

Name: Alena Blizhnikova

IJCC Position: Director

From: Dublin, Ireland

Industry: Life Insurance & Reinsurance

About:

I am a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (FSA) with over 12 years of experience in the life insurance and reinsurance industry across Ireland, the US, and Japan.

Born in Kazakhstan, grew up in Dublin, but also had the opportunity to spend some time living in Cork and Kerry. I graduated from University College Dublin, and my professional journey has since taken me from Ireland to Boston, US, and eventually to Tokyo, Japan, which I've called home since 2018.

Alongside my professional career, I am passionate about DEI. I have established and led a women's employee resource group and continue to support women's leadership and networking initiatives across the Asia-Pacific region through my current company's women's network. I have also been actively involved in the Irish community in Japan, organising Ireland–Japan social gatherings for almost seven years, volunteering at Irish cultural events, and contributing to the IJCC DEI Committee.

As an IJCC Director, I look forward to building on my existing involvement with the DEI Committee, expanding opportunities for collaboration and networking, and encouraging greater participation from students, JET participants, and NPO members across the Chamber.

Fun fact: I have one cat and four dogs. I'm a big Guinness fan — there's nothing quite like a good pint to make me feel a little closer to home in Ireland!