

Innovative Leadership:

Communication, Management,
and Social-Emotional Growth
in the Age of AI

Created with ♥ by teachers for teachers
Split and Zagreb, Croatia | 7-day course



Description

Being a school leader today means much more than administration. It requires vision, empathy, and the ability to inspire. This 7-day course is designed for principals, school leaders, and managers who want to enhance their leadership, communication, and management skills while fostering social and emotional well-being in their schools.

Through **drama-based activities, case studies, and real-life scenarios**, participants will actively practice how to solve everyday leadership challenges: from managing staff conflicts to supporting teacher well-being and introducing innovation. Workshops will focus on developing emotional intelligence, mastering difficult conversations, and successfully creating a positive atmosphere where staff and students can thrive. Participants will also explore the role of innovation and AI in **school management**, testing practical tools to streamline planning, **communication**, and reporting. By working collaboratively in groups, they will **gain valuable ideas and strategies**, exchange best practices, and strengthen their international leadership network. The course will empower the participants to create a plan, enabling them to lead with purpose and implement concrete strategies back in their schools. This hands-on, experiential approach ensures that every leader leaves not only inspired but also equipped with new skills and practical tools to shape the future of education.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the course the participants will be able to:

- **Demonstrate effective leadership strategies** by practicing real-life school management scenarios and reflecting on their leadership style.
 - **Communicate with clarity and empathy**, using techniques of active listening, constructive feedback, and conflict resolution in interactions with staff, parents, and stakeholders.
 - **Apply social and emotional learning (SEL) principles** to foster well-being, motivation, and a positive atmosphere among teachers, students, and staff.
 - **Utilize drama-based activities and case studies** to explore multiple perspectives, strengthen problem-solving skills, and model inclusive leadership practices.
 - **Develop emotional intelligence** by enhancing self-awareness, empathy, and resilience, enabling them to lead with purpose and authenticity.
 - **Manage change and innovation** effectively, learning strategies to introduce new ideas and digital tools in schools with confidence and collaboration.
 - **Explore and integrate AI tools** for school leadership tasks such as scheduling, reporting, communication, and staff development in ethical and practical ways.
 - **Collaborate in an international peer network**, exchanging valuable ideas and best practices with other school leaders.
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Tentative schedule



Day 1 – Introduction to the course

- Welcome event; presenting participants, their schools, cities, countries
- Presenting host organization and the city
- Getting to know each other: Icebreakers
- Introduction to the course

Day 2 – Building Leadership Foundations

- Overview of European school leadership trends, digital & inclusive education, 21st-century leadership roles.
- Case study: Leading a school through a crisis
- Leadership styles, decision-making, vision & values, balancing authority with empathy.

Day 3 – Communication & Conflict Management

- Handling conflict between teachers, or between teachers and parents.
- Active listening, empathy, persuasion, public speaking, giving constructive feedback.
- Role-play scenarios with parents, inspectors, staff.

Day 4 – Emotional Intelligence & Well-being

- Why EI matters for principals: self-awareness, self-regulation, motivation, empathy, relationship management.
- Supporting a teacher experiencing burnout.
- Embedding SEL in staff culture, creating a safe school climate, strategies for leader well-being.

Day 5 – Innovation, Change & AI

- Introducing a new curriculum or digital platform in school.
- Resistance to change, motivating staff, inclusive innovation, strategic planning.
- Hands-on exploration: using AI for scheduling, reporting, communication, staff development.
- Each participant tests AI tools for real leadership tasks.

Day 6 – Integration and Action planing

- Peer Project Development: Designing a Leadership Action Plan
- Reflection: Sharing action plans, feedback

Day 7 – Course closure and evaluation

- Reflecting on the course and what we have learned from the past week
- Course evaluation
- Erasmus+ Certificate award ceremony

