

2022 Working-Group « Promoting Aviation by Education » Report for FAI-EduC 2023

Dear Delegates and Alternate Delegates,

During the 2022 EduC commission meeting it had been decided to create a working-group along with MM. USKA (EST), PRINCIPATO (USA) and PRE (FRA), to investigate the latest developments in aviation and ways of promoting them.

First, the idea of this group was an idea of Urmas USKA and he explains how this idea arose:

"Looking for best practices and promotion ideas came from me in connection with the specific need for planning and upcoming implementation of a large project in Estonia. 60 km away from Tallinn (the capital) there is a 178 hectare airfield that has been used by hobby pilots and parachutists from the northern part of Estonia for the last 60 years. For years, the local government has been looking for a way to use the airfield more profitably and to limit the activities of recreational pilots.

After long negotiations, the local authority agreed to maintain the airfield on the condition that our federation builds a STEM learning and aviation visitor center at the airfield, which would help bring local youth to aviation. My task is to create the content of the study and visitor center. This prompted me to turn to FAI EduC for help. There was also another reason - we collect the FAI membership fee from our members, who are not directly related to air sports and do not know much about the FAI and do not receive any "products, services, technologies or other support" from it. In order to find good practices that we could use at the learning and visitor center to be built, as well as to share with all interested clubs, a proposal was made to form a corresponding working group."

Then we communicated via e-mail and video. During the discussions, we had to admit that there is no systematic approach to the promotion and education questions. Different clubs have short programs and activities for young people of different ages. Often promotion and education is related to model flying and flight simulators and video games. In Lithuania there are gliding schools or courses for childrens (aged 8-10). In the USA or in France all work with young people seems better coordinated. That was almost all we could find out.

The idea arose to carry out a survey about aviation promotion and educational programs among the members in some part and a questionnaire was also prepared, but during the discussion we came to the decision that it was beyond the capacity of our working group.

It was also suggested that delegates could report about what they do in their country so as to exchange various experiences between us, that could

hopefully inspire one or another delegate, as things are moving fast, the context of a country is very different from another and solutions from one are not necessarily adapted to another.

Also has been suggested that we could propose to the commission a very simple international challenge for the youngsters, easy to organise in any country. This would be based on paper planes, and participants would have to enter the challenge as a team, typically a classroom. The idea is to promote the values of the sport and particularly the team spirit.

In a separate document a draft of what could be this new challenge is exposed so as to be submitted to the delegates.

More generally, one of the aims of our commission could be to focus on the promotion of the best values, like team spirit, that can be brought up to youngsters by practicing any aeronautical sport, and how to make them take a first step in that direction.

Roland PRE

FAI EduC V.P, working-group reporter.