

Speakers Bios



GIEDRIMAS JEGLINSKAS, LT

Assistant Secretary General, NATO

Giedrimas has overall responsibility for management of the NATO headquarters, and is the Secretary General's primary advisor for NATO-wide management issues. Before assuming his current post, Mr. Jeglinskas served as the Vice-Minister of Defence of Lithuania beginning in 2017. From 2010 to 2017, Mr. Jeglinskas worked as Vice President in Corporate Banking at Citigroup. Mr. Jeglinskas graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point with a BSc in Political Science and Computer Science. He holds an MA in National Security Studies from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in Washington, DC and an MBA in Strategy and Finance from Columbia Business School in New York.



TANIA SANTIVANEZ

Regional Agricultural Officer, FAO

Tania Santivanez has a Master's Degree in Organic Chemistry at the People's Friendship University in Russia and post Graduate Degrees on Environmental Management Systems, Ecotoxicology and Environmental Defenders Organization and Social Economy and Fair Trade at the Padre Hurtado University in Chile. Tania has been working at FAO for 17 years now and her key area of expertise is Sustainable and Inclusive Agrifood Systems. For 8 years she acted as Regional agricultural officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, coordinating a Regional program on agrifood system and leading various projects related to sustainable crop production, seed system, inclusive trade at local and regional level. She also was Global Coordinator for the "International year of Quinoa" in 2013. At present, she is acting as regional agricultural officer for Europe and Central Asia and coordinates the Regional program "Sustainable Natural resources management under a changing climate".



MARK CAMPANALE, UK

Founder, Carbon Tracker Initiative

Mark is the founder of the Carbon Tracker Initiative, a non-profit think tank with offices in the US and UK, having enjoyed a career in sustainable finance for 20 years. Carbon Tracker is best known for its work on 'stranded assets' and the 'carbon bubble' and providing transition analysis for the members of Climate Action 100+. These concepts are also used by the fossil fuel divestment movement; and for investors & regulators, in how to set decarbonisation pathways for the fossil fuel sector.



OLIVER HARMAN, UK

Cities Economist, Oxford University

Spatial economist and economic geographer with 8+ years working on urban issues, both in the multinational private sector, government public policy and academic research environment. Personal website with a more complete selection of work: www.oliverharman.me Interests and skills lie in sustainable urban development & regeneration, devolution, local government institutional strengthening as well as international development research & policy.



NICOLAS BRIEN, FR

President, European Startup Network

Nicolas Brien runs France Digitale, the largest Startup organization in Europe with 1400+ startup members and 100+ VCs. He previously was the Director of Studies of Kantar-TNS Sofres (WPP) and a senior advisor to Najat Vallaud-Belkacem (Spokeswoman of the French Government). Nicolas is currently a lecturer at Sciences-Po Paris and HEIP (Institut des Hautes Études Internationales et Politiques). He holds a Master's degree from Columbia University SIPA. He regularly writes op-eds in French newspapers (such as Le Monde, La Tribune, Les Échos,...) and speaks at international Tech events (such as CEBIT, Vivatech or the Krynica Forum).



AUDUN ABELSNES, NO

Managing Director, Techstars Energy

Audun Abelsnes is the Managing Director of the Equinor & Techstars Energy Accelerator and is an active participant in panels at energy & innovation conferences around the world.



LINDA ZEILINA, UK

CEO, The International Sustainable Finance Center

Linda is Founder and CEO of ISFC, overseeing the strategic development of the think tank and its work on sustainable investing. Linda is a Fellow at the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), and until recently was Think Visegrad Fellow at EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, providing expertise on sustainable finance.

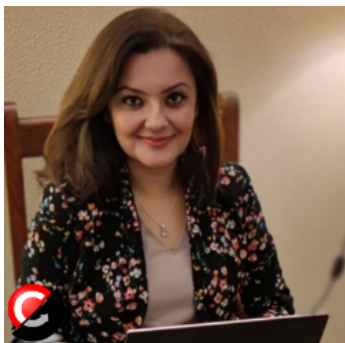
Linda is also the 2021 Policy Leader Fellow at the European University Institute's (EUI) School of Transnational Governance.



DOUWE JOUSTRA, NL

Head Circular Transformation, C&A Foundation

Douwe is a system-ecologist based on his education in forestry, landscaping and nature-management. He is Head Circular Transformation at the C&A Foundation, worldwide. Joustra was program coordinator Cradle to Cradle within Dutch government during the period 2007-2010. He also was program manager of the Dutch Innovation program Climate neutral Cities (2010-2012).



KASHMALA KAKAKHEL, PK

Climate Finance Specialist

Kashmala Kakakhel has over 15 years of experience of working with governments and development partners in Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Malawi, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan. Her core competence lies in international policy on climate finance – ensuring it is in line with the needs and requirements of the developing countries, and works with developing countries to design projects on climate action. Kashmala is a Member of Women in Energy Pakistan, writes opinion pieces for national and international news agencies. Kashmala is also a resource person on Climate Finance for senior civil servants of Pakistan, and a TEDx speaker.



IGNACIO DE CALONJE, ES

CIO, IFC Global Infrastructure Department

Ignacio is a Chief Investment Officer in IFC's Global Infrastructure Department. He is based in London and, amongst other responsibilities, leads IFC's Sustainable Finance practice in the infrastructure space, focusing on supporting IFC clients to issue green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked financial instruments. He is also responsible for managing a number of IFC's key Western European-based clients in the energy and mining sectors. Prior to his posting in London, Ignacio was based in Istanbul, Cairo and Washington DC for IFC. Ignacio has extensive experience in the field of international finance, having worked on numerous equity and debt investments in emerging markets. Before joining IFC in 2004, he worked for Lehman Brothers' investment banking division in London and Madrid advising Spanish and UK corporate clients in mergers, acquisitions and debt capital market transactions. Ignacio was also a non-Executive Director of Alcazar Energy (a renewable energy company with 400 MW of solar and wind assets in operation in Egypt and Jordan) from 2019 to 2021 and non-Executive Director of Kuwait Energy (an oil & gas company with operations in Iraq, Egypt and Oman) from 2017 to 2019. He has a Bsc in Business Administration from Universidad San Pablo-CEU (Madrid) and a Masters Degree from Columbia University (New York).



ALEX GĂVAN, RO

Environmentalist & High altitude climber

A leading Romanian high altitude climber, Alex uses the best stage possible, the summits of the world's highest mountains to advance environmental and social causes. He reached seven 8000 m summits in the Himalayas by fair means, meaning without supplemental oxygen and high-altitude porters. After surviving the earthquake and the Everest avalanche on April 25th 2015, together with his team he initiated "Joy for Nepal", a humanitarian campaign where about 37.000 donors answered the charitable call resulting in building three schools for 300 children in remote Himalayan communities. Alex is deeply involved in a series of environmental causes, such as the quest against illegal logging, protecting and conserving Romania's virgin forests, Vacaresti Natural Park, cyanide free mining, Bucharest Green Belt or saving asprete, probably the world's rarest fish. Recipient of the 2008 "Gold Medal for Merit in Sport" (Spain), he was awarded twice "The Romanian Sportsman of the Year" by the Romanian Federation of Mountaineering and Sport Climbing and nominated twice more for the same award. He was listed as a 2012 "30 Under 30" honoree of Forbes Romania and he got the 2015 special award for activism from the Civil Society Development Foundation.



JULIETA MARTINEZ, CL

Founder, Tremendas Chile

Co-founder of the Latinas for Climate Movement, Julieta Martínez, 18, is a climate and gender equality activist. Member of the UN Women Youth Task Force Beijing +25. Founder of the regional Action Platform TREMENDAS, which promotes the empowerment of young women, teenagers, and young people by inviting them to use their talents and/or skills to generate social impact. This community currently consists of over 200 young women and people from all over Chile and Latin America, who work together under the SDG. She Martinez is the co-founder of the Latinas for Climate movement, a WWF ambassador, and a member of the Ashoka Young Agents of Change Network.



STEFANO MARGUCCIO, IT

Senior Advisor, International Renewable Energy Agency

Stefano is Senior Advisor to the Director General of the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), based in Abu Dhabi. He previously worked for the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Deputy Head of the Policy Planning Unit.



INGMAR RENTZHOG, SE

CEO & Founder, We Don't Have Time

Official “eco-warrior” according to The Sun and “Mark ZuckerVert” according to FranceTV2, Ingmar is serial entrepreneur and nominated for a DI Gasell Award, Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of The Year, Veckans Affärer Supertalent, Sweden’s Environmental Influencer 2018, and International Gamechanger of the Year. He’s a member of Al Gore’s Climate Reality and European Climate Policy Task Force” Ingmar is CEO and Co-Founder of We Don’t Have Time is the world's largest review platform for climate solutions, a member of the European Climate Policy Task Force and Advisory Board Member Advisory Board Member of the Climate & Capital Media.



CORINA MURAFĂ, RO

Energy Policy Expert

Corina Murafa was leading until recently Next Now/Planet & Climate and Ashoka Romania. Prior to joining Ashoka, she advanced long-lasting positive change in Eastern Europe as a public policy expert on energy and sustainability. She has worked for the World Bank, OMV Petrom, Deloitte, national governments and think tanks.



ANDREAS BECKMANN,

CEO for CEE, WWF

A passionate changemaker and organization builder. Regional CEO of WWF-CEE (formerly WWF Danube-Carpathian Programme), active across 10 countries of Central and Southeastern Europe. Experience in strategy, policy, marketing and environmental issues as well as working across sectors from government to business and

non-profit.



FLORIN STOICAN, RO

Co-Founder, Asociația Parcul Natural Văcărești

Building on his own experience in establishing Romania's first citizen-led national parks, Florin is catalyzing a citizen-driven movement for the creation of a functional system for protected areas in Romania. By connecting urban and rural communities through nature, he is creating incentive structures for businesses and individuals to unlock and exchange resources, showing how

they can gain benefits from conservation.



LEAH ANN SOROKA, CA

Program Manager, Europe Climate and Agri, IFC

Leah Soroka has been working for the International Finance Corporation, a World Bank Financial institution for 7 years, developing initiatives and products to increase access to finance in the agriculture sector for Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Specific initiatives include improving bank lending processes and efficiency, the establishment of risk management frameworks like agri-insurance, and new financial instruments such as crop receipts. Initiatives are thus far located in Azerbaijan, Kosovo, Serbia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan. Before that she worked as a value chain specialist for DAI, in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Afghanistan. She has a PhD from the University of Guelph and previous education at York University and Harvard Institute for International Development.



VLADISLAV KAIM, MD

Youth Climate Advisor to the UN Secretary General

Vladislav Kaim is a young Moldovan economist and climate action and sustainability advocate with vast experience at the UN level, as well as on multiple national and local platforms in Eastern European region. His main fields of advocacy have been green jobs for youth, just transition, green and sustainable economic growth and reforms to the multilateral climate finance agenda. In July

2020, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres appointed Mr Kaim to be one of his Youth Advisors on Climate Change and oversee the implementation of his Climate Strategy. Vladislav is also the contact point on green jobs at YOUNGO, official youth constituency to the UNFCCC, and 2021 IMF Youth Fellow.



HACINA PY, FR

Chief Sustainability Officer, Societe Generale Group

Hacina Py joined Societe Generale in 1995 and has developed as a seasoned banker through various positions, both in structured finance and in corporate roles. Hacina was appointed Global Head of Export Finance in 2015. She led the transformation of the business line with a strong sustainability focus and took over the position of Head of Impact Finance Solutions in 2019. Hacina

graduated from the EM Strasbourg business school and studied finance at Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh.



NIAMH TUFT, UK

Climate Action Manager, University of the Arts London

A cultural programmer with a specialism in fashion, design and architecture working at the intersection of culture and climate. Extensive experience in developing and delivering a diverse range of impact driven projects in the UK and internationally. Proficient in project and event management including managing budgets, project teams and contractors. A confident relationship manager

with demonstrable ability to build relationships and collaborations across the design industry and international cultural stakeholders.



CHRIS HINES, UK

Founder, A Grain of Sand

Chris Hines is a leading environmentalist, passionate about driving positive change in relation to the environment. The former founding Director of Surfers Against Sewage and Sustainability Director of The Eden Project, Chris is now the owner of A Grain Of Sand and dedicated to finding solutions to the world's most pressing environmental challenges. Now booked as a sustainability and environment speaker for corporate events, Chris shares his passions for positive change. Chris is the core of A Grain of Sand an organization dedicated to delivering positive change. Chris is a highly respected communicator and driver of positive change. He was founder and Director of Surfers Against Sewage for 10 years. Described as "Some of the government's most sophisticated environmental critics." By BBC News and Current Affairs and "Britain's coolest pressure group" by The Independent. SAS were runners up in the 1999 Green Politics Award. With a strong focus on "solution to problems", he helped deliver £5 billion spend on UK coastline. Chris has given evidence to Commons and Lords Select Committees, Monopolies and Mergers Commission and the European Parliament and Commission and was called as a special advisor to the Rt.Hon Michael Meacher MP Minister for the Environment. Chris sees effective communication as a key driver to change and has appeared on everything from Panorama to BBC Newsnight live, BBC Children's TV and the BBC World Service and CNN Skewed View.



ANDRII ZHUPANYN, UA

Member of the Ukrainian Parliament

Before the war in Ukraine, Andrii was one of the most active members of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine with many drafted laws he initiated that became laws. He was giving speeches on issues related to the Ukrainian energy sphere on a regular basis and became a leading expert on natural gas in the Parliament. After the war, he launched a logistical hub in the west of the country that received from abroad and distributed around Ukraine almost 1,000 tons of humanitarian aid.



STEFANIA RACOLTA-CRUCERU, RO

Associate Director, Head of EU Green Finance, EBRD

Stefania Racolta-Cruceru joined EBRD in 2006, and now heads up the department focused on energy efficiency and climate change. In her most recent role, she is in charge of the relationship with European Union institutions and bilateral donors on green financing instruments. Prior to joining EBRD, Ms Racolta-Cruceru was the head of liaison with financial institutions under the

UN/GEF's (UN Development Programme's Global Environmental Finance) energy efficiency programme in Romania.



ANDREI COVATARIU, RO

Member, Task Force on Digitalization in Energy, UNECE

Andrei Covatariu is an expert for the Task Force on Digitalization in Energy, at the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). Andrei is also a Co-founder of ECERA, a network of sustainability practitioners aiming to produce policy-relevant knowledge, helping governments, companies, NGOs, universities, and others navigate the various facets of sustainability. He is a

Senior Research Associate at Energy Policy Group and Associate Expert at Social Innovation Solutions. Andrei was the Head of Public Affairs at Enel Romania (2019-2020), previously having other roles in the company, such as Regulatory Affairs Manager, Digital Manager, Executive Assistant to CEO & Country Manager, and Market Analyst (between 2014 and 2019). He is a former Board member of FEL-100 (between 2018 and 2020, a program designed and coordinated by the World Energy Council, in London), a fellow at the Middle East Institute (in 2020, Washington DC), and a Masdar Institute's Future Sustainability Leader (in 2022, Abu Dhabi).



TEODORA VASÂLCA-CIMPOI, RO

Owner and Founder, NewsEnergy.ro

Senior business journalist with extensive experience in the energy sector, communications consultant, founder of NewsEnergy.ro, a platform serving now as a Climate Pact Ambassador.



ETIENNE VARIOT, FR

Co-founder & CEO, Rize

Etienne has cofounded Rize, after an Engineering degree and a few years working in finance. Rize mission is to accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture thanks to carbon finance. Rize is a platform where farmers can understand their carbon footprint, monitor their action plan and finance their climate action. Rize relies on an advanced technological MRV infrastructure to monitor

carbon at farm level.



MIRIAM PRIVAROVA, SK

Climate Ambassador, Global Youth Climate Network

Climate action advocate and a young development professional, currently working as a Junior Professional Associate at the World Bank within The Environment, Natural Resources and the Blue Economy Global Practice. Miriam is managing the Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) portfolio for Europe and Central Asia (ECA) and helping with its quality assurance. She also works as part of Design for Climate (D4C) team aiming to integrate climate and green agendas in the design of ECA projects while providing operational support to task teams on Climate Corporate Commitments with a focus on climate co-benefits and on implementation of Climate Change Action Plan and Green Agenda in ECA. In 2021, she was the only CEE ambassador in the Global Youth Climate Network to initiate and scale up climate actions and in 2020 was appointed as the Head delegate of the European Union to Y20 (G20 Youth engagement group), having devised and negotiated pro-youth policy recommendations for G20 leaders. With an academic background in international relations, politics, law, sociology and economics, acquired throughout her BA studies of social sciences at Sciences Po Paris, Miriam is a fresh graduate of a dual Master's degree (MA) in International Public Management (with focus on diplomacy) at Sciences Po Paris and in European Studies at King's College London.



SACHA GHIGLIONE, CH

CEO & Member of the Board of Directors, Prime Computer

Sacha, a Harvard alumnus and angel investor, is CEO and board member of Prime Computer, who have developed a new impact-driven hardware product that is disrupting the market in 23 countries. Sacha holds various board and advisory positions including those from Yeswetrust, Coupolingo, Dua.com and the EU Tech Chamber. Sacha is also known for fostering awareness regarding sustainability and supporting the use of European technology to reach the sustainability goals (SDGs) of the UN around the world. He will be with us to share insights into how the startup world can be more energy-efficient and how these startups can grow into more sustainable business models.



MARIEKE VAN DER WERF, NL

Partner and Senior Advisor, Dröge & van Drimmelen

Marieke van der Werf (1959) is partner and senior advisor at Dröge & van Drimmelen (Dr2). In her advisory work she focuses on sustainability and energy. Next to this, Marieke is director of Dr2 New Economy. Dr2 New Economy helps organizations to develop a vision and strategies for the transition to the new economy. In this role Marieke is figurehead circular economy for the Province of Flevoland, and project leader at the North Sea Energy Challenge. From January 2011 until September 2012 Marieke had a seat in the Dutch Parliament on behalf of the Christian Democrat party. Her portfolio consisted of the sustainable development, energy, and culture policy areas. Currently Marieke is a member of the Advisory Council of NUDGE and ACRES and a member of the Supervisory Board of Social Enterprises Lab and the Dutch Nature & Environment Foundation. Earlier she was the owner of MW Advisory Group. In this role she advised companies on how to achieve green growth. During this time Marieke was also acting director of the Dutch National Landscape Management Organization. Moreover, she was an advisor to the government on energy policy. In 1996 her book “Communication on the Green Market” was published, and in 2009 the publication “Cradle to Cradle in Business”.



FIRUZE ALPAYDIN, TR

Sustainability & Stakeholder Relations Expert, Koç Holding

Firuze Alpaydin received her Bachelor's degree in International Relations. Upon her graduation, she joined Sabancı University Corporate Governance Forum which is an interdisciplinary initiative focusing on corporate governance issues. In this role, she took an active part in the Turkey operation of CDP, the biggest environmental reporting platform in the world, and the Turkey chapter of the 30% Club which is a global campaign aiming to increase the number of women on board seats all over the world. She is the former Climate Ambassador to Turkey, selected by Global Youth Climate Network, an initiative of the World Bank Group. She has been also appointed to be the Focal Point of the Green Recovery & Sustainable Finance Task Force by the same initiative. Currently, she is working as a Sustainability & Stakeholder Relations Expert at Koç Holding.



DANIEL HUERTAS, UK

Producer/ Director, "David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet"

Daniel has worked in Natural History documentary making for over 15 years, with credits including BBC's 'Natural World: My Congo', BBC Earth's feature film 'Earth: One Amazing Day' and the Netflix/WWF Emmy Award winning 'Our Planet' project. He made a documentary about the finance sector's destruction, and potential restoration, of the natural world, in 'Our Planet: Too Big to Fail'. Recently, Dan has created a short film with Sir David Attenborough, on halting global deforestation, for world leaders at COP26, and Produced and Directed the first episode of the BBC/Discovery series 'The Earthshot Prize: Repairing Our Planet', entitled 'Protect and Restore Nature', with Sir David and Prince William.



SANDA NICOLA, RO

PhD Candidate, Université de Liège

Experienced journalist with demonstrated skills in interviewing, writing, broadcasting and training delivery. After obtaining a BSc in Social Sciences with Politics and a MSc in Tourism and Regional Development, I decided to cross from media to academia and become a researcher. I am currently a PhD candidate in Geographical Sciences at Université de Liège, in Belgium, with a research project aiming to assess the vulnerability of some mining regions in the impending transition from coal. My area of research also covers the mobility of EU citizens, spatial justice, resilience and adaptive capacity.



FILIP KOWALSKI, PL

General Manager for Energy & Natural Resources, Middle & Eastern Europe, SAP

Professional with well-established managerial, organizational, people and business development capabilities. Involved in various industry-driven complex initiatives with a strong focus on successful execution. Member of ESMIG (European Smart Industry Group) - Customer in Control working group. Deep understanding of Utilities, Oil & Gas, Chemical, Metal & Mining value chains. Hands-on experience with IT & company growth strategy, margin optimisation and operational excellence. Responsible for definition and deployment of regional Go2Market strategies (Energy & Utility sector), direct cooperation with key clients and industry associations. Also leading SAP Global Utility and Oil & Gas Industry Value Advisors.



FRANÇOIS BLOCH, FR

CEO at BRD - Groupe Societe Generale

François Bloch has been Chief Executive Officer of BRD, Societe Generale's subsidiary in Romania, since 2016. Prior to this, he was First Deputy Chairman of Rosbank from 2012 to 2016. He began his career at Societe Generale group in 1990 within Fimat, the brokerage subsidiary, working on Futures markets, where he has held various positions in France, Germany and in the USA. In 2008, François Bloch was appointed Head of Strategy and Integration at Newedge. In 2009 he joined Societe Generale's Risk division as Global Head of Credit Risk - Countries and Financial Institutions. François Bloch is a graduate from Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Économique (ENSAE).



CIPRIAN STĂNESCU, RO

President, Social Innovation Solutions

Ciprian Stănescu is a Romanian social entrepreneur and futurist. He runs Social Innovation Solutions, an organization working to empower individuals and organizations to understand future transformations and to develop sustainable tech, policy, and entrepreneurial solutions. SIS runs a variety of educational programs and business competitions like Social Impact Award, Future Makers & Transformator; conversation platforms like Future Summit, Future Talks, Climate Change Summit and Sustainable Futures and foresight & circularity executive education & analyses. Ciprian worked 12 years for global organizations like Ashoka and the Aspen Institute, is a Global Shaper Alumni of the World Economic Forum, co-founder of Global Shapers Bucharest Hub & and Board Member of Rethink Romania. He teaches futurism, trend-watching & sustainability at The Entrepreneurship Academy in Bucharest. Ciprian has recently completed an executive program at the Cambridge Judge Business School in Circular Economy & Sustainability and holds an MA in Political Science from the Central European University. He is a frequent speaker on Future Trends and Social Innovation both in Romania and abroad, a radio host at Tanăna, and editor of Future Magazine.