

GENERATION NEXT – EUROPE'S FUTURES CONFERENCE SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES



Péter Árvai
Co-Founder and CEO
Prezi

Peter has spent the last 10 years building products that help people make better decisions. As CEO and co-founder of Prezi, a fast-growing startup based in San Francisco and Budapest with over 100 million users and 330 employees worldwide. Prezi's community is challenging the status quo of how to be understood and remembered in a world that is increasingly crowded with data but lacking insight. Prezi's platforms are specifically designed to help improve communication and understanding between a presenter and the audience.

Peter is also very involved with establishing organizations that promote entrepreneurship and diversity in Hungary and beyond. For example, Peter is the chairman and co-founder of Bridge Budapest, an organization that has shared 5 million stories of inspiration every year. The "We Are Open" initiative, co-founded by Peter, has built a community of nearly 1000 companies that are now committed to diversity and openness in the workplace.

Peter has won numerous awards since founding the company, including European Web Entrepreneur of the Year and the Europas European Tech Startups award for Best Startup Co-Founders. He was ranked number 14 on the 2017 OUTstanding & Financial Times Leading LGBT Executives List of 100.

In his spare time, Peter enjoys prodding fellow colleagues to join him at yoga and meditation classes. Additionally, he's the go-to cultural translator at Prezi, having lived and worked in Japan, Sweden, Hungary, Singapore and US.



Rosa Balfour
Senior Transatlantic
Fellow, GMF / ERSTE
Foundation IWM Fellow

Rosa Balfour is a Senior Transatlantic Fellow at the Germany Marshall Fund of the US and a member of the Steering Committee of WIIS-Brussels (Women In International Security), expert on European politics, institutions, foreign and security policy, and international relations. She has researched and published widely on issues relating to European politics and international relations, especially on relations with the Mediterranean region, Eastern Europe and the Balkans, EU enlargement, and on the role of human rights and democracy in international relations.

Ms Balfour is a regular commentator and public speaker on a variety of Europe-related issues, and her work is appreciated by a selected audience of academics and university students, journalists, expert commentators, fellow think tankers and civil society activists. She is simultaneously engaged in several debates, most recently on the role of think-tanks, the future of Europe, civil society activism, the EU's global role and the rise of populism.

Ms Balfour's recent major publications include Europe's trouble makers. The populist challenge to foreign policy, The European External Action Service and National Foreign Ministries. Convergence or Divergence?, Human Rights and Democracy in EU Foreign Policy. The cases of Ukraine and Egypt, and What are think tanks for? Policy research in the age of anti- expertise.

Ms Balfour is ERSTE Foundation's IWM Fellow for 2018/19 on "Europe's Futures" project.



Vladimír Bartovic
Director, Institute
for European Policy
EUROPEUM

Vladimír Bartovic is the director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy. In 2014 he has been appointed external advisor – a member of the Group of External Advisors on the EU policies to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic. He was a member of the Programme Council of the Czech – Polish Forum and a member of the Board of Directors of PASOS – Policy Association for an Open Society in 2015-2017. He graduated in international trade and international politics at the University of Economics, Prague, Faculty of International Relations. He also studied at University of Granada, Faculty of Political Science and Sociology. From 2011 to 2012 he served as a director of Strategic Planning and Analysis at the Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Slovak Republic. He also worked as an editor in the Integrate magazine. He has been lecturing on topical EU issues at the Institute of Public Administration and the Czech National Bank.



Piotr Buras
European Council on
Foreign Relations/ERSTE
Foundation IWM Fellow

Piotr Buras is a journalist, author and expert in German and European politics, currently serving as the Head of European Council on Foreign Relations's Warsaw office.

Between 2008 and 2012, Mr Buras worked as a columnist and Berlin correspondent for “Gazeta Wyborcza”, the biggest Polish daily. He started his professional career in the late 1990s at the Center for International Relations in Warsaw, one of the first Polish think tank. He continued his career at

the Institute for German Studies at the University of Birmingham and at the University of Wrocław (Poland). Mr Buras was also Visiting Fellow at the Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik in Berlin.

Mr Buras' recent book Moslems and the other Germans. The Reinvention of the Berlin Republic was published in Polish in 2011. Some of the leading outlets such as Politico, The New York Times, World Politics Review, publish his articles, opinion pieces, interviews and quotes regularly.

Mr Buras is ERSTE Foundation's IWM Fellow for 2018/19 on “Europe's Futures“ project.



Jan Jakub Chromiec
Analyst, Batory
Foundation/AICE Alumni

Jan Jakub is an analyst at the ideaForum of the Stefan Batory Foundation in Warsaw, where he focuses on Poland's place in European politics and policy. After studying flute, linguistics, management and public policy in Łódź, Mainz, Rotterdam and Berlin, he worked as project manager at the Bertelsmann Foundation in Germany and the US. At the Foundation he was involved in setting up an international rating agency and oversaw a project on the innovativeness of the German economy. Jan Jakub is an alumnus of the German National Academic Foundation and of the Foundation of German Business.



Vit Dostál
Research Director,
Association for
International Affairs (AMO)

Vit Dostál is the Director of the AMO Research Center. He focuses on Czech foreign and European policy, Central European cooperation, and Polish foreign and domestic policy.

Vit has worked for AMO since 2006; he is a member of AMO. He is responsible for the strategic management and fundraising of the AMO Research Center where he coordinates a team of analysts and fellows and he also manages the publishing activities of AMO. He is the author and editor of many publications dealing with Czech foreign policy and Central Europe. He actively represents AMO at conferences and in the media.

Vit completed a doctoral program on European Studies at Masaryk University in Brno in 2017 with a dissertation on the “Paradiplomacy of Czech Regions – Regions as Actors of International Relations”. He did study and work internships in Warsaw and Brussels.



Mircea Geoană
President, Aspen
Institute Romania

Mircea Geoana is the founder and president of the Aspen Institute Romania and a prominent international public figure. He serves on the boards of trustees of the Aspen Institute US, Aspen Germany and Aspen Italia. He is also Co-chair of Aspen European Strategy Group.

Mircea Geoana ran for the Presidency of Romania in 2009. In an unprecedented narrow and contested election, he received 49.6% of the casted ballot.

He served as the President of the Romanian Senate between December 2008 and November 2011 and President of the Social Democratic Party, from 2005 to 2010.

Between 2012 and 2014, he served as Chairman of the Joint Committee of the Romanian Senate and Chamber of Deputies regarding Romania’s Accession to the Schengen Area, and as High Representative of the Romanian Government for Strategic Economic Projects and Public Diplomacy. Between 2008 and 2012 he also served as chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee of the Romanian Senate.

Previous to his political career, Mircea Geoana had a successful diplomatic activity. Appointed Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the United States of America at age 37, in February 1996, he was the youngest ambassador in the Romanian diplomatic corps. From 2000 to 2004, Mircea Geoana served as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania. He also served as OSCE Chairman-in-Office in 2001 and during 2005 he was the personal representative of OSCE Chairman in office for Georgia.

An alumnus of the Polytechnic Institute and, respectively, the Law School at the University of Bucharest, Mircea Geoana graduated in 1992 the ‘Ecole Nationale d’Administration’ in Paris, France. He graduated in 1999 the World Bank Group Executive Development Program at the Harvard Business School. He holds a PhD in world economy at the Economic Studies Academy of Bucharest.

Mircea Geoana is author of several books: ‘Romanian foreign policy in the beginning of the XXIth century – The road to Europe and transatlantic world’, ‘America, Europe and Romania’s modernization: bases for a Romanian societal model’, ‘The Romanian social model: the way towards a new Romania’, ‘Trust’.



Yasen Georgiev
Executive Director,
Economic Policy Institute
Sofia/AIR Fellow

Yasen Georgiev is Executive Director of the Economic Policy Institute (EPI) – a Bulgarian non-governmental organization that aims to contribute to utilizing the full potential of the country by enhancing the competitiveness of its economy and increasing the efficiency of its public institutions. Yasen has been with the EPI since 2006 where he was firstly appointed Research Fellow and then head of the International Projects and Programmes unit. Prior to that, Yasen worked at the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Bulgaria and Beiersdorf Bulgaria. In 2010-2011 he was selected for a nine-month fellowship programme of the Robert Bosch Foundation (Germany) for young executives from the public sector in Central and South Eastern Europe. Within this fellowship he worked as a visiting fellow at the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry and at the European Policy DG of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology of Germany. Yasen graduated in International Relations from the University of National and World Economy, Sofia and in Business Administration/Strategic Management from the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. He participated in extracurricular courses at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich and the Hertie School of Governance in Berlin.



Tim Judah
Journalist/ERSTE
Foundation
IWM Fellow

Tim Judah is a journalist and author. He is a correspondent for The Economist. He covers the Balkans for them, and other areas too. He has worked for many major publications and

broadcasters. He has written wartime reportage from Afghanistan to Ukraine for the New York Review of Books. Recent work has appeared in the Financial Times Magazine and in 2018 he undertook a major investigative project for the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

He is the author of three books on the Balkans: The Serbs: History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia, Kosovo: War & Revenge and Kosovo: What Everyone Needs to Know. In 2016 his book In Wartime: Stories from Ukraine was published. In 2009 he was a Senior Visiting Research Fellow at LSEE, the South-Eastern-Europe research unit of the European Institute at the London School of Economics, where he developed the concept of the “Yugosphere”.

He is the president of the Board of the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network (BIRN) and a member of the board of the Kosovar Stability Initiative (IKS).

In 2008 he published a book for Reportage Press Bikila: Ethiopia’s Barefoot Olympian which is about the life and times of the first black African to win a gold medal at the Olympics in Rome 1960. He was shortlisted for this in the best new sportswriter category for the 2009 British Sports Book Awards.

Mr Judah is ERSTE Foundation’s IWM Fellow for 2018/19 on “Europe’s Futures“ project.



Gerald Knaus
European Stability
Initiative/ERSTE
Foundation IWM Fellow

Gerald Knaus is the founding chairman of the European Stability Initiative (ESI), a think tank with offices in Berlin, Brussels, and Vienna working on South East Europe and the Caucasus, European enlargement and the future of EU foreign policy.

He studied in Oxford, Brussels and Bologna, taught economics at the State University of Chernivtsi in Ukraine and spent five years working for NGOs and international organisations in Bulgaria and Bosnia and Herzegovina. From 2001 to 2004, he was the director of the Lessons Learned Unit of the EU Pillar of the UN Mission in Kosovo.

In 2011, he co-authored, alongside the British MP Rory Stewart, the book *Can Intervention Work?*. He wrote scripts for award-winning TV documentaries on South East Europe and co-authored many ESI reports on EU enlargement, the Balkans, Turkey and the Caucasus that have triggered wide public debates, including *Islamic Calvinists – Change and Conservatism in Central Anatolia*, *Caviar Diplomacy – How Azerbaijan Silenced the Council of Europe*, and most recently *The Merkel Plan and The Rome Plan on the refugee crisis* and *The European Swamp on corruption in the Council of Europe*.

Mr Knaus is a founding member of the European Council on Foreign Relations and was for five years an Associate Fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School, where he was also a Visiting Fellow in 2010/2011 lecturing on state building and intervention. In 2016/2017 he was a Mercator-IPC Senior Fellow in Istanbul. He is based in Berlin and Istanbul and writes the Rumeli Observer blog.

Mr Knaus is ERSTE Foundation's IWM Fellow for 2018/19 on "Europe's Futures" project.



Pavel Kysilka
CEO and Founder,
6D Academy

Pavel Kysilka is a graduate of the University of Economics in Prague. From 1986 to 1990 he worked at the Institute of Economics of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, and from 1990 to 1991 was the chief economic advisor to the Minister for Economic Policy. He was appointed Vice-Governor of the

Czech National Bank in 1993 and acting Governor in 1998. He was responsible for the introduction of the Czech national currency in 1993 and was an external expert of the International Monetary Fund for the introduction of national currencies in several Eastern European countries. In the 1990s he was elected the President of the Czech Economic Society. In 2000, he became the Chief Economist of Česká spořitelna, the largest Czech bank, where he was appointed deputy CEO and a Member of the Board of Directors in 2004, and later CEO and Chairman of the Board from 2011 to 2015. He was named Banker of the Year three times – in 2011, 2012 and 2013. He is keenly interested in the economic, business and social impacts of the digital revolution, and is a Member of the Management Board of the University of Economics in Prague, the Smetana's Litomyšl Music Festival, the Leoš Janáček Foundation, the Bohemian Heritage Fund and the Czech-Israeli Chamber of Commerce, as well as a Member of the Supervisory Board of Good Angel and the Aspen Institute Central Europe. He is CEO and Founder of 6D Academy.



Stefan Lehne
Visiting Scholar,
Carnegie Europe / Erste
Foundation IWM Fellow

Stefan Lehne is a Visiting Scholar at Carnegie Europe and lecturer at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

His career as an Austrian diplomat focused on multilateral diplomacy, in particular the United Nations (posting at the Austrian Mission in New York), the CSCE process (Vienna Follow-up meeting in 1986 till the Paris Summit of 1990) and the EU (including the negotiations on Austria's accession to the EU and the coordination of Austrian EU policies eventually as Deputy Director General for EU Affairs).

In 1989/90 he did research on East-West relations at the Austrian Institute for International Affairs.

In 1999, he joined the Policy Unit of the General Secretariat of the Council of the EU and later became director for the Balkans and Eastern Europe in this institution. During these years he worked closely with High Representative Javier Solana on crisis management in the Western Balkans. Inter alia he acted as the EU's representative in the Kosovo Status process. In 2008, he returned to Vienna to become director general for political affairs in the Austrian Foreign Ministry.

Since 2011, he is associated with Carnegie Europe. His publications concern primarily the political dynamics of European integration, EU foreign policy and EU migration policies. These are also the subjects of his courses at the Diplomatic Academy of Vienna.

Mr Lehne is ERSTE Foundation's IWM Fellow for 2018/19 on "Europe's Futures" project.



Katarína Matherňová
Deputy Director-General for Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, European Commission, Brussels

In September 2015, Katarína Matherňová assumed her function as Deputy Director General of DG NEAR, the Directorate General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations. She has previously served as Deputy Director General in DG Regional Policy where she was in charge of Cohesion Policy Coordination between 2007-2010.

Ms. Matherňová has held senior management and advisory posts at the European Commission, the World Bank (2002-2004 and 2010-2014), and in the reform government in Slovakia (1998-2002) where she was Chief Institutional and Policy Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, the key architect of the Slovak economy's transformation.

Matherňová holds a Juris Doctor degree from Comenius University in Bratislava, a Masters of Law degree from the University of Michigan is a member of the New York Bar, and speaks six languages. She started her career in the private practice of law in the US, with distinguished New York and Washington DC Law Firms. Her distinctions include the award Slovak Woman of the Year in 2000 and the Pro Bono Human Rights award in 1993 from the International Human Rights Law Group. She is a member of several Boards and the author of publications on Slovak and Czech economic and legal affairs.



Alexander Micovčin
Director General of European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Slovak Republic

Alexander Micovčin is a Director General for European Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic. Between 2012 and 2017 he served as a Deputy Permanent Representative of the Slovak Republic to the EU.

He started his diplomatic career at the Slovakian Ministry of Foreign Affairs focusing on Middle East and Africa, and continued working at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in United Arab Emirates, Kenya and as a counsellor at the Embassy of the Slovak Republic in Denmark and Germany. From 2011 to 2012 he became he the Director General for Economic Co-operation and ODA. He studied at the University of Economics in Bratislava majoring in Foreign Trade.



Mădălina Mocan
**Associate Teaching
Assistant, Babes-Bolyai
University/AIR Fellow**

Mădălina Mocan is currently a researcher affiliated with the Center for the Study of Democracy, PhD candidate in Political Sciences at Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj and associate teaching assistant in political theory. She has previously served as executive director of Ratiu Center for Democracy in Romania. Her current research interests relate to the role of civil society agenda setting and funding. A graduate of Babes Bolyai University, Faculty of Political Sciences, where she has also obtained an MA degree in “Management of Political Organizations” she maintains an academic and civic interest in human rights, applied ethics, and political participation. She consults with several national and international initiatives aiming at understanding and combating human trafficking while also developing an interest for inclusive forms of social innovation. She is an alumna of the Aspen Institute Romania Young Leaders program (2009), German Marshall Transatlantic Fellow (2014) and serves as a board member of Tech Soup Romania. She enjoys long forms when reading, and long reins when riding.



Victor Negrescu
**Minister Delegate
for European Affairs,
Romanian Government**

Minister Delegate for European Affairs, Victor Negrescu, was born on 17 August 1985, in Bucharest. Former Member of the European Parliament (2014-2017), Negrescu was the coordinator of S&D40, the network of the young S&D MEPs in the European Parliament. Winner of the MEP Award 2015 for Digital Agenda, Victor Negrescu was also the youngest Romanian MEP to get ever elected in the European Parliament and he is the youngest ever

vice-president of the Social Democratic Party of Romania (PSD). President of PES activists Romania, an organization gathering more than 10.000 members interested in European issues and politics, he is also a university teacher and former digital entrepreneur with an MBA in executive business and a PhD in development cooperation. He started his professional career as a journalist at Radio France Internationale, collaborating in parallel with the prestigious magazines Le Monde diplomatique and Regard. Victor Negrescu is also the founder of the Romanian Foundation for a Democratic Left, gathering respected left wing Romanian intellectuals of the new wave.



Octav-Dan Paxino
**State Secretary, Ministry
for European Funds,
Romanian Government**

Former Ambassador and Plenipotentiary Minister, Dr. Octav-Dan Paxino, shares a vast experience in Foreign Affairs and is an exquisite diplomat. In 2010 he was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Romania to UNEP and UN-HABITAT, Republic of Kenya and in 2013 he was Charge d'affairs of Romania to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay. He also has numerous detachments as a diplomatic counselor in the Kingdom of Denmark and Deputy Consul General for Trade and Economy within the Consulate General of Romania at Montreal, Canada.

Mr. Paxino graduated studies at the Academy of Economic Studies and the Academy of Social and Political Studies, Faculty of Foreign Trade, Bucharest. Mr. Paxino, has achieved a PhD in Economics & International Finances.

Since August 2017 - presently he has been appointed the Secretary of State within the Ministry of European Funds. Within the Ministry of European Funds, he coordinates the areas of programming, coordination, monitoring and control of the use of the non-reimbursable financial assistance granted

to Romania by the European Union, namely the Operational Program for Aid of the Most Deprived (POAD), the European Non-Refundable Financial Mechanisms (EEA and Norwegian) and the Presidency of EU Council at the level of the Ministry of European Funds.

Between 1980 - 2010 (excepting the periods when he represented Romania within diplomatic missions abroad) Mr. Paxino has a laborious university activity as assistant, lecturer and professor at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest.

During 2001-2008 Mr. Paxino was lecturer for numerous training courses organized by the Romanian Diplomatic Institute. Also in 2009 Mr. Paxino graduated the National Defense College in Romania in the field of security and defense and since 1993 he participated in numerous training courses and specializations in Romania and abroad (USA, Canada, Denmark, Mexico and EAU).



**Andrä
Rupprechter**
Principal Advisor to the
Austrian Presidency
of the Council of the
European Union

As from 1989, Andrä Rupprechter was appointed in the Ministerial office for Agriculture, where he was responsible for international affairs and, as an expert in agriculture, a member of the negotiating group on Austria's accession to the EU.

From 2007, Rupprechter was appointed as Director at the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union, initially responsible for Agriculture and Rural Development, and subsequently responsible for Communication and Transparency.

In December 2013 Andrä Rupprechter was elected Secretary General of the Committee of the Regions,

but refrained from taking up this function in order to commit himself as Federal Minister in charge of agriculture, forestry, environment and water management. Between November 2017 and January 2018 he was member of the Austrian National Parliament. Since February 2018 he has returned to work at EU level in the General Secretariat of the European Council and has become Principal Advisor to the Austrian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.



Diana Rusu
Executive Director,
Spherik Accelerator

Diana is the Executive Director of Spherik Accelerator, the top accelerator in Romania providing valuable support in terms of product development, marketing and funding to early stage tech startups from the Eastern Europe and CIS. Previously she has been part of the technocratic government as Chief of Staff for the Minister delegate for Romanians abroad in which capacity she advanced a new national strategy, designed an innovative startup grants program (Diaspora Startup; 76mil euros) to facilitate brain circulation, and co-organised the first diaspora business summit.

Diana has a BA in Political Science (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania) and a BA in International Relations and European Studies (Central European University, Hungary). She is a fellow of the Aspen Young Leaders Program in Romania, Aspire Young Professionals and member of Global Shapers network - Bucharest chapter.

An organisational development and network specialist with an extensive experience in strategic projects across sectors: business, public, international development she was at the forefront of designing and implementing strategies and processes aiming for long term & sustainable results. Creating long lasting partnerships between unlikely allies stands at the core of her work be that in private

companies (IT industry), international organisation (UNDP), professional networks (ARCADIA), government (MFA).



Roland Sommer
Managing Director,
Platform Industry 4.0

Roland Sommer serves as Managing Director of the Austrian Platform Industry 4.0 since October 2015. The platform is a public private partnership that aims at improving framework conditions for the introduction of digitalization ('Industry 4.0') bringing together relevant stakeholders in Austria. The focus of the work is based on innovation in production technologies and business models on the one hand and high-quality working conditions on the other hand.

Prior to this function he worked as Director of Public-Private Affairs for AVL List GmbH. AVL List is the world's largest independent company for the development of powertrain systems with internal combustion engines as well as instrumentation and test systems.

From 2004 -2011 Mr. Sommer worked as senior policy adviser for the Federation of Austrian Industries; there he was responsible for research and innovation policy, both on the national and the EU level. From 2000 to 2004 he was employed by the Austrian Research Promotion Agency respectively its predecessor institution.

Mr. Sommer studied at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Austria, Wageningen University, the Netherlands, and the University of London, UK. He is active in various national and international bodies.



Maria Skóra
Senior Project Manager,
Progressives Zentrum
Berlin/AICE Alumna

Maria studied sociology in Poland and Denmark and in 2015 received doctorate degree in economics. Before arriving in Germany, she divided her professional career between academia as a lecturer and the Polish Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Since 2012 she also served as an expert for the All-Poland Alliance of Trade Unions and facilitated the activities of the United Nations Development Programme in Warsaw. In Germany, Maria first worked as program director at the HUMBOLDT-VIADRINA Governance Platform. Today, she is Senior Project Manager at Das Progressive Zentrum, an independent think tank based in Berlin. Maria is responsible for developing expertise and activities of our organisation in topics related to Central and Eastern Europe.



Louisa Slavkova
Executive Director, Sofia
Platform/AIR Fellow

Louisa Slavkova is founding member and director of Sofia Platform, a democracy development organization based in Bulgaria. She was visiting Fellow at the Human Rights Institute in Columbia, NYC and programmes manager of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Louisa served as an adviser to the former Minister of Foreign Affairs Nickolay Mladenov (2010-2013). Prior to that, Louisa worked with the German Federal Agency for Civic Education. She is passionate about democracy, civic education and dealing with the communist past.



James Sproule
Senior Fellow, Legatum
Institute

Ionut is a graduate of Political Sciences with a specialization in Sociology. He is fluent in English and Italian and an intermediate in French and German. He is a fellow of Aspen Institute Romania's Young Leaders Program.

Prior to joining the Legatum Institute, James was Chief Economist and Director of Policy at the Institute of Directors from 2014 to 2017 where he became a regular commentator on UK and European economic matters and business trends. Prior to the IoD he was with Accenture, where he led their UK Research team. He started his financial career as a merchant bank economist working with Bankers Trust, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Kleinwort, and eventually helped to found the boutique bank Augusta and Company. Before embarking on a career in finance, James was a signals officer in the Royal Navy, where he remains an honorary Commander. James Sproule sits on the European Advisory Board of LEK Consulting and he stood for Parliament at the 2005 general election and was for seven years a visiting fellow in the Department of Management Economics at the London School of Economics.



Zsuzsanna Szelényi
Politician and former MP/
ERSTE Foundation IWM
Fellow

Zsuzsanna Szelényi has been a liberal Member of Parliament in Hungary until May 2018. She covered foreign and security policy, European politics, migration, constitutional affairs and gender issues. She is member of the Mercator European Dialogue and the OSEPI-Carnegie European Reformists program, both projects work on the future of the European Union.

Before re-joining politics in Hungary in 2012, Ms Szelenyi spent most of her career in the international arena. For fourteen years, she served at the Council of Europe advising governments and NGOs on conflict management, human rights and human development issues. Between 2010 and 2013, she worked as human development consultant for international organizations in various Central European and North African countries. She holds various decision-making functions in several Hungarian and European non-governmental organizations.



Ionuț Stanimir
Director of Marketing and
Communication, Banca
Comerciala Romana / AIR
Fellow

Ionut is Director of Marketing and Communication in Banca Comerciala Romana, Romania's foremost financial group. In his position, Ionut is responsible for the brand management and corporate communication, while also overseeing external relations and strategic institutional partnerships. Previously, Ionut was a PR expert with Vienna based Erste Group, a leading financial player in Central and Eastern Europe. Before that, Ionut was a strategic planner and account manager in PR and Public Affairs advisory to several high profile domestic and international institutions, companies and investors.

Ms Szelenyi started her career as founding member of Fidesz, at the time of régime change in Hungary in 1988. She became Member of Parliament of the first freely elected Parliament, where she was dealing with international and migration affairs. She left politics in 1994 and had a professional career at the Council of Europe. In 2012, she returned to the Hungarian politics for the call of former Prime Minister Gordon Bajnai, who formed a new party, "Together".

Ms Szelenyi is ERSTE Foundation's IWM Fellow for 2018/19 on "Europe's Futures" project.



Andreas Treichl
CEO, Erste Group

Andreas Treichl has been Chief Executive Officer of Erste Group Bank AG since 1997. Under his leadership, Erste, which had been a local savings bank up to then, went public and expanded into one of the leading banking groups in Central and Eastern Europe with more than 16 million customers. Erste Group is recognised as one of the top retail digital banks in Europe; with Mr. Treichl at the helm, it has been undergoing a digital transformation process fronted by the award-winning banking platform George, which has already gained traction with more than 1 million clients.

Mr Treichl started his banking career in 1977 at Chase Manhattan in New York and went on to assume various management positions in Vienna, Athens and Brussels. In 1994 he was appointed Member of the Management Board of Erste Österreichische Spar-Casse and in July 1997 he became Chairman of the Board. Andreas Treichl established the ERSTE Foundation and has been a Member of its Advisory Board since 2013. He was one of the key initiators of Erste's Social Banking programme, a financial inclusion initiative that addresses the needs of traditionally unbanked groups in CEE including people at risk of poverty, first-time entrepreneurs and social organisations.



Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu
IWM Visiting Fellow

Univ. Prof. MIHAI-RĂZVAN UNGUREANU, Ph.D., Ph.D.h.c. is a Romanian historian, university professor and former Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Iași, Romania. He held academic positions and delivered courses and lectures on Modern Romanian and European History and International Relations at the universities of London, Oxford, Freiburg im Breisgau, Berlin, Jerusalem, Seoul, Budapest, Vienna, New York a.o. He is also the recipient of a honoris causa Ph.D., awarded by the University of Pecs, Hungary, in 2012. He is currently Professor of Modern European and Romanian History at the University of Bucharest.

He was recruited to the Romanian diplomatic service in 1998. He subsequently served as State Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1998-2000), and was a Bucharest-based representative of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe (2001-2002), and afterwards a Vienna-based Deputy Coordinator of the South-East European Cooperation Initiative (SECI) of the OSCE (2002-2004). Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu served as Foreign Minister of Romania from December 2004, till March 2007. In December 2007, he became Director of the Romanian Foreign Intelligence Service. From February to May 2012, Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu served as Prime Minister of Romania. Between December 2012 and July 2015, he was Senator in the Romanian Parliament. In July 2015, Mihai-Răzvan Ungureanu was a second time appointed Director of the Romanian Foreign Intelligence Service, tenure held until September 2016.

Prof. Ungureanu is a Visiting Fellow at IWM (2018).



**Roxana
Voicu-Dorobanțu**
Associate Professor,
Academy of Economic
Studies/AIR Fellow

(PRIAD). Her recent publications appeared with Oxford University Press, in European Political Science Review, Eastern European Politics, or Research & Politics. Synthetic versions of her work are available in videoabstracts or such online platforms as Forbes, EUROPP, IPI Global Observatory, Emerging Europe, Global Policy or Huffington Post.

Roxana Voicu-Dorobanțu is currently an Associate Professor in the Bucharest University of Economic Studies in Bucharest while being involved in other business projects as well, mostly in an advisory position. Roxana holds a Ph.D. in International Business and Economics and has taught international business and finance and risk management in United Kingdom and Poland, as well as Romania. While involving companies in various corporate social responsibility programmes, she is also interested in finding means and methods for increasing efficiency in multicultural teams.



Clara Volintiru
Associate Professor,
Department of
International Business
and Economics
Bucharest Academy of
Economic Studies/AIR
Alumna

Clara Volintiru is Associate Professor in the Department of International Business and Economics (REI), at the Bucharest University of Economic Studies (ASE). She graduated a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and has been involved in various international research projects in the field of behavioural studies, good governance, informal exchanges and political economy. She has been a consultant for international organizations such as the World Bank, European Commission, Eurofound, Committee of Regions, Partnership for Research in International Affairs and Development