

IMTA SUCCESS STORIES

An interview with Mikolaj Pindelski, PhD, hab.

Mikolaj Pindelski, PhD, hab., serves as a professor and the Vice-Dean of Master Studies at the Warsaw School of Economics (SGH). He completed the International Management Teachers Academy (IMTA), organized by CEEMAN, in 2018.

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What were the top three lessons or skills you learned during the IMTA program?

During the IMTA program, I developed my skills related to working in class with the case study method, asking questions, and giving feedback to students.

Can you give an example of how you have applied what you learned in the program to your work or teaching practice?

I still apply the case study teaching method and am working to develop it further. IMTA served as a trigger to delve deeper into this approach. It introduced me to ways of integrating case studies with decision-making problems, employing a loop of questions, and occasionally confusing students by shifting from one answer to another, thereby challenging their conventional thinking. By making them doubt the accuracy of their answers, it provokes them to search for less obvious and more creative solutions.



While using a case study, I ask questions and then, after collecting some answers and discussing them, return to the initial question, which sometimes elicits different but reasonable responses. This is a good starting point for further analysis and explanations. I am continuing to develop the method.

How has becoming part of the IMTA alumni network benefited you professionally or personally?

I'm still in touch with some of my colleagues from IMTA, collaborating with a few as potential partners for international projects on a professional level. We are also discussing potential joint intra-university teaching programs. Additionally, this was a platform for possible faculty exchanges through Erasmus and other programs.

Based on your experiences, what advice would you give to current and prospective students to make the most out of their time at IMTA?

It is equally important to focus on learning and social life, as both are very important. Therefore, do not waste time and be active during classes and social events. IMTA is an experience that can significantly affect the professional lives of academics, teachers, or those considering teaching as their profession. Spending a week or two far from regular work, focusing solely on skills development, is a great opportunity for self-development. Additionally, I highly recommend IMTA for its value.

Where do you see your career heading in the next 5-10 years? How do you think your education at IMTA will continue to influence your future?

I hope to continue developing my teaching and academic skills indefinitely. In the next decade, I hope to gain more international experience in teaching and administering

educational institutions. The people I met at IMTA are a great asset that may help in achieving my goals.

Is there anything else you would like to share with the IMTA community?

I highly recommend IMTA to anyone who has not yet decided. It's a very valuable program aimed at academics, teaching professionals, and lecturers. Additionally, Bled is an amazing place; you lose a lot by not visiting it.