WYSS 2024 European Event

Conference Brochure

Oct. 31st, 2024
Brussels, Belgium

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

WYSS

Table of Contents

Introduction 01

Organizations 02

Agenda 03

Speakers 09

Organizer & Co-organizers 38

World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS) 52

WYSS Innovation & Entrepreneurship Platforms 53

Event Logistic Information 55

WYSS 2024
European Event

In 2019, the China Association for Science and Technology, in collaboration with the People's Government of Zhejiang Province, launched the World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS, https://www.wyss.org.cn/2024/). A testament to its significance, in 2020, UN Secretary-General António Guterres extended special congratulatory letters to all WYSS 2020 participants, highlighting the UN's deep recognition of the crucial role that youth play in shaping our collective future.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) represent a global blueprint for progress, and it is the youth of today who hold the power to transform these ambitions into reality.

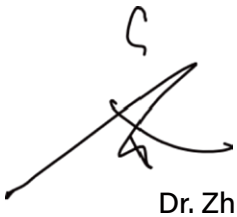
At the WYSS 2024 European Event, we believe that empowering young minds and fostering cross-border collaboration are fundamental to addressing the world's most pressing challenges. From climate action to social justice, technological innovation to inclusive economic development, the passion and creativity of the next generation are driving solutions that will pave the way for a more sustainable and equitable world.

This event serves as a vibrant platform where young change-makers, thought leaders, and global partners unite to exchange ideas, forge connections, and inspire collective action. Through open dialogue and strategic alliances, we aim to amplify the voices of youth and their pivotal role in advancing the UN SDGs.

This year's event will feature four sub-parallel sessions focusing on key themes: "University-Led Discussions on Education Transformation," "Industry and Innovation-Driven Project Roadshows," "Women Organization-Led Discussions on Female-Related Topics," and "Exploration of Disruptive and Emerging Technologies."

Over 80 distinguished individuals—including professors, experts, scholars, researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and officials from nearly 30 countries and regions around the world—will share their insights and innovations at both the main venue and sub-venues of the WYSS 2024 European Event. We anticipate welcoming around 180 participants, all united in their commitment to advancing global cooperation and youth-driven solutions for a brighter future.

Join us in embracing the spirit of youth-led innovation and global cooperation as we strive to build a better world for all. Together, let's ignite the movement that turns vision into action and action into lasting change.



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), Belgium

Co-organizers:

Tianjin University, China
Westlake University, China
ReTech Center of École des Ponts Business School, France
ESSCA School of Management, France
Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany
RWTH Aachen University, Germany
University of Stuttgart, Germany
Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland
Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Kragujevac, Serbia
Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
University of Valencia, Spain
University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland
Singularity Academy, Switzerland
Maastricht University, The Netherlands
Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, The Netherlands
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences at the University of Greenwich, UK
University of Huddersfield, UK
Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC), Belgium
cHESS, Belgium
Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC), Belgium
Professional Women International Brussels (PWI Brussels), Belgium
Shenzhen European Office, Belgium
Alibaba Cloud, China
EURAXESS China, EU
European Network of Research and Innovation Centers and Hubs China (ENRICH China), EU
Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE), Germany
German Women Entrepreneurs Association, Germany
SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany
Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC), Portugal
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

Conference Theme:
Youth-Driven Cooperation,
UN SDG-Led Future

Date:
October 30th and 31st, 2024

Location:
Tangla Hotel Brussels, Avenue Emmanuel Mounier 5 ,
Woluwé St Lambert, 1200 Brussel, Belgium

Oct. 30th, 2024	**19:00-21:00**	Welcome Dinner at Le5 Restaurant
Oct. 31st, 2024	**08:30-09:00**	Registration & Morning Coffee
Opening Session: 9:00-09:50 Imperial Ballroom	**09:00-09:05**	Introduction Dr. Yang Ling (Director of ACEIE, Germany)
	09:05-09:10	Opening Speech： Youth-Driven Cooperation, UN SDG-Led Future Dr. Song Zhiwei (President of ACEIE, Belgium)
	09:10-09:20	Youth: The Catalyst for Our Shared Future Mr. Joseph Leinen (Former President of Delegation for Relations with PRC, Germany)
	09:20-09:30	Fostering Global Collaboration among Young Scientists Mr. Gao Chunbo (Head of the Preparatory Working Group for the World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS), China)
	09:30-09:40	The Pivotal Role of Youth in Advancing International Cooperation Mr. Alain Deneef (Member of the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation, Belgium)
	09:40-09:50	Strengthen Innovation Collaboration to Jointly Promote Global Sustainable Development His Excellency, Mr. Cai Run (Ambassador of the Chinese Mission to the European Union, China)
Keynote Session: 09:50-10:50 Imperial Ballroom	**09:50-10:10**	The Future of Science: Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration in the Age of Disruption Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dorner (Vice President Research and Transfer of Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany)
	10:10-10:30	Educational Transformation Empowered by Intelligent Technology: Generative AI and Sustainable Development Education Dr. Huang Guijing (Senior Vice President of Alibaba Cloud Education, China)
	10:30-10:50	Science in Action: Transforming Research into Real-World Solutions Prof. MD. PhD.MSc Steven.W.M. Olde Damink (Director of Maastricht University Medical Centre, The Netherlands)

Coffee Break & Group Photo

10:50-11:30

Panel Discussion:

11:30-12:30

Imperial Ballroom

Unleashing Youth Power to Pave the Way for a Sustainable Future

- Global Challenges and Youth's Role
- Youth Empowerment
- Collaboration and Partnership

Moderator:

Mr. Laurent Coulie (Co-Founder and CEO of Belgium's 40 under 40, Belgium)

Panelists:

Prof. Dr. Qiu Min (Vice President of Westlake University, China)

Prof. Michał Nowicki (Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation at Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland)

His Excellency, Mr. Bold Luvsanvandan (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Benelux and Mission to the European Union, Mongolia)

Ms. Almut Bühling (Co-Chair of the International Commission of Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen, Germany)

Mr. Bernard Dewit (Chairman of BCECC, Belgium)

Mr. Rik Leenknegt (Director of Flanders Game Hub, Belgium)

Lunch

12:30-14:00

Parallel Sessions

Session 1:

Project Roadshow

14:00-17:30

Room Royal 1

Juries:

Mr. Stephan Hovath (Founder, Ideations & Partner of SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany)

Dr. Sara Medina (Member of the board at Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação, Portugal)

Mr. Paul Thoeng (CEO of cHESS Management Ptd Ltd, Belgium)

Mr. Manu Melotte (M&A Advisory, Investor, Co-Founder ZuuZ Ltd., Belgium)

Ir. Alessio Oliva (Owner of Oliva Technics, Belgium)

14:00-15:40
Part 1

Moderator:

Mr. Gilles De Regge (Lecturer 3D at Digital Arts and Entertainment at Howest, Belgium)

Presenters:

Project | Transforming Mobility Asset Management with DRIVIQ

Mr. Matija Krznar (Entrepreneur & Environmentalist & Co-Founder of DRIVIQ, Croatia)

Project | The Creation of a Sustainable Ecosystem for a Fishing Village

Mr. Najib Abouloula (Director at SMART CONCEPT SOLUTION, Morocco)

Project | Transforming Oncology with AI-Driven Medical Imaging

Ms. Sun Yan (PhD student at the Maastricht University, The Netherlands)

Project | Short film "Giant of the Steppe

Mx. Mari Gallet (Student of Digital Arts and Entertainment at Howest, Belgium)

Project | Thesis about Strategy and Techniques for a Sister University Collaboration Hub

Ms. Kira Schmid (Sourcing Senior Analyst at Coperion, Germany)

Project | BOTdesign ORIGA

Dr. Jean Louis Fraysse (Co-Founder at BOTdesign, France)

Project | ScienceLeadR

Mr. Lionel Guérin (CEO and Co-Founder at ScienceOne, France)

Project | Quinten Health Real-World Digital Twins

Dr. Alexandre Templier (Co-Founder and President, Quinten Health, France)

Project | GeoAkku

Dr. András Tompos (Director of Institute of Materials and Environmental Chemistry in Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Hungary)

Project | Development of Topical Formulations for the Wound Treatment

Ms. M. pharm Marijana Anđić (Teaching Assistant in the Field of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Kragujevac, Serbia)

Coffee Break

15:40-16:00

16:00-17:30
Part 2

Moderator:

Dr.-Ing. Yang Qirui (Group Leader of Artificial Intelligence and Powertrain Simulation at FKFS, Germany)

Presenters:

Project | Buddy App

Ms. Siobhan Abdurahman (Student of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Greenwich University, UK)

Project | MOMACARE

Ms. Deepika Negi (PhD Candidate in Neuroscience at the University of Greenwich, UK)

Project | Fluviq - Smart Drops for a Sustainable Future

Mr. Daniel Hurtado Platero (Co-Founder of Fluviq, Spain)

Project | Check UApp

Ms. Alba Ramírez Saiz (Architect and Urban Planner researcher, PhD student at Polytechnical University of Madrid, Spain)

Project | Litho

Mr. Luca Colzani (CEO and Technical Director at Litho, Italy)

Project | Black Sand Marine Technologies - Unmanned Surface

Mr. Andreas Kavalirek (Chief Technical Officer at BlackSand Marine Technologies, Spain)

Project | EarlyOn/EPDOC

Mr. Jeffrey Tury-Rakar (Co-Founder of EPDOC, Austria)

Project | entec biopower Group

Mr. Jürgen Piffer (CFO of entec biopower Group, Austria)

Project | Econutri

Ms. Verena Schwab (Co-Founder and CEO of Econutri, Austria)

Parallel Sessions

Session 2:

Keynote Speech

14:00-15:20

Imperial Ballroom

Moderator:

Em. Prof. Dr. Ir. Luc R. Taerwe (Member of Royal Flemish Academy, Belgium)

14:00-14:10 **The Role of Women in Leadership and Breakthroughs**

Prof. Dr. Cristina Vidal Lorenzo (Professor in the History of Art Department at the Universidad de Valencia, Spain)

14:10-14:20 **System Integration Approach in Future Oriented Concepts and Designs**

Prof. Ir. Wim Boydens (Professor in the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning at Ghent University, Belgium)

14:20-14:30 **The Impact of Disruptive Technologies on Society 5.0**

Dr. Stephan Jüngling (Lecturer in Business Information Technology at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern, Switzerland)

14:30-14:40 **Emerging Agricultures: from Multiplanetary to Agro-ecology**

Mr. Francois Serneels (Agriculture Expert, Provincial Agri-Food Center of Hainaut Province, Belgium)

14:40-14:50 **Digital Arts and Entertainment. Innovation since the Beginning**

Mr. Dirk Lambrecht (Head of the Major 3D Animation Production at Digital Arts and Entertainment, Howest Kortrijk, Belgium)

14:50-15:00 **The Emerging Futures of Responsible Digital Transformation toward Industry 5.0**

Prof. Dr. Saman Sarbazvatan, (COO & Vice Dean of École des Ponts Business School, France)

15:00-15:10 **Empowering the Next Generation through Education, Research, Innovation, and Global Collaboration**

Dr. Tim Smith (Head of Portfolio Development at IOP Publishing, UK)

15:10-15:20 **The Future of Mobility**

Mr. Thomas Chrétien (Head of User Development at NIO, France)

Coffee Break

15:20-16:00

Parallel Sessions

Session 3:

Round Table Discussion

16:00-17:30

Room Royal 2

Roundtable Discussion on University Education Transformation

- Collaborative Inter-institutional Environments for the Training of Future Professionals around the 2030 Agenda and the UN-SDGs

Moderator:

Prof. Justo García Navarro (Full Professor on Agroforestry Engineering at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain)

Participants:

Prof. Dr. Qiu Min (Vice-President of the Westlake University, China)

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dorner (Vice President Research and Transfer of Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Michał Nowicki (Vice-Rector for Science and International Cooperation at Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland)

Prof. Dr. İpek Akin Karadayi (Vice-Rector for Education of Istanbul Technical University /ITU, Turkey)

Em. Prof. Jan Paul Cornelis (Former Vice-Rector of Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), Belgium)

Prof. Dr. Diana Robescu (Dean of the Faculty of Energy Engineering at National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Romania)

Prof. Enric Ordeix Rigo (Principal of EAE Business School, Spain)

Prof. MD.PhD.MSc Steven.W.M. Olde Damink (Director of Maastricht University Medical Centre, The Netherlands)

Prof. Dr. Rolf Krebs (Head of the Institute of Natural Resources (IUNR), Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften, Switzerland)

Prof. Dr. Nicolaos Theodossiou (Chair of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network SDSN Black Sea, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)

Prof. Brian Boag (Deputy Dean Faculty of Education Health and Human Sciences of the University of Greenwich, UK)

Ms. Stéphanie Villemagne (Chief Development Officer of ESSCA, France)

Prof. Dr. Mireia López Bertran (Vice Dean of International Relations at the Faculty of Geography and History at University of Valencia, Spain)

Prof. Dr. Soon Thiam Khu (Professor of Urban Water Systems Engineering, School of Environmental Science and Engineering at Tianjin University, China)

Parallel Sessions

Session 4:

Round Table Discussion

16:00-17:30

Room Royal 3

Roundtable Discussion on Female Organization's Focus

- Gender Equality and Advocacy
- Economic Empowerment
- Networking and Community Building

Moderator:

Dr. Yang Li (Director of ACEIE, Germany)

Participants:

Ms. Almut Bühling (President of Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen, Germany)

Ms. Barbara Vercruysse (President of Professional Women International Brussels, Belgium)

Dr. Audrey-Flore Ngomsik (Advisory Board Member of European Women on Boards (EWOB), Belgium)

Dr. Marilia Seelaender (Co-chair of Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee, Cancer Cachexia Society, Brazil)

Mr. Frank Schwalba-Hoth (Former Member of the European Parliament, Germany)

Dr. Monika V. Kronbügel (Managing Partner of Global DiVision GmbH, Germany)

Prof. Zhang Wei-Hong (Professor and Supervisor of PhD and Postdoctoral of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science, Ghent University, Belgium)

Prof. Dr. Ronit Shiri-Sverdlov (Professor Hepatic Inflammation and Metabolic Health at Maastricht University, The Netherlands)

Prof. Dr. Wang Mingna (Associate Professor at the Department of Coastal Engineering, School of Building and Construction Engineering at Tianjin University, China)

Ms. Anne Evanno (International Business Development at ESSCA Ecole de Management, France)

Ms. Dove Feng (Marketing Officer at Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, The Netherlands)

Dr. Ivona Ladjevac (Deputy Director at Institute of International Politics and Economics, Serbia)

Dr. Nevena Jeremic (Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy, University of Kragujevac (FMSUKG), Serbia)

Her Excellency, Ms. Tokozile Xasa (Ambassador of South Africa to the Benelux Institutions and the European Union, South Africa)

Parallel Sessions

Session 5:

Panel Discussion

16:00-17:30

Imperial Ballroom

Panel Discussion on Future Technologies

Moderator:

Prof. Dr. Frank Bostyn (Professor of Management at the University of Antwerp, Belgium)

Panelist:

Prof. Piet Herdewyn (Director of the Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry at KU Leuven, Belgium)

Prof. Josep Bordonau (Professor of Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain)

Prof. Wu Fan (Professor with Tenure and Head of the Computer Science Department at Tuskegee University, USA)

Mr. Stephan van den Brink (Founder and managing director of Manus, The Netherlands)

Mr. Juanjo Espinosa (Chief Design Officer, Co-Founder, and member of the Board of Directors, at Manta Aircraft, Italy)

Prof. Sergio I. Molina (Head of INNANOMAT research group, Universidad de Cádiz, Spain)

Mr. Thomas Chrétien (Head of User Development at NIO, France)

Closing Session

Imperial Ballroom

18:30 - 18:40	WYSS European Event Award Ceremony
18:40 - 18:50	Closing Remarks: Until Next Year – Together for a Better World His Excellency, Mr. Fei Shengchao (Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Belgium, China)
18:50 - 21:00	Dinner and Networking Event

Speakers

Opening Session



Mr. Joseph Leinen

Former President of Delegation for Relations with People's Republic of China, Germany
Former Member of the European Parliament, President of the Union of European Federalists, Germany
Senior Fellow of the Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS)
Author for the study of "New Global Deal" for the Summit of the Future at the United Nations in New York
Chair of the Citizens Cooperative for Renewable Energies, BGEG/Germany

Mr. Joseph Leinen 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 was chairman of the German section of the Young European Federalists (JEF) from 1977 to 1979 and a member of its Federal Committee at European level, then chaired by Richard Corbett. He was European secretary of the youth section of the SPD (Jusos) and 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 a member of the Committee of the Regions from 1995 to 1999 and of the Congress of the Regions and Communes of the Council of Europe. Currently, he is member of different organizations related to culture, social and sports; and also the vice-president of EUROSOLAR e.V (1988-2005).



His Excellency, Mr. Cai Run

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

His Excellency, Mr. Cai Run became the Deputy Director-General of the Policy Research Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2008, later heading the Policy Planning Department in 2012. In 2015, he was appointed as China's Ambassador to Portugal, followed by his role as Ambassador to Israel in 2021. In 2024, he was appointed Ambassador to the European Union.



His Excellency, Mr. Fei Shengchao

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Belgium, China

Since June 2024, His Excellency, Mr. Fei Shengchao has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Kingdom of Belgium. He has brought to this position 28 years of experience in diplomacy, media communication and development cooperation. He served as Chinese Ambassador to Somalia between 2021 and 2024. He had worked for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the Chinese Embassy in Cyprus, the Chinese Embassy in Australia, and the Chinese Mission to the European Union.

He was born in October 1973 and he has a Master's Degree of Laws in China.



Mr. Gao Chunbo

Head of the Preparatory Working Group for the World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS), Deputy Director of the Service Center for Enterprise Innovation of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST), China

Mr. Gao Chunbo, Head of the Preparatory Working Group forthe World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS), Deputy Director of the Service Center for Enterprise Innovation of China Association for Science and Technology (CAST). He holds a Master's degree in Education from Beijing Normal University.

Mr. Gao has previously served as Director of the Secretariat of the General Office, Director of the Cadre Division of the Organization and Personnel Department, and Director of the Education and Training Division at CAST. He has also held positions as the Director of the Office and the Director of the Human Resources Department at the China Science and Technology Museum, as well as the Secretary of the Discipline Inspection Commission and Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the China Science and Technology Press.

Mr. Gao has deep expertise in the theory and practice of innovation and entrepreneurship, along with significant experience in developing science and technology organizations and talent.



Mr. Alain Deneef

Member of the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB), Belgium

Mr. Alain Deneef is a Member of the Parliament of the Wallonia-Brussels Federation (FWB) with deep expertise in capital markets, urban issues, and civil society. He is the founder and president of Aula Magna, a think tank focused on Brussels, where he has lived all his life. Mr. Deneef is fluent in French, Dutch, English, and German, allowing him to engage in diverse discussions.

He spent over 20 years in business, holding leadership roles at Canal+, Belgacom, and the SNCB. His work spans telecommunications, public works, and civil society, fostering dialogue between private and public sectors. Passionate about Brussels, he led efforts to revitalize key districts, promoting sustainable urban development and improved mobility. His commitment to education and social causes extends to founding a Jesuit college in Anderlecht and supporting initiatives for refugees and migrants.

He completed all his studies at the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB), earning degrees in Business Engineering from Solvay, Law, Philosophy, and a Master's in History.

He also serves as an officer in the Belgian Army reserves.



Dr. Song Zhiwei

President of ACEIE, Belgium

Dr. Song Zhiwei is an associate partner at IBM. His leadership competency and subject matter expert capability in large and complex project management (PMP certified in 2005) of software development, 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 of international experience as a project executive, Zhiwei has successfully managed large-scale comprehensive IT system modernization projects for leading banks in Europe and Asia.

Zhiwei is also the founder of the 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 has supported 20+ startups/companies to settle down in China in a few 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.

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.



Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dorner

Vice President Research and Transfer of Deggendorf Institute of Technology, Germany

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Dorner holds a Master of Science in Geomatics from Paris Lodron University Salzburg (Austria) and a Ph.D. from University of Southern Queensland (Australia). Since 2009, he has become Professor for Computer Science at Deggendorf Institute of Technology and the head of the institute of Technology Campus Freyung in 2011, a research institute of DIT.

His research is focused on spatio-temporal models and the application in different environmental, societal and technical domains. He is teaching in the major „Mobile and Spatial Computing" in the Computer Science Bachelor program and the Research Master program of DIT.



Dr. Huang Guijing

Senior Vice President of Alibaba Cloud Education, China

Dr. Huang Guijing, senior vice president of Alibaba Cloud Education, and general manager of Alibaba Cloud for Youth Initiative. She has multiple educational backgrounds in computer science, educational technology, and psychology, with ten years of experience in educational technology management and scientific research. She focuses on practical innovation of artificial intelligence in the field of education and is committed to building future schoolsthrough digital transformation.

She has published many academic papers in core journals and has been selected as national and ministerial cases. She led the team to win domestic and international technology innovation awards such as the EdTech Breakthrough Awards. She has been invited to serve as an expert judge for UNESCO-related competitions many times and has been invited to attend the UNESCO annual flagship event for two consecutive years to give a keynote speech.



Prof. MD. PhD. MSc Steven.W.M. Olde Damink

Director of Maastricht University Medical Centre (NL), The Netherlands

Prof. Steven W.M. Olde Damink, MD. PhD. MSc is a surgeon & clinical scientist specialized in Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgery and Surgical Oncology. His focus is on improving care for patients with liver, pancreatic, and biliary diseases, including cancer. In addition to his role as an HPB surgeon, Prof. Olde Damink is the Director of Research Laboratories of the Department of Surgery within the Institute of Nutrition and Translational Research in Metabolism (NUTRIM). His research includes areas such as liver failure, cancer cachexia (severe weight loss due to cancer), and tumor metabolism. In all fields he is very motivated to transfer the knowledge acquired in basic research to everyday clinical practice, and vice-versa to translate the clinical questions into basic research questions.

In 2005, Prof. Olde Damink earned his PhD cum laude. He then worked for 1.5 years at the University Hospital Essen in Germany, followed by four years alternating between Maastricht and the hospitals of University College London (UCL). In 2012 he stopped clinical work in London but kept an Academic post at UCL and the Royal Free Hospital until spring 2017. Between 2017 and October 2023 he had a half time secondment at the Klinik für Allgemein-, Viszeral- und Transplantationschirurgie at the University Hospital of the RWTH University Aachen, Germany to supervise and coordinate the research activities of the transborder collaboration ESCAM (European Surgical Centre Aachen-Maastricht). From November 2023, he is appointed as Professor of Surgery at the Duisburg-Essen University, Germany to advise on the development of a Translational Surgical Oncology research programme within NCT-West (Koln-Essen) of the National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT; Bundesministeriums für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)).



Dr. Yang Ling

Director of ACEIE, Germany

Dr. Yang Ling is the director of the Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE). She was the vice-chairman of the Gesellschaft Chinesischer Informatiker in Deutschland e.V. (GCI) from 2000 to 2016 and the deputy secretary of the Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FCPAE) since 2005. In the past 20 years, Ling has engaged in numerous activities in building mutual relationships in various areas between Europe and China for exchanging knowledge and experience. She has 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 of 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 the Schenck Group Special Achievement Award in 2021.



Mr. Laurent Coulie

Co-Founder and CEO of Belgium's 40 under 40, Belgium

Mr. Laurent Coulie is a social entrepreneur dedicated to fostering the growth of societal leaders and amplifying their impact. As the co-founder and CEO of Belgium's 40 Under 40, he leads a pioneering platform that identifies, selects and nurtures outstanding talents with the potential to create positive change in their communities and beyond. Laurent also facilitates curated forums with CEOs and senior leaders, providing a space for reflection and meaningful conversations around purpose and legacy.

Academically, he holds a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering, graduating magna cum laude with a specialization in energy, fluid mechanics, aeronautics, and entrepreneurship. Since 2022, he has served as a guest lecturer at Solvay Brussels School of Economics and Management, teaching the graduate course "The CEO Perspective." This class equips students with conceptual and practical tools to understand the roles and responsibilities of a CEO.

Laurent previously worked with a global philanthropic organization, contributing to the development and implementation of innovative models for social and economic development in emerging countries.



Prof. Dr. Qiu Min

Vice President of the Westlake University, China

Prof. Dr. Qiu Min, a recipient of the National Science Fund for Distinguished Young Scholars, Director-at-large on the Board of Directors of Optica, SPIE Fellow, IEEE 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, Dr. Qiu 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.

Dr. Qiu 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. Dr. Michał Nowicki

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

Prof. Dr. Michał Nowicki MD, PhD - specialist in histology, paediatrics 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 the 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.



His Excellency, Mr. Bold Luvsanvandan

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to Benelux and Mission to the European Union, Mongolia

His Excellency, Mr. Bold Luvsanvandan serves as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Mongolia to the Kingdom of Belgium, to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, to the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Mission to the European Union since 2021. He is a Mongolian diplomat and politician with a long and varied career in public service. He has held numerous significant positions, including Member of Parliament and serving as both Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mongolia (2012-2014) and Minister of Defense of Mongolia (2008-2012). Since 2020, he has served as the Security and Defense Policy Advisor to the President of Mongolia, further contributing to national and international policy.

In addition to his political work, Bold has held leadership roles in the private sector, including serving as the Chairman of the Mineral Resources and Petroleum Authority of Mongolia and President of the Mongolian Bankers Association. His leadership in various sectors earned him numerous national and international awards, including the UNMISS medal by the United Nations, the Polar Star Order and the Komandor Merit Cross from Poland.

Mr. Luvsanvandan holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science and Sociology from the Trade Union University of Bernau in Germany. Fluent in Mongolian, English, German, and Russian, he has also been recognized with several honorary degrees, including an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Defense of Mongolia in 2012.



Ms. Almut Bühling

Co-Chair of the International Commission of Verband deutscher Unternehmerinnen (VdU), Germany

Ms. Almut Bühling is an expert in intellectual property law and the co-founder of the cooperation of BSB Attorneys at Law and BSB Patent Attorneys. Almut represents multinational corporations and medium-sized companies worldwide both in and out of court in the areas of trademark, design, copyright and unfair competition law as well as patent infringement. She has profound experience in providing strategic IP advice to start-ups and spin-offs, as well as to large corporations and market leaders on building and representing their IP portfolios, brand management and on know-how protection, and drafting license agreements and technology transfer agreements. She regularly represents her clients in Germany and on a European and global scale in trade fair and border seizures and in litigation to protect their IP rights against counterfeits.

Almut is the co-author of the commentary book on trademark law "Hoffmann-Kleespieß-Adler" and has working experience in IP law firms in Hong Kong and New York.

She represents the interests of women entrepreneurs worldwide: as Co-Chair of the International Commission of the VdU (Association of Women Entrepreneurs in Germany), as the German representative of the VdU in the world umbrella association FCEM (Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises Mondiales) and as the FCEM delegate at the Conference of INGOs at the Council of Europe.



Mr. Bernard Dewit

Chair of BCECC, Belgium
Senior Partner, Dewit Law Office, Brussels

Mr. Bernard Dewit is a legal professional with a distinguished career marked by significant contributions to both national and international legal fields. He earned his degree in Law from the Catholic University of Louvain in 1978 and has been a member of the Brussels Bar since that same year. His legal expertise has been recognized through various prestigious roles and affiliations.

He has served as a former member of the Council of the French Bar Association of Brussels, showcasing his commitment to the legal profession and his leadership within the legal community. Currently, he holds the position of President of the Belgian-Chinese Chamber of Commerce (BCECC), where he plays a key role in fostering economic and trade relations between Belgium and China.

Mr. Bernard Dewit is an accredited mediator with the Brussels Business Mediation Centre. He is also arbitrator in the Chinese Arbitration Commission (CIETAC) since 1994 ; arbitrator in the Shanghai International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission since 2013; arbitrator in South China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission/ Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration since 2012; and arbitrator in South China International Arbitration Center (HK) (the SCIAHK) Panel since 2023. His academic contributions include serving as a Visiting Lecturer at the Catholic University Faculties of Mons (Fucam), where he shares his extensive knowledge with the next generation of legal professionals.

Mr. Bernard Dewit received the Friendship Award from the central Chinese Government in 2017.



Mr. Rik Leenknegt

Director of Flanders Game Hub, Belgium

Mr. Rik Leenknegt aims to create an internationally attractive game ecosystem in Flanders where talent and entrepreneurship can quickly and efficiently grow to become successful game companies through professional guidance. Gathering a network of FGH partners to join a co-financing model is one of the important parts of the job.

In his 17-year long career as founder and academic director of Howest - Digital Arts and Entertainment, Rik noticed the amount of talent leaving the 3-time award-winning game design and development school in the world. With the help of Minister Dalle, Flanders Game Hub was created to support the Flemish talent pipeline and develop a Flemish game ecosystem. Rik is determined to attract everyone, inside and outside Europe, who wants to start a game company in Flanders, together with all the already existing initiatives and actors in Flanders.



Em. Prof. Dr. Ir. Luc Taerwe

Member of Royal Flemish Academy, Belgium

Em. Prof. Dr. Ir. Luc Taerwe was a senior full professor in the field of Concrete Structures until 2018. From 1995 till 2018 he was the director of the Magnel-Vandepitte Laboratory for Structural Engineering and Building Materials (formerly Magnel Laboratory for Concrete Research) and chairman of the Department of Structural Engineering and Building Materials from 1998 till 2018. Luc Taerwe performed and conducted research in the areas of reinforced and prestressed concrete, fire resistance, robustness of structures, tunnel linings, composite reinforcement (FRP), structural reliability, statistical quality control, high performance concrete, and fibre reinforced concrete etc.

From 2008 to 2012 he served as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, and he was a member of the Board of Governors of Ghent University in the academic years 2012-2014 and 2017-2018. Since 2016, he has becomethe Director of the East Asia Platform of Ghent University. Since 2018 he has become a National RPGE Chair Professor at Tongji University (Shanghai). In 2016 he co-founded the Joint Laboratory for Industrial Construction with Tongji University and the Shanghai Construction Group as partners.

Luc Taerwe obtained his Master of Science degrees in Civil Engineering (1975) and in Structural Mechanics (1976), and his PhD degree (1985) from Ghent University.



Prof. Dr. Cristina Vidal Lorenzo

Professor in the History of Art Department at the Universidad de Valencia, Spain

Prof. Dr. Cristina Vidal Lorenzo is a Doctor of Geography and History from the Universidad Complutense de Madrid. Currently she is a Professor in the History of Art Department at the Universidad de Valencia. Her professional career has focused on four main areas: pre-Hispanic and Valencian art and archaeology, cultural heritage conservation, gender studies, and development actions related to heritage valorization.

Since 1988, Prof. Cristina Vidal Lorenzo has been involved with the Spanish Archaeological Mission in Mexico, specializing in ancient Maya culture through various projects in Mexico and Guatemala. Her major project is the La Blanca Archaeological Project (2004-2019), funded by the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Palarq Foundation. This project earned her the "Best Practices in Site Conservation" award from the Archaeological Institute of America in 2013.

Recently, she has been developing new technologies for heritage study, conservation and dissemination, including international projects funded by The Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation-AECID, the Ministry of Science, Innovation and University, and the Generalitat Valenciana. Her research has led to numerous scientific publications and participation in over a hundred international conferences. She has curated international exhibitions on Maya culture, and she is the co-Director of the journal Pasajes de pensamiento contemporáneo. Additionally, she established the Pre-Columbian Art History teaching line at the Universidad de Valencia in 1996 and has taught and conducted research at prestigious institutions worldwide.



Prof. Ir. Wim Boydens

Professor in the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning at Ghent University (Ugent), Belgium

Prof. Ir. Wim Boydens is an academic and expert in sustainable building technologies, with over 25 years of experience at the Ghent University. His activities primarily focus on the design and control of innovative thermal energy solutions, including the development and optimization of geothermal and heat pump technologies (eg. GEOTABS and hybridGEOTABS) and clean cluster concepts for sites and cities. He has co-authored a guidebook titled *Renewable and Storage-Integrated Systems to Supply Comfort in Buildings: Pre-Design and Control for hybridGEOTABS Projects*.

In addition to his academic achievements, Prof. Ir. Wim Boydens co-founded Boydens Engineering Group, a firm specializing in sustainable engineering solutions for public and private construction projects. He has contributed significantly to the success and growth of projects ranging from small-scale developments to large infrastructure initiatives, ensuring the implementation of cutting-edge, energy-efficient technologies.

When Boydens Engineering became part of Sweco, he continued to share his expertise as a Research and Innovation (R&I) Strategy Expert. He has accelerated research and innovation interactions resulting in the partnership in the Horizon projects SEEDs and HeriTACE and provided strategic advice on concepts related to building technologies.

He has been active as board member of EHPA, IBPSA NVL and ODE (organization of sustainable energy systems) and is co-president of the Flemish heat pump association. He represents Belgium as alternate delegate in the IEA HPT TCP. Together with Prof. Helsen of KU Leuven he organized and chaired the international building simulation conference in Bruges in 2021.



Dr. Stephan Jüngling

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

Dr. Stephan Jüngling, was born in Basel, Switzerland in 1963. He studied electrical engineering at 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 Zurich 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 has become a lecturer in Business Information Technology at the FHNW school of business and guest lecturer at Shenzhen Technology University, SZTU in China. 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 numerous 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.



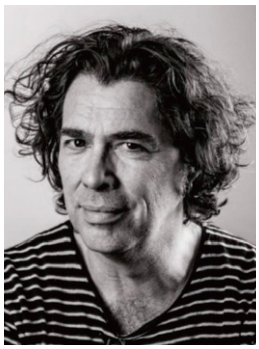
Mr. Francois Serneels

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

Mr. Francois Serneels was born in 1959, is married, got 4 children and lives in a small village in the Belgian countryside. As an agronomist/agricultural engineer, he graduated from Brussels University (ULB, 1983) and Antwerp Tropical Veterinary Institute (1984), and 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 has 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 (Brussels University). 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 millions of RMB every year to the benefit of hundreds of thousands of Chinese farmers.

In 2015 he received the Chongqing People Friendship Award; in 2018 he was elected by MOST as "one of the 40 most influential foreign experts in 40 years of opening"; in 2022 he received the Golden Horse Award of Inner Mongolia and the Chinese Government Friendship Award. In the meantime, he has contributed to similar initiatives or other development projects in Rwanda, RD Congo, Mali, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan and Vietnam. Since 2021 he has been involved in the launching of the local food policy council of "Wallonie picarde" aiming at a transition towards a more sustainable food system in that area. As a volunteer, he is the president of the board of the "Ferme Nos Pilifs", a social economy enterprise employing 120 disabled persons in Brussels.



Mr. Dirk Lambrecht

Head of the Major 3D Animation Production at Digital Arts and Entertainment, Howest Kortrijk, Belgium

Mr. Dirk Lambrecht graduated as a traditional 2D animator, unfortunately at the same time as the birth of the digital era in the early nineties. He immediately refreshed his skills and updated his tools to be part of the CGI pioneers in Belgium. He worked 15 years as a full-time freelancer as a storyboard artist, concept developer, copywriter, graphic designer, editor, director for 3D animation and VFX companies, advertising and television.

He started teaching in 2000 at Sint-Lukas Brussels in the Film and Animation department with courses in storytelling, storyboarding, camera & editing and supervised the graduation projects.

Dirk joined Digital Arts and Entertainment (DAE) in 2006, a brand new and unique game education program at HOWEST, Kortrijk Belgium teaching preproduction and visual storytelling. Over the years this game education program evolved into 6 majors, 4 game related and 2 film related.

Currently he is the Head of the Major 3D-Animation Production at Digital Arts and Entertainment and the inspirer of the FARM, a simulated work environment for the last year students in which they "breed professionals".

He is a jury member at the VAF, the Flemish Film Fund, for the committees of Animation, Animation Series, Innovation Lab and Web Series.



Prof. Dr. Saman Sarbazvatan

COO & Vice Dean of École des Ponts Business School, France

Prof. Dr. Saman Sarbazvatan is an Industry 5.0 thought leader. He's a professor and senior advisor inStrategic Technology Management and Digital and Responsible Innovation and Transformation. He brings more than two decades of hands-on managerial and leadership experience in a wide range of industries across geographies and contexts. Working with investors and innovators from across the public and private sector institutions, his work is focused on the emerging futures of businesses, societies, and markets, at the convergence of Digital and Responsible Transitions.

Dr. Saman Sarbazvatan is COO and Vice Dean of École des Ponts Business School of École des Nationale des Ponts et Chaussés (ENPC), and the Founding Director of ReTech Center of École des Ponts. Saman is the Senior Advisor of Technology and Innovation at the Circular Economy Research Center (CERC) and Center for Policy and Competitiveness (CPC-Paris), external expert of Digital and Green Transition at the EU Commission, Chair of Harvard European Chapter of Microeconomics of Competitiveness network of Harvard, and Creator and Leader of Industry 5.0 Special Interest Group at MOC.

Saman is passionate about leveraging technology and innovation to promote the Digitally Empowered Responsible Economy of Industry 5.0.
https://www.linkedin.com/in/samansarbazvatan/



Dr. Tim Smith

Head of Portfolio Development at IOP Publishing, UK

Dr. Tim Smith is Head of Portfolio Development at IOP Publishing. Since completing his PhD in Condensed Matter Physics, Tim now has nearly 25 years of experience working in the academic publishing sector and has managed diverse portfolios of journals extending across all areas of Physics, Materials Science and Environmental Science.

He has specific responsibility for leading the editorial development of IOP's extensive journals program across the physical sciences, incorporating a combination of scientific expertise, knowledge of the international research landscape and in-depth experience of scholarly publishing activities extending to journal portfolio strategy development, new product launches, journal business models, the peer review process and the opportunities and challenges of AI within the scientific research process.



Mr. Thomas Chrétien

Head of User Development at NIO, France

Mr. Thomas Chrétien is an electric mobility expert in sales, marketing and communication with a proven ability to drive growth and innovation. After gaining experience with Ford and Alfa Romeo, Chrétien spent nearly ten years at Nissan, where he worked as Director of Electric Vehicles and Ecosystem before leading the launch of the Japanese brand's latest e-SUV across Europe, coordinating marketing efforts in 22 markets. Following this role, he served as Vice President of Marketing at VinFast, where he played a crucial role in introducing the Vietnamese premium EV brand to Europe.

In 2023, Chrétien joined NIO as Head of User Development, overseeing marketing, communications and community engagement. His aim is to foster a strong customer community and satisfaction through innovative products and services, including NIO's battery swap technology. NIO is recognized as a leader in the smart premium EV market, committed to building a more sustainable future.

Enthusiastic about modern automotive technology and reducing tailpipe emissions, Chrétien holds a Master degree in Automotive Distribution & Services from ESSCA, highlighting his extensive knowledge of the automotive industry and dedication to advancing sustainable transportation solutions.



Prof. Justo García Navarro

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

Prof. 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 PhD. in Architecture from UPM. He is the director of the UPM research group "Sustainability in construction and industry" giSCI, as well as the 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.

Prof. Justo García-Navarro has worked as a researcher and head researcher in more than 60 R&D and educational projects (both at the national and EU levels). He is also the author of more than 200 scientific papers and books on sustainability in construction and was recognized with the Alfonso Martín Escudero Research Award in 2001.



Prof. Dr. İpek Akin Karadayi

Vice-Rector for Education, Istanbul Technical University (ITU), Turkey

Prof. Dr. İpek Akin Karadayi is Professor in the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at Istanbul Technical University (ITU). She completed her PhD in Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at ITU in 2010, following her M.Sc. from the same department in 2005. She earned her B.Sc. in Materials Science and Engineering from Anadolu University in 2003. She also worked as apostdoctoral researcher in Engineering Materials at the University of Sheffield from 2012 till 2013, further expanding her expertise in materials science.

Her research focuses on advanced materials processing techniques, particularly sintering and spark plasma sintering (SPS). She has extensive experience with various SPS systems, including the 7.40 MK VII (ITU), SPS 210LX (Tohoku University), and HPD-25/1 (University of Sheffield). Her work on the production and characterization of ultra-high-temperature ceramic composites (ZrB2, SiC, ZrC) has gained international recognition.

Additionally, her research includes the study of perovskite-based functionally graded electroceramics (Ba-doped EuTiO3, Co-doped BaTiO3, La-doped SrTiO3), with a focus on impedance spectroscopy (IS) measurements. She is also known for her contributions to bioactive (Bioglass, HA) and bioinert ceramics (Al2O3-YSZ binary and Al2O3-YSZ-CeO).



Em. Prof. Jan Paul Cornelis

Former Vice-Principal of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, Belgium

Prof. Jan Paul Cornelis - Emeritus Professor, electromechanical engineer, and PhD in biomedical engineering. He has been head of Department of electronics and informatics (VUB-ETRO), Vice rector of R&D, coordinator of technology transfer and vice rector of international policy at VUB, deputy head of cabinet - Ministry of Innovation, co-founder of BI3 and Qbic incubation funds, ICAB incubator, and board member at Strategic Research Institutes IMEC and VIB. He has participated to various university audits in Europe.

He is now consultant professor at NPU-Xi'an, visiting professor at UO-Cuba, international expert for CTI "Commission des Titres d'Ingénieur", chairman of the scientific council of the Royal Meteorological Institute Brussels, and 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. Dr. Diana Robescu

Dean of the Faculty of Energy Engineering at National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest, Romania

Prof. Dr. Diana Robescu is the Dean of the Faculty of Energy Engineering at the National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA of Bucharest, a role she has held since 2020. She earned her MSc in Mechanical Engineering in 1991 and her PhD in Energy Engineering in 2000 from the same university, where she has been a faculty member since 1993.

Her leadership roles include serving as vice-dean (2012-2016), chairing the Department of Hydraulics, Hydraulic Machinery, and Environmental Engineering (2016-2020), and overseeing quality assurance at the university. She has led or participated in 38 research projects, securing over €1 million in external funding, and has been a project manager on 16 grants.

Prof. Robescu's research focuses on water and wastewater treatment, circular economy, multiphase fluid dynamics, and hydraulic machinery. She has published 10 technical books, 8 textbooks, holds 3 patents, and has more than 120 academic publications.

Beyond her research, Prof. Robescu has contributed significantly to institutional development, improving quality assurance, enhancing students' skills, and promoting educational programs through initiatives such as the Sectorial Operational Program - Development of Human Resources (POS DRU), Leonardo da Vinci, Tempus, and Erasmus+. She is currently the project manager of European University Alliance EELISA (European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance) at POLITEHNICA Bucharest.



Prof. Enric Ordeix Rigo

Principal of the EAE Business School Barcelona, Spain

As professional journalist with a background in Sociology and Political Sciences, Prof. Enric Ordeix-Rigo is a distinguished figure in the world of corporate diplomacy and global communication. With nearly two years of experience as the Dean of EAE Business School Barcelona, Prof. Enric Ordeix-Rigo has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication in shaping the future of aspiring business leaders.

As an accomplished author, he has contributed insightful publications on subjects ranging from public relations to values and cultural identity. Furthermore, Prof. Enric Ordeix-Rigo holds a research doctorate in social sciences from the Universitat Ramon Llull in Barcelona, reflecting a profound commitment to advancing knowledge in the field.

As experienced academic director in the higher education industry, Prof. Enric Ordeix-Rigo possesses a diverse skill set that spans corporate social responsibility, journalism, corporate communication, public relations, and social media. This multifaceted expertise underscores his capacity to navigate complex professional landscapes.



Prof. Dr. Rolf Krebs

Head of the Institute of Natural Resource Sciences at ZHAW, Switzerland

Prof. Rolf Krebs is the head of the Institute of Natural Resource Sciences at ZHAW (Zurich University of Applied Sciences) and has extensive expertise in environmental sciences, particularly in soil and water protection. He earned his PhD in Environmental Sciences from ETH Zurich in 1996, following a Dipl. nat. ETH in the same field. Prior to joining ZHAW, he held several leadership roles, including Head of Inorganic Chemistry at the Water and Soil Protection Laboratory for the Canton of Bern (2002-2005) and Head of Soil Protection at the Environmental Protection Office in St. Gallen (1998-2002).

Professor Krebs has been involved in numerous impactful projects, serving as a project leader for initiatives like sustainable soil protection and hydrothermal carbonization for sewage sludge treatment. He has published extensively, with over 20 peer-reviewed articles in prestigious journals, and authored numerous other publications and conference contributions. His research covers topics such as nutrient recovery, environmental impact assessments, and innovative waste treatment technologies.

In addition to his research, Professor Krebs has continued his education with advanced leadership training at ZHAW, including CAS Management for Leaders. His expertise and leadership make him a key figure in environmental protection and sustainability within the academic and applied science communities.



Prof. Dr. Nicolaos Theodossiou

Professor Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece
President of AECEF
Chair of UN SDSN Black Sea

Prof. Dr. Nicolaos Theodossiou studied Civil Engineering at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in Greece, where he acquired his PhD.

He is currently a professor at the Division of Hydraulics and Environmental Engineering and Director of the Water Resources Engineering and Management Laboratory, of the Department of Civil Engineering at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in Greece. He is working on water resources management, protection and restoration of the environment, sustainable development, renewable energy sources, environmental impacts, and many other sectors.

Prof. Theodossiou has served as a member of several national and international scientific committees, participated in more than 40 funded research projects and published more than 200 papers in scientific journals and conference proceedings. His published work has been cited more than 1550 times. Prof. Theodossiou has also participated as an invited-keynote speaker in more than 30 international conferences.

Prof. Theodossiou is, amongst others, Director of the Postgraduate Program "Protection of the Environment and Sustainable Development", Vice-president of the Department of Civil Engineering, Coordinator of the Environmental Council of AUTh, President of the Association of European Civil Engineering Faculties - AECEF, Vice-president and former President of the Board of the Hellenic Hydrotechnical Association. He chairs the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the wider area of the Black Sea, operating under the auspices of the Secretary General of the United Nations. Prof. Theodossiou is a member of the "Council of Engineers for the Energy Transition", whose role is to advise the Secretary General of the United Nations on issues related to the energy transition. He is an elected Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science.



Prof. Brian Boag

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

Prof. Brian Boag is a senior leader in Higher Education, specializing in Health and Social Care, and currently serves as Deputy Dean in the Faculty of Education, Health and Human Sciences.

Brain began his career in nursing, focusing on emergency care, and later transitioned into education, working in various roles across London, Cumbria, Glasgow, Derby, and Greater Manchester. Brian was a runner-up for International Nurse of the Year at the RCN Nursing Standard Awards in 2007 and has received two Florence Nightingale Foundation Scholarships for travel and leadership development. 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 roles, including governor positions at the Northern Care Alliance and the University of Greenwich, and is a diversity advisor for the Greater Manchester Combined Authority. He is Co-chair of the Council of Deans Regulation Subgroup, working closely with professional bodies on education quality and regulation matters.

With an MBA in Education from Keele University and multiple postgraduate qualifications, Brian is a fellow of both the Higher Education Academy and the Chartered Institute of Managers. His research interests include nursing, leadership, and professional identity, on which he has published extensively and presented at international conferences.

Website link:
https://www.gre.ac.uk/people/rep/faculty-of-education-and-health/brian-boag



Ms. Stéphanie Villemagne

Chief Development Officer at ESSCA, France

As Chief Development Officer, Ms. Stéphanie Villemagne is currently leading ESSCA's efforts to expand its international outreach within Europe and beyond. Her responsibilities include: developing new campuses in Europe, with recent projects in Malaga and Luxembourg. She is overseeing international campus development inBudapest and Shanghai, ensuring their growth and alignment with ESSCA's global objectives.

For nearly 25 years, she has held various positions in schools and companies focused on higher education and international exchanges, in cities such as Barcelona, Hong Kong, London, Madrid, Paris, San Francisco, and Singapore. Stéphanie was previously the Associate Dean for the Master in Management & Master in Finance programmes at IE Business School in Madrid. She joined IE University after serving as Associate Dean for Master's programs at the Chinese University of Hong Kong Business School and as the Global Director for the MBA programme at INSEAD Singapore.

Stéphanie holds an Executive Master of Business Administration from INSEAD and has further enhanced her leadership skills by participating in many executive programmes organized by Harvard Business School, INSEAD and IE, focusing on such topics as Governing for Nonprofit Excellence and Board Effectiveness, Digital Strategy, Multicultural Team Management and Sustainability. These qualifications complement her extensive experience in higher education and international strategy, equipping her with the expertise to drive ESSCA's global development initiatives.



Prof. Dr. Mireia López Bertran

Vice Dean of International Relations at the Faculty of Geography and History at University of Valencia, Spain

Prof. Dr. Mireia López-Bertran is Associate Professor at Department of Art History at the Universitat de Valencia, Spain. She received her PhD degree in History from the Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain) in 2007. Between 2010-2012, she was postdoctoral researcher of the Spanish Ministry of Education and Culture-FECYT and she worked as an Honorary Research Fellow at the Archaeology Unit of the University of Glasgow. Prof. López-Bertran was appointed Marie Curie Postdoctoral fellow at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona between 2014 and 2016. She has participated in various national and international research projects that have allowed her to excavate at Phoenician-Punic sites such as the Tyre Al-Bass cemetery (Lebanon) or the Lixus colonies (Larache, Morocco), Cerro del Villar (Málaga, Spain) or Sulky (St. Antioco, Sardinia). She has been visiting scholar at the University of Tübingen, Brown University or at the Getty Research Institute.

Currently, she is working on the art and iconography of the Iron Age Mediterranean from a embodied and gender perspective. More specifically Prof. López-Bertran is specialized in coroplastic art from a material culture perspective. In fact, she is coediting a book entitled "Art as material culture" to be published by Routledge in 2024.

Within the framework of university management, Prof. López-Bertran is the Vice Dean of Quality, Teaching Innovation and International Relations of the Faculty of Geography and History at the University of Valencia.



Prof. Dr. Soon Thiam Khu

Professor of Urban Water Systems Engineering, School of Environmental Science and Engineering at Tianjin University, China

Prof. Dr. Soon Thiam Khu, former dean of School of Environmental Science and Engineering, currently heads the Urban Water Research group, and the Inter-disciplinary pollution control center at Tianjin University, a top 15th University in China, based in Tianjin City, north China. He has vast teaching, research and project experiences which spans over a period of 30 years and across Asia and Europe.

After obtaining his BEng and PhD from the National University of Singapore, he started his research career firstly at the former Danish Hydraulic Institute (now DHI A/S) and then at the Technical University of Delft. He subsequently held academic positions at University of Exeter, Surrey Uni and Monash University, and industrial research positions at HR Wallingford and Inspur China. His research area spans across water supply and drainage engineering, flood modelling, applying AI and crowdsourcing in water engineering. He has participated in and led many UK projects (i.e. Royal Society, Royal Academy of Engineers UK, EPSRC and NERC), and EU projects (FP5, FP6, FP7, Horizon2020).

Since joining Tianjin University in 2019, he focuses on developing engineering solutions to providing quality potable water to households, addressing urban flooding due to extreme climatic conditions and developing novel techniques of remotely sensing for the urban environment.



Dr. Yang Li

Director of ACEIE, Founder and CEO of Fuvision, Germany

Dr. Yang Li, 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.

Starting from the early 90s, Li has worked as a senior consultant and member of the core team for several German industry giants, helping to set up various joint ventures and subsidiaries in China. Over the last 15 years, she has 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 68 senior consultants worldwide for the Chinese Association for Science and Technology (CAST), is the founding Board member of 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 serve as the jury for Innovation Competitions in China and Europe.

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



Ms. Barbara Vercruysse

President of Professional Women International Brussels, Belgium

Ms. Barbara Vercruysse is a global kindness advocate, mentor, operational excellence lead, quality lead, thought leader and public speaker. She is the 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 Lead, Customer Experience responsible and HR Soft Skills responsible. 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.

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.

Barbara has written the bestselling book 'The Path of Powerful Kindness.' In 'The Path of Powerful Kindness,' Barbara takes you on a quest on how humanity ended up forgetting its Heart and shifted the essence of existence in the past centuries to a purely materialistic and individualistic experience leaving us humans exhausted, depressed and empty. She offers insights on how we can restore the balance in reconnecting Power with Kindness and she provides us a pragmatic approach to becoming an agent of transformation on a micro and macro level through advocating Powerful Kindness.

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.

Website:
https://www.barbaravercruysse.com/



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 a TEDx speaker and 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), she has centered her career on promoting, developing, disseminating, implementing, and commercializing scientific and social innovations in sustainable development to reduce the carbon footprint of companies.

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

Therefore, she does not only strategize on the way to decrease CO2 emissions of a business, but also on the way to increase inherent and 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 is board member of several organisations including the European policy Center, and is also an independent adviser for the Brussels government focusing on innovation, transformation and social impact of climate change.



Dr. Marilia Seelaender

Co-Chair of Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee in Cancer Cachexia Society, Brazil

Dr. Marilia Seelaender is an Associate Professor at the University of São Paulo (USP), in the Department of Surgery, FMUSP, and the head of LIM-26 - Experimental Surgery at HC-USP. She is the co-chair of the Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee of the in Cancer Cachexia Society and a member of the Muhyiddin Ibn Arabi Society, as well as the Society on Cachexia, Sarcopenia, and Muscle Wasting. She specializes in the field of Biochemistry, with an emphasis on Metabolism and Bioenergetics, focusing primarily on topics such as cancer-associated cachexia, adipose tissue, exercise, nutritional supplementation, and lipid metabolism.

She serves as an editor for several journals linked to Clinical Nutrition, Pharmacology, Oncology, etc. Currently she is the coordinator of the Postgraduate Commission for the Anesthesiology, Surgical Sciences, and Perioperative Medicine program, and the General Ombudsman at the University of São Paulo.

Dr. Marilia Seelaender holds a degree in Biology from the University of São Paulo (1989), a Master of Sciences in General Physiology from the University of São Paulo (1992), and a Ph.D. in Human Physiology from the University of São Paulo (1994). She completed postdoctoral studies in Metabolism at the University of Oxford, in Nutritional Biochemistry at the University of Potsdam, and in Cancer Biochemistry at the University of Barcelona. She obtained the title of Livre-Docência in Histology and Embryology from the University of São Paulo in 2004.



Mr. Frank Schwalba-Hoth

Former Member of the European Parliament (MEP), Germany

Mr. Frank Schwalba-Hoth is an environmental and political figure, best known as a founding member of the German Green Party and their first MEP in the European Parliament. Throughout his career, he has been a passionate advocate for sustainable development and human rights, helping shape green politics both in Germany, Europe and beyond.

After leaving the European Parliament, he took on the leadership of the EU office of Greenpeace. He then contributed to a European Commission project focused on environmental issues in the countries of the former Soviet Union and Mongolia.

Now based in Brussels, he works as a political analyst, strategist, coach, and networker. His understanding of European politics and global affairs has made him a key player in international circles. He is Vice-President of the Hamburg Environment Institute, as well of the NGO Europe Silk Road Connect. As Secretary General of the annual European Women's Leadership Award, he honors outstanding women who have became models for the next generation. In addition to his professional pursuits, he hosts two monthly events bringing together participants from diverse professional, cultural, and social backgrounds: a Saturday morning briefing and a networking dinner called Soirée Internationale.



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 supporting of change & transformation processes of any kind in the context of M&A, restructuring, merger, expansion etc.

She is an expert in organizational and personnel development with many years of personal experience as a consultant, trainer and executive coach, preceded by roles on supervisory and advisory boards, as well as serving 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 der Unternehmerinnen in Deutschland; member of the international Commission & China-Brücke-Co-operation), Deputy Chairwoman of LiM (Bundesverband liberaler Mittelstand Nord (HH, SH, MV)), Deputy Chairwoman of ADCG (Allianz Deutscher China Gesellschaften e. V.), Regional Leader Northern Germany of BPM (Bundesverband der Personalmanager*innen (HH, SH, MV)),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 the international business faculty of the University of Bratislava and studied international economics at the University of Applied Science in Hamburg.



Prof. Zhang Wei-Hong

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

Prof. Dr. Zhang Wei-Hong (PhD of Université Libre de Bruxelles, Postdoctoral of University of Oxford) is professor and supervisor of PhD and Postdoctoral of Public Health at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Science,Ghent University (UG). 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, Tulane University, USA and 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", Expert of the EU Framework Programme. PI of the Belgium-China Joint Laboratory for Global Health. She is also Steering Committee member of East Asia platform- UG.



Prof. Dr. 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 head 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 is 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).



Prof. Dr. Wang Mingna

Associate Professor at the Department of Coastal Engineering, School of Building and Construction Engineering at Tianjin University, China

Prof. Dr. Wang Mingna, a trained water resources engineer and ecologist, heads the Ecohydrological Research group at Tianjin University, a top 15th University in China, based in Tianjin City, north China.

After obtaining a BSc in Computer Science and a MSc in informatics, she worked briefly as a programmer before her interest turned to water engineering. She then went to do a PhD in the field of Water Resources Engineering. Since then, she worked as a senior project engineer with the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research for around 15 years before joining academia. She has worked on numerous internationally funded projects based in China in the area of water resources assessment and evaluation, and ecological restoration. She has led the China team participating in a major EU-China environmental scoping project in the early 2000s, and which led to many changes in China's environmental protection policies. She is currently leading a major China coastal flood modelling project as well as a coastal aqua-ecological project.

Prof. Wang is very active in international research activities, and formerly represented China on the board of the International Association of Water Resources.



Ms. Anne Evanno

International Business Development at ESSCA Ecole de Management, France

With over 20 years of experience spanning corporate and educational sectors across multiple countries, Ms. Anne Evanno is an accomplished international career development specialist. She is currently Head of International Corporate Relations & Career at ESSCA School of Management, one of France's leading business schools.

In her role, Anne Evanno is responsible for building and maintaining strategic partnerships with global employers, developing employer branding and recruitment strategies, and providing career counseling to students and alumni. Her passion lies in connecting talent with opportunities, fostering professional growth, and enhancing the global visibility of ESSCA.

Prior to this, she was the Head of Employer Engagement & Branding at Emlyon Business School. In this role, she led a team of five account managers responsible for cultivating relationships with employers in France and internationally. Under her leadership, the team organized the 2022 on-campus Career Forum, which attracted over 130 employers. Prior to her return to France, she was the Assistant Director of the Career Management Center for Graduate Programs at CUHK Business School from 2017 to 2019, where she further honed her skills in career development and student mentorship.



Ms. Dove Feng

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

Ms. 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 specializes 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.



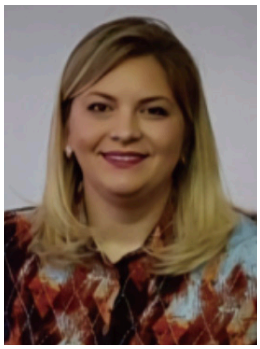
Dr. Ivona Lađevac

Deputy Director at Institute of International Politics and Economics (IIPE), Serbia

Dr. Ivona Lađevac is a Senior Research Fellow and Deputy Director at the IIPE, where she has been contributing since 2001. With a deep focus on international relations, she has played a key role in fostering international cooperation and held leadership positions, including serving as Head of the Center for "One Belt, One Road" (2017–2021). She has also been involved with the journal "International Problems," first as Editor-in-Chief (2022–2024) and currently as Deputy Editor-in-Chief. She also holds advisory positions in global research organizations in China and Northern Macedonia.

Dr. Lađevac holds a Ph.D. in Security Studies from the Faculty of Security Studies, Belgrade University, with a thesis on the strategic partnership between Russia and China in global security. She has also completed various specializations, including European studies and attended numerous seminars on public administration, labor migration, and cross-border cooperation.

She is currently leading two significant research projects: "Serbia and Challenges in International Relations in 2024" and "COMPASS," which evaluates Serbia's relations with the EU and China. Dr. Lađevac has authored several scientific papers, three monographs, and edited numerous conference proceedings. Her research interests focus on China-Russia relations, the Belt and Road Initiative, and cooperation between China and Central and Eastern European countries.



Dr. Nevena Jeremic

Associate Professor in Pharmaceutical Chemistry at the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy, University of Kragujevac (FMSUKG), Serbia

Dr. Nevena Jeremic (born Barudzic) has served as a Vice Dean for Scientific Research and International Collaboration at Faculty of Medical Sciences, Department of Pharmacy, University of Kragujevac (FMSUKG) between 2018 and 2024. Dr. Jeremic is employed at FMSUKG from 2013， and in 2015 she is promoted as Assistant Professor， while in 2022 was promoted as Associate Pprofessor for field of Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Dr. Jeremic is graduated from FMSUKG in 2012 and awarded with title of Doctor of Medical Science in 2015 also at FMSUKG, Serbia. After she graduated from her PhD program she went to USA and spent two years at Department of Physiology, University of Louisville, KY, USA as Post-Doctoral Associate (2016/2018). Dr. Jeremic in 2022 was awarded by University of Kragujevac for the Best Female Scientist at Faculty of Medical Sciences. From 2018 Dr. Jeremic was a visiting professor at Department of Physiology, University of Louisville, KY, USA and from 2022 at First Moscow State Medical University I. M. Sechenov, Russia.

Until now Dr. Jeremic was mentor of three successfully defended PhD theses. From the students' days until now Dr. Jeremic was involved in the organizing committee of mutual scientific meetings. Dr. Jeremic is a participant as scientist funded by Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development of Republic of Serbia. Additionally, she is a leader and member of several Junior projects funded by Faculty of Medical Sciences, related to effects of different natural and synthetic chemicals in animal models and preclinical studies. Dr. Jeremic has 74 publications which are all SCI listed in international peer reviewed journals with H-index 19 and number of citations 1,283 up to now.



Her Excellency, Ms. Tokozile Xasa

Ambassador of South Africa to the Benelux Institutions and the European Union, South Africa

Her Excellency, Ms. Tokozile Xasa is a South African, is a South African politician and academic with a robust background in public administration and governance. She earned a Bachelor of Administration from Walter Sisulu University in 1987. Ms. Xasa furthered her education at the University of Fort Hare, obtaining a BA Honours in 1991 and a Master's in Public Administration in 2010. In addition to her degrees, she has acquired various certificates in financial oversight, governance, and leadership.

In 2024 graduated from Logos University Florida USA with PHD in leadership and Management.

Ms. Xasa's career spans several significant roles in public service. She served as a Member of Parliament in 2019 and held the position of Minister for Sport and Recreation from February 2018 to May 2019. Prior to that, she was the Minister of Tourism from March 2017 until February 2018, having previously served as the Deputy Minister of Tourism from 2009 to 2017. Her political journey began in the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, where she was the MEC for Social Development from 2001 to 2009 and the Executive Mayor of Kei District Municipality from 1997 to 2000.

Active in various political organizations, Ms. Xasa is a longstanding member of the African National Congress (ANC), serving in several leadership capacities, including as a member of the ANC Women's League's National Executive Committee since 2016. Her dedication to public service and community development is reflected in her extensive political and educational background.



Prof. Dr. Frank Bostyn

Professor of Management at the University of Antwerp, Belgium

Prof. Dr. Frank Bostyn is currently serving as a Professor of Management at the University of Antwerp. With a rich educational background and extensive experience in higher education, Prof. Bostyn has made significant contributions to business education across Europe and the Middle East.

Prof. Bostyn holds an MBA from The Wharton School, where he double-majored in Strategy and Finance. Additionally, he pursued research in Business Ethics at Harvard University and studied macroeconomic policy and management at the Harvard Institute for International Development. He earned his Ph.D. in Economics from Universiteit Gent, specializing in both economics and philosophy.

Throughout his career, Prof. Bostyn has held prominent positions at several prestigious institutions. He is the Dean and Directeur Général at EBS Paris - European Business School and has served as the Dean of the College of Business and Economics at the United Arab Emirates University. Notably, he was the Founding Dean at NEOMA Business School.

Prof. Bostyn is also active in the global academic community, serving as a member of the Board of Directors at AACSB International and having previously chaired the Initial Accreditation Committee (IAC). His leadership roles reflect his commitment to enhancing the quality and standards of business education worldwide.



Prof. Piet Herdewyn

Director of the Laboratory of Medicinal Chemistry at KU Leuven, Belgium

Prof. Piet Herdewyn is 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 being the director of the laboratory of medicinal chemistry, Prof. Herdewyn 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.

Prof. Herdewyn is one of the member of 27 international academic societies, advisor to the editorial board of 38 international academic journals;invited reviewer for over 100 important international academic journals;scientific advisor to 130 academic institutions, foundations, pharmaceutical companies; editor of more than 10 book series.

Prof. Herdewyn has been invited to deliver upwards of 230 scientific reports internationally; has presided over 51 national and international academic seminars and instructed over 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, with over 20 being featured as cover, press releases or hot papers.

Prof. Herdewyn has led more than 230 major scientific and technological projects including the European Union, NATO and NASA, and holds upwards of 40 invention patents.

Prof. Herdewyn 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.

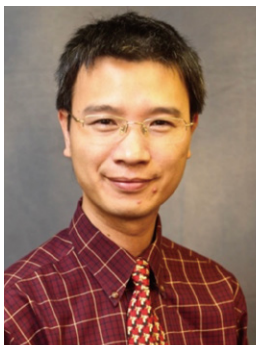


Prof. Josep Bordonau

Professor of Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), Spain
Innovation Taskforce Coordinator In Unite!

Prof. Josep Bordonau is active in the field of power electronics and higher education. He has taught at UPC since 1984, becoming an Associate Professor in 1991. His expertise lies in multilevel conversion and AC power conversion, applied to electric vehicles, renewable energy systems, and smart grids. His research has been recognized by the Spanish Ministry of Science from 1992 for its quality. With a distinguished academic background, he has earned both his MSc (1984) and PhD (1990) with honors in electrical engineering from Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya - BarcelonaTech (UPC).

In addition to his academic role, he has held leadership positions, including vice dean of the School of Industrial Engineering (2001-2004) and vice director of the Electronics Engineering Department (1990-1993, 1997-2000). From 2010 to 2019, he directed education programs at EIT InnoEnergy, focusing on high-quality master's and doctoral programs. He currently coordinates the Taskforce on Innovation for the European University Network Unite! Recognized for his excellence in teaching, he has received UPC's highest teaching distinction every five years from 1991.



Prof. Wu Fan

Professor with Tenure and Head of the Computer Science Department at Tuskegee University, USA
Director of the office of undergraduate research (Tuour?) at Tuskegee University

Prof. Wu Fan is a computer scientist, known for his significant contributions to both research and education.

Since 2019, he has led the computer science department at Tuskegee University, focusing on enhancing education and research. Prof. Wu's leadership and vision have earned him recognition, including the Faculty Achievement Award for 2018-2019 and six Outstanding Faculty Performance Awards for Research from the College of Business and Information Science. His dedication to advancing knowledge and shaping future generations of computer scientists is evident in his academic achievements and contributions to the field.

Prof. Wu earned his Ph.D. in computer science from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 2008, following bachelor's and master's degrees in the same field from Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications in China. His research spans diverse areas such as data science, mobile security, bioinformatics, computer graphics, high-performance computing with GPGPU technology, and robotics. Prof. Wu's work has had a significant impact in both academia and industry, with his research widely cited by fellow scholars.



Mr. Stephan van den Brink

Founder and Managing Director of Manus, The Netherlands

Mr. Stephan van den Brink is the founder and managing director of Manus, a leading company specializing in data gloves for virtual reality (VR/XR), motion capture, and now humanoid robotics. After studying fiscal law at Tilburg University, Stephan began his career at EY Tax but transitioned to entrepreneurship in 2014 when VR technology created new opportunities. With his childhood friends Maarten Witteveen and Bob Vlemmix, they developed a data glove concept for better interaction in gaming. Foreseeing a need for having your own hands in the digital world. Gaining traction in the media through a kickstarter, they developed this idea through the Hightech XL Incubator Program. At the end of the program Stephan was able to immediately raise the required funds to start the product development. In this new and quickly innovating market Stephan guided the company's business strategy, technology roadmap and commercial development,securing NASA as its first business customer in 2017.

Since its founding, Manus has grown into the global leader in hand tracking technology, used in industries such as entertainment, with Keanu Reeves using their gloves in "The Matrix." Stephan's leadership has been crucial in driving product development and market expansion, with a focus on maintaining a competitive edge through rapid innovation and strong commercialization. In 2023, this led to a new market opportunity in Humanoid Robotics, with Tesla (Elon Musk) as their first customer in this space. Manus is now quickly expanding in this market through its technological advantage of delivering high precision hand data quality in an easy to use and scalable form factor.

Stephan believes in the importance of building a balanced, ambitious team and setting clear goals. Under his leadership, Manus continues to push boundaries, aiming to become a significant player in the digital space while fostering a culture of appreciation and growth for its employees.



Mr. Juanjo Espinosa

Chief Design Officer, Co-Founder, and member of the Board of Directors, at Manta Aircraft, Italy

Mr. Juanjo Espinosa boasts a distinguished career spanning over three and a half decades in engineering and design services, with a particular focus on automotive engineering and design development. His impressive client roster includes prestigious original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) like Lamborghini, Bugatti-Rimac, Volkswagen, Audi, Skoda, Aston Martin, Porsche, Volvo, Ford, AMG-Mercedes, and Citroën.

Juanjo's expertise extends beyond traditional automotive design, encompassing collaborations in various motorsport categories such as FIA GT1, GT3, ACO Le Mans, and AutoGP. This diverse portfolio demonstrates his ability to apply aesthetic and structural design principles across a wide range of industries, from high-performance racing vehicles to marine vessels, footwear design, and even architecture.

His multifaceted approach to design and engineering showcases a remarkable versatility, allowing him to seamlessly transition between different sectors while maintaining a high level of expertise and innovation in each field.

Currently, he serves as the Chief Design Officer (CDO), Co-Founder, and member of the Board of Directors of Manta Aircraft. Manta Aircraft is a high-tech engineering and design firm dedicated to developing multi-purpose aerial platforms and hybrid-electric vertical/short takeoff and landing (V/STOL) vehicles. The company's mission is to create innovative, high-performance, and energy-efficient products tailored to meet customer specifications for a variety of applications and inter-regional operations.

Through his work at Manta Aircraft, Juanjo continues to push the boundaries of engineering and design, contributing to the evolution of advanced air mobility solutions. Juanjo's work is characterized by a relentless pursuit of the optimal balance between aesthetics, feasibility, and purpose. This commitment to excellence has made him a sought-after expert in the industry.



Prof. Sergio I. Molina

Head of INNANOMAT research group, Universidad de Cádiz, Spain

Prof. Sergio I. Molina is Full Professor at the University of Cadiz in the field of Materials Science and Engineering. He is the leader of the research Group INNANOMAT: "Materials and Nanotechnology for Innovation". His teaching activities are mainly focused in Materials for Product Development and Industrial Design. He has been a visiting researcher at the Universities of Cambridge, Liverpool and Sheffield in U. K.; in the EPFL of Lausanne in Switzerland, and a visiting professor in Oak Ridge National Laboratory, TN, USA. He is the Scientific Director of the Additive Manufacturing Division in the University of Cadiz.

He is co-author of 250 publications (mainly Q1/Q2 JCR articles) and 350 communications, as well as a co-inventor of 18 patents and other protected-intellectual property in the field of Materials Science and Engineering, Industrial Design and Development of Products. His IP is partially exploited through collaboration with global companies. His work has a strong involvement in relation to the development and application of advanced electron microscopy methods and functional nanostructured materials. His research is currently dedicated to materials for additive manufacturing techniques and to the development and advanced characterization of nanomaterials for Photonics.

He has been the promoter and first acting Director of the Institute of Electron Microscopy and Materials at the University of Cadiz, which involves 10 research groups. He is also currently involved in entrepreneurship through the creation of spin-off companies related to materials, nanotechnology and additive manufacturing.

Concerning additive manufacturing (3D printing), he is currently involved in a number of industrial research and innovation projects, contracts and collaborations for several industrial sectors (naval, aerospace, food packaging, injection and thermoforming molding, industrial design, environmental).



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 apassion 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



Mr. Bernardo Mendia

Secretary General @ Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce & Industry – CCILC, Portugal

Bernardo is the President of the Board of the Portugal-Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHKCCI), Secretary-General of the Portugal-China Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCILC) and Member of the Executive Committee of the Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide. He is also an Advisor to the Board of Directors of JEUNE – Young Entrepreneurs Association of the European Union and Founding Member of the Friends of the New Silk Road Think Thank - currently serving as Vice-President of the Board of Directors, as well as Board Director at the Network of the Portuguese Chambers of Commerce and Industry Worldwide. In addition, Bernardo is Secretary-General of Protoiro, the Federation of Portuguese Bullfighters, as well as the owner, founder and CEO of Trinestcon, a private company focused on investment consultancy, sports marketing and trading of goods.



Mr. Stephan Hovath

Founder, Ideations & Partner of SilkRoad Cooperation, Germany

Mr. Stephan Horvath is the founder of Ideations and a partner at SilkRoad Cooperation Thinktank, a firm that advises European tech companies and SMEs on business and innovation strategies for expansion into MENA and Asian markets.

With over 25 years of international C-level experience, Stephan combines strategy and innovative technology to drive business across North America, Europe, the Middle East, and Asia.

His deep understanding of growth dynamics allows him to expertly translate strategic visions into action. Stephan's international mindset and focus on building bridges shape the DNA of organizations, emphasizing far more than just international expansion.

He specializes in forging partnerships, JVs and M&As through meaningful dialogue and commercial diplomacy, facilitating successful deal-making.

Previously, Stephan served as CEO/President of IPG Digital and Media Services, where he built strong global client relationships. He holds a master's degree in economics and computer science from the Technical University of Stuttgart and is a regular keynote speaker at international events.



Dr. Sara Medina

Member of the board at Sociedade Portuguesa de Inovação (Spi), Portugal

Dr. Sara Medina is a Member of the Board of SPI, an international consulting group with offices located in Europe (Portugal and Spain), North America (USA) and Asia (Beijing and Macao) and strong activity in Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia and Latin America. She contributes to the overall management of SPI, being responsible for managing SPI's activities and services in China since 2004 as well as in the Southeast Asian market. She has coordinated projects for public and private sector clients in Europe and around the world, including projects for international organizations in innovation management, technology transfer, R&D, internationalization, sector studies, establishment of partnerships and policy development.

Currently, Dr. Medina, on behalf of SPI, is part of the EU SME Centre Board of Advisors and was involved in the coordination of a project in China promoted by the European Commission through Horizon 2020, that resulted in the creation of ENRICH in China - a global network of centres and hubs that promotes the internationalisation of European science, technology and innovation (STI). ENRICH in China started as a Horizon 2020 project and offers unique services to European research, technology and business organisations, connecting them to the Chinese market. ENRICH in China triggers all the scientific and technology collaborative potential of the Chinese market for the benefit of European research organisations and technology-based companies including start-ups and SMEs.

Dr. Medina has a Ph.D. degree in Food and Resource Economics from the University of Florida, USA. Dr. Medina has concluded courses on Innovation and Leadership at the Universities of Wharton and Harvard and successfully completed the INSEAD Asia International Executive Programme, the Managing Global Virtual Teams Programme and the Negotiation Dynamics Programme in Singapore and France, respectively. More recently, Dr. Medina also finished the Advanced Management Program, a joint course from Católica Lisbon Business & Economics with the Northwestern Kellogg School of Management.



Mr. Paul Thoeng

CEO of cHESS Management Ptd Ltd, Belgium

Mr. Paul Thoeng 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.

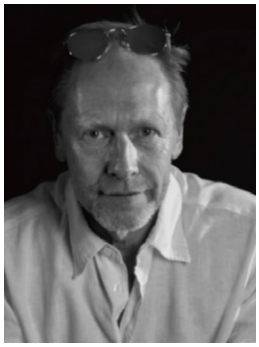
Since 2010 Paul combined his executive responsibilities with his activities in his Foundation Trikaya Bali. Trikaya Bali designed, developed and managed sustainable farming communities. Thousands of hectares of rice fields in Bali were converted to organic rice farms.

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 such 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.



Mr. Manu Melotte

M&A Advisory, Investor, Co-Founder ZuuZ Ltd., Belgium

Mr. Manu Melotte graduated from the KU Leuven ("Catholique University of Leuven") and the Toulouse School of Management. He started his career in 1993 at Sara Lee / Douwe Egberts in Marketing & Sales of fast-moving consumer goods. After 5 years operating in Belgium and the Netherlands, he was sent to Brazil as Marketing Director, to be part of an ambitious "Buy & Build" program, spanning a geographic area, the size and complexity of a continent.

After his return to Belgium in 2004, he joined Bpost to be responsible for the commercial transformation program of the parcel division and M&A of logistic companies. Since 2014 and after a career of over 20 years in large corporations, Manu became an independent M&A advisor for corporate customers focusing on transactions with SMEs in the Benelux.

"Manu had left Brazil, but Brazil never left Manu···" In 2022 he co-founded ZuuZ Ltd., a start-up specialized in electric mobility infrastructure and customer transactions for large condominiums in São Paulo.



Ir. Alessio Oliva

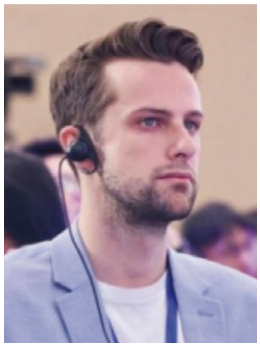
Owner of Oliva Technics, Belgium

Ir. Alessio Oliva is an experienced engineer and entrepreneur specializing in the renewable energy sector. With over fifteen years of experience, he has established a strong reputation in Belgium and the Netherlands as an expert in photovoltaic solar installations and sustainable energy technologies.

His career began at Alcatel-Lucent as a Hardware Design Engineer, followed by a role as a Chassis & Brake Engineer at Ford Motor Company. In 2009, he founded Oliva Technics, a leading consultancy focused on design, technical due diligence, and problem-solving in solar energy projects. He also served as Operations Manager at Solar Construction and held leadership positions at Blue Planet Wind and Blue Planet Hydrogen. From January 2021 to July 2023, Alessio was Chief Technical Officer (CTO) and partner at Pulsar Power, where he supported organizations in developing state-of-the-art and cost-effective renewable energy systems.

In addition to his work in the industry, Alessio has also contributed to higher education. He was a lecturer at Karel de Grote University College from 2012 to 2013 and at Thomas More University College from 2013 till 2016, where he taught courses in vehicle technology and renewable energy.

Alessio remains active as the owner of Oliva Technics, where he focuses on innovation, such as using drones for advanced solar installation inspections. He works closely with his team and partners to stay at the forefront of the renewable energy sector.



Mr. Gilles De Regge

Lecturer 3D at Digital Arts and Entertainment (DAE) at De Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen (Howest), Belgium

As a passionate lighting enthusiast, Mr. Gilles De Regge has developed a strong foundation in 3D art and visual effects through both professional experience and academic achievements. He began his career as an environment art intern at Cyborn in Antwerp, where he gained hands-on experience in creating immersive digital environments. Following this, he took on the role of 3D artist at Flow Postproduction in Antwerp and later at 3DExcite in Brussels, where he further honed his skills in lighting, post production and visual storytelling.

In 2023, Gilles transitioned into education as a lecturer in 3D at DAE Howest in Kortrijk, a prestigious institution known for its programs in game development and digital arts. Here, he shares his expertise and passion for 3D production with aspiring artists, contributing to the next generation of creatives in the industry.

He holds a degree in Game Graphics Production (2017-2020) and VFX & 3D Production (2020-2022) from Howest University of Applied Sciences, one of Belgium's top programs for digital arts and entertainment. His deep interest in lighting and visual effects continues to drive his work, as he remains dedicated to pushing the boundaries of 3D art and technology.

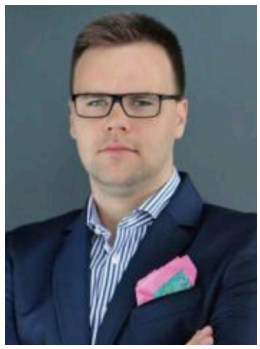


Dr.-Ing.Yang Qirui

Group Leader of Artificial Intelligence and Powertrain Simulation at FKFS, Germany

Dr.-Ing. Yang Qirui received a Bachelor of Science in Energy Engineering from Tianjin University and a Bachelor of Arts in Finance from Nankai University in China. He then continued his Master degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany. From 2016 to 2020, he worked as a research associate at the University of Stuttgart, where he received his Ph.D. in Engineering for his achievements in engine modeling and simulation.

Dr.-Ing. Yang Qirui is currently the Group Leader of the Artificial Intelligence and Powertrain Simulation Department at the Institute for Automotive Engineering and Powertrain Systems Stuttgart (FKFS). He manages research projects focusing on sustainable mobility and advanced powertrain technologies, such as the development of hydrogen fuel cell systems, the exploration of advanced hybrid strategies, the application of alternative fuels in engines and the utilization of artificial intelligence and data science in powertrain development. These projects involve industrial research, international collaborations and several PhD studies. In addition, he is involved in software development and provides technical support for simulation tools such as UserCylinder☒, RapidCylinder☒ and FMU.



Mr. Matija Krznar

Entrepreneur & Environmentalist
Co-Founder of DRIVIQ, Croatia

Entrepreneur and mountaineer, defined by an entrepreneurial mindset and a passion for mountains. Mr. Matija Krznar was recognized as the Young Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 by the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Croatia. As the founder of Urban Mobility, he launched SPIN CITY -Croatia's first car-sharing service, he played a pioneering role in advancing sustainable and green-tech mobility development. With 10+ years of experience in business and product innovation, Matija is focused on transforming communities and businesses through digital potentials, disruption models and sustainability.

Project: Transforming Mobility Asset Management with DRIVIQ

DRIVIQ is an innovative SaaS platform that offers Vehicle Lifecycle as a Service (VLCaaS), providing a comprehensive solution for digital management of the entire lifecycle of vehicles and movable assets. With its current capabilities in AI-driven predictive analytics, blockchain-enabled transparency, and acircular economy framework, DRIVIQ optimizes maintenance, and sustainable resourcing management. The platform's scalable architecture already connects key aspects of smart fleet-asset management, enabling seamless maintenance, resource optimization, and sustainable practices. DRIVIQ approach drives operational efficiency, reduces costs by up to 30%, and promotes environmental responsibility by lowering CO2 emissions through better resource management.

In the next phase of development, DRIVIQ aims to expand its ecosystem by integrating all stakeholders in the mobility industry—including leasing companies, fleet operators, insurers, industry vendors and the secondary market—creating a unified, fully optimized platform. This expansion is the key to achieving the platform's full potential and maximizing its impact on operational efficiency and environmental sustainability, aligned with global ESG standards.



Mr. Najib Abouloula

Director at SMART CONCEPT SOLUTION, Morocco

With over 25 years of experience in the industrial and construction sectors across Morocco and West Africa, Mr. Najib Abouloula has made numerous contributions in industrial automation, electrical energy management, and renewable energy. In 2019, he founded SMART CONCEPT SOLUTION, a company specializing in energy efficiency, renewable energy, Industry 4.0, and wastewater treatment. His team of experts provides companies with tailored solutions to enhance operational efficiency and sustainability. With astrong focus on innovation, he continues to contribute to the development of green technologies in the region.

He obtained his engineering degree in Industrial Computer Science in 1993 and worked for Schneider Electric Morocco for 14 years as the Automation Department Manager. Since 2011, he has served as the Associate Technical Director at CONCEPT AUTOMATION, accumulating extensive expertise in project management, technical solution design, and cost optimization.

Throughout his career, he has been involved in various high-profile projects, such as the feasibility study of a solar station for AUDA, commissioning pumping stations in Mauritania, and leading projects for the MANAGEM group and Italcementi (Heidelberg). His skills extend to managing energy efficiency solutions and creating photovoltaic stations.

Project: The Creation of a Sustainable Ecosystem for a Fishing Village

The creation of a sustainable ecosystem for a fishing village integrates solar energy production, seawater desalination for fresh water, and wastewater treatment for reuse in agriculture. This system promotes self-sufficiency, reduces environmental impact, and preserves the village's way of life while ensuring long-term resource sustainability. This system will be controlled by IoT telemetry solution to ensure service continuity.



Ms. Sun Yan

PhD student at the Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Ms. Sun Yan is an oncologist and a PhD candidate at Maastricht University, specializing in the application of AI in medical imaging within the field of oncology. She has received the International Medical PhD Conference Best Clinical Research Award. During her PhD, she is also a trainee at the Cancer Cachexia Society and successfully promoted international academic collaboration.

Over the years, Yan has shown remarkable growth: she comes from China, moving from PhD council member at the Institute of Nutrition and Metabolic Transformation at Maastricht University (organizes academic and social events) to an influential voice in the field of public health, amassing over 300,000 followers on social media. She is committed to spreading public health knowledge and advocating personal growth. She was named one of the 100 most influential bloggers on Zhihu - a Chinese Q&A website and the Chinese equivalent of Quora in the past decade.

Yan was awarded a public welfare speech certificate by the National Health Commission. She is passionate about public welfare and has also volunteered in remote areas, lectured in the community, and shared her vision of conveying warmth and strength through her work. Ms. Sun is also a member of the Asia-Pacific Entrepreneurs Association, which further expanded her professional network.

Project: Transforming Oncology with AI-Driven Medical Imaging

Our project focuses on developing an innovative AI-powered medical imaging tool designed to enhance cancer care by providing rapid, accurate analyses of body composition and metabolic parameters.

Our goal is to collaborate with healthcare institutions globally, expand our product features, and continually improve patient care through cutting-edge technology.



Mx. Mari Gallet

Student of Digital Arts and Entertainment (DAE) at De Hogeschool West-Vlaanderen (Howest)'s, Belgium

Mx. Mari Gallet is an emerging talent in digital arts and animation, recognized for their work as a concept artist. They gained notable recognition in the "Flanders Next Academy" competition with their short film "Giant of the Steppe", which they created in collaboration with five other students from Howest's DAE program. This impressive project was completed within just four months, with contributions from students specializing in game development, 3D animation, and Visual Effects, while Mari was responsible for the designs and storyboards.

Mari's achievements extend beyond "Giant of the Steppe". They were honored at the prestigious Rookie Awards in 2023 for their portfolio and was named Rookie of the Year. "Giant of the Steppe" was also presented at Playgrounds The Art Department Eindhoven in 2024.

Project: short film "Giant of the Steppe"

"Giant of the Steppe" is an animated short film, created by six students over six- months period, that blends film and game technology. This movie tells the story of a young girl, who rides on the back of a Great Yakram and searches for her lost family across the vast steppe.c She lives a completely nomadic lifestyle, with all the supplies she needs on the back of her animal friend.



Ms. Kira Schmid

Sourcing Senior Analyst at Coperion, Germany

Ms. Kira Schmid has a strong background in global supply management and business information systems. She holds a Master of Science in Business Information Systems from the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland (FHNW). Her master's thesis, titled *Strategy and Techniques for a Sister University Collaboration Hub*, focused on building a collaborative partnership between FHNW and Shenzhen Technology University (SZTU) in China. Through this research, she explored strategies to enhance cross-cultural collaboration in higher education, particularly in the context of global economic and political challenges. The study emphasized the value of fostering international partnerships and protecting access to education.

Kira has extensive experience in streamlining and digitizing global supply management processes. Currently, she works as a Sourcing Senior Analyst at Coperion, where she focuses on integrating Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) data with Power BI tools and leading process improvement initiatives. Her expertise includes proficiency in various ERP systems and business intelligence tools. Multilingual, Kira speaks German, English, and French fluently, which enhances her ability to work in international and cross-cultural settings. Her commitment to innovation and continuous learning makes her a valuable asset in her field.

Project: Thesis about Strategies and Techniques for a Sister University Collaboration Hub

The project explores the potential of a sister university concept (SUC) between FHNW and SZTU, inspired by the sister city initiative. Given the current economic and political climate, fostering strong university collaborations is crucial. The thesis examines strategies like interactive billboards and gamification to boost collaboration and create a sister university collaboration hub (SUCH).



Dr. Jean Louis Fraysse

Co-Founder at BOTdesign, France

Dr. Jean Louis Fraysse's career spans more than three decades, including leadership positions at major pharmaceutical companies such as SANOFIand Boiron Laboratories. He also held executive roles within the ASTEN Santé Group from 1987 to 2017. In 2017, he co-founded BOTdesign, a company that develops digital health tools designed to simplify patient management, improve clinical workflows, and reduce operational costs for healthcare facilities. BOTdesign obtained medical device certification in 2021, highlighting its commitment to creating safe and transparent digital health solutions.

Dr. Fraysse has held several prominent positions in the industry, including Vice President of the French Federation of Home Healthcare Providers and General Secretary of SNADOM, a professional union of healthcare service providers. He is Vice President of France SilverOc, an organization dedicated to the autonomy of elderly patients, and Digital113, a French organization focused on digital technology and artificial intelligence.

Dr. Fraysse holds a PhD in Industrial Pharmacy from the University of Limoges and has received extensive training in business development, marketing, and management auditing at IFG Paris.

Project: BOTdesign ORIGA

ORIGA is the first European web platform designed for clinical data augmentation, supporting clinical trials, AI algorithm training, database completeness improvement, health data sharing outside GDPR, and healthcare pathway optimization.

ORIGA helps pharmaceutical companies reduce patient recruitment time and costs and speed up clinical studies while adhering to international standards. It assists medical device manufacturers by minimizing the number of annotated images needed to train their algorithms.



Mr. Lionel Guérin

CEO and Co-Founder at ScienceOne, France

Mr. Lionel Guérin is an entrepreneur with a deep background in computer engineering and software development. He earned a Master of Science in Computer Engineering from the Polytech Nice Sophia (the polytechnic engineering school of the Université Côte d'Azur), France. His extensive professional experience spans over two decades, during which he held senior roles in leading European software engineering companies such as ALTEN, OPEN Group, AKKA Group (acquired by Adecco), and Ausy Group (acquired by Randstad), from 1998 to 2021.

In 2021, he co-founded ScienceOne, where he serves as CEO. Under his leadership, ScienceOne has successfully acquired major clients, including INSERM (France's top health research center), and international pharmaceutical companies such as MSD, AstraZeneca, and Sanofi. Additionally, the company has partnered with the prominent consulting firm McKinsey. He is also an active member of major incubators like Future4Care (sponsored by Sanofi) and PariSanté Campus, a French government-backed initiative.

In 2022, he also launched ScienceLeadR, a groundbreaking open digital platform focused on medical experts and life sciences stakeholders. As of mid-2024, the platform had identified and ranked over 3.6 million experts globally, positioning it as a leading player in the life sciences ecosystem.

Project: ScienceLeadR

ScienceLeadR is the first digital, open professional platform designed for medical experts and stakeholders in the life sciences ecosystem. Launched in 2022 by industry veterans in consulting and medicine, it leverages AI to provide unique services from a variety of open, evidence-based databases.

ScienceLeadR's mission is to connect individuals, projects, and organizations in life sciences to enhance both scientific and economic opportunities.



Dr. Alexandre Templier

Co-Founder and President, Quinten Health, France

In 2008, Dr. Alexandre Templier co-founded Quinten, a pioneer in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) and real-world data science to support decision-making in multiple sectors, particularly in healthcare. Under his leadership, Quinten Health has established itself as a global leader in leveraging data to optimize decision-making in the pharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical device sectors.

With nearly 30 years of experience as an engineer and entrepreneur in life sciences, and driven by a deep commitment to leveraging information technologies to transform decision-making in complex environments, Dr. Templier has been a catalyst for continuous innovation. His leadership has enabled many healthcare manufacturers to take full advantage of their data, helping them develop more effective, safer and better targeted therapies.

In parallel with his entrepreneurial activity, Dr. Templier was an associate lecturer at Arts & Métiers ParisTech from 2001 to 2013, contributing to teaching and academic research while expanding Quinten's influence. Today, Quinten is recognized worldwide for its expertise, driven by a highly qualified team of data scientists specializing in statistics, machine learning, applied mathematics and digital innovation.

Dr. Templier holds a degree in Mechanical Engineering from the École Nationale d'Ingénieurs de Metz (1994), an MSc in biomechanics from Arts & Métiers ParisTech (1995) and a PhD in biomechanics from the same institution (1999). He also obtained an Executive MBA from Paris Panthéon Sorbonne in 2004, strengthening his leadership and management skills, which are essential to support Quinten's continued growth.

Project: Quinten Health Real-World Digital Twins

Quinten Health is a pioneer in AI and data science applied to healthcare. It offers AI/ML solutions for precision care, specializing in real-world disease, care and outcomes simulation. Their expertise includes predictive medicine, disease modeling, and creating Real-World Digital Twins to accelerate and de-risk drug development and market access, paving the way for a truly personalized medicine.



Dr. András Tompos

Director of Institute of Materials and Environmental Chemistry in Research Centre for Natural Sciences, Hungary
President of Hungarian Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association

Dr. András Tompos, Director of Institute of Materials and Environmental Chemistry in Research Centre for Natural Sciences and President of Hungarian Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Association, graduated as a chemical engineer at Budapest University of Technology in 1994. He was PhD student from Central Research Institute for Chemistry, where he dealt with the design of heterogeneous catalysts for selective hydrogenation of α,β-unsaturated carbonyl compounds. He defended his PhD thesis in 1999.

Until 2001 he was a postdoc at RWTH Aachen studying enantioselective catalytic ring opening of meso-epoxide by means of salen complexes embedded into zeolites. After his return to Hungary his attention was attracted by combinatorial tools and high-throughput experimentation for the optimization of heterogeneous catalysts. He had an important role in the development of so-called Holographic Research Strategy that can be used for the optimization of catalyst libraries. Now, his research area is related to the design of electrocatalysts for fuel cells.

Project: GeoAkku

Geo Akku Ltd. was established in 2023 with the aim of realizing the Geo accumulator (GeoAkku). GeoAkku is a hydrogen storage project aim to increase the energy efficiency of industrial halls, wastewater treatment plants and animal farms. Research engineers at H-ion Kft have validated the process and are actively working on the implementation of GeoAkku.



Ms. M. pharm Marijana Anđić

Teaching Assistant in the Field of Pharmaceutical Technology, Faculty of Medical Sciences, University of Kragujevac, Serbia

Ms. M. pharm Marijana Anđić is a teaching assistant in the field of Pharmaceutical technology at Faculty of Medical Sciences from University of Kragujevac since 2019. M. pharm Anđić is a PhD student whose field of research involves the formulation and technology characterization of different semi-solid preparations and the investigation of their potential as wound healing agents.

Additionally, she is a member of several Junior projects funded by the Faculty of Medical Sciences, related to the preparation and characterization of plant extracts and other natural material as well as the evaluation of safety and pharmacological effects of natural products in animal models: "New topical formulations containing plant extracts/essential oils: potential in the treatment of wounds, burns and local inflammation in the diabetic rat model" and "Development and evaluation of the effectiveness and safety of new herbal dermatological preparations in the healing process of wounds, burns and the treatment of local inflammation". She published as an author and co-author over 35 papers in CC/SCI journals with citation number of 194. Also, she is a member of the editorial management in the Experimental and Applied Biomedical Research journal. Furthermore, she has been a participant in several conferences at national and international level.

Project: Development of Topical Formulations for the Wound Treatment

The aim of the investigation was the development the formulations for local applications based on Helichrysum italicum essential oil and test their effectiveness in the wound healing process. The wounds were created by the excision and incision method. Response to treatment was assessed by macroscopic, biochemical, and histopathological analysis. Topical application of formulations based on immortelle oil showed the greatest contraction of the wound with the highest content of hydroxyproline in both models. The better re-epithelialization ability is also observed via histopathological results, indicating an increased density of collagen fibers.



Ms. Siobhan Abdurahman

Student of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Greenwich University, UK

Ms. Siobhan Abdurahman is a freelance writer and a third-year student of Entrepreneurship and Innovation at Greenwich University. She is passionate about creating positive social impact, particularly in community safety and empowerment. Siobhan's innovative spirit earned her the Social Category Award in the 2024 Enterprise Challenge for her groundbreaking creation, Buddy App. The app bridges communication and safety gaps within communities by offering real-time voice, video, and text chat, along with GPS tracking and audio-visual recording to support users on their journeys. The app also provides an innovative solution for evidence collection in case of incidents, allowing authorities to access securely stored data for investigations.

Siobhan's achievements and experiences with the Enterprise Challenge have been featured in case studies for the Greenwich Business School and the university's Generator program. She has actively shared her entrepreneurial journey on these platforms, inspiring others to pursue impactful ventures.

Project: Buddy App

Buddy App is a safety app designed to enhance personal security by providing users with a "buddy" to accompany them through voice, video, or text chat. It includes journey tracking and features video and audio recording, stored securely for potential use as evidence in legal cases.



Ms. Deepika Negi

PhD Candidate in Neuroscience at the University of Greenwich, UK

Ms. Deepika Negi is a Neuroscience PhD candidate at the University of Greenwich, specializing in the neurobiology of prenatal and postpartum depression. With a strong academic background, she holds a Bachelor's degree in Life Sciences from Delhi University and a Master's in Biotechnology from the University of Greenwich, where she received the Merit Award (2021–22) and the Vice Chancellor's Scholarship (2023) for her academic achievements.

Her research passion is complemented by a drive to translate scientific discoveries into real-world solutions. This vision led to her invitation as a panelist at the 2024 Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition in the UK, where she shared resources and motivated early-career scientists.

Ms. Negi has also built a diverse professional portfolio, working as a Transformation Technician at Tropic Bioscience, Norwich Research Park, and currently serving as a Postgraduate Research Teaching Assistant at the Natural Resources Institute since May 2023.

Her long-term goal is to turn her research into entrepreneurial ventures, using her expertise to inspire and support emerging entrepreneurs in the scientific community. Her dedication, academic excellence, and vision for innovation set her apart as a leader in her field.

Project: MOMACARE

MOMACARE investigates traditional practices to address Postpartum Depression (PPD), which affects one in ten women due to limited treatment options. We explore placentophagy, a practice common in mammals and ancient humans, hypothesizing that its hormonal content could prevent PPD. We propose placenta-inspired, plant based natural health supplements and processed placenta pills to provide complete nutritional and hormonal benefits to new mothers.



Mr. Daniel Hurtado Platero

Co-Founder of Fluviq, Spain

Mr. Daniel Hurtado Platero entered electronics engineering five years ago, unsure if it was the right choice. However, he was determined not to be just a student. During that year, he discovered programming and data analysis through self-study, which ignited his passion and made him switch to computer engineering. Over the next four years, Daniel not only completed his degree but also learned about AI and developed financial systems and indicators. He participated in several projects, including a semester in Germany, where he studied AI with physicists, and he worked on a fascinating project in Shanghai during his final semester.

In early 2024, Daniel moved to Shanghai with a good friend, Santiago, to build a Start-up, Fluviq, focusing on optimizing the use of water in agriculture. Initially, they aimed to adapt existing Chinese sensors, but they couldn't find what they needed in the market. Instead of viewing this as a negative thing, Daniel saw it as an opportunity. They decided to create their own sensors, leveraging this as a competitive advantage. After months of managing the development with other engineers and partners like Microsoft, they produced successful prototypes, entered the EU EIT program, and returned to Spain, starting pilot projects and partnerships.

His vision now centers on understanding agricultural and water needs and finding a system to apply actual technology effectively in this field.

Project: Fluviq - Smart Drops for a Sustainable Future

At Fluviq, our mission is to protect global water resources by minimizing the impact of droughts. We develop the technology to optimize water use in parks, fields, and crops using advanced soil sensors and AI models. With pilot deployments in Spain and partnerships with Microsoft AI-IoT Innovation Labs.



Ms. Alba Ramírez Saiz

Architect and Urban Planner researcher, PhD student at Polytechnical University of Madrid, Spain

Ms. Alba Ramírez Saiz is an Architect and Urban Planner researcher, now doing her PhD thesis at Polytechnical University of Madrid around inclusive urban mobility for people of different ages and abilities thanks to a public competitive grant awarded by the City Council of Madrid. She has developed her professional and academic career around universal accessibility, and she is currently involved in several projects that consider this field of study exclusively or partially. She is author of 21 papers and have participated in 18 contributions in national and international congresses.

She has won several innovation awards in international competitions with disability-inclusive proposals, including 3 first prizes: the Smart Mobility Challenge by Ford Foundation with a project for people with incontinence; the UP4 Hackathon by the Universidad Politécnica de Madrid with a project of a car wheel for deaf people; and the "Virtual Twins" challenge by Eelisa on-the-MOVE protocommunity with a project to connect a transport hub to the urban network through accessibility measures.

Project: Check UApp

Check UApp streamlines the application of Universal Accessibility regulations by providing architects and urban planners with an AI-driven tool that identifies and addresses architectural barriers using image recognition and generation technology. The team includes experts across multiple disciplines: an urbanist-architect focused on inclusive mobility, a civil engineer specializing in transport and urbanism, computer science professors with expertise in AI, and a building engineer-architect and developer of universal accessibility indicators.



Mr. Luca Colzani

CEO and Technical Director at Litho, Italy

Mr. Luca Colzani is a Senior Director and Business Developer with over 15 years of experience in the Oil & Gas, petrochemical, and green technology sectors. He is the CEO of Xegate SA, a Swiss-based innovation company focused on clean technologies, nanotechnologies, and sustainable solutions. Additionally, he serves as CEO of AGPT Nexus LLC in Dubai, where he leads disruptive technology projects aimed at process optimization in the energy industry. With a Master's degree in Aerospace Engineering, Luca has a strong technical foundation, complemented by his business acumen and a proven track record in driving growth through strategic partnerships and innovation in sustainability.

Project: Litho

Litho is a sustainable binder created from two rock types and water, requiring no external energy. This zero-CO2, exothermic process uses industrial waste, supporting a circular economy. With rapid hardening and strong adhesion to steel, Litho serves as an eco-friendly alternative to traditional concrete in construction. A key figure in its development is Prof. Norberto Roveri, a distinguished chemist and former head of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Bologna. His extensive career focuses on sustainable materials and environmental applications. Currently, he advances green technologies like Litho, making significant strides in sustainable development and eco-friendly materials.



Mr. Andreas Kavalirek

Chief Technical Officer (CTO) at BlackSand Marine Technologies, Spain

Mr. Andreas Kavalirek is an experienced project manager and eMobility enthusiast with a strong background in mechanical engineering. He holds an engineering diploma from the Höhere Technische Bundeslehranstalt Klagenfurt in Austria, specializing in mechanical technology. Throughout his career, he has gained expertise in organizational planning, business restructuring and human resource management, with a focus on accuracy and high-level marketing strategy.

Since January 2023, he has been serving as the Chief Technical Officer (CTO) at BlackSand Marine Technologies, overseeing the company's technical operations and innovations in marine technology. His career spans more than 25 years of entrepreneurial experience in smart controls, electric boat propulsion and renewable energy. His role as a leader in the boating and marine industry has allowed him to stay at the forefront of new technologies and continuously improve products within the industry.

He also works with APIS Solutions on projects in solar energy, water treatment and automation, further strengthening his expertise in sustainable energy and technological advancement.

Project: Black Sand Marine Technologies - Unmanned Surface Vessels

At Black Sand Marine Technologies, we specialize in core innovations such as autonomous navigation and additive construction of boats. Our focus is on developing cutting-edge, self-navigating vessels and utilizing advanced manufacturing techniques to create sustainable, high-performance marine solutions.



Mr. Jeffrey Tury-Rakar

Co-Founder of EPDOC, Austria

Mr. Jeffrey Tury-Rakar is the co-founder of EarlyOn that is currently developing an early-stage cancer detection tool named EPDOC (Earliest Possible Detection of Cancer). He is also co-founder of SIMEX (Simulation of Medical Experience), where his team developed one of the first reinforcement learning algorithm capable of simulating entire treatment cycles for septic patients, matching the decision-making level of intensive care doctors.

Additionally he is also the CEO of Hotme, a platform built to revolutionize competitive entertainment while leveraging social media for global good. His innovative work earned him 3rd place in the Product & Model Innovation category at the Global ECI Awards 2022.

He obtained a Bachelor degree in Business and Economics and is completing a Master's in Applied Economics at the University of Vienna with a focus on entrepreneurship and finance.

Project: EarlyOn/EPDOC

EarlyOn's EPDOC project is an early-stage cancer detection tool that uses a machine learning-based algorithm to analyze epigenetic markers and circulating tumor DNA in blood, detecting solid tumors up to four years before conventional methods. This innovation could reduce cancer treatment costs by 50-75%.

Jeffrey Tury-Rakar leads the business development, while Clemens Heitzinger, co-director of the AI and Machine Learning Center at the Vienna University of Technology, oversees technical research. EPDOC's first clinical trial for hypothesis validation has already been successfully completed.



Mr. Jürgen Piffer

CFO of entec biopower Group, Austria

Mr. Jürgen Piffer is responsible for finance including controlling, legal and HR as CFO since 2020. He has an excellent network nationally and internationally. He works as a Management- and Export- consultant since 2010 and joins entec since then. Before that, he has spent 25 years in the Top-Management of Austrian regional banks. In addition to a degree in business administration, his education includes a complete banking education , several Management Trainings and a postgraduate MBA.

In addition to his several special certifications, he has received numerous awards in recent years, nationally and internationally, i.e. in cooperation with entec winning the Austrian Constantinus, European Constantinus and finally also the Constantinus International Award, the major international Consulting Award.

Project: entec biopower Group

This project is about the containerized biogas facility for smaller amounts of biowaste. It is suitable for places where space is limited; no approval process is required: simplifies the installation process in a plug and play principle: simple installation and commissioning; compact: compact design for efficient use of space. It has the status of ready for sales.



Ms. Verena Schwab

Co-Founder and CEO of Econutri, Austria

Ms. Verena Schwab, Co-Founder and CEO of Econutri has a rich background in the startup world, with a focus on food and food-tech industries. Throughout her career, she's worn many hats in the past 10 years - ranging from business development to finance and operations—giving her a well-rounded understanding of what it takes to scale a company from the ground up. Her academic foundation in economic science, combined with hands-on experience in the startup ecosystem, has equipped her with the skills to navigate complex markets, build sustainable business models, and drive innovation on a global scale.

Her passion for innovation and sustainability stems from a deeply personal place: her father's lifelong dedication to biotechnology and especially the possibility of CO2-based protein production. Inspired by his vision, Verena has taken on the challenge of turning his dream into reality, working tirelessly to bring the groundbreaking idea of producing protein from CO2 on an industrial scale to life. Econutri is backed by an experienced team of top tier scientists and business professionals.

Project: Econutri

Econutri is a pioneering biotechnology company focused on creating sustainable proteins using innovative processes that leverage CO2 and green hydrogen. Their primary mission is to offer eco-friendly protein alternatives that can be used across various sectors, including human food, animal feed, pet food, and even non-food applications such as cosmetics.

Econutri's proteins are versatile, suitable for human use in plant-based meats, dairy alternatives, and protein shakes. They also provide sustainable alternatives for pet food, livestock feed, and even cosmetic products, reducing environmental impact.

Organizer & Co-organizers

Association of Chinese-European Innovation and Entrepreneurship (ACEIE), Belgium

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.

Tianjin University, China

Tianjin University (TJU), founded in 1895 as Peiyang University, is the oldest modern higher education institution in China. With a rich history spanning 128 years, TJU represents the evolution of modern Chinese education and innovation. Throughout its journey, the university has pioneered advancements, including the creation of China's first aero engine and the establishment of its first Hydraulics Laboratory. These milestones have cemented TJU's reputation as a leader in research and teaching.

TJU has a total student body of 38,484, including 18,955 undergraduates, 13,707 master's students, and 5,822 doctoral students. The university is supported by 4,830 faculty members, including 13 academicians from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Engineering. TJU has earned numerous accolades, including nine National Teaching Master Awards, 12 National Engineering Practice Education Centers, and seven National Experimental Teaching Demonstration Centers. Additionally, the university offers 54 top-tier undergraduate programs and 82 national-level first-class courses.

With 47 master's disciplines, 34 doctoral disciplines, and 37 postdoctoral research stations, TJU is recognized for its significant contributions to innovation, engineering, and scientific research. Its six national key laboratories and five national engineering research centers drive the institution's cutting-edge scientific endeavors.

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.

ReTech Center of École des Ponts Business School, France

École des Ponts Business School of École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC) offers executives from various sectors and industries a wide range of upskilling and reskilling opportunities through Certificate and Degree Programs, including Master's, MBAs, and the Doctorate in Business Administration (EDBA).

Founded by Dame Celia Russo in 1987, École des Ponts Business School was created to shape value-based global leaders in the field of international business. For nearly four decades, her vision for a new kind of business leadership has laid the foundation upon which the school continues to build year after year.

Under the leadership of Dean Prof. Alon Rozen, École des Ponts Business School partners with leading universities across the globe to co-create programs that break down barriers and embody the interconnected nature of today's global business landscape.

The launch of the ReTech Center at École des Ponts Business School marks a new chapter for its network of alumni and its industrial, scientific, and academic partners. Founded in 2022 by Prof. Saman Sarbazvatan, the Vice Dean of École des Ponts Business School, this ambitious initiative harnesses the collective intelligence of the school's global community of experts and institutions to drive responsible digital innovation and transformation across industries.

With a focus on Industry 5.0, ReTech Center challenges industry leaders, innovators, investors, and policymakers to rethink and redesign the emerging futures of our markets and societies and act responsibly as we face new global challenges.

ReTech Center's RISE (Research, Innovation, Skills, Engagement) Labs offer specialization tracks at the master's, doctoral, and postdoc levels, as well as executive certificate and corporate training programs. These tracks cover cutting-edge topics such as Technology, Innovation, Sustainability, Finance, Leadership, and Governance, among others.

ESSCA School of Management, France

ESSCA School of Management (ESSCA), founded in 1909, is a prestigious French business school with over 7,000 students across 10 campuses worldwide, including locations in Paris, Angers, Budapest, Luxembourg, and Shanghai. The school holds the prestigious "triple crown" accreditation—AACSB, AMBA, and EQUIS—ensuring the highest standards of excellence in business and management education.

ESSCA offers a range of programs, from undergraduate to postgraduate and continuing education, with a strong focus on innovation, ethics, and sustainability. The school collaborates with over 2,500 partner companies, providing students with valuable internships and real-world business projects. Additionally, ESSCA's network of more than 21,500 alumni offers significant career support and opportunities.

ESSCA's global perspective, reinforced by its international campuses, prepares students to become socially responsible leaders in a dynamic business environment. With its emphasis on hands-on learning, personal development, and leadership, ESSCA equips graduates with the skills necessary to excel in a rapidly evolving global market.

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.

RWTH Aachen University, Germany

RWTH Aachen University (full name: Rheinisch-Westfälische Technische Hochschule Aachen) is located in Germany's western most 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 ca. 170 study programs for about 21,500 students of whom 22% are foreign students. Several study programs have been placed in top rankings, among them Mechanical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Information Systems.

Poznan University of Medical Sciences, Poland

PUMS

Poznan University of Medical Sciences (PUMS) is a prominent medical university located in Poznań, Poland. It is one of the leading medical schools in the country and is known for its high-quality medical education and research programs. For a century, PUMS have been educating specialists who professionally help and treat the patients. PUMS focus on modern didactic models to carefully combine knowledge with practice. PUMS actively collaborates with universities and institutions worldwide, fostering international exchange programs, joint research projects, and partnerships with medical institutions in other countries.

The university has modern facilities, including well-equipped laboratories, research centers, and hospitals where students gain practical experience. The research center employs over 1,000 scientists, including almost 200 professors. Priority research areas are preventing cardiovascular diseases, fighting cancer, promoting active and healthy aging and metabolic programming. As an academic community, each year PUMS publish nearly 1,000 research papers in leading international scientific journals. PUMS operates its own medical center and teaching hospitals, providing students with hands-on clinical training opportunities.

PUMS has a proud alumni network of healthcare professionals who have made significant contributions to the medical field, both in Poland and internationally. PUMS was also involved in the active fight against SARC-CoV-2 by organizing one of the largest Polish laboratories for detection coronavirus using molecular biology methods, co-creating a Temporary Hospital for infected people and a Central Vaccination Point, as well as by publishing over 100 scientific papers in this area.

Faculty of Medical Sciences of the University of Kragujevac, 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 labor market.

Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain

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.).

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain

The Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC), or BarcelonaTech, is a premier public university in Spain, specializing in engineering, architecture, and technology. Established in 1971, UPC serves 30,347 students with the support of 3,629 teaching and research staff and 1,989 administrative staff. The university offers an impressive array of 67 bachelor's degrees, 91 master's degrees, 45 doctoral programs, and 240 lifelong learning courses, being top 5 in Europe in internationally accredited programmes.

UPC is recognized for its strong research focus, generating €80.9 million in R&D income and filing 13 patents last year (top 1 in Spain). The university's 2024 budget stands at €371.9 million, enabling it to maintain its position as a leader in innovation and scientific advancement. With 18 specialized schools across multiple campuses in Barcelona and Catalonia, UPC is a hub for technological development and academic excellence.

The university has a global impact through international collaborations and a network of 87,535 alumni. By prioritizing sustainability, research, and innovation, UPC continues to shape the future of engineering, architecture, and technology, preparing students to tackle global challenges and contribute meaningfully to society.

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 has 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.

Singularity Academy, Switzerland

Singularity Academy
Beyond Excellence

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.

Maastricht University, The Netherlands

Maastricht University

Maastricht University (UM), located in the vibrant city of Maastricht in the Netherlands, is a distinguished institution recognized for its innovative and collaborative approach to education and research. Founded in 1976, UM pioneered the problem-based learning (PBL) model in the Netherlands, emphasizing active learning, critical thinking, and real-world application of knowledge. This framework enhances students' learning experiences and fosters interdisciplinary cooperation among students, faculty, researchers, and industry partners.

UM offers a wide array of international programs, positioning itself as a hub for education that attracts learners from diverse backgrounds. The university's emphasis on interdisciplinary studies encourages partnerships across various fields, making it an appealing destination for organizations seeking collaboration in research initiatives or educational projects.

With a strong commitment to research excellence, UM has achieved significant milestones in various domains, particularly in health, sustainability, and technology. The university is home to renowned research institutes, such as the Maastricht University Medical Center and the Institute for Data Science, driving groundbreaking studies and innovative solutions to complex societal challenges. UM's research output consistently ranks highly in international assessments, reflecting its impact on global knowledge and practice. This dedication provides students with opportunities to engage in cutting-edge projects alongside leading experts, equipping them with the skills necessary for future success.

Maastricht's multicultural environment enriches the educational landscape, as over 60% of the student body hails from abroad, bringing diverse perspectives and ideas into the classroom.

Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, The Netherlands

RSM Erasmus | Rotterdam School of Management Erasmus University

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 2021, RSM's ranked 1st in the world for business administration in Academic Ranking of the World Universities.

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands

VU VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT AMSTERDAM

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

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.

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.

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

UNIVERSITY OF GREENWICH

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 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.

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.

cHESS Management Pte.Ltd., Belgium

Established in 2010, cHESS Management Pte.Ltd., was a pioneer in developing and managing Sustainable Business Models for Family owned companies.

Today the focus is on addressing the challenges resulting from climate change through Science and Technology.

cHESS Management is creating Innovative Collaborative Ecosystems bringing together scientists, researchers, tech entrepreneurs, impact investors, governments and other stakeholders.

Flanders-China Chamber of Commerce (FCCC), Belgium

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.

Professional Women International Brussels (PWI Brussels), 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.

Shenzhen 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.

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.

EURAXESS 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.

European Network of Research and Innovation Centers and Hubs China (ENRICH 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 an \ d 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.

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

The Federation of Chinese Professional Associations in Europe (FPAE) 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.

German Women Entrepreneurs Association, 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.

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.

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 arepresentative 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 aset 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.

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)

Nature

World Association of Young Scientists (WAYS) is an international, academic, and non-profit social organization that is voluntarily formed by worldwide, regional, and national-wide youth technology organizations, universities, and professional research institutions.

Mission

WAYS aims to build a platform for worldwide young scientists to exchange and learn from each other, consolidate the consensus of "technology for social good," and strive to promote sustainable development through scientific and technological innovation. It contributes the wisdom and strength of young scientists to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and promote the construction of a community with a shared future for mankind.

Scope of Activities

WAYS' scope of activities will include but is not restricted to the following:

1. Actively engage with the World Young Scientist Summit (WYSS), initiate collaboration and communication among young scientists from various countries, and build a platform for global exchange and cooperation among young scientists.
2. Support young scientists in exploring breakthroughs in promoting sustainable development through technological innovations.
3. Promote sustainable development via technological innovations by initiating activities of publicity and science popularization.
4. Launch collaboration activities with relevant scientific and technological organizations.
5. Handle other matters entrusted by the members of WAYS.



Young Scientist Sustainable Development Goals Award



World Young Scientist Summit



Academic Journals



Study Visits and Project Funding

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

How to get to the venue?

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

- **Tangla Hotel Brussels**

  Address:

  Avenue Emmanuel Mounier 5, Woluwé St Lambert
  1200 Brussels , Belgium

  Phone number:

  +32 2 345 67 89

  E-mail:

  info@tanglabrussels.com

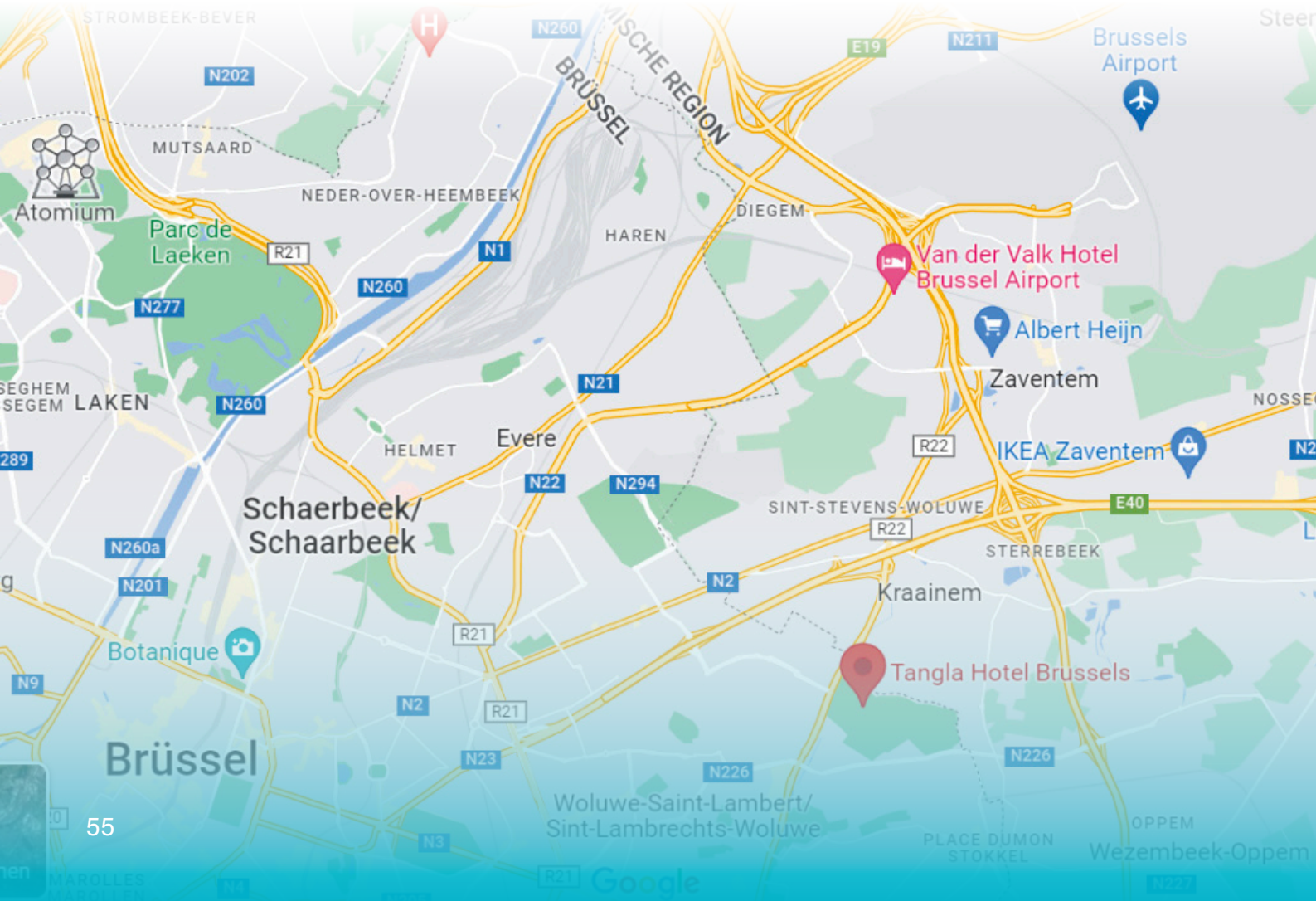
From Brussels' airports:

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.

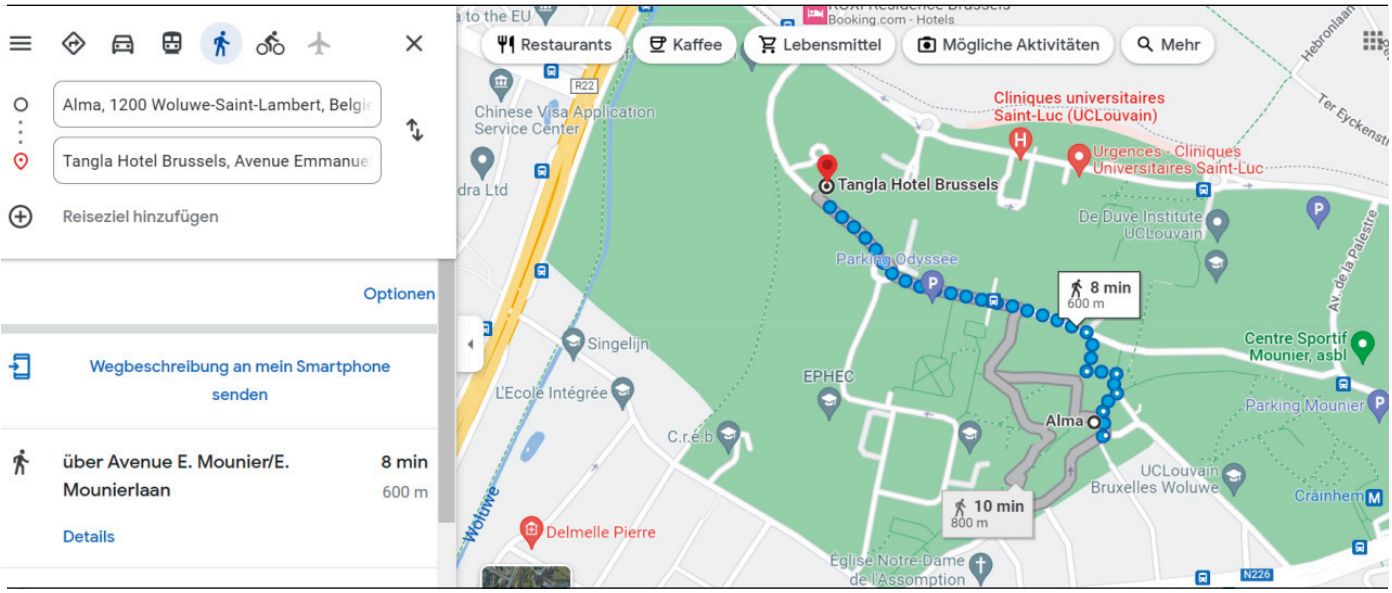
From Brussels' train stations

- 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.

Dr. Zhiwei Song

Mobile: +32 475 406 325

Email: zhiwei.song@aceie-europe.org

Dr. Ling Yang

Mobile: +49 163 5170 319

Email: ling.yang@aceie-europe.org



WYSS 2024



WYSS 2024