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IEDC – Bled School of Management

Age: 22

History: The IEDC-Bled School of Management was founded in 1986 as one of the first management schools in Central and Eastern Europe.

Address: The school is in the picturesque town of Bled, described by the school as "the kind of place that can still astonish even the most spoiled and satiated cosmopolitan". The campus overlooks a tranquil alpine lake. Only 30 minutes from the airport and 50 minutes from Ljubljana.

Ambience: The school encourages students to think and lead creatively. It has its own contemporary art collection, and regularly invites guest lecturers, including artists, politicians, philosophers, and NGO representatives as well as business people. It's a place where managers from all over Europe can trade their knowledge and experiences.

Vital statistics: More than 47,500 students have taken part in various educational programmes at IEDC. The school offers one and two-year modular executive MBA programmes for business professionals as well as a three-year President's MBA. The one-year executive MBA has 17 residential weeks, divided into four modules. The school also plays host to management summer schools.

Added value: World-class professors jet in from leading European and North American business schools including IMD, INSEAD and London Business School. Teaching is highly interactive with lots of group and project work. The school has started getting creative with leadership development, integrating learning from arty subjects such as philosophy, science and sport. In 2008, the school began a partnership with Coca-Cola, who pledged money to fund research into consumer marketing.

Easy to get into? For the executive MBA, you'll need three years of work experience, and for the President's MBA, you'll need to have a top position in an organisation. Proficiency in English, with a degree or equivalent, is standard.

Glittering alumni: Mariana Durllesteanu, Minister of Finance, Moldova; Iurie Munteanu, Deputy Economics and Trade Minister, Moldova; Tatjana Fink, CEO, Trimco; Iztok Seljak, vice president, Hidria.

Gurus: Visiting professors include Dr Derek Abell, a specialist in strategic marketing, general management and leadership in technology-based industries; Jim Ellert, finance and strategy; and Jonathan Gosling, leadership and ethics.

International connections: 80 per cent of students in the main programmes come from outside Slovenia, while visiting professors arrive from institutions spread across 30 countries.

Student profile: On the executive MBA, the average age is 33, with an average of 10 or more years of work experience. Women make up about 45 per cent of the executive students.

Cost: The one-year executive MBA is €23,000 (£19,166) including learning materials and a field trip. The two-year option is €28,500 (£23,750) and the President's MBA is €34,000 (£28,333).

Return on investment: Value for money.

Who's the boss? Professor Danica Purg is the school's president. She's also chairperson and director of the European Leadership Centre.

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