



Activity Report 2021

As for the previous year, also in 2021 ASLERD did not expand. The Association registered the loss of some memberships partially compensated by the registration of a few new ones. The trend is to lose Institutional memberships and increase individual memberships.

As in the past, ASLERD has successfully organized its yearly International Conference, the sixth. Due to the Covid-19, it has been held in a fully online format supported, as for the previous year, by the infrastructure of the Aveiro University. All sessions of the conference have been recorded and published on the YouTube channel of the association. A student scientific video contest has been launched but the quality of the submissions was not good enough to award anyone of the announced prizes.

Overall, the conference has been successfully managed and the good level of organizational coordination among the ASLERD members has been confirmed.

As for the previous editions, we had a limited participation of ASLERD members (overall 19 papers have been submitted with a consistent decrease with respect to the previous conference edition, possibly due to the reduction of the scientific production induced by the Covid).

The 2020 ASLERD edition has been marked by

- the keynotes given by Inger Birkeland, Danielle McNamara, and Sébastien Turbot that allowed to cross-fertilize the ASLERD environment;
- the publication of the conference proceeding with Springer
- the organization of very timely open debates on “Towards Learning Ecosystems Based on Competences: the promise of the micro-credentials” and “Smart Learning Ecosystems as Engine of the ‘new normality’”
- the organization of a satellite event dedicated to the “Social inclusion at school: new perspectives for a smart learning ecosystem”
- the issuance of blockchain anchored e-certificates to the participants (we remind that the technology is provided, at a special price by blocko.com, a spin-off the University of Nicosia)
- the attempt to launch a *student scientific video contest* in substitution of the *student design contest* that needed a physical place for the final exhibitions of the prototypes.

Despite the effort devoted to the organization of interesting events and in the cross-fertilization, it is confirmed, once more, that the Association has difficulties in attracting and aggregating on a lasting basis potential stakeholders. Being attractive on a pure cultural basis, apparently, make it difficult to go beyond a niche dimension. The activities of the association are appreciated (no difficulty to attract stakeholders to participate in single-shot events) but scarce long-lasting impact.

It is important to stress, once more, the need for a stronger commitment of ASLERD members at the local (regional/national) level to increase awareness about the ASLERD vision and actions. Perhaps it could be useful to organize during autumn 2022 a survey aimed at investigating the expectations of potential stakeholders.

To increase the attraction of the Association we have:



- revitalised its social pages the Association (Linkedin and Facebook) although they are not capable to attract yet substantial contributions from the members of the association; up to now the social pages have attracted, on a pure institutional communication basis, respectively 284 members (Linkedin) and 111 followers (Facebook);
- enriched the Youtube channel of the Association with the recording of SLERD 2021 but the number of the visualizations has been very limited up to now;
- fostered the interaction with other associations by asking the membership of IAALDE (<https://alliancelss.com/>), the process is in progress;

In addition, after several years of collaboration, the Association assumed the role of publisher of Interaction Design and Architecture(s) - IxD&A - journal, with the intention to develop further synergies. It is worth stressing that IxD&A has improved consistently its international ranking and that its LinkedIn page has, up to now, 884 members. As a publisher, ASLERD registered and became a member of Cross-ref, a no-profit organization that allows the members to deposit the DOI assigned to its publications (it implies the payment of a yearly fee and a small fee for each deposited DOI).

As usual, a special issue of IxD&A journal has been devoted to SLERD conference, issue n. 52, and it has been published very recently.

In September 2021 three members of the Executive Committee have been renewed: Gabriella Dodero and Oscar Mealha have been confirmed while Tania Di Mascio has been elected as a new EC member to replace Matthias Rehm whom we thank for his past commitment to the development of the Association.

Also this year ASLERD has not taken part in the submission of any European project, a fact that deserves attention.

On the other hand, ASLERD has continued to monitor, by means of surveys, the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on learning ecosystems, in particular in Italy (schools) and IRAQ (universities). In the case of the Italian school also the detection of the e-maturity level of the ecosystem has been operated.

The renewal of the ASLERD website is still currently underway and will be completed as soon as the mirror will be created on a server located at the Bucharest University. During the past year, the latter has been replaced and now is available as virtual machine,

Regional activities

The Italian branch of ASLERD has continued its training consulting activity and produced some income in favor of the Association (basically the only income in excess of the membership fees). In particular, also for 2021, it has contributed to developing high-quality online alternate schemes characterized by a blockchain-anchored e-certification.