



Academia Istropolitana Nova (AINova)

AINova is an independent NGO focused on lifelong learning with 12 full time staff. It offers specialised training programmes and consultancy and takes part in applied research projects. Since its establishment (in 1996) AINova has fostered an international dimension of education and research through networking, by development of cross border cooperation and by offering experience and expertise abroad. AINova cooperates with large number of visiting experts from universities, public and private sector, public and local administration.

AINova is active in key thematic areas, which have been selected in 1996; at the protection and development of a good quality environment (cultural and natural) and its integration into the local development, civic society development and European integration, and sphere of communication and foreign languages.

The core activities consist of short and medium term courses and project activities. AINova has been involved both as a coordinator and a partner in a number of EU supported projects, has run several SlovakAid projects supported by the Slovak government intended for Moldovan university and secondary school teachers, Ukrainian university teachers, Serbian civil servants and journalists, Ukrainian civil society, NGOs. The activities within the projects are of educational nature – courses, seminars, conferences, teaching methodologies.

Experts from Slovakia:

Katarina Pisutova is an e-learning coordinator at the Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. She holds an MA in Adult Education (2003) from the University of British Columbia in Canada and an EdD in Online and Distance Learning (2012) from the Open University in UK. She has lived, designed and taught online courses in Slovakia, Uganda, Canada and US. Latest she has been working as a curriculum and instructional designer at the Empire State College in Saratoga Springs, New York and at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research interests focus mostly on online collaboration.

Pavol Bistak has been a university teacher and researcher at the Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava since 1992. His main field of interest is represented by the development of new learning technologies. Since the year 1997 his research is focused on virtual and remote laboratories for control of dynamical systems. As a teacher he is now lecturing two subjects: Multimedia and Telematics. At the faculty level he is responsible for the LMS system Moodle. Pavol Bistak published several

scientific papers focused on virtual and remote laboratories and together with his co-authors he wrote several books on e-learning topics. He took part in many EU programmes on distance learning (Tempus, Socrates, Leonardo) as well as he worked as the local coordinator of Tempus (Stamp) and Socrates (Flexeman) programmes. He was the chair of the organizing committee of the International conference on interactive and collaborative learning (ICL2011) and he was the IPC member of several Virtual University conferences held in Bratislava.

Marta Jendekova is the senior expert and project manager at the European Affairs Department at AINova. Since 1997 she has been teaching European issues, especially legal and institutional framework of the EC/EU and practical aspects of the legal process (engagement of interested groups, negotiations, lobbying). Marta was a project manager at two UNDP/SlovakAid projects focused on Ukrainian civil society and Serbian civil servants and journalists. She is a member of Team Europe Slovakia, group of experts organised by The Representation of European Commission in Bratislava.

Katarina Ciganova is the senior expert and project manager at the European Affairs Department at AINova. During her work at AINova since 1999 she has been responsible for contacts with the training departments of ministries and analysing their needs and offering customised programmes. She has also been organising training activities and teaching there herself thus she has experienced a number of aspects of the training process. Katarina is also a member of Team Europe Slovakia.

Zuzana Stefanikova is the senior expert and project manager at the European Affairs Department at AINova. From 1997 to 2001 she has been leading the European Studies Programme, developing international cooperation and leading European projects. From 2001-2008 Zuzana has been the executive director of AINova responsible for institutional development, international cooperation, leadership and management of the institution. Currently, Zuzana is dealing with adult learning issues, she is active in several projects focused on adult learning, she gained the status of "lector in adult education" in 2012 and she is developing new courses for adult learning staff. Regularly, since 2003 she has been running the training courses in EU Regional Policy and Project Cycle Management on national and international level.