



ANNUAL REPORT 2026



Vienna, 30 September 2026

To all members of the Association

The board is pleased to present its tenth annual report to the members, covering the period of July 2025 to June 2026. Just like in the preceding years, our association has been very busy and involved in a range of activities and initiatives.

As our website (www.iclhe.org) contains the relevant information in quite some detail, we're keeping this report short. We first provide an overview of our ICLHE events, and then zoom in on a few crucial topics, all of which include a call for action, inviting all ICLHE members to share their ideas and get engaged!

Ute Smit, Association Chair



The ICLHE year (July 2025-June 2026) in fast motion

- **Newsletter Issue 3, Summer 2025**, with a spotlight interview with the two leaders of the new Content Educator Special Interest Group (CESIG) and a summary of the Spain RG symposium.
- **8th ICLHE Conference: “EMIInclusion: Integrating Language and Content for Egalitarian Higher Education”** (24-27 September, Porto Alegre, Brazil; for more info see below).
- **Newsletter Issue 4, Fall 2025**, with a summary of the main themes of the 8th ICLHE Conference and a video capturing some of the memorable highlights experienced in, between and after the sessions.
- **Webinar with Sainbayar Gundsambuu**: “Pathways Beyond Graduation: Exploring the Impact of EMI Programs in Mongolia and Japan” (16 October 2025)
- **The East Asia RG Symposium 2026** (10 January 2026, Rikkyu University in Tokyo)
- **Newsletter Issue 1, Winter 2026**, ringing in the 10th anniversary year of ICLHE and including an update from the PhD SIG and an Erasmus+ Blended Intensive Programme many of them organised and participated in.
- **Webinar with Emma Dafouz, Guzman Mancho-Barés, Joanne Pagèze and Ariadna Sánchez-Hernández**: “Disciplinary Literacies in English-medium Higher Education: A Conversation with the Editors and Authors” (6 February 2026)
- **The DACH Regional Group meeting** (6-7 February 2026 at the FH JOANNEUM University of Applied Sciences, Graz)
- **Newsletter Issue 2, Spring 2026**, featuring an account of the East Asia RG symposium and reporting on a new Spanish research network, funded by the Spanish Ministry, "Internationalisation and Multilingualism: Strategies for the Integration of Content and Languages in Higher Education" (IMICLES).
- **The Spain RG Symposium** (28-29 April 2026 at the University of Cordoba).

The ICLHE year (July 2025-June 2026) in fast motion

- **Webinar with Mario Molina Naar**: “From Preacher to Teacher: Operationalizing EMI approaches in Colombian Higher Education” (7 May 2026).
- **Italy RG Webinar** (organised together with the BALEAP EMI SIG and the BAAL EMI SIG) with Beatrice Zuaro, Chiara D’Angelo, Vedran Katavić, and Danica Cigoja "EMI in the Disciplines: Disciplinary literacy and insider perspectives from content teachers" (18 May 2026).
- **Interactive online workshop**: “10 Years of ICLHE: Imagining the Next Chapter Together” (5 June 2026).
- **CESIG Internet Café with guest speaker Karen Fleischhauer** (11 June 2026).

The board members

The present board (elected at the Annual General Meeting on 11 October 2024 for a two-year period) consists of ten members. Here is a list of names and present tasks (for short bio-blurbs see <https://www.iclhe.org/about-the-board>):

Chair: **Ute Smit** / Secretary: **Emma Dafouz** / Treasurer: **Patrick Studer** / Website & Newsletter: **Jenny Valcke** / SIG & RG Officer: **Mahboubah (Maha) Rakhshandehroo** (stepped down in May 2026) / Social Media: **Julie Walaszczyk** / Webinar: **T.J. Ó Ceallaigh** / Compliance Officers: **Anja Schüppert & Robert Wilkinson**

Co-opted members:

Ana Luiza Pires de Freitas till May 2026 (as the 2025 conference organiser) / **Magnus Gustafsson** from June 2026 (as the 2027 conference organiser) / **Elena Borsetto** from June 2026 (for the RG & SIG agenda)



ICLHE Board 2024–26:

Jenny, Julie, Bob, Anja (standing); TJ, Patrick, Ute, Emma (sitting); (photo taken in Vienna, 2023);
On the right-hand side: Maha and Elena (top), and Ana and Magnus (bottom)

We had regular meetings during the year, one onsite at **the 2025 Conference in Porto Alegre** and six online. Besides the many administrative issues that come with an association, our main concern is to support the association and its members in further developing our ICLHE-related interests.



CALL FOR ACTION

As any association can only be as good as its members, we invite all ICLHE members to become actively involved in the ICLHE topic/s that is/are closest to your heart.

Send your suggestions and ideas to info@iclhe.org!



Important administrative matters and compliance

As the Membership and Financial Report and Auditors' Reports provide detailed accounts of these important topics, here are only some key pointers:

- The **financial report for July 2025–June 2026** shows that, in contrast to last year, ICLHE **ended the financial year on a clearly positive balance**. This shows that the **small increase in membership fees** has helped stabilize our finances and cover annual running costs, even if no revenue was generated from our recent events.
- The membership report shows an **increase in active and early career members**, but a small decrease in paid-up members. While the change to a rolling membership has proven useful, some of the **loss in paid-up members might be due to technological glitches**, such as some of the automatic reminder emails ending up in spam folders. As indicated in the **increasing number of non-European members**, recent ICLHE events have had a positive effect also on our membership.

Note (in support of Calls for Action):

While our finances are limited, our budget includes some financial support for ICLHE activities. In contrast to previous years where we had a small sum earmarked for each RG/SIG - so small that it often wasn't claimed - we've changed our policy and now have a larger annual sum set aside for initiatives individual members and RGs/SIGs can apply for. While more information will follow soon on how to apply for funds, we hope that this will make it easier for individuals and our RGs and SIGs to apply for funds that may help towards maintaining the group, organizing events and meetings or contributing to honoraria to invited speakers.

THE WEBSITE

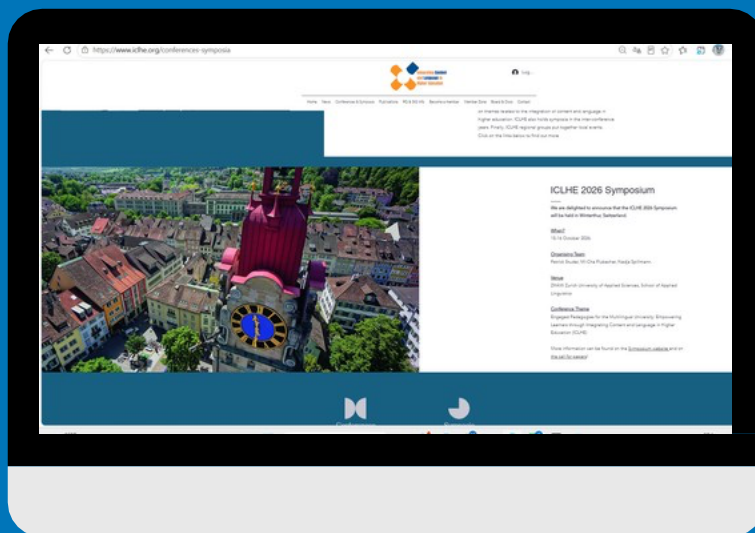
The ICLHE website continues to serve as a central communication and networking hub for our international community. Throughout 2025-2026, ongoing efforts focused on maintaining timely content, supporting member engagement, and improving the visibility of ICLHE activities.

ICLHE website enhancements in 2026

The ICLHE website has undergone a series of updates, which we hope will make our digital presence even more informative, engaging and easy to use:

- **News and communication updates:** The website's news section was regularly maintained and updated with announcements, events, publications, and achievements shared by members. These updates have helped ensure that the website remains a current and dynamic source of information about activities across the ICLHE community.
- **Member support and website maintenance:** Continued attention was given to maintaining website content, updating pages as needed, and ensuring that resources, symposium information, webinar recordings, and organisational information remained accessible and up to date.

- **Visibility of community activities:** The website has continued to promote the work of Special Interest Groups, webinars, conferences, and member initiatives, helping to strengthen connections across the network and showcase the diversity of ICLHE-related scholarship and practice. To further increase visibility and recognition within the community, digital badges were created for ICLHE Board members and SIG/RG leaders, making leadership roles more visible throughout the website.
- **Website and social media integration:** Integration between the ICLHE website and our LinkedIn and Facebook platforms was further strengthened, allowing for more seamless dissemination of news, events, and community activities across channels, thereby increasing the visibility and reach of ICLHE initiatives.
- **Ongoing development:** Regular monitoring and incremental improvements have been undertaken to ensure the website remains functional, user-friendly, and aligned with the evolving needs of the association and its members.



ICLHE ACTIVITIES

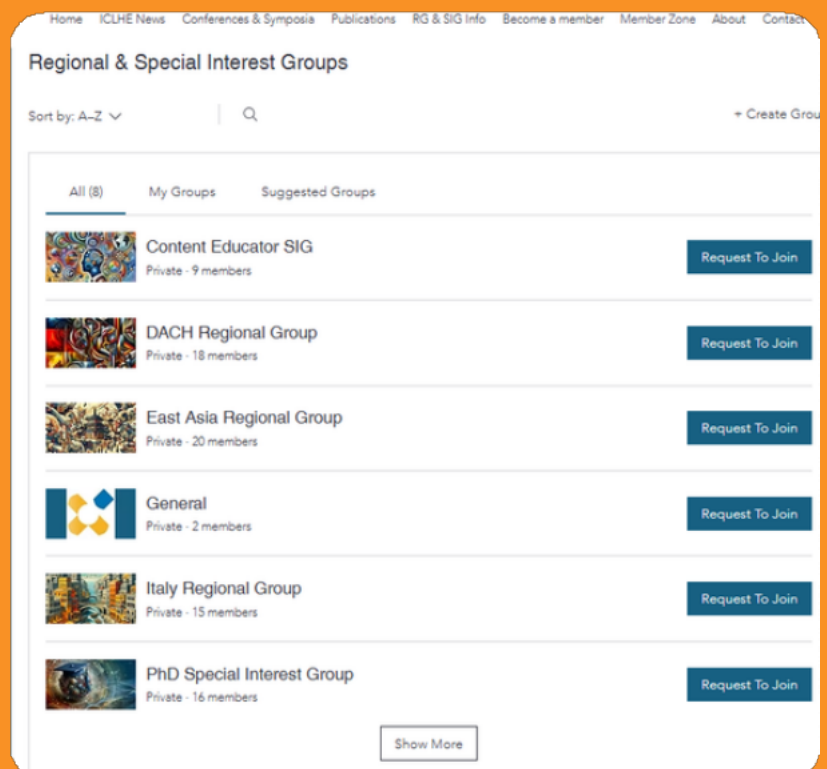
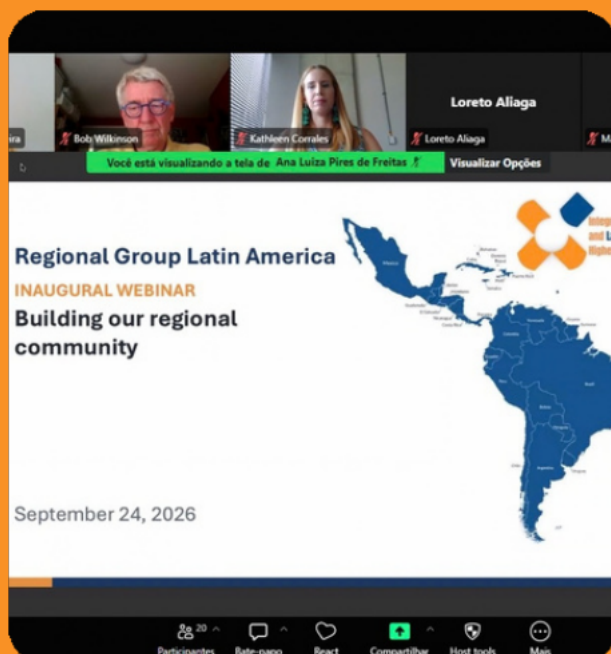
ICLHE offers various platforms to share information and activities & events to get engaged:

- Our **newsletter** is **published quarterly**, offering concise updates alongside spotlight interviews that showcase the vibrant voices within our community. Both current and past editions are conveniently accessible exclusively to members through the member zone. Explore the full archive [here](#).
- As part of our **ongoing webinar series**, each session lasting 60 to 90 minutes, we explore current and emerging topics relevant to our community. With the consent of our speakers—and subject to technical reliability—webinars are **recorded** and **made available to members** who are unable to attend live. During the **2025–2026** period, three webinars were held:
 - 16 Oct: *Pathways Beyond Graduation: Exploring the Impact of EMI Programs in Mongolia and Japan*; presented by **Sainbayar Gundsambuu**
 - 6 Feb: *Disciplinary Literacies in English Medium Higher Education: A conversation with the Authors and Editors*; presented by **Emma Dafouz, Guzman Mancho-Barés, Joanne Pagèze and Ariadna Sánchez-Hernández**

- 7 May: *From Preacher to Teacher: Operationalizing EMI Approaches in Colombian Higher Education*; presented by **Mario Molina Naar**

For further details and access to available webinar recordings, please visit our [dedicated website page](#).

- The format of SIGs & RGs allows for **smaller networks to develop**. Presently, there are two Special Interest Groups (SIGs), the PhD SIG and the Content Educators SIG (CESIG). There are also four RGs (Regional Groups) for Spain, Italy, East Asia and DACH (German-speaking regions). We are excited that more regional groups are being developed: the Latin America and Turkic RGs! More information will be shared during our 2026 symposium.



- Once a year, there is a **larger ICLHE event**, either a **symposium** or a **conference**, which also features our AGM.
- The **8th ICLHE Conference** took place at **UFCSPA (Universidade Federal de Ciências da Saúde de Porto Alegre), Brazil**, from Sept. 24 to 27, 2025. With a focus on “EMInclusion: Integrating Language and Content for Egalitarian Higher Education”, this hybrid event brought together 167 researchers from 25 countries around the globe in various on-site and online formats. In an interesting mix of (plenary) presentations, poster sessions, and panel discussions, the delegates used the time in and between the sessions to engage in exchange and discussion on the role of English-medium instruction in higher education today. Learning from research, policy implementation and teaching practice in and across different settings allowed all of us to gain deeper insights into the range of EMI practices as well as the opportunities and challenges they hold for fostering equity and quality education (for more details, see the Newsletter Issue 4, Fall 2025). Many thanks to Ana Luiza de Freitas and Simone Sarmento for organizing such a successful first ICLHE conference outside Europe and for building the bridge to ICLHE in Latin America!



- The **2026 Symposium** will focus on “Engaged Pedagogies for the Multilingual University: Empowering Learners through Integrating Content and Language in Higher Education (ICLHE).” It will take place at **the Fachhochschule Winterthur, Switzerland, from October 14 to 16**. Many thanks to Patrick Studer and team for organising this event!
 - The **ICLHE Annual General Meeting** is scheduled for the third day and will include the elections of the board for the period from 2026-2028 – all members are welcome to attend!
 - Finally, a sneak preview for 2027: We are very excited that our **9th conference**, “ICLHE 2027: Collaboration for enhanced teaching and learning in Higher Education”, will take place at **Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden, from Oct. 27-29, 2027**. The conference chair is Magnus Gustafsson.



CALL FOR ACTION

We warmly encourage all members to keep their webpage profiles up to date, allowing the **ICLHE community to better connect with your work and interests**. Adding a photo to your profile is especially important - it puts a human face on your contributions and helps fellow members recognise and relate to you more personally. For **guidance on how to access the Member Zone or update your profile**, please watch the **following tutorial videos**:

- How to log into the Member Zone [watch this video](#)
- How to update your profile [watch this video](#)



ICLHE thrives on the active engagement of its members, and we wholeheartedly welcome your ideas and contributions. There are many ways to get involved:

- Share news, events, publications, or achievements for inclusion in the ICLHE Newsletter by contacting **news@iclhe.org**
- Propose a webinar or suggest a speaker by contacting TJ Ó Ceallaigh at **tjoceallaigh@ucc.ie**

The Board is very interested in hearing from members about **possible venues for an ICLHE event in 2027 and 2028**. Potential hosts may submit proposals to **info@iclhe.org** for either a symposium or a conference for either year.

- Join one or more Special Interest Groups (SIGs) or Research Groups (RGs) that align with your interests and professional activities. Information about existing groups can be found at <https://www.iclhe.org/rgs-sigs>. Through the Member Zone, members can also access and participate in dedicated discussion forums for each SIG and RG, making it easy to connect with colleagues, exchange ideas, share opportunities, and keep up to date with ongoing activities. If you would like to establish a new SIG or RG, please contact Elena Borsetto at elenaborsetto@gmail.com

- Contribute to the ICLHE website and social media channels by sharing announcements, resources, publications, events, or examples of practice that may be of interest to the wider community by contacting news@iclhe.org

The Board is also keen to hear from members about potential venues for future ICLHE events. We invite expressions of interest from **institutions willing to host an ICLHE Symposium or Conference in 2028 or 2029**. Potential hosts may submit proposals to info@iclhe.org for either a symposium or a conference for either year.

Together, these contributions help strengthen the ICLHE community and support the continued growth of our shared network of research, practice, and innovation.



Our association and its activities and events past, present and future are only possible because of the enthusiasm, commitment and hard work of So many people – a heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you!

On behalf of the Board of the ICLHE



Ute Smit

Chair