publications and communications channels, representing a broader variety of members and sectors. Establishment of at least one task force, expert group or initiative formed by ICDE members focusing on innovation in education and/or new technologies for learning. ICDE actively engaged in projects and initiatives focused on quality, OER and innovation in education.

Prioritized specific objectives:

- 1 High engagement of members/partners as contributors and delegates at the Lillehammer Lifelong Learning ICDE Conference, the ICDE World Conference 2023 and the ICDE Leadership Summit 2024.
- 2 1-2 annual specific contributions from ICDE expert networks/committees/task forces/projects related to Quality, OER and innovation in education through events and/or publications.
- 3 Analyze the retention value of ICDE membership for institutions, individual members and student members and identify prioritized areas for the next Strategic Plan 2024-2028.

Suggested activities:

- ✓ Extend the ICDE Global Doctoral Consortium through recruitment of ICDE student members and involvement from ICDE members and partners supporting a vibrant research community of emerging scholars.
- ✓ Increased recognition of Open Praxis through listing in new relevant databases and indexes, and the development of a social media strategy in collaboration with the new editorial team.
- ✓ Ensure long term sustainability of the ENCORE+ OER Network after the project terminates in 2023 through new project funding or other sustaining networks/partnerships.



Ensure the long-term sustainability of ICDE.

Expected outcomes of SO 4:

ICDEs membership base is stabilized, with an increased number of members during the activity plan period 2023-2024. ICDE will have 1 new source for funding of ICDE activities. Tools and working methods are implemented to further increase the effectiveness of the ICDE Secretariat, committees and networks operations and tasks.

Prioritized specific objectives:

- 1 Secured additional funding from 1 new source, potentially through external partnerships and/or projects.
- 2 Analyze current and future funding sources and implement long-term sustainability measures through a dedicated ICDE sustainability strategy.
- 3 Systems and working methods increasing the efficiency and cost effectiveness of ICDEs operational work are identified and implemented.

Suggested activities:

- ✓ Review and revise the membership journey and processes for: recruitment, membership applications, application fee and membership fee collection to reduce risks and administrative workload
- ✓ Identify and address opportunities to increase efficiency and capacity of the ICDE Secretariat, also taking into account staff vulnerability.
- ✓ Review and sustain the ICDE Quality Review Service
- ✓ Assess the value, risk and cost effectiveness of ICDE undertaking external project responsibility roles, such as coordination of EU projects



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