

WICCI Slovenia 2020/21

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Sasa Bozic – WICCI Slovenia 2020/21 President



Sophia Academy CEO, Founder and ICF Executive Coach

Sasa Bozic is an ICF Executive Coach, Strategic Marketing Consultant, Business Developer for UAE and India, International Keynote Speaker and Author. For 26 years, she has been playing numerous roles in corporations across Europe, Middle East and India, as a strategic advisor, who connects the dots between the successful business, branding & storytelling strategies and Employee Wellbeing Programs. Presenting EWP activities and measures to executives and locally adapting them to engage employees through holistic measures, she believes the most added value towards achieving Corporate goals can be provided with authentic leaders and empowered, happy and healthy employees.

Due to her contribution in the area of raising preventive health awareness and spreading engagement among employees, she was also invited as a speaker to Indian Ficci Heal Conference 2016 and later on as a speaker and an award winner to the World Health and Wellness Congress & Awards 2017, 2018, 2019, World Coaching Congress 2020 and Women Economic Forum in Hague, Los Angeles, London and Cairo.



As a devoted member of All Ladies League and its mission towards Women Empowerment in 2020 Sasa volunteered nine months to coordinate an amazing team of 16 Ladies organizing Women Economic Forum 2020 in Slovenia with 300 participants coming from 25 countries.

During the challenging COVID times of 2020, Saša and her friend Maja founded Sophia Academy, uniting the wisdom of wellbeing, bringing it back to corporate world by presenting a unique method that taps into the full potential of individuals and teams, unlocking company's hidden gems.

Being a Mom of two adult sons, wife, sister and a friend, in 2018 Sasa also decided to embark on an empowering personal journey through 800 km long, Spanish pilgrimage called Camino, writing a book about the experience and getting inspired to be an author. Being a writer is what Sasa visualizes herself to be, living on Bali, the Island of Gods, after her mission and all the global projects are finally finalized.

Saska Zvan – WICCI Slovenia 2020/21 Vice President



Procurator at CDE nove tehnologije d.o.o. & Linea directa d.o.o.

Saska Zvan is a devoted mom and wife co-creating hand in hand with her professional role of being a results-driven executive with extensive experience in the industry. As a reliable and effective executive leader, for almost 20 years, she is providing direction and leadership to high performance teams to attain organizational objectives. The desire for new discoveries and the courage to do something different lead her through life, together with challenges that are coming along the path and provide her with the opportunity for personal and professional growth. She has credible history in developing software and customer service business from scratch and successfully maturing and executing business integration. Stellar record in leading, coaching, and developing staff to achieve business goals and increase profitability while meeting all needs and demands of all stakeholders. Continuous learning on current topics and future business trends. She brings a vision-driven

approach to decision making, strategic planning, and tactical implementation. She believed she has it all figured out: directing operations, employees, sales, and customer engagement strategies to drive business development and enhance overall performance. Until becoming a mom to a dynamic little boy, trying to manage career and quality family life, opened her heart and changed her priorities and employee relationships forever. And what's new? The desire for intelligent leadership, together with the need to engage employees to reach their full potential. Standing firmly behind believe that in today's fast evolving, high tech oriented, digital environment - all that really matter are genuine relationships.

Barbara Hafner, MSc. – Business Council Member



Marketing CTN & PA SD Director, Knauf Insulation

A woman who for 25 years successfully navigate a business in a completely masculine branch – construction, where she follows the challenges of innovation, professionalism, persistence and respect. As a long-standing head of marketing and public relations, she co-created business success and the public image of the company in where she is employed.

She is also an active member of many commercial and professional associations and international corporate working groups. You can meet her in public also in the role of lecturer and consultant on marketing and communication events. A bachelor's degree in economics with the completed master's degree in business sciences, she has received several prestigious awards for her work. Her business guide is the fact that the only constant are changes.

Privately she enjoys the most in the company of his three children and a husband. She's an enthusiastic sportswoman with the feeling for art, culture and charity. She likes to travel and learn

about differences. She finds her peace and energy in natural environment between hills and on the sea.

Lucija Ziva Sajevec, MSc. – Business Council Member



CEO of AMZS

In her career, Lucija Sajevec follows the principle of KAIZEN – to stare towards constant improvement and progress by integrating everybody. Her work is based on connecting coworkers, finding new talents and forming successful teams.

Committed to the principles of open communication and collaborative leadership, Lucija together with her team of collaborators, has made significant steps in the development and modification of the AMZS company culture and values in recent years.

As a Master of Economics, she also gathered experience with work in a multinational company.

Petra Tolja – Business Council Member



Owner and Founder of Pure Travel Agency

Petra is a dreamer. She has always loved life and everything it has to offer, from cuisine, art, people and places. For her, the world has no borders and no limits. Thus her path of a virtuoso traveler has started at an early age, continued through students' years as exchange programs, working abroad and personal travels.

After 20 years in the travel industry Petra decided to start her own path, creating her own business Pure Travel, offering worldwide personal and corporate travel and incentives groups, tailored to individual's needs and wishes.

Her positive attitude, personal touch and years of experience convince anyone to enjoy their well-deserved vacation or ensure a most professional and instructive business trip.

She dedicates all her time to share her passion for traveling and learning about new cultures from around the world with anyone she meets.

Maja Metlicar – Business Council Member



Transformational Mentor. Temple for Irresistible Tribe Founder. Sophia Academy Co-Founder

Maja began her professional path as a criminal lawyer and worked in the criminal justice system of her home country, Slovenia, for seven years. After deciding for a radical career change she travelled and lived between Amsterdam, Estonia, Bali and Slovenia, and is currently based in Portugal. She works as a transformational mentor and visionary, promoting a way of being and doing that is deeply aligned with our essence, our highest potential and genuine human connection. She believes that presence, authentic leadership and purpose are the cornerstones for the change we all wish to see in our world.

Maja founded Temple for Irresistible tribe, an international online platform for sensitive leaders to come together and further develop their gifts within a safe and supportive space. She is also the co-founder of Sophia Academy, bringing the wisdom of wellbeing into the corporate sector through a unique method that taps into the full potential of individuals and integrates it into the work of teams, so that the company's full potential can be activated. In 2020 she was part of the WEF Slovenia team as program co-curator and moderator.

Maja combines her multidimensional work of sharing code activations and frequency holding with her grounded presence and merges them into practical tools and techniques to assist you in bringing your life to the next level. She sees contributing to a more conscious, harmonious and co-creative society as her soul mission.

Dolores Podbevsek – Business Council Member



Director of circulation sales, marketing and PR at DELO d.o.o.

In heart I am very true to marketing, although I have graduated in economics. During my career, which started almost 27 years ago, I have gained experience in various fields, which has given me a wide understanding of different segments of the business. I started in completely different »waters« as I am today – in a small privately owned company as Sales director in the field of office supplies. But that gave my large scale of different skills. In the course of my career have gained skills in the field of market communication, brand management skills and public relations. Also been proud of my experiences in the advertising field: over seven years of experience in one of the biggest Slovenian advertising agency affiliated to McCann Erickson agency, and then further upgraded strategic planning, and new business development. For the last 12 years I am working in media. In 2008 I started working for international media house Styria (Austria) and for the last 7 years (started in 2013) I am on position of Circulation sales, marketing and PR director at Delo, one of the strongest media houses in Slovenia.

I am proud of the experiences in the field of market communication, working in the media field and, last but not least, the experience of working in international environments. I am more than pleased, if / when I am given opportunity to share my experiences with other people (and gain new experiences, of course) and I happy to see the results that such knowledge sharing is achieving. Therefore I am active as a mentor, started as mentor at Delo for Delo Start up project which I was leading and currently for start ups at Fil Rouge Capital project in Croatia (<https://filrougecapital.com/mentors/>), helping young entrepreneurs to developed their products / ideas for the market launch.

I strongly value independent, yet team-oriented people and believe that together we can achieve everything. I am strong willed, optimistic and believe in women power.

Brigita Langerholc, MSc. – Business Council Member



Olympian, Breathing and Visualization Coach, Speaker, Ashtanga yoga teacher

I am a former top athlete, Olympic athlete, Bloudek Award winner, Bachelor of Science in Economics from the University of Southern California, USA and a M.Sc. Nonprofit management. organizations at the Faculty of Social Sciences. I started my career at the Olympic Committee of Slovenia and the Radovljica Athletic Club, and for some time worked on my own path, especially in the management and implementation of mental relaxation techniques, active work breaks, corporate wellness and yoga in educational institutions and companies across Slovenia. .

In my 18-year sports career, I have had the privilege and honor of being able to work with the best professionals in their fields, such as Marjan Ogorevc (natural therapist), Kim Vincent (hypnotherapist, UFO master), Ole and Marjana Bloch (motivational trainers)), Zdenko Domančič (bioenergetic), Minvalley and Jose Silva Ultramind ESP method. ... All my knowledge, backed by my own experience, I now pass on to employees in companies across Slovenia. I finished my Biotherapy training by Zdenko Domancic's Methods I and II. degree, I am a Reiki I. Therapist, multiple participant in Landmark Worldwide School programs, I am a Certified Yoga I teacher. Suryasakti Yoga Teacher Training Course 300 hours at Jana Colonna in Ljubljana (2006) certified and licensed NLP Practitioner (by the method of Dr. Richard Bandler), Licensed Athletics Trainer, Professional Sportsman and Level II Recreational Exercises (Athletic Association of Slovenia) and I am in a process of becoming licensed instructor of Jose Silva Ultramind method. I am very happy to be able to do what I have always wanted. I combine my sports experience with the knowledge and skills I have acquired abroad and in Slovenia and pass on to individuals and employees of companies. In my workshops, people acquire the skills of conscious breathing, relaxation, learn to feel again about themselves and their bodies, learn the techniques of creative visualization and the Jose Silva Ultramind ESP method.

Mateja Kodermac – Business Council Member



Sales Promotion Specialist at Union Hotels Collection

Mateja Kodermac, a graduate of University of Ljubljana's School of Economics and Business, started her professional career in 1997 as Marketing & PR Manager at Ljubljana Stock Exchange. Further on she has developed her professional career as Business development Manager in advertising agency Pan. She established her own agency named Agency Eventus, specialized in event management with strong focus on sustainable conference tourism.

During the last 5 years Mateja has been developing efficient business and government connections for hotel group Union Hotels Collection. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge and experiences in MICE industry and her global professional network established in last two decades. She speaks English, Italian and Croatian fluently and French language passively.

Mateja is Mum to three teenagers; sons Filip and Krištof and daughter Ava. She is big fan of travelling, enthusiastic admirer of Nature and rock concerts.

Her life motto is Live and let live!

Petra Kodric – Business Council Member



COO, Gabrovsek Transport d.o.o.

Petra Kodrič, started her business career at the age of 20, when she took over the management of a logistics company due to a web of unpredictable circumstances. Working in a dynamic international environment has given her invaluable experiences in running and managing a company. After five years in business she decided to re-enter into study waters to upgrade her knowledge. In 2015, she attended and successfully completed a summer school in Toronto at Ryerson University, Canada, majoring in International Business. After 2015, in addition to managing the operational management of the company, she focused on advising companies on how to assure more efficient risk management in the supply chain and ensuring business continuity. As the cooperation with international corporations proved to be successful, she completed in 2017 the certification for the internal auditor of Tüv Süd. In 2020 she successfully finished with Masters of corporate security and risk management. Since 2019, she has been a member of Asis International, international organization for security management professionals and ICS – institut for corporate security, Slovenia.

She was a member of organization team for Women Economic Forum Slovenia 2020 as she strongly believes in the power of connecting.

As she enjoys in business she also loves to travel, read and learn everything life has to offer.

Nevenka Ostarjas – Business Council Member



IBM HR Partner

Nevenka Ostarjas in total has more than 25 years of experience within HR and Finance.

Chair of Slovenian Coaching Association and Am-Cham Slovenia Labour Commission since 2019. Engaged in Diversity and inclusion agenda. In the company where she is working by knowledge, experience and coaching supporting leaders in their main goal: " Being better leader, having satisfied employees". Part of that as well is personal growth, which is far from easy.

Life motto: "Personal growth and comfort do not co-exist"

Nejka Grabnar – Business Council Member



HR and Communication Business Partner at Numip

Nejka Grabnar has held leading positions in corporate communications, marketing and human resources development for more than 15 years. She is focusing on internal communications, change management and people development. As the Head of MarCom and HR development in Sparkasse Bank, she was successfully managing crisis and reputation management.

She is now Human Resource and Communication Business Partner at Numip, a high-tech engineering company. She is also the co-creator of the start-up project Beep Institute, which focuses on promoting employees potential. Her passion are communications that are bringing people together.

She is a mother of two and in her free time she likes to play golf, tennis, travel and discover new places and helping children in need through being an active member of Lions Club Ljubljana Iliria.

Tina Zlebnik – Business Council Member



Owner and Founder Go Portoroz Travel Agency

By merely coincidence in the early 90's golf became my passion...my life, which led me to play in the national team, travelling, getting experiences and working abroad.

My education in Management and organizational science gave me the opportunity to become the first woman in Slovenia to manage several golf clubs and different projects.

After 20 years of successful experiences in the golf industry, teaching, organizing events, golf trips... tourism became my way of living.

The last 10 years I have been delivering exceptional experiences in my own incoming tourism agency, oriented in M.I.C.E (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Events) as well as DMC's (Destination Management Companies).

My work is carried with a lot of good energy and creativity, all my projects are managed with individual attention and focusing on our client's highest satisfaction and fulfillment with the service.

My boutique agency delivers excellent work and creates unforgettable moments for everybody from everywhere.

Dr. Ala Adamia – Business Council Member



Medical doctor, daughter, sister, mother, spouse and friend.

My inner philosophy - love and invest in people, this will be the most valuable investment.

Trust and believe in dignity and honesty, it will be easier to leave once this world.

Art and empathy will save the civilization.

Everyday learning and gaining knowledge will prolong and give quality to your life. And work. Working, doing something with joy and love will bring you freedom.

Doing whatever with love and dedication means, that you catch the sense of your life.

Working experience – Medical Doctor, Marketing manager in Slovenian pharmaceutical company, diplomatic activities during mission of my husband in Poland, India, Bhutan and Sri-Lanka.

Ready for interesting challenges.

Monika Lapanja, MSc. – Business Council Member



**Director of the Centre of Business Excellence, School of Economics and Business
Ljubljana University, Slovenia**

Monika Lapanja, MSc, is a director of the Centre of Business Excellence.

In her 20-year career at the School of Economics and Business Ljubljana University (SEB LU), she developed the relationship between the academia and industry. While building that bridge she was also executive director of YES Association – an association aimed at establishing a positive and stimulating environment in which talented individuals can develop their potential.

Monika led several departments within SEB LU, as Public Relations, Marketing and Corporate Communications. Currently she is creating solutions for the development of personnel in various organizations within Centre of Business Excellence.

Ana Jana Sustersic, MSc. – Business Council Member



CEO at Talents Management Institute

Psychologist, Talents Manager Consultant, Team Coach, Executive Coach, Trainer

Ana helps organisations, teams and individuals to work more efficiently and achieve their goals on the market. She is working on assessment, selection and people development. She puts right people on right places and coach them to develop their talents.

She has more than 20 years of experience working as project manager and team leader in marketing and media companies and 15 years of experience working as a psychotherapist, coach and trainer.

Ana holds Bachelor's degree with honours in Psychology and Masters of Science in Business Administration, she is registered EuroPsy psychologist in clinical and organisational field, Founder and CEO of Talents Management Institute d.o.o.

Ana is advanced practitioner of Transactional Analyses in three fields: Psychotherapy, Coaching - Education and Organizational TA, (she passed TA 202 in all three fields and is preparing for CTA in Organisational field), she is NLP learning Coach (INLPTA), Certified Consultant in Organisations (Initial, Germany), Certified SDI Trainer, Certified Magical Trainer (People 1st), Certified in EMDR (dr. Roger Solomon), Certified Art of Innovation Leader and Trainer (Cofounder of 12 dejavnikov inoviranja), Certified Leader of Sustainability, Certified Process Optimisation manager.

She is a mother and wife and researcher of life's secrets. She loves nature, hiking and traveling. She loves music and singing. She loves dogs and cats.

Dr. Natasa Bratina – Business Council Member



Assistant for the Barcelona Convention, EU Coordination and International Affairs Service, at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial planning, Republic of Slovenia

Nataša Bartina is a single mother with two growing sons (18 and 21 years old). She is a devoted mother and lives in harmony with her sons and they are very pleasantly, openly and heart-connected. She has always been interested in people, their behaviour and experience and the possibility of personal growth, the power of encouragement and mutual help. That's why she made a Doctoral Dissertation in Psychology and that's why she always likes to help people, and encourage them to do their best of themselves. She also works as a qualified volunteer at a confidential phone to call in mental distress with the slogan "I hear your distress" and helps people who are losing faith and will to live.

She has worked in a variety of jobs and in a variety of positions. She has always loved to work together and work as a team and has been open and transparent. As a Head of office or as a Project manager, she has been and is popular among co-workers and is an inspiration to others as she always sees good things and seeks solutions when faced with problems. It always encourages mutual cooperation and highlights the thought "Together we will succeed". At the same time, she never wants to act in a position of power and fear, but love to maintain such a working environment that people are relaxed, not afraid to ask or give their opinion, and able to act beyond everyday frameworks. Learning, growth and development with compassionate cooperation and respect are the foundations of her values in everyday life. Feeling and expressing gratitude guided her life.

At the same time, she is acutely aware that change is a constant in our lives. She is always ready to take on new challenges. She is extremely cheerful and full of an inspiring will to live.

She is a Landscape Architect, Master of Science in Spatial Planning and Doctor of Science in Psychology (Spatial - Environmental Psychology).

She was Slovenia's representative for the European Landscape Convention and vice-president at the Council of Europe. In 2008, she was appointed as a Landscape Expert at the Council of Europe and participated in projects in Strasbourg and Paris. She has received two awards for landscape architectural projects - public competitions in Slovenia and for the Slovenian project of raising awareness of young people and the public "We are making our landscape" international recognition and award. She has carried out international research assignments. She has led numerous projects in the field of landscape architecture and spatial planning. She was the Head of the Strategic Planning Sector and the Head of the Waste Management Department at the Slovenian Environmental Agency. She established a private company and successfully ran it for five years as a procurator and as a director. She is a publicist and editor, the author of the publication. She has published 25 professional articles and two scientific articles in the field of Environmental Psychology. She has contributed to domestic and international conferences. She is employed at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial Planning as an expert and consultant.

She works for the EU Coordination and International Affairs Service, at the Ministry of the Environment and Spatial planning, Republic of Slovenia. Her current position is the assistant for the Barcelona Convention related to the sea and coast Mediterranean areas, in the framework for the Slovenian EU Presidency.

Ana Struna Bregar – Business Council Member



CEO of CER (Center of Energy Efficient Solutions)



Ana Struna Bregar is the Executive Director of Center for Energy Solutions – CER, the network of advanced companies and organizations from different sectors, which play a leading role in promoting and developing climate neutral economy and innovative green technologies.

For more than 15 years, he has been involved in programs to raise public awareness of the importance and role of build environment.

She was head of House of Architecture by the Chamber of Architecture and Spatial Planning Slovenia. She is the co-founder and former director of the largest Slovene architectural festival and platform Open House of Slovenia and the co-founder of the Slovene platform for education of children and educators about the built environment – Playful Architecture. For both platforms, she gained the highest Slovene Architectural Award for promotion and education about architecture.

Lidija Pavlin, Msc. – Business Council Member



Managing Director, Nicha d.o.o. and President of All Ladies League (ALL) Slovenia

Lidia Pavlin is a graduate and postgraduate of the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana, Slovenia.

For the last 16 years, she has been successfully running her communication agency Nicha, together with her sister. She strongly believes in women power and the strength of women when they are ready to support each other.

She has lived through all the challenges of being a single mother of two girls and an entrepreneur at the same time.

She is a world traveller. Nothing makes her happier than travelling with her daughters and her partner. Currently waiting for her granddaughter to become the right age to hit the road with her.

In her spare time, which is close to zero, she likes learning foreign languages, singing in a choir, dancing traditional and other dances, reading books, growing flowers in the garden.....

She believes she can inspire women to create their own destinies by showing them her own example of career/family balance.

Andrea Volenik – Business Council Member



Director, Volenik d.o.o.

She was born in Sweden, in Gothenburg by Slovene parents and lived there until 1991. She studied Hotel and Restaurant management at Gothenburg School of Business, Economics and Law where she completed her degree BSc in Economics. Her first abroad job-experience was in 1991 at a hotel in Switzerland. In 1992 She moved to Ljubljana, where she worked at IKEA trading office as Head of Logistics and Operational Manager for 5 years.

In 1997 She started as a franchisee by McDonald's Slovenia and completed training both locally as at McDonald's head quarter in Oak Brook, Illinois, close to Chicago. Today her company operates McDonald's Celovška in Ljubljana, Domžale and from March on a new one in Shopping mall Spar Aleja in Ljubljana. Volenik d.o.o. currently employs 150 co-workers.

To motivate and engage the entire team is a true challenge and one of the highlights of her position. To inspire and get inspired to reach common goals. Connecting and sharing thoughts and ideas. To be a good employer, developing people, to manage the organisation. To always have the possibility to change and make the conditions better. A story that never ends and is an ongoing process.

Nika Crnko – Business Council Member



International baccalaureate (IB) student at Bezigrad Grammar School

Nika Crnko is currently an international baccalaureate (IB) student at Bezigrad Grammar School in Slovenia. Since October 2019 she has been a member of Monitoring Committee and a member of Committee for International Relations at School Student Organisation of Slovenia. In summer 2019 she did an internship at a telecommunications service provider company, Telekom Slovenia, d.d. in Ljubljana, where she learned the basics of marketing, digital communications and social strategies. In summer 2020 she did an internship at a software company Marand d.o.o in Ljubljana, where she learned the basics of programming, focusing on Python 3.0.

Nika is a person who continually tests her limits and lacks no determination whilst reaching her goals. She is open to new challenges and experiences, working independently or in group. She believes that a person should be sophisticated, diplomatic and proactive to successfully follow an academic and personal career path. However, on this path it is important to recognize the value of relationships with others and how together we can make a difference. She strongly believes in a saying, that a healthy mind comes from a healthy body. Since her childhood, she has trained and competed in several sports, such as skiing, golf, horse riding and athletics. Music is one of her other passions. She finished 6 years of music school playing flute at national and international

competitions and events. Family and friends would also present her as an empathic person, who cares about others and believes in working for common good.

She is a regular volunteer at Malci Belic Youth Centre in Ljubljana, where she is also a godmother to a young girl, additionally she has helped with several other volunteer events. Working with WICCI is an opportunity for Nika to help with achieving the organisation's goals and develop additional competences and skills of her own.

Majda Zabukovec Brcvak – Business Council Member



Life seems like a glorious journey to me. I have always been drawn to exploring the depths of existence and creating life itself. My tendency is to look at life from a bright side. I change what I can change and accept what I can't change.

I have accepted many challenges throughout my life. After completing my construction studies, my husband and I went on a business trip. I have always been aware that in addition to business development, personal development is much more important. Anyway, after the birth of two wonderful daughters, I felt even more how important my influence on my family and surroundings is. Family is a great value and an important pillar for me. That is why I have been most happy to explore the depths of human existence in various seminars and education.

I was interested in the diversity of life, the diversity of different races, characters and cultures. I learned this on many trips around the world. I was hoping to discover the mysteries of life in my home environment, as my husband and I went into the hotel industry.

Nearly 20 years of living with a hotel, first with one and then with another boutique hotel, has given me a wealth of experience and a lot of joy. At the same time, the hotels connected the whole family, because we all found our place in it.

At the same time, I wanted to give a hand to other people, especially when they want to change something to improve their lives. So I founded the Temple of Wisdom Sairama, where through many workshops, therapies, education we contribute to a more fulfilling life. Also we often host successful lecturers and teachers from various parts of the world.