

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to the readership of the GiLE Journal of Skills Development (GJSD). It is with enthusiasm and anticipation that we celebrate the launch of this international scientific journal that focuses on research examining the increasingly complex topic of competency (skills) development.

In line with the mission of the publisher, the GiLE Foundation, we “support young people’s pursuit of a successful and meaningful life by developing their competencies and through research and advocacy” and we aim to improve more lives and, consequently, our communities. I am convinced that you can fail if you are working for yourself, but you cannot fail when you have committed to giving to others, which view leads us in our mission in devoting our time and efforts to help bridging the soft skills gap. Together we are working towards making the journal an influential publication that makes an impact and a difference.

The co-creators of the GiLE Foundation are committed to leading our passionate team of more than 40 innovative individuals from all over the world, including those who are directly involved in the journal’s editorial and operational processes that collectively possess a high-level of expertise and experience in academia and industry. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude to all of them for their hard and dedicated work.

I would like to thank the authors who have chosen our journal to disseminate their research. The first issue of GJSD features eight selected articles in different categories, including potential ways of assessing and measuring soft skills, how the labour market needs can be met, the cultural competencies, the importance of analytical and cognitive skills, and the role of teachers and teacher education. You can read a fascinating article about systematic development and application of workplace mentoring and the utilisation of the skill set of individuals. Other papers focus on how skills for employability and career development can be measured, or how the competences of students entering university can be analysed so as to help universities prepare students for meeting the labour market’s needs. We will find out how universities can future-proof student's career paths as students move from being graduates to digital marketing professionals. We will look at whether there is a gender gap in learning strategies and the level of digital competence and whether a relationship exists between the two concepts. There are papers that study how pre-service teachers promote 21st Century skills and how student teachers and mentor teachers in Myanmar collaborate. Finally, the flip side of the mystery of human beings and the puzzle of homo economicus will also be addressed.

GJSD intends to help researchers to reach audiences beyond their usual target. We expressly encourage authors to experiment with innovative, fresh dissemination styles, and to invite audience engagement and participation. For this reason, we are more than happy to receive novel research papers, work-in-progress reports that open up discussions and debates, best practice reports written by industry experts, videos, speeches, and any other formats that advance our field and at the same time can help to achieve greater public understanding.

Our team is dedicated to continuing to work hard and help the journal in offering authors a publication opportunity in a journal which is fully open access and adheres to the technical Plan S implementation criteria. Our double-blind review procedure and the entire publication process will continue to be fast, flexible, and free of charge.

We hope that you enjoy this first issue as much as we enjoyed working on this project.

With best wishes to all readers, researchers and visitors of our website,



Judit Beke

*Editor-in-chief*