WYSS 2023 European Event

Conference Brochure

Oct.17-18, 2023
Brussels, Belgium

Organizers:
Secretariat of World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS)
Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE)

WYSS

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WYSS 2023
European Event

The United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a comprehensive blueprint for a fair, sustainable, and beautiful world. Innovation plays a crucial role in realizing these objectives, and the young generation of scientists, researchers, and engineers holds immense potential to propel this forward.

In 2019, the China Association for Science and Technology, in collaboration with the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, jointly launched the World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS). Notably, in 2020, UN Secretary-General António Guterres extended special congratulatory letters to all participants of the WYSS 2020 event, underscoring the UN's profound recognition of the pivotal role that youth play in shaping our collective future.

With a vision centered on fostering a global community with a shared destiny and a theme that champions "Converging the World's Talents, Creating a Better Future", the WYSS has successfully convened for four consecutive years.

Building on the success of the WYSS 2022 European Event held in Brussels, the upcoming WYSS 2023 European Event promises to be an engaging and inspirational gathering. It will feature a rich array of activities, including keynote speeches, plenary sessions, panel discussions, poster presentations, and project roadshows, all centered around the theme of "Innovation and Cooperation for Progress Toward the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

The WYSS 2023 European Event will host four parallel sessions, each dedicated to critical topics, such as "The role of University in Innovation Ecosystems," "Youth Innovation Showcase," "Empowering Women at the Vanguard of Innovation," and "Emerging Trends of Science and Technology."

Over 60 distinguished individuals, including professors, experts, scholars, young students, and entrepreneurs from 20 different countries and regions across the globe, will take the stage at both the main venue and sub-venues of the WYSS 2023 European Special Event. Anticipated to draw in over 150 in-person attendees, the event is also set to engage with several thousand online participants. Building upon the Joint Action Initiative (JAI) introduced during the WYSS 2022 European Event, the WYSS 2023 European Event aims to further enhance global collaboration, particularly among young people, to stimulate academic exchanges, research partnerships, joint project development, and collective efforts to address global challenges on international scale.

With the dedicated efforts of organizers, co-organizers, and participants, we hold a strong belief that this event will bring us closer together, establish trust, and pave the way for collaborative actions towards a better world.

Sincerely yours



Dr. Zhiwei Song
Secretariat of World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS)
Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE)

Organizations

Organizers:	Secretariat of World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS) Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE)
Co-organizers:	Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Spain Universitat de València (UV), Spain University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) University of Kraguievac, Serbia University of Greenwich, Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences, UK University of Huddersfield, UK University of Vienna, Austria RWTH Aachen University, Germany University of Stuttgart, Germany Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam), the Netherlands Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam School of Management (RSM), the Netherlands Maastricht University (UM), the Netherlands Westlake University, China University of Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (Inserm), France Institut supérieur d'électronique de Paris (isep), France Singularity Academy, Switzerland European Network of Research and Innovation Centers and Hubs (ENRICH) in China, EU EURAXESS in China, EU Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen e.V. (VdU), Germany Professional Women International Brussels (PWI), Belgium SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany Alminica AB, Research & Innovation Coordinator Institute of Advanced Materials, Sweden Shenzhen's European Office, Belgium The Federation of Chinese Professional Association in Europe (FCPAE), Germany Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC), Belgium Flanders-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (FCCC), Belgium Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC), Portugal Alibaba Cloud, China Zhejiang Saichuang Weilai Venture Capital Investment Management Co., Ltd., China
Supporters:	Mission of the People's Republic of China to the European Union Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the Kingdom of Belgium

Agenda

Spark Moment: CET 19:00-22:00 October 17th, 2023	**19:00-20:00**	Welcome Reception (T-Lounge) Fostering Connections with Welcome Drinks
	20:00-22:00	Welcome Dinner (Le5 Restaurant) Fueling Networks with a Delightful Dinner
WYSS 2023 European Event: CET 08:30-17:30 October 18th, 2023	**08:30-09:30**	Registration & Small Breakfast
	09:30-10:30	Opening Session
	10:30-11:00	Group Photo & Coffee Break
	11:00-13:00	Keynote Session
	13:00-14:00	Lunch
	14:00-15:30	Academic Exchange Sessions
	15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
	16:00-17:30	Panel Discussion Sessions
Gala Dinner: CET 18:00-22:00 October 18th, 2023	**18:00-19:00**	Sparkling Network Time
	19:00-20:00	Closing Ceremony
	20:00-22:00	Gala Dinner

Location: Tangla Hotel Brussels, Belgium

Address: Avenue E. Mounier 5, 1200 Brussels

Opening & Keynote Session

Collaboration for Global Progress

CET 09:30-13:00, October 18th, 2023
Imperial Ballroom

Opening	**09:30-10:30**	Moderator Dr. Yang Ling, Director of ACEIE, Germany Opening Speech Dr. Song Zhiwei, Executive Secretary-General of the WYSS European Secretariat, Belgium Co-creation a Platform of Openness, Trust and Cooperation among the International Scientific and Technological Community Dr. Shu Wei, Vice President of China Association for Science and Technology, China Building Sustainable Partnerships for Global Impact Mr. Joseph Leinen, Former President of Delegation for Relations with the PRC in European Parliament A Brighter Future due to AI? Does it Empower Youth? Prof. Dr. Mathias Binswanger, Economist, Professor of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland Collaborating for a Shared Future Ambassador Fu Cong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Head of the Mission of People's Republic of China to the European Union
	10:30-11:00	Group Photo & Coffee Break
Keynote Session	**11:00-11:30**	From Idea to Impact: The Journey of a Young Scientist and Entrepreneur Dr. Omar Shoukry Sakr, CEO of Nawah-Scientific, Winner of the 2019 Africa's Business Heroes, Egypt
	11:30-12:00	The University's 3rd Mission: a Task for Young Scientists Prof. Peter Johann Schmieder, Director of Bavarian Innovation Transformation Center(BITZ), Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany
	12:00-12:30	Inspirational Stories of Women Trailblazers Ms. Barbara Vercruysse, President of Professional Women International Brussels, Belgium
	12:30-13:00	Universities Driving Innovation at an International Scale - an Appealing Model to Young Scientists Prof. Jan Paul Cornelis, Former Vicerector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
	13:00-14:00	Lunch

Academic Exchange Sessions & Panel Discussion Sessions

Academic exchange session 1

The Role of University in Innovation Ecosystem

CET 14:00-16:00, October 18th, 2023
Room Royal I

14:00-14:10	Introduction (Moderator) Dr. Diao Yu, PhD researcher in Educational Sciences at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium
14:10-14:30	The Evolving Role of Universities in Fostering Technological Innovation Dr. Stephan Jüngling, Deputy Head China Centre, University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
14:30-14:50	Globalization and Innovation: Universities as Key Players in the Knowledge Economy Prof. Dr. Josep Miquel Piqué Huerta, Executive President of the laSalle Technova Barcelona, Spain
14:50-15:10	From Research to Commercialization: The Pivotal Role of Universities in Technology Transfer Prof. Brian Boag, Deputy Dean of Education, Health & Human Sciences, University of Greenwich, UK
15:10-15:30	Empowering Young Innovators: How Universities Foster Entrepreneurship? Dr. Sandra Hasanefendic, Assistant Professor in Breakthrough Technologies, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break All

Panel discussion 1

University Rectors' Forum: Current Trends and Challenges in Higher Education

CET 16:00-17:30, October 18th, 2023
Room Royal I

- **Innovation and Technology in Education:**

  Deep diving into the role of innovation and technology in shaping the modern university. Discussing topics such as the use of AI in education, virtual reality, online assessment methods, and the impact of edtech startups.

- **Collaboration with Industry and Communities:**

  Discussing the importance of strong partnerships with industry, government and local communities to drive economic development, research innovation, and social impacts.

- **University Internationalization Strategy:**

  Examining approaches to fostering global partnerships, attract international students, and promote cross-cultural understanding in an increasingly interconnected world.

Moderator: Prof. Peter Johann Schmieder, Director of Bavarian Innovation Transformation Center (BITZ), Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany

Panelists:

Prof. Jan Paul Cornelis, Former Vice-Rector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Prof. Qiu Min, Vice President of the Westlake University, China

Prof. Michał Nowicki, Vice-Rector of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland

Dr. Cristina Tomás Pérez, Vice-Dean for Executive Programs at EAE Business School, Spain

Prof. Wanda Guedens, Vice-Rector of the Universiteit Hasselt, Belgium

Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi, Rector of the University of Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo

Youth Innovation Showcase

CET 14:00-16:00, October 18th, 2023
Imperial Ballroom

Juries: Prof. Piet Herdewijn, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
Mr. Paul Thoeng, CEO of cHESS Management pte ltd, Belgium
Dr. Mikael Syväjärvi, Founder of Alminica AB, Sweden

14:00-14:10	Introduction (Moderator) Dr. Ye Fei, Senior R&D Engineer in Human Tumour Domain at SCFR, France
14:10-14:25	MedAI: Revolutionizing Healthcare with Intelligent Innovation Mr. Mohamed Ali, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands
14:25-14:40	Modeling Tool for VIPV Mr. Javier Macías Rodríguez, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
14:40-14:55	XR CreateX-Promoting Industrial Digital Transformation and Upgrading Mr. Oliver Lancaster Smith, Dr. Peter Chen, University of Huddersfield, UK
14:55-15:10	Innoptus Solar Team Mr. Louis Claeys, Mr. Louis De Vroede, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
15:10-15:25	Solving the Problem of Coastal Mega-cities Mr. Javier Rodríguez Cuadrado, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
15:25-15:40	Smart Helmet to Dave lives Mr. Marc Swikidisa Makaya, Electromécanique à l'Institut Supérieure des Techniques Appliquées(ISTA), Democratic Republic of Congo
15:40-16:00	Coffee Break All

Fostering a Culture of Creativity Among Young Minds

CET 16:00-17:30, October 18th, 2023
Imperial Ballroom

- **The Role of University Student Innovation in Higher Education:**

  Exploring how student-led innovation contributes to the overall educational experience and university reputation. Discussing how universities can better support and promote student innovation.

- **Interdisciplinary Innovative Collaboration:**

  Discussing the power of interdisciplinary collaboration in generating innovative solutions. Exploring strategies to encourage students from different academic backgrounds to collaborate on innovative projects.

- **Policies and Funding Support for University Innovation Ecosystem:**

  Deep diving into the challenges and opportunities faced by student entrepreneurs in obtaining funding. Discussing the role of angel investors, venture capital, crowdfunding and government grants in supporting research and student startups.

Moderator: Dr. Martin Bech, Senior Advisor of Danish Academy of Technical Sciences, Denmark

Panelists: Prof. Justo García-Navarro, Professor on Agroforestry Engineering, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

Ms. Anna Facchinetti, Country Representative of EURAXESS, Italy

Mr. Francisco Rocha, Senior Specialist Consultant of ENRICH in China/SPI, Portugal

Ms. Caroline Angle, Recruitment & Admissions Manager, Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, the Netherlands

Dr. Mikael Syväjärvi, Founder of Alminica AB, Sweden

Prof. Josep Bordonau Farrerons, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Spain

Mr. Roland Brouwer, Regional Director of BIPO Service, the Netherlands

Women at the Forefront of Innovation

CET 14:00-16:00, October 18th, 2023
Room Royal II

14:00-14:10	Instruction (Moderator) Ms. Liu Xiaoling, President of the Association of Chinese Professionals in Ireland (ACPI), Ireland
14:10-14:30	Transformative Influence of Women in Leadership and Innovation Prof. Ronit Shiri-Sverdlov, Professor Hepatic Inflammation and Metabolic Health, Maastricht University, the Netherlands
14:30-14:50	The Significance of Encouraging Young Intellectual Women to Pursue Careers in STEM Fields and Entrepreneurship Dr. Audrey-Flore Ngomsik, Advisory Board Member at European Women on Boards (EWOB), Belgium
14:50-15:10	Empowering Young Women as Drivers of Change through Innovation Dr. Yang Li, Director of ACEIE, Founder and CEO of Fuvision, Germany
15:10-15:30	Women's Contribution to Innovation and Leadership Ms. Sana Afouaiz, Founder & CEO at Womenpreneur-Initiative, Belgium
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break All

Empowering Women in Innovation through Inclusive Innovation Ecosystems

CET 16:00-17:30, October 18th, 2023
Room Royal II

- Breaking the Glass Ceiling in Technology and Innovation:

  Discussing the challenges and opportunities for women in traditionally male-dominated fields, such as technology and innovation. Highlighting success stories of women who have broken the glass ceiling.

- Innovative Leadership:

  Discussing the unique leadership styles and qualities that women bring to the innovation landscape. Exploring how women leaders inspire creativity and foster innovative cultures within organizations.

- Mentorship and Empowerment:

  Examining the impact of mentorship and empowerment programs on female innovation. Discussing the importance of female role models and mentors in encouraging the next generation of female innovators.

Moderator: Prof. Zhang Weihong, Professor of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Universiteit Gent, Belgium

Panelists:

Ms. Latifa Ait-Baala, Member of Parliament at Brussels Parliament, Belgium

Ms. Alia Papageorgiou, President Press Club Brussels Europe, Belgium

Ms. Sun Yan, PhD student in Artificial Intelligence and Oncology, Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Dr. Monika V. Kronbügei, Managing Partner of the Global DiVision GmbH, Germany

Ms. Céline Aerts, Student Coordinator, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Dr. Michaela Prothiwa, Assistant Professor of Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Universiteit Antwerpen, Belgium

Technology Forecast: A Look into the Future

CET 14:00-16:00, October 18th, 2023
Room Royal III

14:00-14:10	Introduction (Moderator) Ms. Dove Feng, Marketing Officer at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, the Netherlands
14:10-14:30	The Future of Artificial Intelligence Prof. Wu Fan, Department Head of Computer Science, Tuskegee University, USA
14:30-14:50	Sustainable Energy for the Future: Opportunities and Challenges Mr. Guy Vandendungen, CEO of Pulsar Power, Belgium
14:50-15:10	Digitalization Empowering Sustainable Development Innovation Mr. Oliver Arafat, Head of Cloud Solution Architects at Alibaba Cloud INTL in Regions of DACH, Benelux and the Central & East Europe (CEE), Germany
15:10-15:30	Novel Concepts and Technologies for Future Space Missions Mr. Brian Harvey, Space Writer, Author and Broadcaster, Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society (FBIS), Ireland
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break All

Envisioning the Future with Cutting-Edge Technologies

CET 16:00-17:30, October 18th, 2023
Room Royal III

- Sustainability and Future Technologies:

  Discussing how future technologies can be utilized to address pressing environmental challenges, such as climate change and resource depletion. Exploring innovations in green energy, circular economy and sustainable transportation.

- The Future of Work:

  Exploring how automation, AI and remote work/ teleworking technologies will shape the future of employment. Discussing potential job shifts displacement, upskilling / skill enhancements and the changes in the nature work.

- Healthcare Transformation:

  Exploring the impact of future technologies on healthcare, including telemedicine, precision medicine, wearable health devices and healthcare AI. Discussing how these innovations will improve patient care and reduce healthcare disparities.

- Education in the Digital Age:

  Discussing the transformation in education through technologies such as online learning platforms, virtual classrooms and personalized learning. Exploring the challenges and opportunities for the future of education.

Moderator: Prof. Zhang Hongbin, Professor at the Institute of Materials Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany

Panelists:

Mr. Stephan Horvath, Partner at the SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany

Prof. Dr. Vladimir Jakovljevic, Head of Cardiovascular Research Lab, University of Kragujevac, President of the Serbian Physiological Society, Serbia

Mr. Stefan Matz, Director International Investments, HIW Hamburg Invest Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft mbH, Germany

Mr. François Serneels, Agriculture Expert, Provincial Agri-Food Center of Hainaut Province, Belgium

Dr. Peter Chen, China Chief Representative of University of Huddersfield, UK

Mr. Bart Bruyninckx, CEO of the Bruyninckx Chiconnettes, Belgium

Prof. Zhang Xun, Professor of Electronic Engineering, Institut supérieur d'électronique de Paris (ISEP), France

Gala Dinner

CET 18:00-22:00
October 18th, 2023
Imperial Ballroom

18:00-19:00	Sparkling Network Time (Foyer)
19:00-19:30	No Limits to Learning: How Anticipative Learning will Permit Societies to Build Resilience to Dramatic Change Prof. Gunter Pauli, Founder of Zero Emissions Research Initiative and Author of *The Blue Economy*, Switzerland
19:30-19:45	Youth Innovation Award Ceremony
19:45-20:00	Partnership Signing Ceremony
20:00-22:00	Gala Dinner

Speakers

Opening



Dr. Shu Wei

Vice President of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), China

Dr. SHU Wei is Vice President of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST) and executive secretary of the Secretariat of CAST. Graduated from the department of automation, Tsinghua University, Dr. SHU holds a doctoral degree in engineering.



Mr. Joseph Leinen

Former Member of the European Parliament, Former President of Delegation for Relations with the People's Republic of China, President of the Union of European Federalists

Joseph Leinen (born 6 April 1948) is a German politician who served as Member of the European Parliament (MEP) from 1999 until 2019. He also served on the European Parliament Intergroup on a European Constitution from 1999 until 2009. He is well known for his environmental and foreign affairs activities, as well as for his support for a Federal Europe.

Mr. Leinen is the Senior Fellow in the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) and part of the task force of the New Multilateralism and the Global Governance.

He was the Vice-President of the European Environment Bureau (EEB) in Brussels from 1979 to 1984. He was the Minister for Environment in the German State of Saarland (1985-1994). He was the member in the Committee of the Regions from 1995 to 1999 and in the Congress of the Regions and Communes of the Council of Europe. Currently, he is member of different organizations of culture, social and sport; and also, vice-president of EUROSOLAR e.V (1988-2005).

In addition, he holds various other positions, including:

· Committee for a Democratic UN, Member of the Advisory Council (since 2004)

· Energy Watch Group (EWG), Member

· Union of European Federalists (UEF) Europa-Union Deutschland

· European Movement International, Member

· European Policy Centre (EPC), Member of the Strategic Council

· German Industry Initiative for Energy Efficiency (DENEFF), Member of the Parliamentary Advisory Board

· "A Soul for Europe", Parliamentarian Working Group of the Advisory Board

Jo Leinen was also the president of delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China from 2014-2019 in European Parliament.



Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Mathias Binswanger

Economist, Professor of the University of Applied Sciences and Arts North-western Switzerland

Dr. Matthias Binswanger began his studies in 1984 with a first matriculation diploma in chemistry at the ETH Zurich. He then obtained a Bachelor's degree in Economics from the University of St. Gallen in 1988, and in 1992. Dr. Matthias Binswanger obtained his PhD with honours from the University of Kassel, which was an important milestone. He then contributed to the academic community as a research assistant at the Institute of Economics and Ecology (IWÖ) of the University of St. Gallen from 1993 to 1995. During this period he also worked as a lecturer at the same university. He expanded his academic presence through various visiting professorships (including at the Technical University of Freiberg) as well as work opportunities at different universities in China and Vietnam.

Dr. Mathias Binswanger is committed to education and has directed a large number of courses at different institutions in the disciplines of macroeconomics, finance, international management and sustainable development. His speciality is in the field of economics, where he has made a significant contribution with a large number of publications. He is a prolific researcher and writer of numerous articles and research papers that have enriched discussions on topics ranging from financial and environmental economics to macroeconomics and the relation between income and happiness. His publications have not only expanded the boundaries of knowledge but have also earned him the recognition and respect of his peers, making him a prominent figure in his field of expertise.

In addition to teaching, Mathias Binswanger is the author of several well-known books (in German) such as "The Treadmills of Happiness" (2006), "Money out of Nothing" (2015) or " The Growth Imperative" (2019). He is actively involved in consultancy work, writing articles on economics for newspapers and magazines and contributing as an expert to the Swiss Federal Office for the Environment. Dr. Matthias Binswanger's influence is also very wide-ranging, as he serves as a reviewer for many academic journals and is a member of various scientific societies, all of which demonstrates his commitment to advancing knowledge in his field.



Ambassador Fu Cong

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Head of the Mission of People's Republic of China to the European Union

Fu Cong took up his post as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Head of the Mission of People's Republic of China to the European Union in 2022.

Fu is a career diplomat with decades of experience in multilateral affairs, especially arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation and cyber affairs. He used to work in Permanent Missions of China in Geneva and Vienna, and serve as Deputy Permanent Representative of Permanent Mission of China in Geneva and Ambassador for Disarmament Affairs, as well as Adviser to the Director-General of WHO.

Before assuming his current post, Fu was Director-General of the Department of Arms Control of Chinese Foreign Ministry.



Dr. Song Zhiwei

Executive Secretary-General of the WYSS European Secretariat, President of the Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE), Chairman of ACEIE, Belgium

Dr. Zhiwei Song is an associate partner in IBM. His leadership competency and subject matter expert capability in large and complex project management (PMP certified in 2005) of software developments, testing (ISEB certified in 2009), and process improvements (mastery of CMMI, Agile) are fully recognized by IBM, as well as by customers worldwide. With his 20+ years international experience as a project executive, Zhiwei managed successfully large-scale comprehensive IT system modernization projects for leading banks in Europe and Asia.

Zhiwei is also the founder of Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE).

ACEIE, as an advisory group of professionals, builds bridges linking up European startups/companies and Chinese partners through events, seminars, conferences, coaching and mentoring. Under the leadership of Zhiwei, ACEIE supported 20+ startups/companies settle down in China in 3 years' time and established strong business networks in Europe, as well as in the leading provinces in China, such as Shandong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Hainan, Guangdong, etc.

Prior to ACEIE, Zhiwei was the president of the Association of Chinese Professionals in Belgium (ACPB) and the executive chairman of the Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE).

With his exceptional professionalism and broad and in-depth knowledge, Zhiwei has won high respect and reputation at work, in Chinese community and in European society. He has been often invited by professional organizations from Europe and China as a writer, a keynote speaker and a trainer in various fields, such as innovation, sustainability, culture differences, talent management, project management, software development, testing, etc., as well as a referee for international journals and a jury of the scientific committee for international conferences.

Zhiwei obtained a PhD in parallel computing and a master's degree in irrigation engineering at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium, and a bachelor's degree in hydraulic engineering at Tianjin University in China.



Dr. Omar Shoukry Sakr

CEO of Nawah-Scientifc, Winner of the 2019 Africa's Business Heroes, Egypt

Father of five, entrepreneur in the heart, scientist in the lab & BBQ master in every out trip. Dr. Omar Sakr is the founder and CEO of Nawah-Scientific, Middle East's biggest private research center working as an outsourcing destination for research in the fields of natural and biomedical sciences. He is a pharmacist by education and holds a PhD in pharmaceutical technology from the University of Geneva, and an MBA from HULT business school in London. His career extends over 18 years of experience in the pharmaceutical field, both in academia and industry. His workplaces include Egypt, Switzerland and Germany. Omar's research activities are focused on nanotech applications for controlled delivery of small molecules and biological drugs. He authored and co-authored several peer-reviewed articles and book chapters that are published in top journals in the field. Dr. Sakr is also an adjunct lecturer of entrepreneurship at Zewail City of Science and Technology. To his name, Omar holds several scientific and business awards among which is the prestigious Jack Ma award, Africa Business Heroes (2019).



Prof. Peter Johann Schmieder

Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT), Founder & Director SILICON VALLEY SCHOOL, Founder & Director Bavarian Innovation Transformation Center (BITZ), Germany

Prof. Dipl.Theol.Univ. Peter Schmieder is dedicated to universities 3rd mission to create real impact into economy and society. As global networker Peter drives successfully venture execution and development. After an international education such as the well renowned University of Notre Dame, USA, Peter worked in company restructuring of national and international companies and founded »The School of Skills« as a Training Institute of Leadership and Organization Skills. He joined the Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT) in 2007 as tenured professor for Human Skill Management & Leadership with multiple guest Professorships such as the Jiangnan University, China and the Santa Clara University, Silicon Valley, USA.

As a multi award winning professor especially in international MBA programs Peter created new paths of methodologies to develop new applicable skills and competencies. In partnership with the University of Santa Clara and a sophisticated Silicon Valley Ecosystem he created and founded the »SILICON VALLEY PROGRAM« that is now firming as the Bavarian Innovation Transformation Center (BITZ)/THE SILICON VALLEY SCHOOL of DIT. The BITZ represents a lighthouse process for high-technology and venture transformation. It was ranked #1 in the world in the global WURI (World University Rankings for Innovation) Ranking for »Entrepreneurial Spirit« in 2023. He was awarded as #1 »Male Entrepreneurial Leader of the Year« in Europe by ACEEU (Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities) in 2022. Peter helps along with his very sophisticated international team numerous ventures from students, companies, and scientist to create real value and impact through scaling and he constantly focuses to establish universities 3rd mission transformation culture.

Peter loves all team-sports, music and wines making and is a loving husband and proud father of daughters.



Ms. Barbara Vercruysse

President of Professional Women International Brussels, Belgium

Barbara Vercruysse is a global kindness advocate, mentor, personal coach, business coach, thought leader and public speaker. She is founder of the 'Barbara Vercruysse Empowerment & Kindness Institute' where her mission is to offer individuals and organizations tools and insights to lead with kindness and compassion.

One of her clients is a group of BMW dealers where she operates as a quality officer, customer board responsible and HR soft skills responsible. She is responsible for screening all business processes and guiding people to perform optimally in their job. She has also been part of the management team there for several years. Since her collaboration, not only have all sales and quality objectives been achieved annually in these BMW dealerships, but the retention rate has also risen dramatically.

Happily married for more than 20 years, mom of 3 wonderful young adults, she strongly believes in leading by example after having survived a stage four cancer at the age of 32.

Her passions are reading, painting, enjoying arts, traveling, serving humanity, profound conversations, connecting from human to human. Being passionate about books, every year, one of her goals is to read at least 50 books.

She was published in the Huffington Post and Thrive Global. She reaches millions of people with her weekly Inspirational Talks on different social platforms.

Recently she has been giving the opening speech for Girl Up Jabalpur – a United Nations Foundation talking about leading with powerful kindness. She has given talks on the same topic for the Soft Skill Community of Microsoft (+1,600 managers), at the Kindness@Work Conference and talked about the path of powerful kindness at Harvard University (the Graduate School of Education) in the summer of 2022.

She has been selected #1 Top 50 Global Thought Leaders on Mental Health by Thinkers360. Thinkers360 is the world's first, largest and premier league for thought leaders - including academics, advisors, analysts, authors, consultants, entrepreneurs, executives, influencers and speakers.

She is the President of Professional Women International, a Brussels based membership association, part of the PWN Global network with the aim to help women grow and succeed professionally and to accelerate the move to more gender balanced leadership in business and society. The values that guide PWI are those of respect, courage, collaboration, excellence, and inclusiveness.

Barbara is in the process of writing 'The Path of Powerful Kindness' right now.



Prof. Jan Paul Cornelis

Former Vicerector of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Jan Cornelis - Emeritus Professor, Electromechanical engineer, PhD in biomedical engineering. He has been HoD Electronics and Informatics (VUB-ETRO), Vicerector R&D, coordinator Technology Transfer and Vicerector International Policy at VUB, Deputy Head of Cabinet - Ministry of Innovation, Co-founder of BI3 and Qbic incubation funds, ICAB incubator, board member at Strategic Research Institutes IMEC and VIB. He participated to various university audits in Europe. He is now consultant professor at NPU-Xi'an, visiting professor in UO-Cuba, international expert for CTI "Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur", chairman of the scientific council of the Royal Meteorological Institute Brussels, part-time researcher (image processing and machine learning) at ETRO. He received the Chinese state friendship award in 2015, and previously a similar award of the province of Shaanxi for his early involvement in cooperation with Chinese universities including technology transfer.



Prof. Gunter Pauli

Founder of Zero Emissions Research Initiative and Author of The Blue Economy, Switzerland

The Huffington Post (and others) called Gunter Pauli "The Steve Jobs of Sustainability". His Latino friends prefer to name him "The Che Guevara of Sustainability". The Chinese media labelled him a virtuous officer of the Song Dynasty (包拯).

Born in Antwerp, Belgium (1956). Dedicated to radical transformation of business and society. His legacy is the creation of a pedagogy rooted in his 365 fables inspiring children to be entrepreneurs for the common good.

Gunter Pauli is recognized for his leading expertise in (1) the high growth and innovative service sectors; (2) technology forecasting and disruptive innovations; (3) the creator of the standard of "zero emissions" (1989) adopted as an industry target, and "The Blue Economy" (2009) adopted by the United Nations, industry and governments around the world.

As professor, he has shared his knowledge related to system design, entrepreneurship, nature tech etc reflecting a commitment to shaping the next generation of tech innovators.

Gunter Pauli has a track record identifying innovative and sustainable growth sectors in the economy, translating these foresights and insights into both career and investment opportunities. To date +€5 billion has been invested in +200 projects with the creation of +3 million jobs.

Moreover, Gunter Pauli has personally invested and/or managed a few strategic business enterprises that have set new standards for technologies and ecological business models based on strong patent portfolios. Several initiatives have passed from idea to global industries like bioplastics made from biomass that does not compete with food, stone paper produced without a drop of water or cutting a tree and high altitude wind offering wind power 24/7 making it a permanent source of power.



Dr. Yang Ling

Director of ACEIE, Germany

Yang Ling is the director of the Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE). She was the vice-chairman of Gesellschaft Chinesischer Informatiker in Deutschland e.V. (GCI) from 2000 to 2016 and the deputy secretary of Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE) since 2005. In the past 20 years, Ling engaged in numerous activities in building mutual relationship in various areas between Europe and China for exchange knowledge and experience; helped both Chinese and European to set up startups or research platforms in China. In October 2022, Ling was rewarded as "Top 10 Chinese Technology Leaders in Europe".

Ling has 20 years working experience at Procter & Gamble (P&G). She has successively served as project manager, senior system analyst, senior system designer, global process optimization architect, warehouse logistics engineer, global project manager, department head, as well as global process optimization director of Prestige Products. During her service years, she has won many times P&G's outstanding achievement awards. Currently she works as global architect at CIT of Schenck Process Holding and won Schenck Group Special Achievement Award in 2021.



Dr. Diao Yu

PhD Researcher in Educational Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Dr. Diao Yu is a dedicated and accomplished researcher in the field of vocational education and training (VET), with a focus on cross-cultural comparisons between China and Belgium. Currently serving as a PhD researcher at Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Yu is at the forefront of curriculum design in VET, contributing to the enhancement of educational systems. In her role as a PhD researcher, Yu has been instrumental in designing and implementing innovative VET curriculum models, drawing insightful comparisons between the Chinese and Belgian educational landscapes.

Yu's academic journey has been marked by a commitment to educational excellence. She earned her PhD degree from Xiamen University in China, specializing in educational science with a specific focus on higher vocational education and training. Prior to that, Yu obtained a master's degree in education sciences from Guangxi Normal University in China. These academic achievements laid a strong foundation for her current research endeavours.

Yu's contributions extend beyond the research realm. She has published valuable research findings on vocational education, adding to the body of knowledge in this critical field. Additionally, Yu has been actively involved in promoting Chinese language and culture. She has assisted in the organization of the Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign Students in Belgium on two occasions, fostering cross-cultural understanding and linguistic proficiency.

Furthermore, Yu serves as a moderator, facilitating academic discussions and collaborations between Vrije Universiteit Brussel in Belgium and various universities in China. Her ability to bridge cultures and facilitate communication has been instrumental in strengthening international ties and academic exchanges.



Dr. Stephan Jüngling

Lecturer in Business Information Technology at the FHNW School of Business, Member of the Intelligent Information Systems Research Team and the FHNW China Centre, Switzerland

Dr. Stephan Jüngling, was born in Basel, Switzerland in 1963. He studied electrical engineering at the ETH Zurich and got his PhD in the field of simulation and modeling of SAW filters in 1992. After a one-year research stay at MIT in Boston, USA, he returned to ETH where he continued his research in modeling optical waveguide components. He conducted the didactic certificate for teaching ability in software engineering and was part-time lecturer at FHNW for Java Engineering and Java Design Patterns. Since 2012, he is a lecturer in business information technology at the FHNW school of business. His teaching and research activities include different topics in the field of business process management, enterprise content management and applications of artificial intelligence for business applications. He is member of the intelligent information systems research team as well as the FHNW China Centre. He has numerus publications in the field of applications of AI and serves as a reviewer in the AAAI MAKE Spring conference in Stanford, USA, and is member of the steering committee of the conference Society 5.0. Before joining the faculty of FHNW, he was able to gain 17 years of management experience in different IT departments of the financial service industry, where he worked in the different areas such as IT-security, electronic-commerce, java-engineering, electronic document management as well as the UBS business university.



Prof. Dr. Josep Miquel Piqué Huerta

President of Technova Barcelona – La Salle Innovation Park, President Triple Helix Association, XVII President of International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation, Spain

Josep Miquel Piqué is a telecommunication engineer from La Salle and UPC and MBA from ESADE. He is Doctor on ecosystems of innovation from Universitat Ramon Llull. He holds also diplomas from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and University of California-Berkeley.

He is a disciple of Professors Henry Etzkowitz (co-founder of Triple Helix), Francesc Solé Parellada (Entrepreneurship) and Jerome Engel (Clusters of Innovation).

He is founding president of XPCAT (Catalan Network of Science Parks), vice-president of APTE (Spanish Network of Science Parks), former president of IASP (International Association of Science Parks and Areas of Innovation), and president of the triple helix association.

He is expert of the directorate general for regional and urban policy (dg regio) of the European Commission and member of the team of specialists on innovation and competitiveness policies of the United Nations Commission for Europe (UNECE).

His long professional experience in university management has leaded him to promote and lead postgraduate programs, technology transfer centers, university incubators and innovation science and technology parks. He has promoted several hybrid organizations taking the partnership model university-industry-public administration.

In the field of public administration he has been CEO of the District Innovation - 22 @ Barcelona, director of strategic sectors of the agency of local development - Barcelona activa and CEO of the office of economic growth of the Barcelona city council. Among other projects he has participated in teams of Barcelona European capital of innovation and Barcelona mobile world capital.

He has published several papers in publications and congresses on Innovation Ecosystems. He has participated in several international forums in Europe (Bulgaria, Denmark, Spain, Finland, France, Italy and UK), America (Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, U.S.A.) and Asia (Korea, Philippines, Singapore, Japan and China).

The central line of his activity is the promotion of knowledge-based economy and society in order to consolidate knowledge cities on smart cities.



Prof. Brian Boag

Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences at University of Greenwich, UK

Brian is a senior leader in higher education within the health & social care field and currently holds the position of deputy dean in the faculty of education, health and human sciences.

Following an early career in nursing, specialising in emergency care, and part of the team of nurse practitioners/paramedics working at the Millennium Dome, he moved into education and has worked in London, Cumbria, Glasgow, Derby and Greater Manchester in a variety of roles. Brian was a runner up International Nurse of the Year at the RCN Nursing standard awards in 2007 and has also received two prestigious Florence Nightingale Foundation Scholarships: for Travel in 2006 and the Council of Deans of Health Leadership scholarship in 2017-18. He also received the Harvard Business School MBA class of '74 scholarship in 2018 allowing him to study Executive Leadership at Harvard.

Brian holds several executive appointments, and was a governor of the Northern Care Alliance, a Council Member of the University of Salford and was appointed in 2021 as a diversity advisor to the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. He is co-chair of the Council of Deans Regulation Subgroup and works closely with the professional bodies on matters related to education quality and regulation. He was appointed a governor of the University of Greenwich in August 2023.

Brian is a fellow of the Higher Education Academy and the Chartered Institute of Managers, an external examiner, academic reviewer, author of several publications and a regular presenter at peer reviewed international conferences. Brian has an MBA in education from Keele University as well as postgraduate qualifications in nursing, teaching and education from UK universities. Brian has delivered extensive programmes and consultancy on professional regulation and is visiting professor at an international University. His research interests focus around nursing (retaining registration as both an adult and a mental health nurse), leadership, quality of practice and professional identity, areas on which he has published and delivered presentations, keynote addresses and webinars.



Dr. Sandra Hasanefendic

Assistant Professor in Breakthrough Tech Innovation at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Sandra Hasanefendic is an assistant professor in breakthrough tech innovation at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam and leading a group on urban resilience which looks at ways in which technology can foster system transitions in cities. With 10 years of research experience Sandra has a deep understanding of how emerging and disruptive technologies can be leveraged to create sustainable solutions for the world's most pressing problems in i.e. healthcare, energy systems, agriculture and food systems, and higher education.

She has worked with a variety of organizations, from startups (e.g. Fitsurance, Preactive) to universities and governments (e.g. Portugal) to help them identify and capitalize on new opportunities in the technology and sustainability sectors. She is also the scientific coordinator of the Knowledge for People, the Planet and Prosperity through Partnerships which promotes collaborative projects fostering Human Agency and the governance of data ecologies to achieve Sustainable and Healthy Territories and reduce inequalities in the digital age, together with "Net Zero" societies.

Sandra holds a double PhD degree from ISCTE, the Open University in Lisbon and the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, and she continues to push the boundaries of breakthrough and deep tech research through ongoing collaboration with colleagues in academia and industry. Among others, her international collaborations extend to universities in Germany (Munster University of Applied Sciences), Portugal (University of Lisbon; Aveiro University), US (MIT Media Lab), Japan (Waseda and Sophia University) and Sweden.



Prof. Dr. Qiu Min

Vice President of the Westlake University, China

Dr. Min Qiu, a recipient of the The National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, Director-at-large on the Board of Directors of Optica, SPIE Fellow, IEEE Fellow, CSOE Fellow, CSOE Fellow, and CIE Fellow. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1995 and got Ph.D. degree of engineering in condensed matter physics from Zhejiang University in 1999, and then he got his Ph.D. degree in electromagnetic theory from the KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH), Sweden, in 2001, and he was appointed as an assistant professor at the KTH in the same year, then he was promoted to associate professor in 2005, and full professor in photonics in 2009. He was awarded the "Future Research Leader" grant by the Swedish Strategic Research Foundation, and the Senior Researcher Specialized Grant by the Swedish National Foundation for Scientific Research, etc. He was appointed as a professor in the College of Optical Science and Engineering, Zhejiang University in 2010, and was the director of the State Key Laboratory of Modern Optical Instrumentation, Zhejiang University. He joined Westlake University in 2018, and he works as Guoqiang Chair Professor and Vice President presently. His main research interest is micro-nano optoelectronics, including micro-nano fabrication technology and instrumentation, micro-nano photonics theory and optoelectronic devices, key theories and technologies for smart applications, etc. He once led the National Key Research and Development Program of Nanotechnology and the National Key Research Instrumentation Project (free application category) in 2017 and 2020 respectively as the project leader. In July 2022, he was awarded the first prize of the 2021 Zhejiang Provincial Natural Science Award.



Prof. Michał Nowicki

Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation, Head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland

Michał Nowicki MD, PhD - specialist in histology, pediatrics and oncology. A graduate of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences (1996), currently head of the Department of Histology and Embryology at PUMS and Vice-Rector for science and international cooperation.

A person particularly interested in the contemporary significance of academics and universities. Committed to redefining the university in today's world. Author of scientific publications and commentaries on human resources, innovation and the involvement of the academic community in economic and social matters. Co-author of teaching programs for medical students, focused specifically on communication skills.

For 15 years he has been involved in elaboration of university opportunities for scientific development, treating the university as an incubator for new ideas and ventures. Enthusiast of sustainable university development, opponent of university hierarchy and corporatism in academic life. A supporter of freedom and independence in conducting scientific research.



Dr. Cristina Tomás Pérez

Vice-Dean for Executive Programs at EAE Business School, Spain

Cristina Tomás Pérez holds a PhD in Economics (1993) from the University of Barcelona. She has a degree in Economics and Business (1988), and Actuarial Science (1988) from the same university.

Dr. Tomás has taught at the University of Barcelona, the University of Guadalajara (Jalisco, Mexico), Instituto Tecnologico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, campus Guadalajara (Jalisco, Mexico), Aita Academy (Singapore), Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Escuela Superior de Comercio Internacional and Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, among others.

Currently, she is the Vice-Dean for Executive Programs at EAE Business School. She has worked as a product designer in life insurance for various insurance companies and has also been a pensions consultant and a Court expert in quantifying damages in case of accidents and in the valuation of pension commitments.

She has participated in four books, always in insurance topics related to business management.

She is member of the Instituto de Actuarios Españoles.



Prof. Wanda Guedens

Vice Rector of Education at Hasselt University, Belgium

Wanda Guedens is a master in chemistry-option biochemistry. She completed her PhD in chemistry in 1999 at Hasselt University where she was appointed in 2002 as assistant professor in the chemistry department of the Institute of Materials Chemistry (IMO-IMOMEC). In 2009 she became associate professor and in 2015 professor. Since 2020 professor Guedens is vice rector of education at Hasselt University and full professor of (bio)chemistry since 2021. She is currently co-heading the multidisciplinary research in biochemical and biomedical nanotechnology in the Biomolecule Design Group (subgroup of the research group Materials Chemistry (MATCHEM) at IMO-IMOMEC. Her research activities are concentrated on the controlled bio-functionalization of surfaces for innovative biomaterials to improve patient outcome. More specifically, focus is on the site-specific modification of (nanobody) proteins towards an oriented and covalent coupling onto functionalized substrates such as silicon, conjugated polymers, (nano)diamond, graphene and nanoparticles using 'click' chemistry for innovative biosensing. Also, (nanobody) proteins are coupled to polymer-drug or polymer-imaging label conjugates in order to develop hybrid materials which can be used in other health related applications like controlled drug delivery and image guided surgery, respectively. Additional research concentrates on altered metabolic pathways related to cancer. As a vice rector of education, professor Guedens is highly interested in current trends in educational innovation and technology.



Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi

Rector of the University of Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo

Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi has held prominent roles in the academic sphere, including his current position as rector of the University of Kikwit since 2022. In this capacity, he plays an important role in shaping the institution's vision and fostering educational excellence.

Born on February 25, 1961, in Masi Manimba, DR Congo, Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi has a strong academic foundation. He earned his Ph.D. in Philosophy from the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium in June 2003, reflecting his commitment to scholarly pursuits.

Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi has a rich history of academic leadership. He served as the Rector of the Institute of Philosophy Saint Augustine from 2006 to 2012, where he played a crucial role in guiding the institute's academic endeavors. From 2012 to 2016, Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi held the position of Academic Secretary-General, demonstrating his dedication to the academic community.

Further showcasing his commitment to education, Prof. Alphonse Kapumba Nkodi served as the Managing Director of the Catholic Higher Technical Institute of Kikwit from 2017 to 2022, where he contributed to the growth and development of the institution.



Dr. Ye Fei

Senior R&D Engineer in Human Tumour Domain at SCFR, France

As a distinguished professional in the field of life sciences, Dr. Ye Fei holds a Ph.D. degree from Université Pierre et Marie Curie (UPMC) in Paris, France and a M.D. degree in China. He has conducted postdoctoral research at renowned institutions like Institut Pasteur and Institut Curie in Paris, France. Dr. Ye Fei published nearly forty academic papers and participated in the writing of a book under the invitation of the American publisher HUMANA.

Currently, he holds the positions of senior R&D engineer and preclinical project manager at the French company SCFR. In additiona, he is in charge of Sino-French cooperation.

He is engaged in the research and development of non-invasive blood biopsy technology for human circulating tumour cells (CTCs), which holds significant importance in monitoring and guiding the treatment of cancer patients. In 2016, he was elected as one of the Top Ten Leading Technological Talents among European Chinese professionals.

As President of the Association of Chinese Biological and Medical Scientists in France, Dr. Ye Fei leads and advocates for Chinese biological and medical professionals in France. Additionally, he serves as the Co-Chair of the Special Committee within the Jiangsu Overseas Talent Innovation and Entrepreneurship Alliance, focusing on the life sciences and health industries. Dr. Ye Fei plays a pivotal role in fostering innovation and entrepreneurship among overseas talents.



Mohamed Ali

MedAI: Revolutionizing Healthcare with Intelligent Innovation, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Mohamed Ali is currently pursuing a master's degree in science, business, and innovation at the esteemed Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. With a background in biomedical sciences from the same institution, he possesses a solid foundation in the life sciences, giving him a unique edge in understanding the intricate intersections of science and business.

In the professional realm, Mohamed holds the role of business manager at Amaris Consulting. He takes charge of diverse responsibilities, ranging from shaping business development strategies to expertly handling recruitment efforts. Leading the Life Sciences and Engineering Business Unit is a testament to his ability to navigate complex industries with finesse. Furthermore, Mohamed has hands-on experience as a doctor assistant in the healthcare industry, which has improved his awareness of the complexity of healthcare and strengthened his ability to bridge the gap between science and business.

Beyond the boardroom, Mohamed is an altruistic soul. He generously volunteers with a foundation dedicated to orchestrating events for youths. This commitment reflects his unwavering belief in nurturing the potential of the younger generation and contributing to their personal growth.



Javier Macías Rodríguez

Researcher at Instituto de Energía Solar of Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Spain

Javier Macías Rodríguez is a researcher at Instituto de Energía Solar of Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, where he is currently doing his PhD studies of Data Science applied on photovoltaics and electric vehicle. He graduated from Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, with a degree in mechanical engineering in 2016 and a Master in industrial engineering in 2018. Before starting his PhD studies, Javier worked as a data scientist at Deloitte.



Oliver Lancaster Smith

Illustrator, Designer and Artist, University of Huddersfield, UK

Oliver Lancaster Smith is an accomplished illustrator, designer and artist from Yorkshire, UK; who works in a wide range of styles and media specialising in fun, eye-catching design and highly detailed Fine Art.

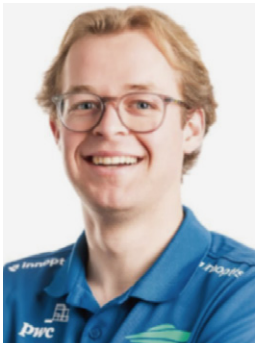
Working as a freelance Artist and Designer for the past decade, with clients ranging from international businesses, fashion brands, popular TV programmes to chart-topping musicians.

Since graduating, with a first in Graphic Media Communication he has been creating artwork for a selection of high profile clients and has shown his work in exhibitions across the UK and as far afield as the USA.

Utilising his skills he has taught workshops on various aspects of Art & Design across a wide range of ages, including college-level students. His teaching has seen him work in numerous settings, including being invited to host lessons in Delhi & Beijing.

Alongside his professional practice he has curated many live Art and Music events, linking him to many Artists and a worldwide network of creative professionals.

Since 2021, Oliver participated in a Global Digital Project, working as a oversea partner with Feidie Virtual Reality Technology Co.Ltd, focus on Metaverse Skills for the TVET sector and Digital Industry.



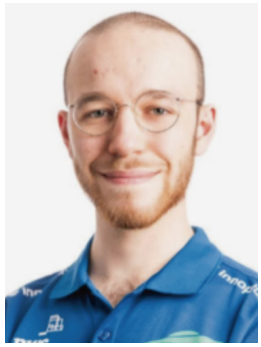
Louis Claeys

Business relations at the Innoptus Solar Team, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Louis Claeys is a dynamic individual with a strong passion for solar energy and technology. His journey with the Innoptus Solar Team has fueled his growing interest in this field, recognizing the pivotal role solar energy plays in our increasingly technological society. As a business engineer with a theoretical background, Louis Claeys views this as the perfect opportunity to leverage his entrepreneurial spirit and apply his knowledge to practical solutions.

In 2023, Louis Claeys took on the role of Investor at Greenhill Capital Belgium, an open student investment club. Here, he actively contributes to a platform that fosters inclusive and transparent learning experiences in financial markets for students. Simultaneously, he is a member of Junior Orsi, a non-profit subsidiary of Orsi Academy, a European hub for robotic surgery and medical innovations, showcasing his commitment to cutting-edge advancements.

Complementing his practical experiences, Louis Claeys is currently pursuing a Postgraduate Degree in Tech Innovations in Ventures & Teams from KU Leuven. This qualification adds to his academic achievements, including a Bachelor of Science in Business Engineering from the same institution in 2023.



Louis De Vroede

High Voltage Engineer & Head of Energy at Innoptus Solar Team, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Louis De Vroede is a dedicated student at Groupe T, KU Leuven, where he has been pursuing his studies since 2020. From the early stages of his engineering education, he was captivated by the idea of joining the solar team, and today, he has transformed that aspiration into reality. His journey has been driven by an acute awareness of the growing challenges posed by climate change.

His vision revolves around harnessing cutting-edge solar, battery, and drivetrain technologies to create a vehicle that operates solely on renewable energy sources. Louis recognizes that this research and innovation have the potential to not only propel their solar car to victory but also to address the pressing issues associated with climate change. His ambition extends beyond the racetrack, aiming to contribute to a brighter and more sustainable future for generations to come.

Currently, Louis wears multiple hats as he also serves as a High Voltage Engineer and assumes the pivotal role of Head of Energy at the Innoptus Solar Team. With unwavering dedication and motivation, Louis De Vroede, alongside his highly committed team, is committed to working tirelessly to build a solar car that not only competes but excels. Through his passion for sustainable technology and his leadership in this innovative project, Louis is poised to make a meaningful impact in the realm of renewable energy and climate change mitigation.



Javier Rodríguez Cuadrado

PhD student in Mathematical Engineering, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM), Spain

Javier Rodríguez Cuadrado is a PhD student in mathematical engineering at the Polytechnic University of Madrid (UPM) with a background in mechanical engineering. As a result of his research, Javier has published several papers in Q1 journals regarding the application of advanced mathematical models in engineering. In addition, Javier and his PhD advisor have obtained two patents of invention that solve the problem of constructing on poor soils, therefore allowing the sustainable growth of coastal cities. With the aim to spread their solution, Javier and his advisor have founded a start-up, Applied Fractal Structures, through the business creation program of the UPM.



Marc Swikidisa Makaya

Managing Director at KUMBA SARL, Democratic Republic of Congo

Marc Swikidisa Makaya is a dynamic professional with a strong background in electromechanical engineering and a passion for advanced technology, culture, automobiles, and energy. Born in Kinshasa on February 17, 1981, Marc's early exposure to mechanics, influenced by his father's profession, ignited his fascination with technology from a young age. Elon Musk further inspired his passion for innovation and entrepreneurship.

In 2009, Marc earned a diploma in electromechanics from the Higher Institute of Applied Techniques (ISTA), Kinshasa-RDC. Over the years, he has demonstrated his technical acumen and leadership skills in various roles. In 2014, he served as technical director in Kinshasa, DRC, overseeing technical operations and technicians. Subsequently, he joined URBUN INTELLECT in 2014, where he excelled as technical director in the technology sector, supervising maintenance technicians, executing technical tasks, and implementing industrial strategies.

Marc's remarkable journey continued to ascend, and in 2023, he assumed the role of managing director at KUMBA SARL in the advanced technology and robotics sector. In this capacity, he takes charge of overall company management, defines strategic directions, and provides guidance to department heads.



Prof. Piet Herdewijn

Director of the Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Professor Herdewijn has been a tenured professor at KU Leuven since 1993 (Reuters released the "2018 Most Innovative Higher Education Institutions in Europe" list on April 25, 2018, and KU Leuven ranked first in Europe for three consecutive years). In addition to the director of the laboratory of medicinal chemistry, Professor Herdewijn also serves as the director, Medicinal Chemistry Laboratory, Rega Institute of Medical Research; the director of the Rega Institute of Medicine and the director of the Academic Committee.

Professor Herdewijn is the member of 27 international academic societies; advisor to the editorial board of 38 international academic journals; invited reviewer for more than 100 important international academic journals; scientific advisor to 130 academic institutions, foundations, pharmaceutical companies; writer of more than 50 books; editor of more than 10 book series.

Professor Herdewijn has been invited to give more than 230 scientific reports internationally; has presided over 51 national and international academic seminars and instructed more that 200 doctoral students and postdoctoral researchers; has published more than 750 academic papers in the top journals of Science, Nature, Chem. Review, PNAS and medicinal chemistry, of which more than 20 were selected as cover, press releases or hot papers.

Professor Herdewijn has presided over more than 230 major scientific and technological projects including the European Union, NATO and NASA, and has more than 40 invention patents.

Professor Herdewijn has successively won 16 awards, including the Belgian Royal Medal Award, the Belgian Royal Pharmacy Award, and the international Ribonucleotide Nucleic Acid Special Contribution Award.



Mr. Paul Thoeng

cHESS Management ptd ltd, Belgium

Paul was born in Indonesia and grew up in Belgium. He graduated as "Docterandus in de Toegepaste Economische Wetenschappen" at KU Leuven. He majored in Finance and International Business.

Paul assumed the role of CEO and CFO at midsized private companies and joint ventures between these companies and public listed companies.

Since 2010 Paul combined his executive responsibilities with his activities in his Foundation Trikaya Bali. Trikaya Bali designed, developed and managed sustainable farming communities. Thousands of hectares of rice fields in Bali were converted to organic rice farms.

Paul's paper "Trikaya, the Road to Sustainable Community Development" inspired the present Governor of Bali, I Wayan Koster.

Since 2019, Paul has been focusing on the challenges resulting from Climate Change, with special attention to health, food security and energy topics.

Because of his conviction of the potential of technologies as AI, IOT, Blockchain··· to make business models more sustainable, Paul is continuously looking for early-stage investment opportunities in tech startups.

Since 2022 Paul has been involved in the Program "Restoring and Developing the Resources of the Coastal Indonesian Communities". On November 28th 2022, 1,250,000 mangrove trees were planted at the coast of the Province of West Sulawesi.



Dr. Mikael Syväjärvi

Founder of Alminica AB, Sweden

As founder of Alminica AB, Dr. Mikael Syväjärvi has experience in advanced materials research and innovation since 1995. Since 2005 he is entrepreneurially active in creating own start-ups and technology transfer from his research in silicon carbide. Since 2013 he has broader context experience from Swedish innovation programs, EU relevant activities for regional development related to entrepreneurial discovery process in the smart specialisation strategy by European Commission. All these resulted in a unique mix of experiences in research to business (R2B). That is now channelled by the R2B portal (www.researchtobusiness.tech). The activities have a broader range by collaboration with other organizations such as Young Professionals Society (YPS, UK). Dr Syväjärvi has together with YPS Founder Dr. Nasar Ali training for participants to develop skills and knowledge they need to be successful in a rapidly changing and global world. Participants learn how to be creative, innovative, and lifelong learners. They also learn how to build networks and communities to support their success. Dr. Syväjärvi has close exchange with international conference communities such as Nanosmat Global (active since 2005, founded by Dr. Nasar Ali) and International Association of Advanced Materials (active since 2010). In autumn 2023 Dr. Syväjärvi initiated a platform Sweden-Pakistan-China in energy materials research and competence building. Dr. Syväjärvi participated at World Young Scientist Summit 2022.



Dr. Martin Bech

Senior Advisor of Danish Academy of Technical Sciences, Denmark

Martin Bech is senior advisor at the Danish Academy of Technical Sciences (ATV) where he is responsible for ATV's international partnerships as well as the Academy's focus on Technology for Sustainability.

Between 2017-2020, Martin was deputy director and attaché for higher education, science & innovation at the Danish Innovation Centre, Royal Danish Consulate General in Shanghai. Prior to this, he was head of secretariat at University of Copenhagen's think tank on China, ThinkChina.dk. Martin has also worked as programme manager at Fudan University's Nordic Centre in Shanghai and has held several other administrative positions in Danish university sector.

Martin holds a PhD in organisational studies from Aarhus University, a master's degree in cultural studies and international development from Roskilde University and a bachelor's degree in China studies from University of Copenhagen.



Prof. Justo García-Navarro

Full Professor on Agroforestry Engineering, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

Justo García-Navarro is the coordinator of the CIRCULAR Community at the European Alliance of EELISA Universities and he is a Full Professor on agroforestry engineering at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, UPM (Spain). He is an architect and holds a Ph.D. in Architecture from UPM. He is director of the UPM research group "Sustainability in construction and industry" giSCI, and member of the Educational Innovation Working Group in "Electrical and automation technologies in the rural engineering." Prof. Justo García-Navarro is the coordinator of the master's degree in circular economy of minerals and construction products (UPM) and UPM coordinator of the European AMIR (Advanced Materials: Innovative Recycling) master's degree, and the AMIR Erasmus Mundus joint master's degree, Prof. García-Navarro is also a member of the commission of experts for the evaluation of the National Technical Approvals (DIT), at IETcc-CSIC; technical Expert of the National Accreditation Entity (ENAC); and evaluator of R&D projects for ACIE, AENOR INTERNACIONAL, EQA, and DNV GL.

Justo García-Navarro has worked as a researcher and head researcher in more than 50 R&D and educational projects (both at the national and EU levels). He is also the author of more than 110 scientific papers and books on sustainability in construction and was recognized with the Alfonso Martín Escudero Research Award in 2001.



Ms. Anna Facchinetti

Country Coordinator of EURAXESS China, Italy

Anna Facchinetti is country coordinator of EURAXESS China, part of EURAXESS worldwide's initiative of the European Commission's directorate-general for research and innovation aimed at strengthening scientific collaboration between Europe and the rest of the world. EURAXESS China focuses on Europe-China collaborations in science, technology and innovation by providing China-based researchers and research institutions with insights into European research policy, EU funding programmes and opportunities and creating a dialogue between the academic world, individual researchers and European institutions.

Anna also holds the role of China research and project coordinator at the University of Bergamo and of professional affiliate at Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies.

Previously she had worked as executive director and earlier as programme manager for the Galileo Galilei Italian Institute in Chongqing, China. At the institute, Anna led the establishment of new collaborations between Chinese and Italian research institutions in the areas of science, technology and innovation. She was also deeply involved in the negotiations of Sino-Italian research collaboration projects involving Chinese local government, as well as Chinese and Italian private and public entities.

From 2019 to 2021, Anna also served as board member at the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China, a non-profit and non-governmental organisation established to support and represent the interests of companies from the European Union operating in China by creating a gateway to local and national government both in China and Europe and advocate for a better business environment.

Before moving to China, she worked as junior researcher at the European Institute for Asian Studies – a Brussels-based think tank that develops political research on EU-Asia issues – where she gained a deeper understanding of Sino-European relations.

She holds a MA in Chinese studies from the Zhejiang University, a MA in international relations from the University of Turin and a BA in Chinese culture and language from Ca' Foscari University of Venice. She is Italian native speaker and is fluent in English and Mandarin Chinese.



Mr. Francisco Rocha

Senior Specialist Consultant of ENRICH in China/SPI, Portugal

Francisco Rocha is a senior specialist consultant at Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI) with experience in innovation strategy and business development, having joined the company in 2011. Francisco Rocha is based in SPI's office in Porto where he leads international research and innovation (R&I) projects and market internationalisation in many different sectors. He is a key team member in a range of European Commission projects under the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe framework programmes, especially in the fields of R&I development, internationalization and entrepreneurship, among others. He is also co-leading the management of SPI's strategy for Horizon Europe, with main activities on proposal writing, partnership engagement, cross functional project management and capacity building, contributing as a specialist on Horizon Europe for several national and international training sessions.

Francisco Rocha currently supports the daily operations of the international business activities of the company, mainly in the Latin America and the Caribbean and Asian markets (China, Indonesia, and Singapore). He has developed several market internationalization projects and supported the development of international trade missions in the USA and Canada.

In 2014 he was based for 6 months in SPI's Representative Office in Beijing, providing input and supporting activities for the development of SPI's business and presence in the Chinese market. He was also, in 2015 based in Brussels under the European Business and Innovation Centre Network (EBN). He holds a bachelor's degree in business management from the Portuguese Catholic University in Porto, and a master's degree in services engineering and management from the engineering faculty of the University of Porto. He developed his thesis on organisational knowledge management.



Ms. Caroline Angle

Recruitment and Admissions Manager for Executive MBA Programmes at the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, the Netherlands

Caroline Angle is the recruitment and admissions manager for Executive MBA programmes at the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. She enjoys finding the best talent for RSM's MBA programmes and managing the recruitment journey for candidates looking for professional and personal growth. She has over a decade of experience working within the higher education sector in international student recruitment, and international programme development and management. Additionally, she has an academic background in education policy and governance with a master's degree from the University of Cambridge and a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi in her home country of the United States.



Prof. Josep Bordonau Farrerons

Professor of Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Innovation Taskforce Coordinator in Unite!, Spain

Obtained MSc (1984) with honors. PhD (1990) with honors. Both in electrical engineering from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – BarcelonaTech (UPC).

Lecturer in UPC since 1984. Associate Professor in UPC since 1991.

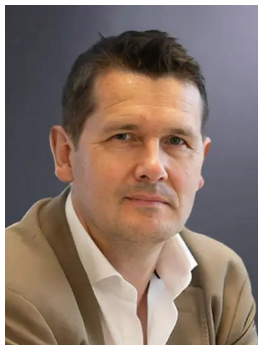
He has served as vice dean in the School of Industrial Engineering (UPC) from 2001 to 2004, as vice director of the Electronics Engineering department (UPC) from 1990 to 1993 and from 1997 to 2000.

He has served as Education Director of EIT InnoEnergy Iberia from 2010 to 2017 and as Master's School Director in EIT InnoEnergy from 2018 to 2019.

Coordinator of the Taskforce on Innovation of the European University Network Unite! since 2020.

Expertise in research in Power Electronics: multilevel conversion and ac power conversion applied to electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, energy management systems, distributed generation systems for a new smart grid. Awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Science for the quality of research from 1992 to 2021 (evaluated every 6 years).

Expertise in education: design and management of high-quality master and doctoral programs in international landscapes. Awarded by UPC with the highest distinction in teaching quality from 1991 to 2020 (evaluated every 5 years).



Mr. Roland Brouwer

Regional Director (Europe), Corporate & International Relations at BIPO Service, the Netherlands

Before joining BIPO Roland worked as executive director for the Netherlands Foreign Investment Agency (NFIA) and held the position of consul of industrial affairs at the Netherlands consulate in Shanghai. Prior to moving to Shanghai, Roland worked as chief representative at the Netherlands Business Support Office (NBSO) in Wuhan and the Jinan & Qingdao offices for more than 4 years.

Roland studied Chinese & Chinese culture and history at Wenzao Ursuline College of Languages in Kaohsiung, Taiwan and received his MBA from Rotterdam Business School. Roland has a professional knowledge background, and rich work experience in the Chinese business environment.



Ms. Liu Xiaoling

President of the Association of Chinese Professionals in Ireland (ACPI), Ireland

Ms. Liu is currently a Lecturer in Computer Science at Dublin Institute of Technology and a Visiting Professor at Tangshan Institute of Technology. She received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Computer Science from the National University of Defense Technology, China. Since 1982, she has worked in various organizations including satellite launch centers, IT companies and universities in China and Ireland. She is also the Business Director of Elite Spirits.

Ms. Liu has made an outstanding contribution to the Chinese professional community in Ireland and Europe. She is currently the Secretary General of the Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE) and President of the Association of Chinese Professionals in Ireland (ACPI).



Prof. Ronit Shiri-Sverdlov

Professor Hepatic Inflammation and Metabolic Health at Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Prof. Ronit Shiri-Sverdlov studied biology at Tel-Aviv University, where she received her Ph.D. degree in the field of genetics of breast and ovarian cancer. In 2002, she moved to the Netherlands (Maastricht University) and started a new research line in the field of fatty liver diseases and liver cancer. Shortly after her transition to Maastricht, she developed novel non-invasive diagnostic tools and treatment approaches which marked a paradigm shift in the field. She registered numerous patent applications, received inventor awards and translated her studies into clinical trails.

Ronit is currently the hair of the department genetics & cell biology, and a (co)-head of the division 'liver & digestive health' in the research institute NUTRIM. Additional to her research and leadership positions, Ronit in involved in a variety of educational roles across different national and European programs including mentoring, coaching mentors, developing and conducting workshops for "identification and development of Excellence among young students" within YUFE (joint ten young universities and four non-academic partners in Europe).



Dr. Audrey-Flore Ngomsik

Advisory Board Member at European Women on Boards (EWOB), Belgium

Dr. Audrey-Flore Ngomsik is a corporate social responsibility and sustainable development strategist.

As TEDx speaker, multi-awarded leader, Dr. Ngomsik's mission is to help CEOs place corporate social responsibility in the DNA of their corporate strategy.

After obtaining her PhD degree in Physical Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry from Sorbonne University in Paris (France), Dr. Ngomsik has centred her career on promoting, developing, disseminating, implementing, and commercializing scientific and social innovations in sustainable development to reduce the carbon footprint of companies.

Being convinced of the importance of a global vision of sustainable development, for the last 20 years Dr. Ngomsik has been working with CEO and board members, to leverage social sustainability (people) and environmental sustainability (planet) to increase business profitability, competitiveness, and attractivity.

Therefore, Dr. Ngomsik does not only strategize on the way to decrease CO2 emissions of a business, but also on the way to increase inherent & acquired diversity (DEI) among decision makers of any organization. Her expertise radiated in helping businesses to take a proactive approach to sustainability, rather than simply focusing on compliance and regulations.

Dr. Ngomsik's long-term vision is to establish a beacon of sustainability, a center of excellence where startups, SMEs, medium-sized enterprises, and large corporations converge to accelerate the transformation towards more sustainable, inclusive, and profitable businesses. A place where corporate sustainability becomes business as usual and is integrated in organizations' DNA for business success.



Dr. Yang Li

Director of ACEIE, Founder and CEO of Fuvision, Germany

Dr. Yang, economist, journalist and start-up mentor, is the founder and CEO of Fuvision, a well-established and cross-border projects management company since 1996 and Fuvision Tech Hub, a fast growing incubator with a strong team in Hamburg, Germany.

Started from the early 90s, Li has worked as a senior consultant and member of the core team for several German industry giants, to set up various joint ventures and subsidiaries in China. Over the last 15 years, she assisted Chinese innovative companies to reach pre-IPO and Listing in Germany, as well as merger & acquisition transactions between European and Chinese companies.

Li acts as one of the senior consultants worldwide of the Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), the founding Board member for OCEAN - Overseas Chinese Enterprise Alliance and leads the German-speaking region of ACEIE – Association for Chinese European Innovation and Entrepreneurship. She is regularly invited to be the jury for Innovation Competitions in China and Europe.

Li is the Executive Member Europe for World Young Scientist Summit 2022 (WYSS) and leads the Female Innovation Leadership session.



Ms. Sana Afouaiz

Founder & CEO of Womenpreneur, Belgium

Sana is an award-winning, gender expert, women advocate, and public speaker on tech and economy. She is author of "Invisible Women of the Middle East". She has spoken in 50 countries at universities, panel discussions and international events.

In 2016, she established the Womenpreneur Initiative that aims to advance women's place in the entrepreneurial scene, technology, innovation & society. Since its establishment, Womenpreneur has trained 19,000 women in Belgium and the MENA region.

Through her work, Sana reached thousands of women, to drive visibility, social impact, and resources for women in the ecosystem and beyond.

She is the Founder of WowHere, the first female marketplace that celebrates and amplifies the voices of women in business, providing them with a dedicated platform to showcase their talents, products, and services to a global audience.

For the past 7 years, Sana advised the United Nations, European Commission, corporate institutions and organisations on gender issues. She was heavily involved in SDGs discussions, she helped draft several resolutions and recommendations on gender in New York, Bali, Geneva, and Paris and presented them to UN representatives.



Prof. Zhang Weihong

Professor and Supervisor of PhD and Postdoctoral of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, University of Ghent (UG), Belgium

Zhang Weihong (MD, MPH, PhD, Postdoctoral of University of Oxford), is professor and supervisor of PhD and Postdoctoral of public health at the faculty of medicine and health science, University of Ghent (UG). She has been settled in 1991 in Belgium where she got two master's degrees and a PhD in the public health followed by Postdoctoral research at University of Oxford. She has long-standing experience in coordinating international projects, particularly EU-funded projects in Europe and in China. To date, she has supervised more than 30 PhD or postdoctoral research projects. Holding the position of adjunct professor at several Chinese universities including Tsinghua University; Tongji University School of Medicine, the National Research Institution for Family Planning, Chongqing Medical University···also adjunct associate professor at Tulane University, USA and visiting professor at Aga Khan university in Nairobi. Advisor of the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council of China, Expert of "Overseas Academicians and Experts Beijing workstation" and awarded as "10 leading Chinese Talents on the Science and Technology in Europe" and Expert of European Commission under HORIZON 2020. She is also academic coordinator of East Asia platform of the faculty of medicine and health science, and co-PI of the joint laboratory for global health between Hebei Medical University and University of Ghent.



Ms. Latifa Ait-Baala

Member of Parliament (Brussels) for the Liberal Party (MR), Belgium

Latifa is a Belgian with a French-Moroccan origin. She has a lawyer background and holds a law degree and a master's degree in business law (University of Grenoble). She has completed postgraduate programs in European law (Geneva) and Gender Studies (Switzerland). These studies have been very important to better develop her work in Belgium and internationally.

Latifa has extensive work experience in Belgian and international institutions. She has notably worked in the European Parliament, the Belgian Senate and the Belgian Federal Parliament.



Ms. Alia Papageorgiou

President Press Club Brussels Europe, Belgium

With a strong academic foundation, Alia (Aglaia) Papageorgiou holds a bachelor's degree in European law from the University of Kent at Canterbury. Building on this legal expertise, she furthered her education by completing a master's in cybersecurity, strategy, and diplomacy from the University of New South Wales at the Australian Defence Force Academy.

Alia plays a significant role in fostering international connections and collaboration. She serves as the Brussels Chapter Lead of Harvard W3D (Women in Defense, Diplomacy, and Development), bringing together alumni of the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government based in Brussels. Adding to her diverse portfolio, Alia also holds the position of Head of Public Affairs for the Australian network in Belgium. This role showcases her ability to navigate the diplomatic and public affairs landscape effectively.

Alia is an esteemed member of the media and journalism community. She serves as a board member of Journalismfund Europe since March 2023 and has been elected as the President of Press Club Brussels Europe (pressclub.be). Her dedication to the industry is further exemplified by her role as the director of the Writers Festival of Belgium.

Beyond her professional pursuits, Alia is deeply committed to community service. She volunteers with the Croix-Rouge of Belgium, contributing to humanitarian efforts that make a positive impact on the lives of others.



Ms. Sun Yan

PhD student, Maastricht University, the Netherlands

She is an oncologist and currently a PhD student in artificial intelligence and oncology at Maastricht University. She has received the International Cachexia Conference Young Research Award and the International Medical PhD Conference Best Clinical Research Award.

She is currently a member of the PhD council at the School of Nutrition and Metabolic Transformation at Maastricht University, where she organizes social events and academic conferences for PhD students. and successfully promoted international academic collaboration.

At the same time, she is also a writer dedicated to promoting healthy medical knowledge and independent female thinking. Therefore, she was named one of the 100 most influential people of the decade by Zhihu.

She is enthusiastic about public welfare undertakings. She has visited places with poor medical conditions for volunteer work many times and has given many public welfare lectures, hoping to convey more warmth and strength to the world.



Dr. Monika V. Kronbügel

Managing Partner of Global DiVision GmbH, Germany

Dr. Monika V. Kronbügel is the Managing Partner of Global DiVision GmbH, a consulting company operating in over 90 countries in the support of change processes of any kind in the context of M&A, restructuring, merger, expansion etc.

She is an expert for organizational and personnel development with many years of personal experience as a consultant, trainer and executive coach, preceded by supervisory and advisory boards, as well as the chairwoman of the advisory board of a medium-sized corporation in Hamburg. She has many years of active membership and honorary posts in associations, such as FidAR (Women on Boards Association), VdU (Verband Deutscher Unternehmerinnen: member of the international Commission & China-Brücke-Co-operation), BPM (Bund Deutscher Personalmanager-Regional Leader Northern Germany (HH, SH, MV)) - LiM (Bundesverband liberaler Mittelstand Nord (HH, SH, MV)-General Secretary), etc.

Along with her various professional stays abroad and delegations from 1993 - 1999 (UK, USA, Singapore, China, France, Italy, Netherlands, Belgium etc.), she is a well-known keynote speaker for Education 4.0., as well as is certified quality auditor (TÜV) ISO 9001 and business coach (EMCC).

Dr. Kronbügel obtained her PhD in international marketing and human resources at international business faculty of the University of Bratislava and studied international economics at University of Applied Science in Hamburg.



Ms. Céline Aerts

Student Coordinator,
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium

Céline currently works at the faculty of engineering technology at KU Leuven, where she promotes entrepreneurship and innovation among engineering students.

With a degree in business engineering and a teaching degree in her pocket, Céline embarked on a career in education. She started as a teaching assistant, guiding students through management and entrepreneurship.

That's where she discovered a passion for entrepreneurship, and she later transitioned into coordinating two postgraduate programmes dedicated to innovation and entrepreneurship for engineering students (postgraduate in innovation and entrepreneurship in engineering and postgraduate tech innovations in ventures and teams). These programmes focus on practical experience, personal development and professional and entrepreneurial skills. As coordinator, she aims to (re)design an attractive programme that prepares future engineers for the demands of a rapidly evolving industry.

Additionally, she is involved in a number of other projects that promote practical experience and entrepreneurial skills for engineering students.

Through the various programmes and projects, Céline hopes to make an impact on a new generation of innovators and entrepreneurs.



Dr. Michaela Prothiwa

Tenure Track Assistant Professor in Chemical Biology at the Laboratory Medicinal Chemistry, University of Antwerp, Belgium

Michaela Prothiwa was appointed in 2023 as tenure track research professor in the field of chemical biology. She received her master degree in pharmaceutical sciences form LMU Munich and completed her master thesis at the Harvard University with Prof. Alan Saghatelian. Afterwards she obtained a PhD in the lab of Prof. Thomas Böttcher at the University Konstanz (Germany). Her graduate work focused on the development of chemical biology tools to study virulence-related enzymes of Pseudomonas aeruginosa and Burkholderia species. Subsequently, she did her postdoctoral work as a DFG postdoctoral fellow in the lab of Prof. Steven Verhelst at KU Leuven (Belgium). Her research in the Verhelst lab focused on chemical probes for imaging of the paracaspase MALT1. In addition, she has strong passion for science communication, mentorship and education.

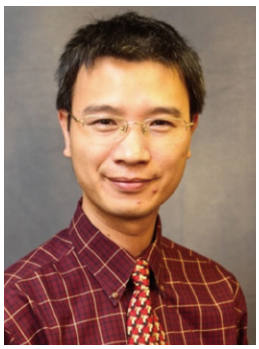
Michaela Prothiwa's research team uses a combination of chemical and biological strategies to uncover diseases-relevant interactions between microbes and the immune system. Specifically, they combine organic chemistry, natural product identification, proteomics, and biological approaches. By unravelling virulence-determinants and identifying novel anti-virulence targets, the knowledge gained from her group will accelerate the development of novel anti-virulence drugs.



Ms. Dove Feng

Marketing Officer at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, the Netherlands

Dove Feng is the marketing officer at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. In addition to her role at the university, she also runs her own freelance company that specialises in providing marketing and communications services to businesses, primarily in the high-tech and education sectors. With a master's degree in media & business from Erasmus University Rotterdam, Dove is also a CATTI Level 2 accredited interpreter, a pianist, and an avid chess player.



Prof. Wu Fan

Professor with Tenure and Head of the Computer Science Department, Director of the Office of Undergraduate Research (TUOUR), Tuskegee University, USA

Prof. Fan Wu is a distinguished figure in the field of computer science, renowned for his extensive contributions to academia and research. As a professor with tenure and head of the computer science department and the director of the office of undergraduate Research (TUOUR) at Tuskegee University, he has continually pushed the boundaries of knowledge and education.

Prof. Wu's academic journey began with a thirst for knowledge that led him to earn a Ph.D. in computer science from the prestigious Worcester Polytechnic Institute in the United States in 2008. Prior to that, he had laid a strong foundation for his career by completing both his bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science at Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications in China.

His research interests are diverse and reflect his multidisciplinary approach to computer science. Prof. Wu's has made significant contributions in the areas of, data science, mobile security, mobile graphics, mobile computing, computer graphics, bioinformatics, high-performance computing with GPGPU technology, and robotics. His work has not only expanded the horizons of knowledge but also had a real-world impact on various industries.

Throughout his career, Prof. Wu has been a prolific author and contributor to the academic community. He has authored chapters in esteemed books. Moreover, his research publications have garnered the attention of fellow scholars, as evidenced by the numerous citations and references to his work by other researchers.

Prof. Wu's leadership abilities are equally impressive. Since 2019, he has been at the helm of the computer science department, guiding it towards excellence in education and research. His vision and commitment have helped shape the department's future and inspire the next generation of computer scientists.

Recognition for his outstanding contributions to academia has come in the form of prestigious awards. Prof. Wu has been rewarded with the Faculty Achievement Award at Tuskegee University for the 2018-2019 academic year. Additionally, he has received the Outstanding Faculty Performance Award for Research at the College of Business and Information Science at Tuskegee University on six occasions, a testament to his consistent dedication to extend boundaries in his field.



Mr. Guy Vandendungen

CEO of Pulsar Power BV, Managing Director of Navitas Projects BV, Belgium

Guy is the founder of Pulsar Power and brings a wide range of expertise together, combined with an extensive network of specialists around the world. Guy worked in different managerial roles for the electrolyser business unit of Cummins Inc in the period 1999 – 2007. During this period, he was closely involved in the development and commercialisation of the alkaline electrolyser stack and the first R&D models of the PEM electrolyser stack.

He was project manager for large scale electrolyser plants across the globe for GE, BOC, Air Products, Air Liquide, Bekaert, ⋯ He was also responsible for the type approvals to have the electrolyser exported to China (CE), Russia (Rostechnadsor), Japan (JET), US (UL) and Canada (ETL).

Between 2007 and 2019 Guy worked as the operations director for a large EPC company active across Europe in development, construction, and operation of PV plants, where he built extensive experience in PV as well as a vast worldwide network of specialists. Technologies worked with include a-Si, CdTe, CIGS, as well as classic poly and mono cell-based modules up to nowadays PERC, TOPCON and HJT technology.

Since 2019 he started up his own company Navitas Projects where he provides engineering and technical advisory for renewable energy projects in Europe.

To allow further growth, Guy established in 2021 the engineering company Pulsar Power, which he since then leads as the CEO of the company. Today Pulsar Power has grown into a reference of engineering know-how for the renewable energy sector and is the trusted partner for several national and international investors and developers. Pulsar Power is active in various projects throughout Europe and has even more recently been given the assignment for the modelling of the roll-out of a new distribution grid for a newly build major see port in South-East Asia. Through their subsidiary in Greece, Pulsar Power is also active in several Power-to-X projects.

In his role Guy focuses on a holistic approach of bringing together the business plan with the technical solutions and potentially including cross sectoral technologies such as power-to-heat, energy storage technologies, EV-charging and new ways of applying photovoltaic energy.



Mr. Oliver Arafat

Head of Cloud Solution Architects at Alibaba Cloud INTL in DACH, Benelux and the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE), Germany

Oliver Arafat is a distinguished technologist with a profound commitment to advancing the boundaries of technology while fostering innovation and collaboration.

With a master's degree in software engineering and computer science, his pursuit of knowledge led him to Silicon Valley, where he embarked on a mission to unravel the complexities of open-source business models and developer activities at SAP Research, forging a solid foundation for his career.

Oliver's journey took him to Siemens, where he served as a research expert. In this role, he provided invaluable guidance to various business units seeking to harness the potential of emerging technologies, consistently delivering pragmatic solutions that made a significant impact.

His path led him to Microsoft, where he became a trusted consultant, specializing in the energy industry. Oliver's expertise in digital business models and cloud-based technologies enabled energy companies to navigate the digital landscape successfully.

Later, as an enterprise evangelist for both Amazon Web Services and Microsoft, Oliver assumed the role of an enterprise evangelist for cloud-based services. His presence at international conferences and industry events illuminated the transformative power of the cloud, as he articulately conveyed the value-added benefits and unique selling points to a broad international audience.

Today, Oliver is the head of cloud solution architects at Alibaba Cloud INTL in the German-speaking DACH region, the Benelux region, and the Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) region where he and his dedicated team work relentlessly to empower European companies. Their focus on cutting-edge solutions in ESG, AI, Metaverse, and digital ecosystems underscores Oliver's unwavering commitment to helping organizations unlock their full potential through cloud-based technologies.

Conferences (expert):

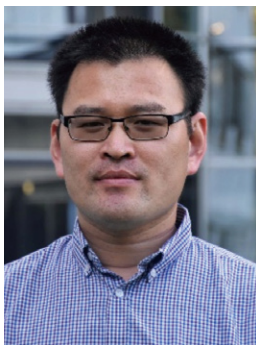
More than 60+ talks at international software and innovation conferences and events including Visual Studio Evolution, AWS Summit, Year of the Rooster, Bits and Pretzels, Cloud Expo, CeBIT, Code Motion, CloudFest, OOPSLA, HICCS, and many more.



Mr. Brian Harvey

Brian Harvey Social Research, Ireland

Brian Harvey is a writer on spaceflight who lives in Ireland. His first book was Race into space - the Soviet space programme (Ellis Horwood, 1988), followed by publications on the Russian, Chinese, European, Indian and Japanese space programmes. He is author of China in space - the great leap (2nd, edition, Springer-Praxis, 2019), also published in Chinese (2022), the fourth in a series. In the course of the research, he met China's first space man, Yang Liwei and first space woman, Liu Yang. His books and chapters have been translated into Russian, German, Chinese and Korean. His most recent books are European-Russian cooperation in space - from de Gaulle to ExoMars (Praxis/Springer, 2021) and Atlas of rocket launch sites (DOM, Berlin, 2022) (with Gurbir Singh). Forthcomings are Japan in space - past, present and future (Praxis/Springer, 2024) and Space alliances - global leaders, friends and enemies (due 2028). He has broadcast on BBC Radio 4, 5, World Service and Northern Ireland; China CCTV Dialogue - ideas matter; Future tense (Australia); Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, Voice of America, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty and Dublin South FM. He has been published in Orbit, Spaceflight, Astronomy and Space, Space Chronicle, Quest, Go Taikonauts! ROOM and Astronomy Now. He is a Fellow of the British Interplanetary Society (FBIS).



Prof. Zhang Hongbin

Professor at the Institute of Materials Science, Technische Universität Darmstadt, Germany

Prof. Dr. Zhang Hongbin got his doctoral degree in theoretical physics at Technical University of Dresden (Germany) in 2009 and carried out postdoctoral research on emergent topological materials and strongly correlated materials at Research Center Jülich and Rutgers University (USA). Since 2015, he has joined Technical University of Darmstadt, and he is currently heading the division theory of magnetic materials in the Institute of Materials Science at Technical University of Darmstadt. The research in his division focuses on inverse design of functional materials for energy applications, integrating high-throughput density functional theory calculations, probabilistic machine learning, and generative deep learning.



Mr. Stephan Horvath

Partner of the SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany

Stephan Horvath is the founder of Ideations and the Partner of the SilkRoad Cooperation Thinktank, an investor relations marketing firm advising European tech clients and SMEs on business and innovation strategies when expanding to the MENA and RCEP countries.

Stephan has over 20 years of international C-level experience in working for network agencies and consulting companies. He adepts in combining strategy and innovative technology to drive business in North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia; as well as understands what drives growth and expertly adapts the innovative strategic vision in actions. His startup mentality and business development culture are not only a critical commercial imperative but defines the DNA of the organization, going far beyond just international growth.

Stephan is a specialist in strategy advisory, management consulting, business and market research, investor relations, fintech, deep tech and cross-cultural competence.

Previously Stephan worked as CEO/President of IPG Digital and Media Services, building relationships with international clients and corporations. His business innovation culture is a critical commercial imperative going far beyond international growth. Therefore, he has a deep understanding of what generates growth and expertly adopt innovative strategies into actions.

Stephan holds a master's degree in economics and computer science from the Technical University of Stuttgart, Germany, and is a frequent keynote speaker at international conferences.



Prof. Dr. Vladimir Jakovljevic

Head of Cardiovascular Research laboratory, Faculty of Medical Sciences University of Kragujevac, President of the Serbian Physiological Society, Serbia

After more than 20 years of research experience, Prof. Dr. Jakovljevic is a leading scientist in the field of cardiovascular science in Serbia and this part of the world, with more than 140 papers in journals indexed in science citation index list.

During his president of the Serbian Physiological Society from 2014, Prof. Dr. Jakovljevic was awarded by Distinguished Leadership Award in cardiovascular sciences in 2015 by International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. He was also the editor in chief of the Serbian Journal of Experimental and Clinical Research published by the faculty of medical sciences University of Kragujevac. Prof. Jakovljevic has 252 publications, 1433 citations, and his Hirsch index, according to Scopus citation databases is 18.

Since 2018, Dr. Vladimir Jakovljevic became the dean of the faculty of medical science. He established cooperation with several universities from all over the world, such as Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden), The First Moscow State Medical University I.M. Sechenov (Moscow, Russian Federation), Medical Faculty University of Montenegro (Podgorica, Montenegro), and the Medical University of Banja Luka (Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina).



Mr. Stefan Matz

Director International Investments, HIW Hamburg Invest Wirtschaftsförderungsgesellschaft mbH, Germany

Stefan Matz started his career in 1984 as Project Manager in the international import and export of machinery and in 1988 he overtook the direction of the branch office of "Norddeutsche Überseegesellschaft" in Hong Kong and Bangkok with responsibility for South-East Asia. He continued working as Export Marketing Manager for JK Ergoline in Bad Honnef, in charge of the development of the international distribution channels. In 1995 he started to work for Hamburg Invest (formerly HWF) as Area Manager for China, Japan and USA until 2004. Since then he is working with strong engagement as Director International Investments, promoting Hamburg as worldwide business hub.

HIW Hamburg Invest (formerly HWF)

We are the one-stop agency for national and international investment in Hamburg as well as the central partner of Hamburg's business sector on all topics relating to business development. We offer a wide range of services for small and medium-sized enterprises in particular. We promote Hamburg as a business location on both national and international levels.

We offer information, advice and support to the entire business sector, and especially to small and medium-sized enterprises as well as skilled tradesman's businesses. Our consulting services are strictly confidential and encompass extensive free services in the area of commercial real estate in particular.



Mr. François Serneels

Agriculture Expert, Provincial Agri-Food Center of Hainaut Province, Belgium

François Serneels is born in 1959, is married, got 4 children and lives in a small village in the Belgian countryside. As an agronomist / agricultural engineer graduated from Brussels University (ULB, 1983) and Antwerp Tropical Veterinary Institute (1984), he spent a couple of years in Asia (India, Thailand) as agricultural advisor. Back in Belgium he got some experience in the potato sector (seed potatoes, processing factory) before joining the provincial agricultural extension services of Hainaut Province in Ath (CARAH) in 1992. For 10 years he managed the research & training farm of CARAH and started teaching the bachelor and master students in agronomy at Condorcet University College and later at ULB. He is presently quality & environment manager of CARAH. In 1999, he initiated a very successful collaboration with Chongqing Plant Protection Station on controlling potato late blight, a devastating disease of potato crops. Public agricultural services as well as academics and private companies from over 14 Chinese provinces progressively joined the activities. With his friend Mr Che Xingbi and in close collaboration with Beijing HSJDTech, an IT SME, these partners have set up a nationwide network of over 1400 control points and achieved a rather efficient control of the disease, saving every year millions of Rmb to the benefit of hundreds of thousands of Chinese farmers. In 2015 he got the Chongqing People Friendship Award; in 2018 he was elected by MOST as "one of the 40 most influential foreign experts in 40 years opening"; in 2022 he got the Golden Horse Award of Inner Mongolia and the Chinese Government Friendship Award. In the meantime, he contributed similar initiatives or other development projects in Rwanda, RD Congo, Mali, Bangladesh, Vietnam



Dr. Peter Chen

Chief Representative, China Office of University of Huddersfield, UK

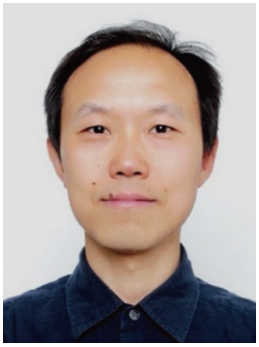
Dr. Peter Chen is the chief representative, China office of the University of Huddersfield, UK. At the same time, he plays multiple roles such as the board member of TJD Parking, the chief representative of Accreditation Council for Business school and Programs (ACBSP - ACBSP.org), the board member, Qtone Education Group (Stock Code: 300359 - China largest Company on smart-campus services)
Peter has been the associate editor of various journals, such as development, application and security of financial technology.
Peter obtained his PhD in management philosophy (Part-Time) at School of Philosophy, Beijing Normal University. He has been the visiting scholar and post-doctoral fellow at Harris Manchester College, Oxford University and Boston University Questrom School of Business respectively. Prior to these, Peter obtained MA(Hons) education, human resource development & training at School of Education and Professional Development, The University of Huddersfield, UK; and BEd (Hons) education management at School of Education and Professional Development, The University of Huddersfield, UK.
On November 2021, Peter initiated and co-founded the China's Top Branding of Assessment Board, Global University Index (GUI) & Global College Index (GCI) associated with Peking University and China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).



Mr. Bart Bruyninckx

CEO of the Bruyninckx Chiconnettes, Belgium

Bart Bruyninckx has been manager of the company Bruyninckx bvba for over 25 years. This is a second-generation horticultural company. Since 1980, this company only produced chicory. In 2000, however, a step was taken into the niche market of mini chicory, which is mainly sold on the Belgian market. The mini chicory was given the name 'chiconnettes' and patented. Bart manages around 60 employees. His education is limited to an A2 degree in computer science, but the daily challenges have given him practical life experience. Bart leads his company into the future by finding solutions to current challenges. Important topics are personnel, innovation, nature, energy and food safety. Due to constant growth, the company has expanded twice in the last 10 years to the current area of over 5,000 square meters. Emphasis has always been placed on innovation and energy. Bruyninckx bvba has already belonged to the Trends Gazellen of the province of Flemish Brabant category of small companies three times. Part of the production is also processed internally into cooked chicory. Company visits are regularly planned where visitors are spoiled with a chicory beer and tastings. Bruyninckx bvba also appeared several times in the written press and were allowed to participate in various television programs.



Prof. Zhang Xun

Professor at Institut supérieur d'électronique de Paris, France

Dr. Dr. Zhang Xun, current professor in ISEP (www.isep.fr), Paris, France. He obtained in October 2009 the Ph.D. degree in the instrumentation and microelectronics (IM) science at the University of Nancy. From 2009 to 2011, he completed a PostDoc in the SCEE laboratory in CentralSupélec, France, under the supervision of Pr. Jacques Palicot. During this Postdoc, he applied the auto-reconfigurable management method and control strategies in FPGA for cognitive radio system. He joined the LISITE laboratory in ISEP in 2011 as an associate professor. His current research interests are PHY layer optimization for 5G cellular networks and VLC systems, and VLC-based indoor high accuracy positioning algorithm and tracking algorithm. He has been involved in serval international projects (Horizon H2020 6G BRAINS, Horizon H2020 IoRL, EGIDE Franco-Chine, CAIYUANPEI, XUGUANGQI, and Orange foundation RoBo). In 2015 He has launched the visible light communication activated at ISEP. Currently, his team has one PLC-VLC high data rate demonstration, one VLC based indoor triangulation demonstration platform and one USRP-based software defined radio platform for visible light communication. Published 60+ scientific papers in internationals journals and conference proceedings and 2 book chapters. His team has wide exchange program with oversea academic institute like (UK: Brunel university; China: Tsinghua university; HK: Hong Kong university of science and technology) In France, he has a close relation with CEA LETI and Oledcomm who are the leader in VLC market in France.



Mr. René Seyfarth

Coordinator for strategic partnerships and strategic activities of RWTH Aachen University with China, Germany

Studied cultural studies, ethnology and art history in Leipzig (Germany) and Palermo (Italy). After working in the Quality Management Department at the University of Leipzig, he became a lecturer in Urban Studies at the Bauhaus University Weimar. In this position, he was instrumental in applying for and managing a double degree program with Tongji University Shanghai and led an international research and exchange project with universities in the Middle East.
Since 2018, he has been working at RWTH Aachen University as coordinator for strategic partnerships and strategic activities of RWTH with China.
His responsibilities include coordinating ongoing programs with Tsinghua University, RWTH's strategic partner in China, including a program for research internships and research funding, as well as cooperation in digital education (Global MOOC and Online Education Alliance). As coordinator of the China strategy, he advises researchers on cooperation opportunities with Chinese universities and advises the university management on strategic issues. Furthermore, he is the central contact person for the German and European networking of RWTH to further develop China competence and organizes corresponding events.



Ms. Reyka Lycklama à Nijeholt

Coordinator, and policy and management adviser of Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

I have long term experience in international relations and project management. My approach often comes down to setting longer term ambitions with the relevant stakeholders, and at the same time start implementing change by answering to the most urgent demand. Currently I work as VU India coordinator, and policy and management adviser to setting up international relations' mechanisms that benefit faculty, students, the university and her collaborators. I have a passion for working worldwide and belief firmly that global collaborations impact lives and society.
International Relations, Project manager, International Office Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam: r.lycklamaanijeholt@vu.nl

Organizer & Co-organizers

Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE)

ACEIE
Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE) is an officially registered non-profit NGO organization in Belgium.

The goal of ACEIE is to take innovation as the core, the internationalization needs of enterprises as the driver, and use professional services and network coverage as means to build a cooperative platform that researchers, engineers, entrepreneurs, and investors can grow together to create a better future for the world.

ACEIE offers the following services for our clients in Europe and China:

- Academic exchange
- Market research
- Training and visit
- Consulting and advisory
- Technology industrialization
- Human resource mobility
- Event organization
- Project management

ACEIE is an organization across many European countries. The members of the ACEIE leadership team are respectively from Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, the UK, Denmark, Finland, Austria, etc.

Our working partners include high-tech parks, universities, research institutions, associations, financial institutions, and companies in Europe and in China.

In the past years, we have organized innovation and Entrepreneurship competitions, project roadshows, academic forums, research reports, trainings, visits, project management services, business consulting services and various type of events.

Friendship, cooperation and development are our beliefs for a better world, so we will continue to work hard helping more cooperation taking place between Europe and China.

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

POLITÉCNICA

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM) is the leading technical university in Spain and Spanish-speaking countries, serving as reference in engineering and architecture disciplines, sports science and fashion design. UPM has the longest tradition of engineering and architecture, since it was created as an aggregation of the pre-existing engineering and architecture schools, the oldest one being founded in 1777.

In 2022, UPM ranks #58 in the world in the Engineering & Technology field (QS), with several disciplines between the best 50 of the world, prominently Civil Engineering, where it ranks #6 in the world (ARWU), and Architecture where it ranks #27 (QS). It is #1 university in Spain in patent applications, in attraction of European research funds, in research and development contracts with industry, and in new technology ventures creation.

UPM has a strong internationalization focus, with more than 20% of its students having an international experience when graduating. UPM has agreements with the best technical universities in Europe, America and Asia. It maintains two permanent delegations outside Spain: in the US (Univ. of Harvard) and China (Tongji Univ.).

University of Valencia, Spain

VNIVERSITAT DE VALÈNCIA

The University of Valencia is located in Valencia, Spain. Founded in 1499, it is one of the oldest and largest universities in Spain and the most important and well-known public university in Spain. According to the university rankings provided by the Chinese Ministry of Education, the University of Valencia ranks second among Spanish public universities. Its world-renowned majors include accounting, agronomy and agricultural engineering, of which agricultural engineering ranks 51st in the world.

The University has 92 teaching and research offices, 17 research centers and colleges, with strong scientific research capabilities, as well as a wealth of human resources: with 3256 teachers and researchers, 1706 management and service staff, and about 60,000 students. The staff ratios at the University of Valencia are as follows: on average there is one teacher per 14.8 students and one administrative and service staff per 28.3 students. Through the signing of bilateral agreements, participation in international programmed and university alliances, the University of Valencia has established links with the world's universities. Through international exchanges, students from different nationalities and cultural backgrounds gather here.

The Technopark of the University of Valencia has not only scientific research institutions, but also a business sector, where more than 70 companies are gathered, mainly focusing on biotechnology or ICT. Research institutions in the Science Park include the Materials Science Institute, the Molecular Science Institute and the Image Processing Laboratory. Another university research facility is the century-old observatory, which houses three telescopes and two all-sky cameras.

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland

n|w University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland School of Business

University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW) is a leading international university in the field of application oriented higher education in Switzerland. It was formed by the merger of four cantonal universities of applied sciences in 2006. At present,

FHNW consists of four campuses and nine colleges, majors covering business, engineering technology, architecture & civil engineering, education, social sciences, music, art &design, life sciences and other disciplines, there are currently more than 12’000 students and nearly 400 global partners. Moreover, FHNW has 55 research institutes dedicated to applied technology research and development, consulting and higher professional education.

The FHNW School of Business is a first-class school in the field of business management in Switzerland. The school consists of 6 institutes including financial management, non-profit and public management, human resource management, business management, business information system and for competitiveness and communication.

The School of Business is one of the leading business schools in Switzerland and is accredited as a member of the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The School of Business is practical and international-oriented and has established partnerships with about 170 universities around the world and carried out exchange programs with more than 190 universities. In addition, the school has close cooperative relationships with academic and business world in China, offering management courses as well as exchange programs for students and lecturers. Two former directors of the school are laureates of Friendship Award of Chinese government, the highest honor to foreign experts who contributed substantially to the exchange and cooperation between China and the world.

University of Kragujevac, Faculty of Medical Sciences, Serbia

The Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Kragujevac is a young and modern institution, intertwined with the traditional spirit and climate that created it. Its precious cultural and educational heritage from the heart of Serbia breathes a ruthless management practice in which quality is the only criterion: the quality of teachers, the quality of teaching content, the quality of communication with the environment.

Taking into account the standards of the National Higher Education Commission, Kragujevac University embraces the values and principles of contemporary European university education. The University is committed to establishing an institutional quality management system, as well as building a quality organizational culture, including basic academic, basic professional, integrated academic, academic master's and doctoral studies of 12 faculties.

The University is committed to continuously and actively participating in the process of change, providing students with a modern and effective education and contributing to the development of the University into a modern institution of higher education, which will be integrated into a single European higher education field, as well as the more developed European universities, as equally valuable and respected members of the University community. Furthermore, the university aims to introduce new study programs in its composition according to the needs of the labour market.

University of Greenwich, Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences, UK

The Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences at the University of Greenwich is dedicated to inspirational learning that combines teaching with work placements and impactful research.

Home to the Schools of Human Sciences, Health Sciences and Education, the Faculty has a strong focus on professional and workforce development, with long-established and extensive partnerships across a wide range of professional sectors. From social work to psychology, midwifery to mental health and early years to higher education, we are committed to delivering an academically challenging experience that provides a sound foundation for practice.

That focus is backed by a research culture which addresses real-world issues and identifies interventions that will have a positive impact on peoples' lives.

Cross-professional collaboration is at the heart of what we do, and the Institute of Lifecourse Development brings all of these professions together under one umbrella, to address the challenges people face at different points in their lives.

By harnessing those effective links between professionals, the Institute enables students, staff and partners to address societal problems though learning, research and practice.

Embedded in the community but with a clear global outlook, the faculty offers a welcoming and supportive environment to students from a wide range of backgrounds, and at various stages of academic and professional development. We aim to transform the lives of our students by providing an education that enables them to become creative and confident contributors to society, along with the skills and knowledge needed to make a real difference to their communities.

University of Huddersfield, UK

The University of Huddersfield is a public research university located in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, England. Its history dates back to 1841. In 1970, it became Huddersfield Institute of Technology through the merge with the Ostler Institute of Education, and in 1992, gained the name of the University of Huddersfield.

The University of Huddersfield is a growing center of research and excellence, and it has always pushed the boundaries of knowledge, making teaching quality a particular focus of its activities, winning the inaugural Higher Education Institute Global Teaching Excellence Award and teaching in 2017 The Excellence Framework (TEF) Gold Award, in recognition of the University's commitment to world-class teaching and success in developing students to be independent learners and critical thinkers. In 2020, it was rated as the number one in England for the proportion of teaching staff qualified. The University of Huddersfield achieved its best result at the 2014 Research Excellence Framework (REF) event. It rose to 68th in the UK research power rankings.

The University has world-leading applied research groups in the biomedical sciences, engineering and physical sciences, social sciences and arts and humanities.

The University of Huddersfield has more academics than in any previous cycle, with 262, and the proportion of world-leading research submitted has increased to 15%. The University also owns the Miami Laboratory, a world-class laboratory dedicated to materials science research and energy research. There are currently 20,000 students in the school.

University of Vienna, Austria

The University of Vienna (German: Universität Wien) was founded by Rudolf IV in 1365 and is located in Vienna, the capital of the Republic of Austria. It is the first university and the highest institution in Austria and the oldest university in the German-speaking world. The academic center of the Danube region has produced 21 Nobel Prize winners, as well as presidents, world-renowned politicians, entrepreneurs, etc.

The University of Vienna is the largest university in Austria and one of the largest universities in Europe, with as many as 90,000 students, 15 colleges and 5 research centers such as Molecular Biology, Microbiology and Environmental Systems Science, and more than 80 school buildings, scattered in various districts of Vienna. Among them, the old and magnificent main campus is located in the first district of Vienna. The University of Vienna is a member of the European Association of Universities, the European Capital University Alliance, the European Association of Research Universities, and the European University Foundation.

The University of Vienna is ranked 137th in the Times Higher Education World University Rankings and 151st in the QS World University Rankings in 2022.

RWTH Aachen University, Germany

RWTH Aachen University (full name: Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen) is located in Germany's westernmost major city where three nations with three languages converge at its boundaries putting Aachen at the center of a dynamic, cross-border region. It was founded in 1870 and looks back on more than 150 years of innovative teaching and research. The University educates over 47,000 students enrolled in 170 courses. This includes more than 13,000 international students from 138 countries. RWTH is thus the largest technical university in Germany and has one of the largest research campuses in Europe. The current edition of U-Multirank certifies that the RWTH performs well in many indicators. In 22 out of 24 categories it receives ratings in the two top groups (very good and good). In the QS World University Ranking, RWTH recently improved by 18 places to 147th place. In the THE Ranking, RWTH ranks 107th worldwide.

RWTH is one of the eleven German universities that were successful in the Excellence Universities funding line. Three Clusters are part of RWTH's excellence strategy: The Fuel Science Center – Adaptive Conversion Systems for Renewable Energy and Carbon Sources, Internet of Production, and ML4Q – Matter and Light for Quantum Computing, the latter developed in collaboration with the University of Cologne and the University of Bonn. A strategic partnership with the Helmholtz Forschungszentrum Jülich enables to pursue frontier research, shared infrastructure and the recruitment of top talent. Several national research centres and more than 420 companies on the RWTH campus as well as numerous companies, start-ups and research institutions in the immediate vicinity form a unique research landscape. In addition, RWTH maintains a broad network with strong partners in Germany, Europe and the world through the TU9, IDEA League, ENHANCE, CESAER and TIME alliances as well as its intensive international partnerships.

University of Stuttgart, Germany "Intelligent Systems for a Sustainable Society"

Universität Stuttgart

Founded in 1829, at the beginning of the Age of Industrialization, the University of Stuttgart prepares the way for innovation within an economically and scientifically powerful region and contributes to its economic success and prosperity. Today it is one of the leading technically oriented universities in Germany and a member of Germany's TU9, the alliance of German Universities of Technologies.

The University is dedicated to researching and strengthening the interfaces between technology, society and culture in an interdisciplinary manner, called the"Stuttgart Way." This means the integration of engineering, natural sciences, humanities and social sciences based on fundamentals of cutting-edge research at disciplinary level. By means of its culture of integration, it creates and conveys knowledge for shaping the future of society, thus contributing to the university's vision "Intelligent systems for a sustainable society."

The University focuses on basic research that is both knowledge-oriented as well as application-related and is actively part of regional, national and international research networks. In research its five profile areas are Architecture and Adaptive Building, Digital Humanities, Production Technologies, Quantum Science and Simulation Science. Emerging fields are Autonomous Systems and Biomedical Systems. Clusters of Excellence are "Data-integrated Simulation Sciences" and "Integrative Computational Design and Construction for Architecture."

The University of Stuttgart is committed to the principle of unity between research and teaching. It fosters fascination for the sciences, supporting students and Junior researchers at all stages of their careers. The University educates individuals into exceptional experts who think integratively and globally and act responsibly in sciences, economy and society. Its 10 faculties offer 170 study programs for about 24,000 students, of whom 20% are foreign students. Several study programs have been placed in top rankings, among them Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Systems.

Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany

The Deggendorf Institute of Technology (DIT), or Technische Hochschule Deggendorf (THD) in German founded in 1994, has quickly become one of the most pioneering and advanced universities of applied sciences in Germany. DIT's mission is the continued focus on high quality, practice-oriented and modern education combined with advanced research, based within our business, technology and health faculties. DIT's total student population is currently at around 8,500 including 41% international students from all over the globe. The offered studies focus on engineering, business, computer science, health sciences, social sciences, and more. Many programs at DIT have a strong practical and hands-on component, emphasizing the importance of real-world experience and application of knowledge.

In 2023, DIT is awarded 1st place worldwide for entrepreneurship (WURI). DIT's has thirteen unique technology and healthcare campuses dotted around neighbouring districts in the Bavarian Forest region. In these technology campuses, staff and students work closely together with local and international companies to create specific pioneering solutions for immediate implementation. Companies are supported by the university in research, development and consulting work and therefore the companies innovate to create new perspectives for young, qualified people.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, the Netherlands

Since its foundation, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam has stood for scientific and value-driven education, research and knowledge transfer. VU Amsterdam works on building a better world for people and the planet.

The world is facing major challenges, while in society you see increasing polarization and growing inequalities. This calls for science with a conscience. With our expertise, open mindedness, enterprising spirit and multidisciplinary approach, we work on developing sustainable solutions that impact society. We focus on four profile themes: Connected World, Governance for Society, Human Health and Life Sciences, and Science for Sustainability.

VU Amsterdam is a unique university with faculties in the humanities, STEM, social sciences and medical sciences. Our education and research are closely linked. We combine our top position in research with a strong societal orientation, which has resulted in an excellent international reputation. Our education and research are distinctly multidisciplinary. This is reinforced by the fact that our faculties are all located on one campus. We are a true campus university in the heart of the Zuidas Knowledge District, sharing its excellent national and international position and accessibility.

31,704 students,
5,190 international students,
133 different nationalities

In the 2021 CWTS Leiden Ranking, VU Amsterdam is listed as 79th in the world, 24th in Europe and 4th in the Netherlands. In the ARWU/Shanghai Ranking, VU Amsterdam is consistently ranked among the top 150 universities worldwide.

Erasmus University Rotterdam, Rotterdam School of Management, the Netherlands

Rotterdam School of Management (RSM) is the business school of the prestigious Erasmus University Rotterdam (EUR). Founded in 1913, Erasmus University Rotterdam is home to the first Nobel Prize winner in economic sciences, Jan Tinbergen. Today, the university is ranked in the top 3% of best universities in the world and is esteemed worldwide for its medical, economics, law and business segments. In addition to RSM, it hosts institutes such as the Erasmus School of Economics and the Erasmus MC University Medical Centre.

RSM provides ground-breaking research and education furthering excellence in all aspects of management and is based in the international port city of Rotterdam – a vital nexus of business, logistics and trade. RSM's primary focus is on developing business leaders with international careers who can become a force for positive change by carrying their innovative mindset into a sustainable future.

As a member of the China-Europe Business School Alliance, RSM has consistently ranked first in Europe in terms of the number of papers published in top international business school journals and has been ranked among the world's top 30 business schools in major global rankings over the years. In the 2021, RSM's ranked 1st in the world for business administration in Academic Ranking of the World Universities.

Maastricht University, the Netherlands

Maastricht University (UM) is the most international university in the Netherlands. More than half of the student population and almost half of the academic staff come from abroad. Together, they represent more than 100 different nationalities.

The university distinguishes itself with its innovative education model, international character and multidisciplinary approach to research and education. Since 2011, UM offers the Maastricht Science Programme which means that you can compose your own natural science degree programme in the liberal arts and sciences tradition. In 2021, UM achieved a noteworthy ranking of 127th place in the Times Higher Education World Ranking.

One of the standout achievements of the university is its medical program, which was ranked 49th worldwide by the Times Higher Education World Ranking in 2021. At the heart of the university's success lies the Surgery Department within the Faculty of Health, Medicine, and Life Sciences with a team of over 100 dedicated researchers and a remarkable track record of more than 2300 publications. The Surgery Department is unique in its approach, fostering daily collaboration between the Biomedical Science and Medicine programs. What truly sets the surgery department apart is its international network of dedicated staff members. The department's affiliation with prestigious international research initiatives, such as the scientific advisory board of the International Human Microbiome Consortium and Support Action, as well as the steering board of the Million Microbiomes of Humans Project, showcases its commitment to advancing knowledge in the field.

Westlake University, China

Westlake University is a new type of research university organized by the social forces and supported by the government of China. Hosted by Westlake Education Foundation, the university was initiated in March 2015 and was officially founded on 14 Feb 2018 with the approval of the The Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (MOE). Professor Yigong Shi is the first president of the new university.

Beginning with the cultivation of doctoral students, Westlake University mainly carries out basic frontier scientific research and insists on the development of selected disciplines, focusing on the cultivation of top-notch innovative talents. In accordance with the university's orientation of "Excellence, Refinement, and research-oriented", the university is committed to gathering first-class teachers, building first-class disciplines, cultivating first-class talents and producing first-class results, striving to make major breakthroughs in original theories and key core technological innovations to make outstanding contributions to the progress of the country, the rejuvenation of the nation and the well-being of mankind.

University of Kikwit, Democratic Republic of Congo

The University of Kikwit (UNIKIK), founded in 1992, serves as a beacon of higher education in the agricultural province of Kwilu in Democratic Republic of the Congo. Guided by its motto "Science-Creativity-Development," UNIKIK carries out a multifaceted mission that encompasses teaching, research promotion across various societal domains, and providing essential healthcare services to the local population. UNIKIK boasts five faculties, each dedicated to specific fields of study. These faculties encompass Medical, Agricultural, Economic and Financial, Law, and Science and Technology, offering a Biomedical option. Notably, the university's Biomedical students played a vital role in communicating health precautions during the Ebola epidemic in 1995.

In the academic year 2021-2022, UNIKIK registered a student body of 5,194, comprising 3,703 male students and 1,491 female students. The university's dedicated staff consists of 313 members, comprising 235 men and 78 women. UNIKIK operates across two university sites, equipped with auditoriums and infrastructure for academic activities. Furthermore, the institution holds a significant 75-hectare concession, including 20 hectares dedicated to reforestation and agriculture. Ongoing developments encompass the construction of 12 auditoriums and the availability of a video conference room. UNIKIK benefits from a presence of accomplished alumni in various sectors, furthering its influence in Kikwit and the nation.

Despite its achievements, UNIKIK grapples with challenges including an overreliance on faculty from external institutions, accounting for over 90% of the teaching staff. The university also faces financial constraints due to limited state subsidies, under-equipped laboratories, an absence of essential IT infrastructure, resource-limited university clinics, and a lack of photovoltaic power stations. Addressing these challenges is integral to UNIKIK's journey of growth and development, ensuring its continued role as a center for education, research, and healthcare in the region.

Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale, France

As a public institution with technical occupations under the dual auspices of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Research, Inserm is the successor to the French National Institutes of Health. Inserm is the only public research institute in France dedicated to human health and medical research, similar to the National Institutes of Health. Inserm has approximately 13,000 scientists, including 5,100 long-term researchers and 5,100 staff working with university hospitals and medical schools, conducting basic and translational research programs through 339 research units. Inserm's laboratories and research units are located all over France, mainly in the largest cities. Eighty percent of Inserm's research units are embedded in French university research hospitals.

According to the 2019 Scimago Institutional Rankings, Inserm is ranked 2nd in health (behind NIH) and 22nd in all areas. Two Inserm research scientists have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. In 1980, French immunologist Jean Dausset (along with Baruj Benacerraf and George Davis Snell) received the Nobel Prize for his work in discovering and characterizing the genes responsible for the major histocompatibility complex. In 2008, French virologist Françoise Barré-Sinoussi was awarded with her former mentor Luc Montagnier for identifying the human immunodeficiency virus.

Each year, Inserm awards three researchers in three main different categories. The "Grand prix de l'Inserm" (Inserm Grand Prize) honours the institution's active researchers for major advances in biology, and the "Grand prix d'honneur" (Inserm Grand Prize of Honour) honours researchers in French public institutions whose contributions have a major impact on science, and the "Prix étranger" (Foreign Prize) rewards foreign researchers for their exceptional contribution to biomedical research. In addition, Inserm offers internal awards for engineers and young researchers.

Institut Supérieur d'électronique de Paris (ISEP), France

The Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris, located in the heart of Paris, next to the "Quartier Latin", was created in 1955, just where Edouard Branly, Teacher of Physics at the "Catholic University of Paris"(21 Rue d'Assas), discovered in 1890 the radio conductors which would lead to the invention of the French Television. Classrooms, Labs and Administration of the school are located in a building, built in 1988 and located at the 28, rue Notre-Dame-des-Champs, Paris. The ISEP master's degree is recognized by the engineering accreditation institution (CTI) since 1960. In 1969, the school formed an association with 19 other schools (they are 27 until today) of the catholic private sector. This association is named FESIC (Engineer and Management Graduate Schools Federation). In 1971, the school is recognized by the French government.

ISEP trains very high-level graduate engineers who receive a thorough training in electronics, telecommunications & networks, software engineering, signal-image processing and humanities, providing them with the required knowledge and skills to meet the needs of businesses. Since 2008, ISEP has been offering an international program taught fully in English which allows international students to obtain the engineering master's degree.

Singularity Academy, Switzerland

Singularity Academy, headquarter in Zurich, campus across the Netherlands, Germany, and Switzerland, is a newly developed online-and-offline University, aiming to provide students a unique platform with peers in knowledge transfer and wisdom exchange across multi-level and cross-disciplinary sectors. Singularity Academy gathers world-level gurus, masters, and mentors to share their insights and knowledge online and offline, in order to assist each student to integrate knowledge from Education, Research, and Practice, cross-disciplinary, and inner-and-outer spheres with the tenet of humanity and sustainability. Singularity Academy's education creates a non-conventional education system to effectively help people find their singular point/moment for their specific singularly sustainable and infinite growth, with a force to positive change in the community and the planet.

European Network of Research and Innovation Centers and Hubs(ENRICH) in China, EU

European Network of Research and Innovation Centers and Hubs (ENRICH) is a global network of centers and hubs for the internationalization of European science, technology and innovation (STI), as well as for the promotion of greater international cooperation. The ENRICH project was launched by the European Commission through the "Horizon 2020" research and innovation program.

ENRICH in China is now an initiative coordinated by Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (SPI) and with a clear vision to be a unique catalyst for connections between STI organisations in Europe and China, the enhancement of synergies between European and Chinese start-ups, SMEs and researchers, as well as promoting technology transfer, capacity-building activities and a range of networking opportunities.

As the second largest world economy and a powerful industrial and technology player, China is a vital country for the current and future development of STI. ENRICH in China aims to enhance synergies between European and Chinese initiatives and STI infrastructures, working as an interface that links European organizations in China with their customers and partners throughout any phase of the business.

ENRICH in China delivers these business support and consultancy services through their network of China-based Soft-Landing Zones and their Regional Hub in Shenzhen. These organisations can deliver on-demand soft landing support, provide European and Chinese start-ups with support and collaborate towards strengthened European and Chinese ties in the domain of STI.

EURAXESS in China, EU

EURAXESS China is part of EURAXESS Worldwide, an initiative of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation and has had an office in Beijing since 2009. It is a networking tool for European researchers active in China and for Chinese and international researchers wishing to collaborate and/or pursue a career in Europe. EURAXESS China provides information about research in Europe, European research policy, opportunities for research funding, for EU-China and international collaboration and for trans-national mobility. It supports all research fields and researchers from all career stages.

Visit us at china.euraxess.org and join the EURAXESS China community.

EURAXESS Worldwide has dedicated teams in the following countries and regions ready to assist researchers: ASEAN (focus on Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Vietnam), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC, focus on Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Colombia), China, India, Japan, North America (USA and Canada), Korea, Australia and New Zealand, and as of 2022 EURAXESS Africa hub was officially launched.

Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen e.V., Germany



The German Women Entrepreneurs Association (VdU) was founded in 1954. Since its inception, the VdU, as a cross-industry trade association, has been representing the interests of women entrepreneurs. For more than 65 years, the VdU has been fighting for more women in entrepreneurship, more women in management positions, and better conditions for women in business. Corporate interests representing women in politics have been a concern of the VdU.

VdU currently represents more than 1,800 women-led companies, especially medium-sized companies from industry, trade, commerce and services. The members of the VdU together generate an annual turnover of 85 billion euros and employ 500,000 people.

VdU strengthens women's entrepreneurship, supports the promotion of women in management positions, encourages women to start their own businesses, comes up with new entrepreneurial ideas and cultivates business connections. As a business association, VdU has active networks and is at the heart of communication between and across generations of women facing entrepreneurial challenges. Every year more than 200 women entrepreneurs gather at the VdU Annual Conference.

VdU is very active internationally in various projects to promote women, such as the promotion of women-run companies in various parts of Africa, among other places. In addition, the VdU has the mandate of the German federal government at the G20 (W20) summit and at the G7. Furthermore, the VdU represents nationally and internationally the interests of gender equality directly under the global umbrella organization FCEM (Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales).

VdU is the only business association that fights for binding quotas in jointly determined supervisory boards of listed companies. Since 2010, VdU has been various events and seminars to offer women entrepreneurs a form of personal engagement with federal politicians.

Professional Women International Brussels (PWI), Belgium



Professional Women International Brussels (PWI) is a multi-national association that helps professional women grow and succeed and advance gender balanced leadership. PWI is a non-profit organization that wants to provide professional women with the tools and attitudes to be leaders, offers a safe space to learn as well as perform, provide them with opportunities to contribute and create, and support female empowerment in general. To achieve these goals, PWI organizes events such as social networking drinks or educational seminars and workshops and run dedicated programs that allow people to make new contacts, meet inspiring women and learn from one another.

Being a globally connected association, PWI is the Belgian chapter of the global Professional Women's Network (3,500 members) and affiliated with The International Alliance of Women (35,000 members worldwide). Being a part of PWI Brussels gives people access to a group of incredibly inspiring women and 28 other PWN city networks, opening doors to a vast pool of international connections and opportunities. PWI also offers mentorship and coaching programs that pair experienced professionals with those seeking guidance and mentorship. These programs are designed to offer valuable insights and support for career growth.

At PWI Brussels, people believe in giving back to the community. Members will have the chance to volunteer and contribute to meaningful initiatives, leaving a lasting mark on women's advancement and society. The values that guide as are those of respect, courage, collaboration, excellence, and inclusiveness.

SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany

The SilkRoad Cooperation (SRC) is trying to redefine the modern landscape. We are a dynamic boutique consultancy specializing in driving advisory services, communications, commercial dialogues, research, and sustainability initiatives. Our focal point revolves around advancing knowledge dissemination, trade dynamics, innovation, and cultural appreciation through collaborative engagements along the historic Silk Road pathway.

Our vision entails the establishment of a cutting-edge advisory intricately linked with the business realm. Our efforts are dedicated to nurturing synergistic relationships that will shape the future of Europe's vital engagements in a positive light.

Our core values center on championing innovation as we facilitate interchanges and collaborations across Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, encompassing nations participating in the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

At SRC, our core mission revolves around harnessing the entrepreneurial potential of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) by constructing an Innovation Pathway along the Silk Road and building an Innovation Bridge that directly connects Europe to Greater China.

Embedded in our philosophy is the seamless fusion of creativity, scientific understanding, and operational efficiency. We ardently cultivate international dialogues and exchanges, underscoring our relentless dedication to pioneering breakthroughs in research, streamlined trade, multicultural communication.

Recognizing the diverse perspectives brought forth by different companies, we embrace the enriching spectrum of innovative solutions they offer. This range of thought and approach strengthens our collaborative initiatives, making them comprehensive and uniquely impactful in our resolute mission to bridge the gap between Europe and Greater China.

Alminica AB, Research & Innovation Coordinator Institute of Advanced Materials, Sweden

Alminica AB (Ulrika, Sweden) is a company active in supporting individuals and organizations in bringing research to business in advanced materials and deeptech for energy and environment, and facilitate competence and capacity for strategic leadership in research and career.

The company provides training, courses, and workshops on how to transfer knowledge, create impact, and build innovation capacity. By adding training in impact creation and showing how the technology has EU relevance, the project can demonstrate a realistic approach to create impact. Alminica is supporting early R&D with exploitation plans. As co-applicant, the company is supporting with writing an impact description in R&D and EU projects.

We have established an innovation ecosystem and can by that offer a wide range of topics for non-academic placement, secondments, and student and researcher exchange programs. The company has experience in scaling up of deep tech innovations and we are part of the place-based innovation ecosystem Ulrikaringen in Sweden. This is a bottom-up approach that we have initiated. In one vertical we support startups and scale-ups that are developing deep tech innovations from R&D. The aim is to facilitate the uptake of deep tech innovations and support the next generation of innovative companies. Alminica AB is founded in 2016 by Dr. Mikael Syväjärvi.

Shenzhen's European Office, Belgium

Established in 2000, Shenzhen's European Office is a business service provider representing the City of Shenzhen, China's first Special Economic Zone. Headquartered in Brussels, Belgium, SZEO is supported by the offices in the UK, Germany, France, Switzerland and Sweden.

SZEO offers consultation to European companies wishing to enter the Chinese market through Shenzhen, as well as to Shenzhen-based companies looking to enter the European market.

In addition, SZEO serves as a liaison for the Shenzhen Municipal Government and acts as a point of contact for all economic related inquiries on behalf of the municipal government.

SZEO is supported by the Shenzhen City Government, Commerce Bureau of Shenzhen Municipality, and various private alliances with key organizations and professional firms. It provides free consultation and matchmaking services to European and Shenzhen companies, including market analysis on trade and investment opportunities in Shenzhen's core and emerging industries, business development consulting and matching of key development opportunities between Shenzhen and Europe.

Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE) , Germany

The Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE) was established on November 21, 2001, and was legally registered in the Frankfurt District Court in Germany.

FCPAE consists of 62 association members from more than 13 European countries, representing over 20,000 Chinese professional members in various fields.

With the presidents, councils and activists of each association as the core, through mutual exchanges and promotion of industrial project cooperation, FCPAE aims at developing " win-win" way of working between Europe and China. Under the premise of abiding by the laws and regulations of the host country and China, the association promotes Sino-European scientific and technological cultural exchange.

Since its establishment, FCPAE has actively carried out exchange activities with China, led more than 60 delegations to return to China for inspection visits, and successively held more than 20 international academic seminars in Europe and China. FCPAE also hosted more than 10 entrepreneurship competitions in Europe, and successfully held 12 "FCPAE European Forum" in Paris, Copenhagen, Brussels, Vienna, The Hague, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Dublin, Hamburg and the cloud, received the enthusiastic attention and direct participation of governments, enterprises, research institutions, universities, and relevant institutions of the European Union and the United Nations in Europe and other countries in the world.

Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC), Belgium

The Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce or BCECC is the leading Belgian business association for companies engaged in doing business in or with China, regrouping about 550 Belgian and Chinese company members. We are a non-profit organization established in the 1980s following China's open-door policy and we are located in Brussels, the heart of Europe.

The BCECC is supported by the Belgian federal government and regional authorities (Flanders Investment & Trade, AWEX, and hub.brussels). Since 2004, BCECC has been granted the status of Accredited Chamber of the Federation of Belgian Chambers of Commerce and the Chamber of Commerce of Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

Our objectives are to promote the commercial, cultural, scientific and academic co-operation between Belgium and the People's Republic of China; to enhance information exchange; to develop contacts between Belgian and Chinese enterprises, and between Belgian and Chinese trade and economy related government official institutions. In order to reach these goals, we organize seminars and webinars on a broad range of topics, networking events, lunches with high-level officials, company visits, etc.

Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC), Belgium

法兰德斯中国商会 FCCC VCKK
FLANDERS-CHINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VLAAMS-CHINESE KAMER VAN KOOPHANDEL

MISSION

The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce is an action platform initiated by the business community for the promotion of economic, trade and scientific relations with the People's Republic of China.

With a clear European perspective, it aims to achieve its objectives through information and interaction, and by supporting projects in cooperation with government and other public authorities.

OBJECTIVES

The Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC) is a private institution. It promotes economic, commercial and scientific relations between Flanders and the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The FCCC assists Flemish companies in doing business with China and supports Chinese companies wishing to invest in Flanders.

The FCCC is a lobby organisation acting with the authorities in Flanders, Belgium and the European Union, as well as with official authorities in the People's Republic of China.

The FCCC organises China conferences, workshops, networking lunches and meetings with high-ranking Chinese delegations. It organises missions to China, working in close cooperation with official government bodies.

The FCCC disseminates business advice from China experts and also issues a China Business Weekly Newsletter.

The FCCC is in charge of the secretariate-general of the EU-China Business Association (EUCBA). This is the umbrella organisation for all China associations in Europe. The EUCBA promotes economic and trading relations between the EU and China, working closely with the European Commission and the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China. The EUCBA also acts as a privileged interlocutor of the PCR's diplomatic representation in Brussels.

Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC), Portugal

The Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC) was founded in 1978. It is a non-profit private entity devoted to the development of the economic and commercial relations between Portugal and the People's Republic of China.

In its governing bodies are included the most relevant industrial and financial groups in the bilateral context (Haitong Bank, REN/State Grid, Huawei, China Three Gorges, Caixa Geral de Depósitos, Fidelidade/Fosun, EDP, Millenium BCP, Estoril Sol, Novo Banco, TAP, etc), among almost 200 associated companies. With headquarters in Lisbon, it has a representative office at the north of the country, Guimarães, and a delegation in Macao.

Founded before the re-establishment of the diplomatic relations between Portugal and the People's Republic of China, CCILC was the first association of companies in Europe promoting business with China through the organization of missions, providing useful information and high technical support services, so that the associated companies could develop their activities in both countries in a more efficient, informed and safe way.

The promotion and protection of our associates' interests, the reporting of information sensitive to their activities and a constant and committed follow-up with official authorities with the purpose of creating better conditions for the resolution of problems which will help the development of bilateral business deals are the central mission of the Chamber's work, through the administrative structure of the General Secretariat and a set of seminal partnerships, in Portugal and in China.

Throughout its existence years, CCILC has offered qualified technical support which allows member companies to develop their operations in China in a much more efficient, informed and secure way. It seeks to provide information of all kind, such as promoting business opportunities, delivering statistical data on imports and exports, or announcing the organization of fairs and exhibitions. The Chamber makes available legislation and regulation, organizes events and conferences, and promotes entrepreneurial networking between both countries. It prepares market studies and other research, provides support in visits of official delegations (and business delegations), provides interpretation and translation services, and cooperates in working with legal, fiscal and commercial consulting.

Alibaba Cloud, China

Established in 2009, Alibaba Cloud (www.alibabacloud.com) is the digital technology and intelligence backbone of Alibaba Group. It offers a complete suite of cloud services to customers worldwide, including elastic computing, database, storage, network virtualization services, large-scale computing, security, management and application services, big data analytics, a machine learning platform and IoT services. Alibaba maintained its position as the third leading public cloud IaaS service provider globally since 2018, according to IDC. Alibaba is the world's third leading and Asia Pacific's leading IaaS provider by revenue in U.S. dollars since 2018, according to Gartner.

Zhejiang Saichuang Weilai Venture Capital Investment Management Co., Ltd., China

Zhejiang Saichuang Weilai Venture Capital Investment Management Co., Ltd. is a professional platform focusing on building an ecosystem of innovation and entrepreneurship for high-level talents in China and abroad. Focusing on the whole world, the company takes "capital" and "industry" as critical support, urban science and innovation centers as carriers, to provide services. More precisely, it attracts talents with competitions, provides in-depth incubation with capital, and offers grounding services to empower the industry and finance. The company also designs a "four-sphere integrated" service, including an innovation & entrepreneurship competition, a venture capital fund, an entrepreneurship academy and an industrial acceleration center.

Based on eight years of experience and achievements, Saichuang Weilai has built its own Industrial Technology Research Institute and the "Haichuanggu" high-level talent database, to promote the deep integration of talent and industry through precise targeting and digital services.

World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS)

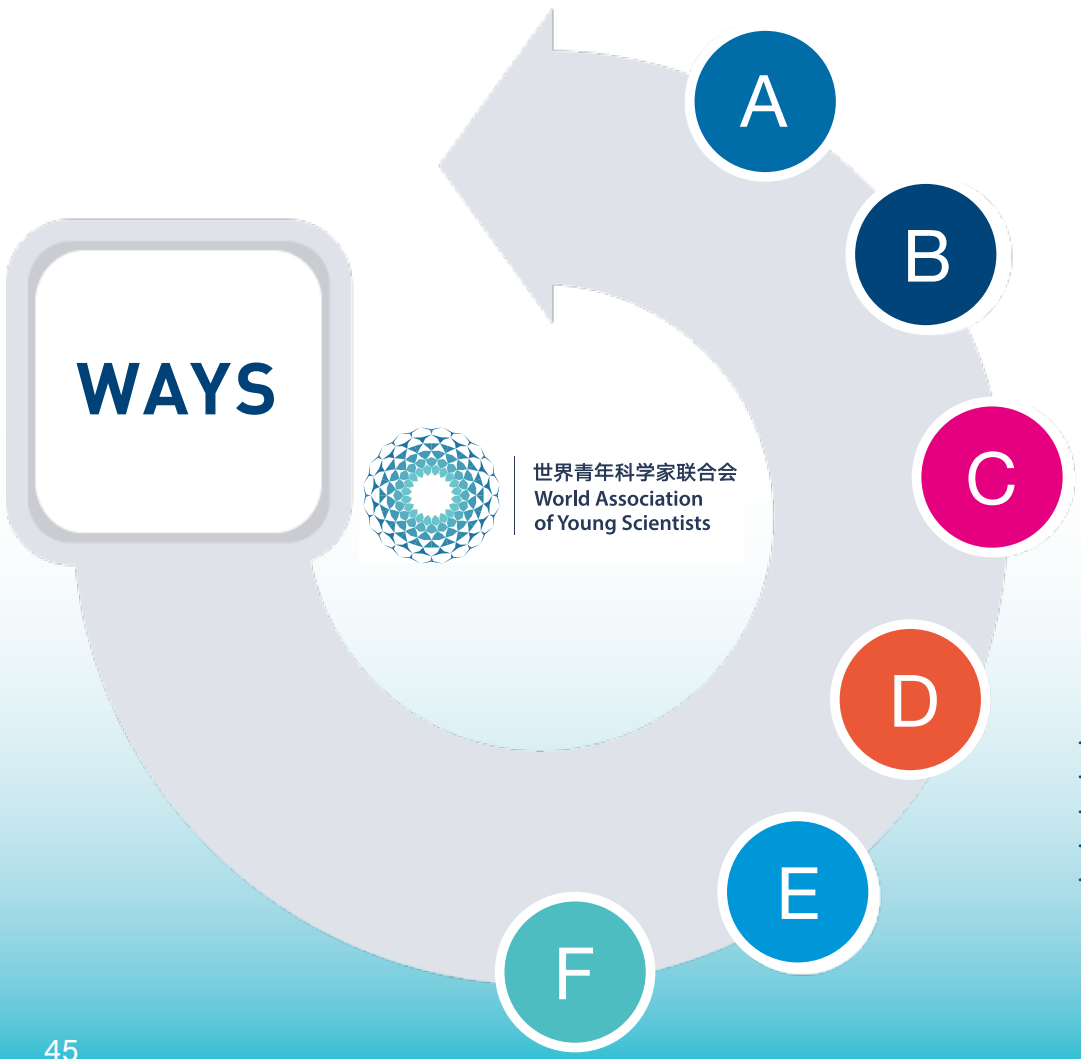
a non-governmental and non-profit international organization for science and technology

Mission

1. To promote the development of science and technology through global youth by building an exchange platform for young scientists around the world and propelling the international exchange of science and technology as well as innovation and cooperation among young scientists;
2. To encourage young scientists to serve the sustainable development by providing youth solutions for human well-being;
3. To promote the integrated development of science and technology, innovation, economy, industry, society and art by converging the innovative impetus of youth for the development of global economy and science and technology;
4. To contribute the power of youth to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals;
5. To set youth examples for upholding the ethics and moral standards of scientific research.

Scope of Activities

1. Organizing international exchange activities for world young scientists;
2. Establishing the π Community for World Young Scientists;
3. Holding annual meetings, seminars and other academic conferences.



A. WYSS

B. World Young Scientist Growth Foundation

C. WAYS SDGs Award

D. World Young Scientist Summer School Program

E. Innovation and Entrepreneurship Platform

- WYSS Incubator
- WYSS Business Development Park
- WYSS Entrepreneur City
- WYSS Academic Center
- Fund for World Young Scientists

F. WYSS π Community

WYSS Innovation & Entrepreneurship Platforms

WYSS Incubator

Targeting the national makerspace, national incubator and national university science and technology park, the Incubator has a total floor area of 43,000 square meters after expansion. It focuses on five strategic emerging industries including digital economy, smartt equipment, life science, new materials, and new energy. By leveraging the innovation chain of research institutes, the industry chain of industry leaders, the capital chain of venture capital institutions, the policy chain of local governments and the supply chain of Wenzhou merchants in China and abroad, it is committed to helping execute, incubate and accelerate the programs led by "high-quality" and "high-level" high tech talents from China and abroad. At present, 47 enterprises have settled in the incubator, and 16 high-level talents have been attracted, including 6 national experts. These enterprises boast 163 patents. In the first half of the year, they achieved a total income of RMB 294 million, paying RMB 4.01 million in tax.

WYSS Business Development Park

The Pioneer Park is designed to serve the industrialization of the summit achievements, and create a base for the "most advanced" industries. It aims to build an innovative and leading industrial park for young scientists worldwide, and become a "highland" for the future industrial development in Wenzhou and even the world. For phase I, 439 Sci-Tech start-ups settled in the park, including 20 high-tech enterprises, 30 enterprises above designated size, and 23 newly attracted tech enterprises (programs). 48 high-level talents above the provincial level are newly introduced. In particular, the program led by academician Ye Zhizhen has completed the company registration and construction kick-off process; the Wenzhou Institute of Zhejiang University has completed the construction of the R&D lab for the preparation process of nano material sol-gel. In the first half of 2021, the park achieved cumulative revenue of RMB 1.58 billion, a year-on-year increase of 37.18%.

WYSS Entrepreneur City

With Zhenan Sci-Tech City as the core, the program aims to build a new sci-tech city featuring the deep integration of people, industry and city, and strive to become a leading area for innovation and entrepreneurship by young scientists and a gathering area for global emerging science and innovation resources. The start-up area of the Sci-Tech City has started construction, with the preparation of the design scheme and planning already completed. After the approval of the regulatory plan, the final plan may be further refined. At present, efforts are being made to promote the construction of high-level platforms. Nine high-level platforms, including Oujiang Laboratory, Wenzhou Institute, University of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and CUSPEA (Wenzhou) Institute of Technology, have been secured. In terms of attracting high-level talents, a total of 73 doctors and other talents above class E have been recruited. At present, there are 4 high-level entrepreneurial teams, 50 industry-university institute cooperation research programs have been finalized, and 101 leading industry projects have been introduced. The principal part of the international talent apartment has been completed, and World Foreign Language School, Wenzhou has been put into operation and opened in September.

WYSS Academic Center

Covering the entire Qidu Island, the Academic Center has a planned area of 3,000 mu (2,000,000m2) and a projected investment of RMB 10 billion. With a central axis, the Center will feature the academic exchange and exhibition center ("one core") and the achievement commercialization park, the sci-tech R&D park and health-education and life park ("three parks"). The aim is to make Qidu Island an international future-oriented sci-tech island integrating technology, ecology and lifestyle and supporting creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship, to provide an important window for global young talents to exchange academic findings, transform achievements, and realize their value. The phase I of the Academic Center program has completed environmental improvement and has started the construction of ancillary parks. For phase II, the construction team has been fully mobilized and started pile foundation construction. The total construction area of the program is 82,000m2. To date, the Academicians' Home has attracted 11 academicians from China and abroad. Three academician cooperation programs including the Zhenan Meigu Research Institute in collaboration with academician Xiaokun Li's team are now in progress.

Fund for World Young Scientists

With a total size of RMB 10 billion, the Fund accurately targets strategic emerging industries such as digital economy, intelligent equipment, life and health, and advanced materials. It aims to attract, retain and facilitate global high-level talents and to create the strongest engine for young scientists worldwide to innovate and start their businesses. With RMB 200 million, the phase I of the fund invested in a batch of innovative programs, including Nabaichuan, Xinshengdai and Xingyao Laser.









Event Logistic Information

Broadcast Online:

The main venue (opening & keynote sessions) will be broadcasted live online via Facebook.

How to get to the venue?

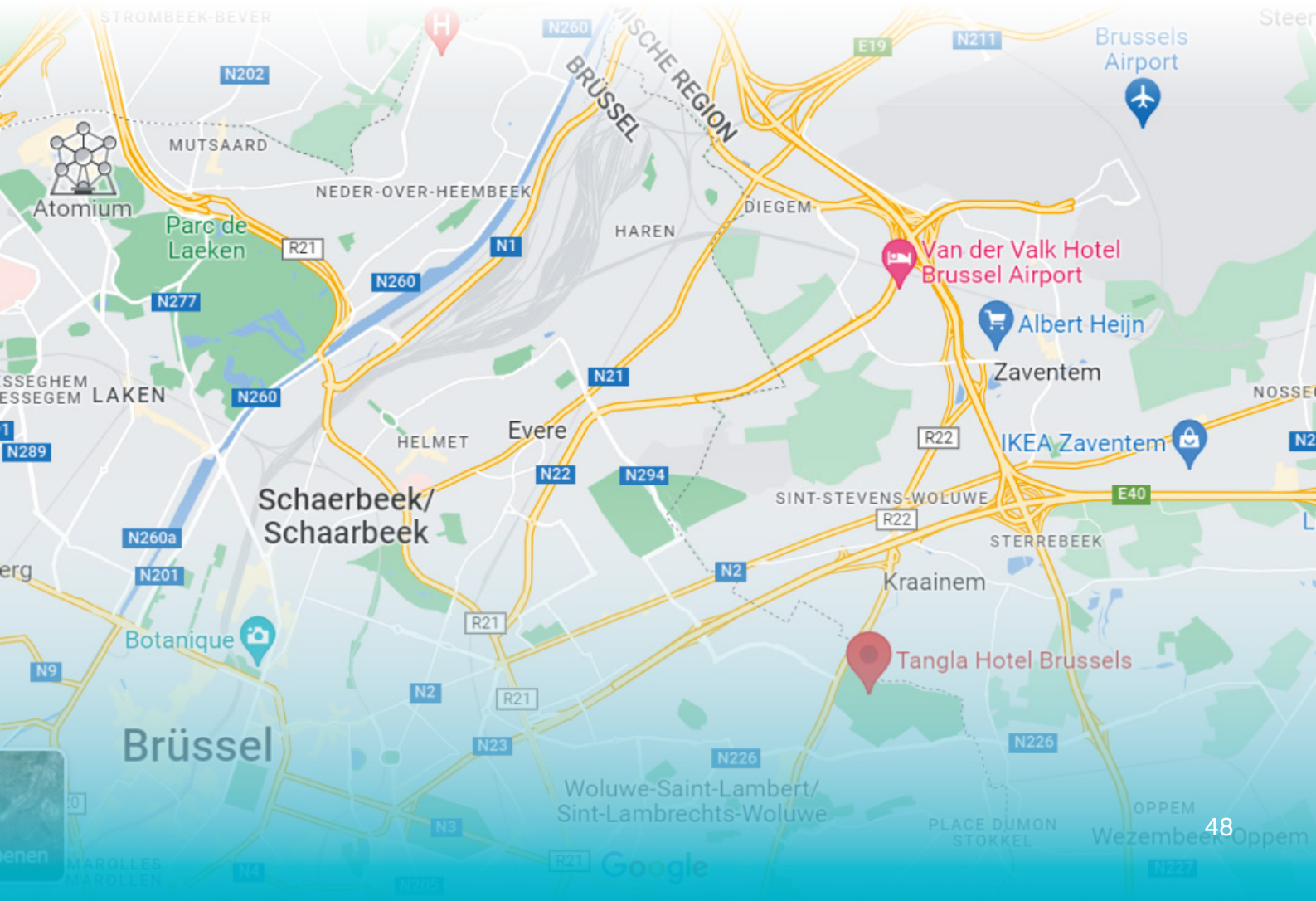
Tangla Hotel Brussels is ideally located with convenient access to both the city center and Brussels airport.

Online Participation:

CET 09:15
on Oct. 18th, 2023

Zoom Meeting Link:
https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82647111583?pwd=a1BRnbA9LtNo2AmrgEZFKNpkWNUm4W.1

Zoom Meeting ID: 826 4711 1583
Passcode: 763243



From Brussels' airports:

The main airports for Brussels are Brussels Zaventem Airport (BRU) and Brussels South Charleroi (CRL).

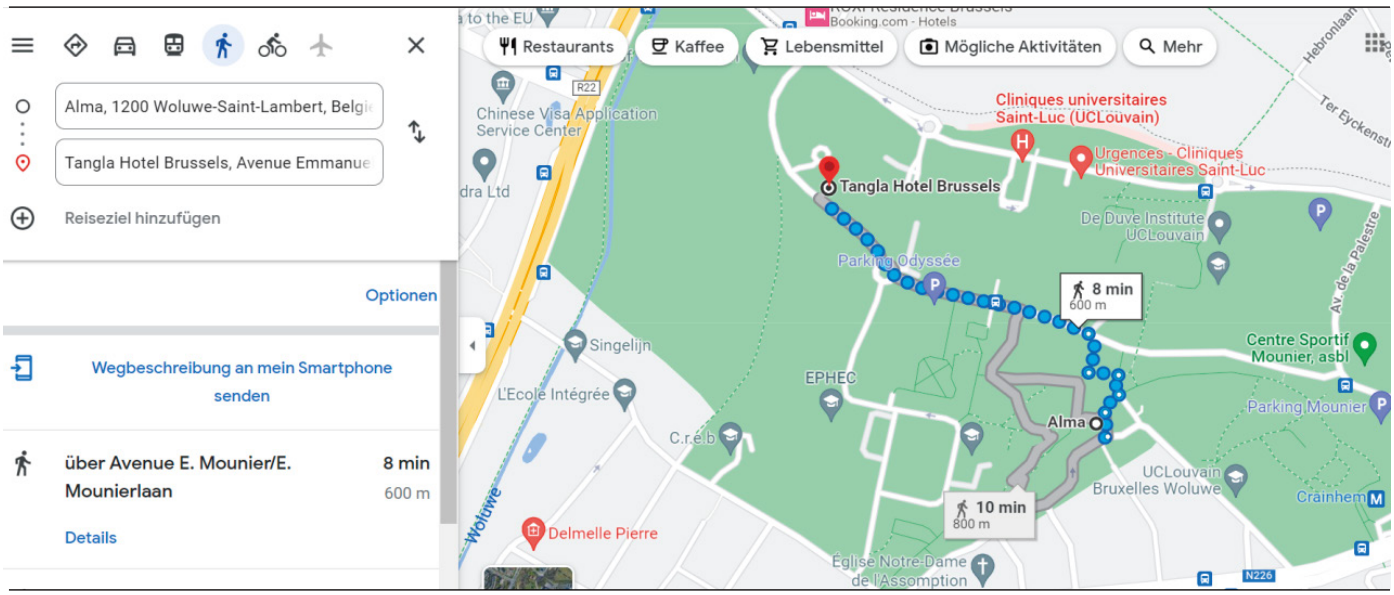
- A Taxi from Brussels Zaventem Airport to Tangla hotel takes about 15 minutes driving time and costs approx. €35.
- A Taxi from Brussels South Charleroi to Tangla hotel takes about 55 minutes driving time and costs approx. €140.

From Brussels' train stations

- A Taxi from Brussels Station North to Tangla hotel takes approx. 24 minutes driving time.
- A Taxi from Brussels Station South to Tangla hotel takes approx. 31 minutes driving time.

By metro:

The metro (STIB) is a fast and easy way to get around in Brussels. For your convenience we advise to use the online Journey planner provided by STIB or to download their mobile app via your app store. Go to online journey planner, the nearest station is Alma. Walking distance from metro station Alma to Tangla hotel is approx. 8 minutes.



By car:

- Coming from All directions: Take the highway E 40 (Brussels-Liège), take Exit 20 Kraainem and follow the signs for "UCL - St-Luc" or take the ring Road, Exit 2 "Wezembeek-Oppem" and follow signs for "UCL – St Luc/ Tangla Hotel Brussels". The hotel is opposite the windmill you encounter.
- Coming from central Brussels: Follow Boulevard de la Woluwé then Avenue Hippocrate, and follow the signs for "Hôpital UCL-St Luc"/ Tangla Hotel Brussels. The hotel is opposite the windmill you will encounter. Or take Exit 20 (Kraainem) from the E40.
- Parking: During the conference, the hotel parking is free of charge. Entry to the underground parking via obtaining ticket from automate.

Contact us

Please do not hesitate to contact us when you need any support.

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WYSS 2023