



Annual Report (2021-2022)

Summary

The purpose of this report is to communicate the ongoing activities of the organization from June 2021 to May 2022. Given the ongoing public health restrictions in 2021 and the beginning of 2022, the Board decided to continue with virtual webinars, as these had proven very successful during the previous year and had ensured that our community remained connected, providing much-appreciated support and insights into lived experience across Switzerland. This year, the board has invited internationally recognized experts to present and discuss global issues in higher education development. The planned social event, in-person workshop, and HyFlex GA in June will be the first opportunity for our members to meet in person since the beginning of the COVID crisis in early 2020.

1. Board Members

The SFDN Board is composed of the following members:

President – Ariane Dumont, Western University of Applied Sciences, Yverdon

Vice President – Marika Fenley, University of Neuchâtel

Treasurer – Siara Isaac, EPFL

General Secretary – Ruth Pühr, Les Roches

Board member at large– Bernhard Lange, University of Lucerne

Board member at large– Rachel Plews, Northeastern University (USA)

The SFDN board met at least once a month, virtually, to discuss the upcoming activities and ongoing issues.

Ivan Istomin acts as the auditor to assist the SFDN Board with its financial activities.

2. Membership

For the 2021-2022 year (compared to 2020-2021), SFDN has 15(20) institutional members and 40(38) individual members for a total of xxx paid members.

3. Calendar of Activities

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the Board did not publish a calendar of activities for the 2021-2022 academic year. Instead, the Board continued to focus on an ad-hoc series of virtual events (detailed below). In order to encourage maximum participation, webinars took

place either at lunchtime (12h15 lasting 45 minutes) or at the end of the working day for longer sessions.

With the social event, workshop, and GA in June 2022, the Board hopes to mark a return to a complete program for the 2022-2023 year.

The following table presents the summary of the activities for the year:

Activity	Date/Location	Comments
Webinar 1: Researching Flourishing Faculty Identities, with Ruth Puhr	8 October 2021	12 participants
Webinar 2: Higher Education Transformation, with Mark Brown	25 November 2021	Postponed due to technical issues
Webinar 3: Educational Development Workshop, with Bernhard Lange	9 December 2021	Postponed due to technical issues
Focus Groups: Designing a Measure of Faculty Professional Identity, with Ruth Puhr	January 2021	10 SFDN members participated
Webinar 4: Higher Education Transformation, with Mark Brown	17 February 2022	37 participants
Webinar 5: Measuring the Quality of University Education: Beyond the Nonsense of University Rankings, with Paul Ashwin	15 March 2022	27 participants
Webinar 6: Experiential Professional Development with Rachel Plews	2 May 2022	7 participants
Social Event and Workshop: Dinner and overnight stay at Les Roches, Crans Montana followed by a workshop on HEA Fellowships with Lisa Donaldson	9 & 10 June 2021	First in-person event since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis
SFDN 2022 General Assembly	10 June HyFlex meeting	Following in-person workshop in the morning

4. Website & Member Communication

From June 2021 to May 2022, there were regular posts from the board and the members featuring information on SFDN events, job postings and other information of interest to our members. Members are encouraged to continue sharing information through the website. An interruption to the email notification system in autumn 2021 resulted in the postponing of two

planned webinars. This has been resolved and the list of members on the website has been cleaned and updated.

5. ICED 2022 Conference

Several SFDN members will attend and/or present at the ICED 2022 Conference.

The SFDN was approached to provide the travel expenses for a member from a developing country who doesn't have the financial means to attend. A grant of 2000 Euros was approved by the board.

6. Publications following 2021 SFDN Conference

Presenters were invited to contribute to the special issue of the Journal for Higher Education Development (zfhe.at): [Vol. 16 No. 3 \(2021\): Cultivating a culture of experimentation in higher-education teaching and learning: Evaluation of recent experiences and transfer to the new-normal](#)

7. Special Interest Groups

University Teaching Development

Monica Feixas and Ingrid Le Duc to update during the 2022 GA

Transferable Skills

Bernhard Lange has decided to discontinue this SIG unless other SFDN members are interested in pursuing this area.

8. Site Visits

No site visits were planned for the 2021-2022 academic year due to the COVID-19 situation. The Board hopes to resume site visits in the near future.

9. Next Steps

- Nomination and election of a new president and general secretary.
- Creation of a calendar of events for 2022-2023 to include a continuation of the successful online offering and a resumption of site visits.
- Call for 2022-2023 webinar/online workshop contributions and site visit proposal