



Maria KOVACOVA

Current Position & Organization

She is currently a Lecturer at the Technical University of Košice, a Senior Safety Consultant, and a Member of the Aviation and Maritime Investigation Authority (LNVÚ)

Educational & Professional Background

Dr. Kovacova earned her PhD in Just Culture from the Technical University of Košice, following an Engineering degree in Aviation Engineering. Her professional career is defined by her transition from serving as a Safety Manager for a national Air Navigation Service Provider to becoming a leading academic and safety consultant. This background uniquely combines high-level research in human factors with extensive practical experience in implementing safety management systems (SMS) and incident reporting protocols across the European aviation sector

Key Achievements or Career Highlights

Dr. Kovacova is the primary architect of the 'JC II' (Just Culture II-Step Implementation) methodology, a globally recognized 11-step framework designed to practically implement Just Culture within civil aviation organizations. Her expertise was instrumental in aligning safety reporting standards with European Union Regulation 376/2014 and advancing the Aerospace Performance Factor (APF) for more accurate risk forecasting. As a core expert contributor to SKYbrary and a frequent collaborator with EUROCONTROL, she has played a pivotal role in bridging the gap between aviation safety experts and the judiciary system to protect safety data and frontline reporters