



District Leader

Biographical Information

Candidate's Name: **Elena Bella**

Candidate's Office: **Division L Director** District Number: **91**

Toastmasters member since: **1st April 2021**

Education:

Bachelor of Arts - Archaeology, 1st Class Honours
MSc in Logistic & Supply Chain Mgmt, 2nd Upper-Class Honours
PMP Certification

Toastmasters offices held and terms of service:

Vice President of Mentoring (2021-2022)
Vice President of Education (2022-2023)
Club President (2023-2024)
L16 Area Director (2024-2025)

Toastmasters honors and recognition:

Currently working towards DTM status.
My target is to achieve the DTM status in 2025/2026.

Relevant work experience and how it relates to Toastmasters and your role as a District leader:

In my work career as a project manager, there have been some critical skills I've nurtured and refined: emotional intelligence, the ability to empower others, and a focus on problem-solving within a great variety of different challenges. I believe that these are transferrable skills that will help me succeed in leading Division L and each of its members through the next Toastmaster's year.

What experience do you have in strategic planning?

Strategic planning is the first step in achieving project success and I am a certified project manager with 15 years of experience leading projects and teams in a wide range of companies and countries.

What experience do you have in the area of finance?

I have an understanding of financial fundamentals to plan, execute and monitor finances in a professional setting. EG: Budgeting, forecasting, cost allocation, financial analysis, cash flow mgmt, reporting.

What experience do you have in developing procedures?

Both my education (MSc) and work experience focused on learning how to effectively improve operations and therefore how to create a set of steps to help teams or individuals complete tasks in a consistent, efficient and effective way.

What lessons did you learn from previous leadership positions?

I've realised I need to become better at delegation and this is my current focus for self improvement. Furthermore, I've noticed that it's important to understand how people want to be treated and I therefore plan to get better at identifying people strengths and needs.

Why do you want to serve as a District leader?

I am passionate about Toastmasters and I've enjoyed empowering fellow Toastmasters and seeing how I can make a positive impact in their life and help them thrive. Serving as a District Leader will allow me to continue to work on bettering myself, giving back to an organisation that fuelled my growth and make a difference on a greater scale.

In your opinion, what are the District mission's major objectives and how would you work to achieve them?

I believe our mission focuses on growing the number of the members whilst fostering a supportive environment for existing clubs and members. We achieve this by promoting member development; encouraging participation in leadership roles and skill improvement; providing robust training; supporting club leaders; organizing well run (and fun!) division-wide events; and promoting a culture of integrity, openness and positive feedback/mentorship across all clubs. I have a positive record in performing all these activities at a Club level and Area level and I am also chartering a new TM Club in the organisation I work for. Because of this, I believe I am very well positioned for this new chapter as Division Director.

Additional information about yourself:

Outside of my professional life and Toastmasters, I am heavily involved in volunteering with the Project Management Institute and supporting worthy causes. I am a keen hiker, runner and cyclist. I have always been passionate about sports taking in part in a wide range of team and individual sports, such as athletics, skating and volleyball (including being a referee). And plants.. I love them! And, since I love a challenge, orchids are my favourite plants to grow.