

European Cluster Conference 2014

Boosting SME growth, industrial renewal and regional structural change through
modern cluster policies and support

October 20-21, 2014

Selected Speaker and Moderator Biographies



Margaret E. Ward

Margaret is an entrepreneur who worked as a business journalist for 25 years. She is CEO of Clear Ink, a global brand communications agency based in Dublin, Ireland. The company works with large European organisations, global multi-nationals and professional services companies.

During her journalism career she presented business programmes on Newstalk radio, worked as a business columnist and award-winning investigative journalist with The Irish Times and was The Sunday Times' first Money Editor in Ireland. She is on the board of European Movement Ireland and she was recently appointed to the board of Ireland's public service broadcaster, RTÉ. Margaret was born in New York to Irish parents and moved back to Dublin in 1995.





Massimo Baldinato



Massimo Baldinato is a Member of the Cabinet of Commissioner Ferdinando Nelli Feroci responsible for Industry and Entrepreneurship, previously with the former Vice-President of the European Commission, Antonio Tajani, where he deals with SME policy, international affairs, tourism and agro-food industry.

He also served on the previous Cabinet of Antonio Tajani, then the Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for Transport. Previous posts include that of coordinator of the European Observatory on State Aid, public affairs manager for A.F.I., the Italian Association of the Phonographic Producers, and coordinator of the Public Procurement Working Group in the framework of the 5th Phase of the EuroMed Market Programme while working for the European Institute of Public Administration.

Massimo Baldinato has extensive knowledge in the areas of public procurement, intellectual property, and EU regulation of state aid, in which he has consulted for private companies as well as public authorities and authored several publications.

Massimo Baldinato has a law degree from Padua University and was admitted to the bar in 1999.

	<p><u>Alain Schmitt</u></p> <p>Assistant Director General of the French Ministry Directorate-General for the competitiveness, industry and services, in charge of competitiveness clusters “Pôles de Compétitivité”</p>
	<p><u>Arantxa Tapia</u></p> <p>Basque Minister for economic development and competitiveness</p>
	<p><u>Franz Josef Kirschfink</u></p> <p>Dr. Franz Josef Kirschfink was born on July 10, 1955 in Belgium and studied Physics at Aachen University of Technology. He subsequently obtained a Ph.D. in Particle Physics. On graduating from university Dr. Franz Josef Kirschfink worked as a research associate at Aachen University of Technology. In 1989 he joined Deutsche Lufthansa in Hamburg as IT team leader. From 1990 to 1995 he covered different position in Materials Management and Logistics at Lufthansa. In 1995 he moved to Lufthansa Technik and became Head of Engine Overhaul Reorganization, following which he headed the “Service Center” department in the Engine overhaul division until 2006. Between 2006 and 2009 he held the position of Chief Operating Officer at Alitalia Maintenance System, which at that time was an affiliate of Lufthansa Technik, in Rome, Italy. From 2009 to 2013 he set up the R&D activities at Lufthansa Technik AG in Hamburg as Head of Technology Projects. Since 2014 he is managing director of Hamburg Aviation, the aviation industry cluster of the Metropolitan Region of Hamburg, Germany.</p>
	<p><u>Dieter Labruier</u></p> <p>Director Technology and Regional Innovation, Jülich Project Manager on behalf of the German Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF)</p>
	<p><u>Alberto Baban,</u></p> <p>President of Piccola Industria of Confindustria</p>
	<p><u>Laurent Probst</u></p> <p>Laurent is a Partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and leads the Research & Development activities Unit of PwC Consulting Luxembourg. After having developed a research center in Investment management, he specialized over the last 11 years in Economic development initiatives and clusters for governments and regions and high growth companies. Laurent initiated and developed international partnerships in life sciences, agriculture and information technology raising more than \$200 million as of August 2010 for setting up local research infrastructure with economic objectives. Laurent actively contributed to the improvement of the tax and regulatory framework and the financial investments vehicles to support economic development. Laurent has advised several non for profit organizations to increase their financial resources to tackle food security and access to medicine programs and</p>

	<p>economic growth. Laurent regularly advises European, National and Regional Authorities on economic development and financing strategies.</p> <p>Laurent has been appointed Global leader of the “Regional Innovation Cluster” competence in the PwC Network.</p> <p>Laurent is also a member of the scientific committee of the Fondation Ouverte pour la Construction de l'Avenir du Luxembourg (FOCAL) and advisory board member of Fondation de Luxembourg.</p> <p>Laurent has initiated and is in charge of the development of the “PwC’s Accelerator”, a new generation of High growth company Accelerator.</p>
	<p><u>Kincsö Izsak</u></p> <p>Kincsö is specialised in innovation and cluster policies. She has more than ten years of experience in managing innovation policy related initiatives and she has been the main author of several innovation policy reports and studies. At Technopolis she coordinated for instance the INNO Policy TrendChart integration contract, a policy monitoring of innovation policy developments in 48 countries and more recently she has been working on the European Service Innovation Centre and the European Cluster Observatory initiatives of the European Commission.</p> <p>Previously, Kincsö worked for three years as a policy officer at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Enterprise and Industry in the Unit ‘Support for Industrial Innovation’. Prior to that, Kincsö was a project manager at the Eszaka-fold Regional Development Agency in Hungary. She gained a diploma as an economist, has a master's degree in international business, and currently is a PhD candidate at the University of Debrecen in the Doctoral School of Geographical Sciences.</p>
	<p><u>Lennart Svensson</u></p> <p>Since 2006 Lennart Svensson has been responsible for the process to develop an International Innovation Strategy for Skåne. He has been participating in the development of new methods for incubation, new business-center and a number of new cluster initiatives as Mobile Heights, Training Regions, Media Evolution and Pack Bridge. Today he is member of the board of four of six clusters initiatives in Skåne. Between 2009 and 2011 he has, together with the actors, developed new systemic management environments as the Research and Innovation Council (FIRS) and a Soundingboard Innovation (SBI).</p> <p>In 2011, Skåne completed the work on the International Innovation Strategy for Skåne. During the last year Lennart Svensson has been engaged in the development of a new cluster strategy focusing on open innovation and platforms. In late 2012 he was appointed as Chairperson of the European Forum for Clusters in Emerging Industries (EFCEI).</p>



Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker

Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker made his PhD in Material Science in 1995 and joined VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH in 1999, where he currently acts as deputy General Manager. From 2007 until 2012 he led the Agency Competence Networks Germany on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economy and Technology. Currently he is managing the German Cluster Excellence Initiative “go-Cluster”. In 2009 he also became Director General of the Institute for Innovation and Technology, Berlin.

Dr. Gerd Meier zu Köcker has led many innovation policy projects in the field of agriculture and related sectors in several parts of the world, mainly in Europe, Africa and Asia. He has widely written about innovation, evaluation, impact measurements and related policy issues. He is a frequent speaker and gave many guest lectures at universities world-wide (e. g. Harvard Kennedy School, National University Singapore, University Budapest, Technical University Tripoli).

Currently he is leading the European Cluster Observatory project, which is the new flagship initiative of the EC for growth and competitiveness. In October 2014 he also took managing the ClusterAgentur Baden-Württemberg. In former times he contributed to the European Cluster Memorandum as member of High Level Advisory Group as well as member of the European Cluster Policy Group on behalf of the European Commission.



Kirsi Ekroth-Manssila

Head of Unit, European Commission, DG Enterprise and Industry

Kirsi Ekroth-Manssila is the Head of the "SMEs: Clusters and Emerging Industries" Unit in DG Enterprise and Industry. In this function, she is responsible for cluster policy development, including cluster internationalisation and excellence. She is also dealing with emerging industries and the Green Action Plan for SMEs. She was previously the Acting/Deputy Head of Unit of the Sustainable Industrial Policy and Construction Unit in the same Directorate-General where she was dealing with the Ecodesign and Energy labelling Directives, the Construction Products Regulation and competitiveness aspects of environment, energy and climate policies.



Since joining the Commission in 1996, she has worked for several years on SME policy. Her work experience before the Commission includes the banking sector and the paper industry.

Kirsi holds a Master of Science degree in Economics from the Helsinki School of Economics and Business Administration.



Christian Ketels

Dr. Christian Ketels is a member of the Harvard Business School faculty at the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, where he leads Prof. Michael E. Porter's research team. He is also Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm School of Economics and honorary professor at the European Business School in Oestrich-Winkel (Germany). He has led cluster and competitiveness projects in many countries and regions, and advised a large number of governments and international organizations on strategy and growth. Dr. Ketels is President of TCI, the global professional network for practitioners and organizations in cluster-based economic development. He serves on advisory boards to research institutions and government agencies in Europe, the Americas, and Asia, has published widely on economic policy

	<p>issues, and is the co-editor of the Competitiveness Review. For the European Commission he has served on a number of key advisory groups related to clusters, and was in the leadership team of the European Cluster Observatory since its creation.</p>
	<p><u>Eduardo Diaz</u></p> <p>Eduardo Diaz is head of the New Technology-based Firms Creation unit at Fundacion para el Conocimiento madri+d. He is a graduate in Physics by the University of Salamanca and MBA by the Instituto de Empresa, Madrid. Since 2004 he coordinates International Programmes and Regional Initiatives in the fields of start-up financing, technology auditing, strategic analysis and organizational planning. He is an expert in the design and development of regional innovation policies, exploitation, diffusion and commercialisation of research results, design of diffusion and promotion mechanisms for the participation of firms in technological projects, management of international technological projects and technology transfer. He joined SOCINTEC in 1993 where as Manager Consultant he coordinated projects and studies for the European Commission, the Spanish Government and other institutions related to R&D and innovation. He also has a Doctorate Diploma in Industrial Engineering and Technology Management and worked as university lecturer, software engineer and Project Controller at INDRA, where he participated, among others, in the European Eurofighter - EFA project.</p>
	<p><u>Mateja Dermastia</u></p> <p>Member of Cabinet Slovenian Economy and Technology Development Ministry, representing the Poly4Eml project</p>
	<p><u>Anders Eldrup</u></p> <p>As Chairman of CLEAN, Denmark's largest green cluster, Anders Eldrup is engaged in developing new business opportunities for companies within the cleantech sector. Anders Eldrup is also chairing Offshoreenergy.dk, an organization committed to developing new business opportunities within the offshore sector (oil, gas and wind).</p> <p>From 2001 to 2010 Anders Eldrup was CEO of the leading Danish energy company, DONG Energy, which is positioned in the entire value chain; E&P, Generation, Distribution and Energy Markets. Anders Eldrup is an expert in clean and renewable energy. He has repeatedly urged politicians participating in international climate negotiations to adopt ambitious and long-term CO2 emissions reduction goals, in order to reduce the use of fossil fuels. Eldrup emphasizes that ambitious CO2 emissions reduction goals will speed up the global development of renewable energy even more. At the 2009 United Nations Climate Change Conference Eldrup was chosen to speak at the COP15 as the representative of the international business community. His key message was that an ambitious, predictable and transparent climate agreement would constitute a framework that could facilitate the business community's necessary investments in low carbon energy technologies. Anders Eldrup holds a MSc in Political Science from the University of Aarhus and has graduated INSEAD's Executive Management Program.</p>



Thomas Lämmer-Gamp

Thomas Lämmer-Gamp is Director of the European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA) at VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH in Berlin, Germany. Being an expert for the development and implementation of public funding programs, he has been working with regional and economic development policy topics for more than fifteen years.

He started his career in 1999 at Betreuungsgesellschaft für Umweltfragen Dr. Poppe mbH where he was Deputy Head of the Euro Info Centre Kassel from 2002 – 2004. His area of work covered program advice for SME and policy advice to the European Commission. From 2003 to 2004 he was member of the Environment and Sustainable Development Working Group of the Euro Info Centre Network of the European Commission (DG Enterprise) in Brussels. Starting in January 2005 he continued his career as adviser for regional economic development programs at Rambøll Management Consulting, before he was hired by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Labour of the German Federal State of Saxony in August 2006 where he was responsible for the development and implementation of vocational training programs to support both education and economic development policies. From October 2008 to August 2010 he served as technical advisor for international cooperation and innovation policies as well as trainer for program development at the Department of Science and Technology of the Republic of South Africa, based in Pretoria. In August 2010 he joined VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH. He is member of an advisory group on SME financing for the Federal Ministry of Economy and Energy (BMWi).



Emily Wise

Emily Wise has more than 21 years experience in strategic consulting and international economic development. Currently, Emily is an independent consultant – working primarily with public sector clients providing research, analysis, advisory support and process facilitation services in the field of innovation policy. Emily has a particular focus on international innovation collaboration and cluster development strategies and the geography of the Baltic Sea Region. Emily has facilitated transnational policy learning and led analyses of innovation and cluster development policies in the BSR over the past 11 years (in, e.g., the BSR InnoNet and StarDust projects and broader BSR Stars activities), and has also facilitated cluster policy learning on the EU level (in, e.g., the ECPG and TACTICS projects). Emily's key competencies include: development and evaluation of policy strategies; research and report writing; network building and facilitation of policy learning; as well as project management and presenting/moderating at conferences.

Emily has a BSFS in International Politics from Georgetown University (1991), an MBA from the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia (1997), and a PhD in Research Policy from the University of Lund (2014).



Claire Nauwelaers

Claire Nauwelaers is an independent Policy Analyst and Governmental Adviser, specialised in research and innovation policy, working in an international environment. She has 30 years of experience in this field and a wide network of contacts with experts, academics and policy-makers. Until 2011 she was working on innovation as a policy analyst in the Regional Development Policy Division at OECD. Previously, she was Research Director at UNU-MERIT, the University of Maastricht and United Nations University, in charge of the research team: “Governance of Science, Technology and Innovation». She started her career as researcher within two academic teams (the Interdisciplinary Centre in Regional Development, and the Interdisciplinary Centre Law-Economics) at the University of Louvain in Belgium, where she was in charge of research projects dealing with economic development and innovation.

Her main areas of research and expertise revolve around the analysis and policy advice about the functioning of research and innovation systems, notably at the regional level. She is working on policy development, analysis and evaluation in the areas of Research, Technological Development and Innovation in response to needs from the European Commission, national and regional authorities. She is currently one of the leading experts in Europe on Smart Specialisation Strategies. She is member of Scientific Steering Committees of several Research Networks, part of policy review teams, and is regularly invited as expert in High-Level Expert groups for the European Commission or Member States. She has published numerous books and articles on policy aspects of research, technology and innovation.

Mikel Landabaso

Head of Unit of the “Competence Centre for Smart and Sustainable Growth” in the European Commission’s Directorate General for Regional Policy





Vincent LEPAGE

Vincent LEPAGE, Director for the Economic Policy Directorate (Department of Competitiveness and Innovation - DG Economy, Employment and Research of the Public Service of Wallonia). Its current activities and responsibilities are related to the follow-up of European policies in the fields of Industry, SME’s and Innovation and their links with Walloon policies and priorities. He is (or has been) involved in several European platforms and Committees in relation with clustering policies (European Cluster Alliance – TACTICS), SME’s (Small Business Act expert group), RDI (committee “Competitiveness and Innovation Program”, Key Enabling Technologies member states expert group).

Between 2000 and 2009, he was in charge of the clustering program in Wallonia (10 clusters, 6 Pôles de Compétitivité) bringing together around 2.000 business units and R&D centers.

Since 2010, he is closely involved in the monitoring of Creative Wallonia, a program designed to place creativity and innovation at the heart of Wallonia’s economy and society. Following two years of implementation, the European Commission considers this ambitious strategy to be exemplary. the European Commission has awarded Wallonia the title of “European Creative District” – one of the first two of its kind in

	<p>the European Union. Vincent LEPAGE is responsible for the implementation of this “Wallonia European Creative District”, a 30-months project that must play a role of Large Scale Demonstrator for the other European Regions.</p>
	<p><u>Stephan Pflugbeil</u></p> <p>After school I started to work in a bank for three years as a solid basis. I went on to study political economics and international decision-making and responsibility. After my doctorate about impact of international migration on Germany I wanted to combine economics and politics in my work. I found it in the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology in Munich. At first I was contact person for industry automotive, aerospace and defence. Later, I was speechwriter for the Minister and State Secretary in the Ministry. Meanwhile I was lent to the Bayerische Landesbank for two years.</p> <p>Now I am deputy of the unit Cluster in the Bavarian Ministry for Economic Affairs and Media, Energy and Technology (Munich). Currently we conduct the second funding period of our Cluster Policy and make preparations for a probable third period. Additionally we are responsible for the Fraunhofer Company in Bavaria, which is the biggest organization for applied research in Europe.</p>
	<p><u>Novak Csaba</u></p> <p>Head of Division at the Hungarian Ministry of Economy</p>
	<p><u>Anna Ershova</u></p> <p>Having a general management profile, Anna Ershova is passionate about science and new technologies. In 2010 she obtained a Master’s degree of ISTIA engineering school (Angers, France) on Innovation management and Technology transfer.</p> <p>After an experience in a technology transfer office of the National Institute of Agronomic Research (INRA), she had been working for three years for the FP7, Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) and LIFE+ National Contact Points in France.</p> <p>Since 2013 Anna Ershova is working as the European Projects Manager at Nord France Innovation Développement, the regional innovation agency of Nord-Pas de Calais region. Her main mission is to bring the actions of the regional innovation ecosystem towards the European scale. In the framework of these activities Nord-Pas de Calais was selected as one of the six model regions for the demonstration of an innovative cluster policy. Factories of the Future is the challenge of Nord-Pas de Calais.</p> <p>Anna’s ambition is to put her skills and experience in the service of knowledge economy development.</p>



Helmut Kergel

Helmut Kergel graduated from the Technical University of Berlin in 1986 (Diplom-Ingenieur) in precision engineering. Today, he is deputy head of the department “International Technology Cooperation and Cluster” and programme director “Global Innovation” of VDI/VDE Innovation + Technik GmbH (VDI/VDE-IT). Besides being involved in the management, coordination and evaluation of collaborative innovation projects on national and EU level, he was/is also responsible for a number of international innovation consulting and training projects in several overseas countries. Helmut Kergel was significantly involved in the development of indicators and processes for assessing cluster management quality and benchmarking methodologies in the context of the German cluster programme “Kompetenznetze Deutschland” (2008-2012), the pan-European project “NGPExcellence” (2010-2011), and the “European Cluster Excellence Initiative (ECEI)” (2009-2012). Since end of 2011, he is appointed as director of the “European Secretariat for Cluster Analysis (ESCA)”, the organization responsible for assessing and awarding the various labels for cluster management excellence to cluster organisations worldwide.



Reza Zadeh

Reza Zadeh is the Executive Director of European Foundation for Cluster Excellence, focused on the development and training needs of Cluster Management Excellence and he frequently acts as an expert / advisor to governmental bodies including the European Commission on Competitiveness and Innovation policies.

He has over 20 years experience of regional innovation and competitiveness policy in a UK and European context, focusing on economic development through innovation systems. He combines this with over 12 years of international management experience in technology and innovation management in telecommunications and aerospace sectors.

Reza is a technologist with a B.Sc. and a research degree in Systems Engineering both from Leeds, UK and a joint MBA from Cranfield School of Management, UK and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Marc Pattinson

Marc Pattinson is Managing Director of the consultancy group inno TSD based in Sophia Antipolis in France which specializes in the preparation of regional development and innovation strategies. He is also a member of the inno AG board. He studied in the UK at the London School of Economics.

He has a long track record on working in the field of clusters and related policy development initiatives. He regularly works for the European Commission as a policy advisor in the field of innovation, entrepreneurship, internationalisation and cluster programmes. He is a member of the **European Cluster Observatory** team with particular responsibilities for the promotion and dissemination actions. He is also part of the **European Cluster Alliance** team. He regularly organizes cluster internationalisation and matchmaking events (Italy, India, Brussels ...) on behalf of DG Enterprise and he is an auditor for the ESCA Gold label. He has hands on experience working for clusters across Europe in numerous fields such as ICT and Health and also cross sectoral fields such as photonics.

He is also part of a team responsible for innovation studies for DG Research and has recently contributed to a report on the linkages between Key Enabling Strategies and RIS3 strategies and was a member of DG Regio's S3 Mirror Group.



Carla Jiménez

Carla Jiménez is the Project Coordinator of CEAGA (Galician Automotive Cluster) in Vigo (Spain) since October 2011

She holds a degree in Psychology by Santiago de Compostela University, a Postgraduate Diploma in Business by la Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and a Master's Degree on People Management by Caixanova Business School in Vigo.

Carla started her career in the People Development Department of Alcatel Telecom in 2000; shortly after she joined the EMEA HR Center of IBM in the United Kingdom where she managed the Recruitment Team for Spain in parallel to the development of HR projects at national and EMEA Level. In 2002 Carla was promoted to the role of Skills & Learning Expert for EMEA involving the coordination of a multicultural team, guidance and support to the HR functions across EMEA and the development of global projects in collaboration with other IBM regions.

In 2004 she came back to Spain to work as Consultant for Grupo P&A a Spanish firm where she stayed for seven years. In this role she worked for a wide range of sectors and companies across Spain mostly focusing in projects to attract, develop and retain talent. She was also the Project Leader for all the leadership and organizational development programs implemented by the firm in cooperation with its US partners.


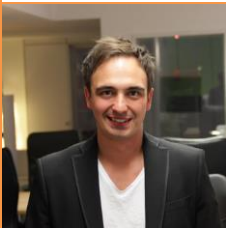
In her current role Carla is also in charge of coordinating all the activity developed by the Corporate University for the 105 company members of CEAGA. This involves identifying their current and future development needs, defining and implementing training and development activities and leading projects mostly focused on innovation, knowledge management and HR development.



Nektaria Berikou

Nektaria Berikou holds the position of the International Collaborations Manager of Corallia, responsible for the coordination and full-scale project management of international collaboration projects (FP7, CIP, SEE, Interreg, Horizon 2020 etc), with the aim to promote cluster management excellence, ensure a strong impact on cluster development and accelerate the exchange of ideas and best practices. She is also active in establishing strategic international alliances, liaising with key EU officials, other cluster initiatives, stakeholders and policy bodies for the promotion of world-class clusters, the empowerment of effective cluster policies and the support of the internationalisation of all clusters.

Prior to her involvement in Corallia, she has been engaged in managing and implementing large-scale projects in the private and public sectors and has accumulated experience in the fields of competitiveness, entrepreneurship, benchmarking analysis, research and innovation. She has been Advisor to the Special Secretariat for Competitiveness of the Hellenic Ministry of Development, supervising the design and implementation of the O.P "Competitiveness & Entrepreneurship 2007-2013" and advising government officials on initiatives improving the business environment. She has built a network of relationships on national, EU and International level and worked in close collaboration with several bodies of the European Union and well-known organisations, like the US Council of

	<p>Competitiveness, World Bank, OECD and World Economic Forum. Nektaria has also been a Member of the Committee responsible for the preparation of the National Reform Programme (2008-2010) in the frame of the Lisbon Strategy and a Member of the Greek delegation in the Council of EU Ministers of Competitiveness.</p> <p>Nektaria holds a MSc in HR Management (LSE, London) and a Dipl.-Ing.in Chemical Engineering (National Technical University of Athens). She has a strong project management background (PMP®) and is certified as "Cluster Excellence Management Trainer".</p>
	<p><u>Fabrizio Conicella</u></p> <p>With a Degree in international political science, Fabrizio has more of 15 years of experience managing Organizations, Business development dept and R&D and technology transfer projects. From January 2008 until June 2012 he has been General manager and he is now Director of Business development and international projects of Bioindustry Park Silvano Fumero and coordinator of bioPmed cluster. He is from 2011 contract professor at Università di Torino and Università Piemonte Orientale in innovation management and technology transfer, President of Ephoran MIS, a company specialised in imaging services, member of the managing board of the Italian start-up association and member of the steering committee of CEBR, the Council of European Bioregions</p>
	<p><u>Stephane Verin</u></p> <p>Textile 2020 / Up-tex cluster Nord-pas de Calais, France</p>
	<p><u>Sophie Labrosse</u></p> <p>As Deputy Director at Biopeople, Denmark's Life Science Cluster accredited with the Gold Label for Cluster Management Excellence in June 2013, Sophie has extensive experience with cluster management and cluster strategies, on a Danish and international level. Prior to joining Biopeople, she was Director of Business Development at Invest in Western France, a regional economic development organisation involved in setting up and implementing cluster policies on a regional level. Sophie is a graduate in Political Science and International Relations from the Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris and from Rijksuniversiteit Groningen, The Netherlands, and holds an Executive MBA degree.</p>
	<p><u>Nicholas Coutts</u>, Genesys Global Network</p>
	<p><u>Florian Bergmann</u></p> <p>Florian Bergmann founded the first Coworking Space in Munich in 2010. This small creative working environment joined 2014 forces with WERK1. Now he is responsible for the future development of the incubator. Along his engagement in building a working ecosystem for startups he is a founder with several startups by himself including a consultancy for building digital business.</p>



Edgar Garcia Casellas

Born in Barcelona, Edgar Garcia obtained his BA in 1994 after a final year at the University of Southampton (UK).

His professional career in the CCIs began on a free-lance basis performing a wide range of tasks, such as manager of an independent theatre company; press assistant for a dance company and a theatre festival; and PR and translator for Catalan film distributing companies. Afterwards he moved on to work for the Sitges International Film Festival of Catalonia. From 1999 until 2002, he lived and worked in Berlin promoting Catalan culture on behalf of the Catalan Autonomous Government (Generalitat de Catalunya). He returned to Barcelona in 2002 to join the brand new Catalan Institute for Cultural Companies (ICEC), a governmental agency for the promotion of local cultural enterprises, where is currently director of the Business Development Area. Amongst his duties are different financing programmes, as well as a consultancy service and the organization of professional training seminars and workshops for the Catalan CCI through the so-called SDE (Business Development Service).

Since 2012 he has actively participated in the European Creative Industries Alliance (ECIA) platform as founding member and Coordinator of the Working Group on Access to Finance. For the last years he has given master classes in several Cultural Management postdegree courses in Catalonia, and has spoken as a panelist in different seminars and international meetings (Belfast; Brussels; London; Río de Janeiro; Edinburgh; Casablanca; Lisboa; Bucarest; Athens).









Alberto Pezzi


Alberto Pezzi is Director of competitive strategy and clusters division at ACCIÓ - Directorate General for Industry within the Catalan Government. He has over 15 years of experience in industrial policy, cluster development and competitiveness reinforcement initiatives acquired working both for private consultancy firms and for the public sector. In the last two years he has also contributed to the definition of the Smart Specialization Strategy for Catalonia as member of the technical task force of RIS3CAT initiative.

He is regularly invited as key note speaker in international events and he occasionally collaborates as guest professor with leading business schools, universities and specialized institutions like the European Foundation for Cluster Excellence. He has been also actively involved in different think-tanks and international advisory groups on cluster policy like TACTICS and the European Forum for Clusters and Emerging Industries.

As part of his pro-bono activities, Alberto has been among the promoters of TCI Network the world leading association of cluster practitioners (tci-network.org), and since 2003 is member of the Board of Directors, serving as Secretary, President (2009-2011) and, currently, as Treasurer. Alberto holds a BSc in Economics by the University of Bologna (Italy), a Master degree in European Law and Economics from the European College of Parma and a Postgraduate diploma in Economic History by the Autonomous University of Barcelona. He is the author of different publications and case studies on cluster policy and practice. In 2010 he co-authored the book *Cluster and Competitiveness: the case of Catalonia (1993-2010)*.

	<p><u>Barbara Andreani</u>, BENE/Impulse, Belgium, member of the Enterprise Europe Network working group on “Cooperation with clusters”</p>
	<p><u>Jean-Luc Beylat</u></p> <p>Jean-Luc Beylat is the current President of Alcatel-Lucent Bell Labs France, and is also Chairman of the Business Cluster for Systematic Paris–Region, which has more than 700 members and investments of more than 2 billion Euros in research and development. Jean-Luc Beylat was elected as president of the French Association for Competitiveness Clusters on the 16th December 2013.</p> <p>Jean-Luc first joined Alcatel in 1984 and worked on semiconductor lasers. In 1992 he launched various activities concerning WDM transmission. In 1996 he was named as Director of Systems Departments and Optical Networks at Alcatel’s research centre, where he was responsible for global research-based activities and terrestrial and submarine transmission. In 2000, he joined Alcatel Optic as Programme Director then as Vice President for network solutions.</p> <p>Jean-Luc holds a doctorate in physics on semi-conductor lasers and their application, awarded by The University of Pierre Marie Curie (UPMC, France). He is a member of the Administration Council of INRIA, of the Etablissement Public Paris-Saclay, of IRT SystemX and ITEA. He is also a member of the executive committee of KIC ICT labs of the European Institute of Innovation and technology.</p> <p>In February 2013, he was selected by the European Commission to take part in CONNECT Advisory Forum (CAF). Finally, with Pierre Tambourin he is co-author of a report entitled “Innovation: a major issue for France”, which was commissioned by the government in April 2013.</p>
	<p><u>Stig Jørgensen</u></p> <p>Stig is the CEO of Medicon Valley Alliance since 2005 and is educated as a Medical Doctor and holds a Business Degree from Copenhagen Business School. At Medicon Valley Alliance, Stig Jørgensen is involved in future strategies for the Medicon Valley region, general management within the public sector, project management, and pharmaceutical research & development. Prior to joining MVA he held the posts of Managing Director for Fertin A/S, the pharmaceutical part of Dandy Group, and Development Director for Coloplast A/S. He has also worked for Novo Nordisk A/S, Sant + Bendix A/S – Coopers & Lybrand, and Hvidovre Hospital.</p> <p>Medicon Valley Alliance (MVA) is a Danish-Swedish cluster organisation representing human life sciences in Medicon Valley. MVA is a non-profit member organization that carries out initiatives on behalf of the life science community in order to create new research and business opportunities, which strengthen the development of Medicon Valley. MVA's member base comprises biotech, medtech and pharma companies of all sizes, CROs, CMOs, public organisations, universities, science parks, investors and business service providers.</p>

	<p><u>Morten Solgaard Thomsen</u></p> <p>Morten Solgaard Thomsen is Programme Coordinator of the Innovation Network Denmark Programme – The Danish national cluster programme. He has been working with cluster policy and cluster programmes for the Danish Ministry of Higher Education and Science since 2005, and has been involved in the development the first Danish Cluster Strategy launched in 2013. Furthermore, he has over the last four years been involved in a number of international cluster excellence collaboration initiatives such as The Nordic-German-Polish Cluster excellence Benchmarking project, The” Let’s make a Perfect Cluster Programme” initiative and the Baltic Sea Region Innovation Express and Cluster Matchmaking initiative.</p>
	<p><u>Madeline Smith</u>, Institute of Design Innovation, The Glasgow School of Art</p>
	<p><u>Ramses Valvekens</u></p> <p>Ramses Valvekens is CEO of Easics since 2004. Besides his role as CEO, he remains active as systems architect, focusing on technology selection, project risk reduction and cost-effective mixed-signal ASIC and FPGA design trade-offs. He is a regular speaker at industry conferences and gives lectures in semiconductor design at several institutes including Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Universiteit Gent, Universiteit Hasselt, Embedded Systems Institute and Philips Research. He holds a Master degree in Electronics Engineering from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (1997) and Groep T (1994) in Leuven, Belgium. He was a visiting scholar / participating guest at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories (California, USA) and performed research at the Institut National Polytechnique de Grenoble (France). In 1994, he won the Barco/VIK prize for the design of a reconfigurable processor for industrial image processing in cooperation with imec. He has been working at Easics since 1997, first as a design engineer, later as project leader and technical manager of a product family of mixed-signal ASICs. He received the TranSwitch Employee Recognition Award in 2003 and is co-inventor of two telecommunication patents. He is a member of the board of directors of DSP Valley since 2011, and a member of the IEEE since 1997.</p>
	<p><u>Anne-Grete Ellingsen</u>, GCE NODE, Norway</p>
	<p><u>Armando De Crinito</u></p> <p>Armando De Crinito graduated in Law at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan and Lawyer (with Italian license to practice law). He has a vast experience in activities concerning research and innovation policy framework, technology transfer and internationalization. He has developed a magior know how on setting up management of large RTD projects and networks. He has developed extensive Governmental, European and industry networks and has been involved in technology transfer and technology funding. More recently, he has</p>

	<p>taken on the management of several projects relating to 'foresight and technology assessment', and to support the Lombardy region in starting a program of the evaluation system to reward and to strengthen the excellences, to assure the adequacy of the offer, to promote the continuous improvement of the Lombardy research system and to foster interactions between research centers and industry. Since May 2013 Deputy Director Enterprise, Research and Innovation and Head of the Unit Programming, Research and Innovation in Regione Lombardia.</p>
	<p><u>Joanna Drake</u></p> <p>Joanna Drake has occupied her current position since 16th of January 2010. Since October 2005, she was Head of the European Commission Representation in Malta. During the preceding five years Joanna had been Company Secretary and Head of the Legal & Regulatory Department of Vodafone Malta Limited.</p> <p>Before venturing into the telecommunications sector, Joanna's professional career centered entirely around European Union matters, with an accent on law, which she taught and researched full-time for five years at the University of Malta. After obtaining her post-graduate qualifications in law from the College of Europe in Bruges, where she specialised in EU competition and internal market law, Joanna spent five years as Senior Legal Officer at the EU Directorate of the Foreign Office in Malta and a further year as Legal Research Officer at the Maltese Embassy in Brussels. As a core group member of MEUSAC (Malta-EU Steering and Action Committee) she was closely involved in the pre-accession negotiations between Malta and the European Union.</p>