Emilia Saiz
Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

Emilia Saiz is a jurist by profession and has devoted its professional life to promoting the role of local governments in development as well as fostering relations between cities and their associations worldwide. She started her journey as local government international advocate in the founding organization of UCLG, IULA in 1997. She has led programmes dedicated to institutional capacity building and decentralized cooperation. She has actively promoted women empowerment, social inclusion and international partnerships. She played a critical role in setting up the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and has followed and represented local and regional governments in iconic international processes such as the Rio and Beijing + 20 as well the Climate Agreement the SDGs and Hábitat III. She has further been deeply involved in the institutional development of United Cities and Local Governments into a network of networks. During her work in the World Organization she has been appointed to numerous panels both in her personal and professional capacity. Her involvement in Cities Alliance, the General Alliance of Partners and the Cities Programme of the Global Compact are worth highlighting. Her mission as Secretary General of United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) started in 2018. When asked about her priorities for coming years she mentions: ensuring that the global agendas are built from local priorities and that international action of local governments is understood as an indispensable role to fulfill local needs with solidarity, justice and accountability at the centre.
Tunç Soyer
Mayor of İzmir

Tunç Soyer was born in Ankara in 1959 and has lived in İzmir since his early childhood. After graduating from Bornova Anatolian Highschool, he completed his university degree at Ankara University Faculty of Law. Soyer has a master’s degree on “International Relations” from Webster College in Switzerland and on the “European Union” from Dokuz Eylül University. In 2003, he became a consultant of the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality Ahmet Piriştina. From 2004 to 2006, he served as the Director of Foreign Relations of the İzmir Chamber of Commerce. In 2006, he was appointed as the General Secretary of EXPO İzmir. In 2009 he was elected as the Mayor of Seferihisar and carried on this task for two terms. He has implemented the international local-scale development model Cittaslow (Slow City) first to Seferihisar and then introduced it to the seven geographical areas of Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. He was elected as the Mayor of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality at the local elections held in March 2019. He is the Vice president of the International Network of Cittaslow, member of The Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly ARLEM, member of the UCLG Executive Bureau, Bureau member of Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Mayor Soyer is also the president of the Association of Social Democratic Municipalities (SODEM) in Turkey. He is married and has two daughters.
Ekrem İmamoğlu
Mayor of Istanbul

Ekrem İmamoğlu was born in 1970 in Turkey’s Black Sea province of Trabzon. He joined the Republican People’s Party (CHP) in 2009 and became a member of the party’s Beylikdüzü District Organization. Following the local elections that year, he was elected as the District Head of CHP Beylikdüzü. After 5 years in this post, Mr. İmamoğlu was nominated as a candidate for Beylikdüzü District Mayor in 2013, and won the elections in 2014. Until 2019, he realized a wide range of projects that transformed Beylikdüzü’s appearance. Following the positive impact he made in the district’s living standards, social life, and infrastructural services, Mr. İmamoğlu captured the attention of the locals, media, academia, and the upper echelons of his party. He was thus nominated as the Mayoral candidate for Istanbul by the CHP in the local elections of March 31, 2019. Following an effective campaign in a short period of three months, he was elected as the Mayor of Istanbul with 48.82% of the total valid votes. However, as a result of the objections made by the ruling party, the Supreme Electoral Board (YSK) annulled the results of the election in Istanbul. In the rerun election on June 23, he received 54.2% of the total votes – the highest rate achieved in the last 35 years in Istanbul. He has been in office since 27 June 2019. Mr. İmamoğlu is married with three children and has been living in İstanbul since 1988.
Recep Gürkan  
Mayor of Edirne

He was born in Ipsala, Edirne in 1964. After finishing his primary and secondary education in Ipsala, he was graduated from Trakya University Edirne Education Academy. He also graduated from Anadolu University Social Sciences Department in 2001. Between the years 1983-2003, he fulfilled the duties of branch director and vice director of Edirne Provincial Directorate of National Education. 

In year 2004, he took position of Governorship of Edirne City Planning and Coordination Director. Also, he performed duties at Governorship of Edirne Cross border and European Union Education and Youth Programmes. At the same time, he fulfilled the duty of Secretary position of Trakya Kalkınma Birliği-an organisation established by governorships of Edirne, Tekirdağ and Kırklareli. He was assigned to the General Secretary of Trakya University. He resigned from this position in year 2011, aiming to become Edirne Deputy of CHP. He carried out the spokespersonship of the Board of Management and Senate of the University. He was also a founder member of board of management of the Trakya University Technology Development Zone Teknopark.

He took part as a founder member or manager of such civil society organizations as Edirne Çağdaş Yaşamı Destekleme Derneği, Edirne Kültür ve Yardımlaşma Derneği, Edirne Turizm Derneği, Edirne Fotoğraf Sanatı Derneği.

Between the years 1990-1995, he performed the duties of founder member and executive of Eğitim-iş Edirne City Directorate and Eğitim-Sen Headquarters, which founded later. He was awarded "The Best Bureaucrate of the Year" in year 2010. He was elected as CHP Edirne Deputy Candidate in the pre elections held by members in April 3rd, 2011. He was elected as CHP Edirne Deputy in June 12th, 2011. He performed the duty of National Education, Culture, Youth and Sports Commission Member.

He was awarded as "The Best Deputy of the Year 2013" in March, 2013 with a poll held by yilineniyisi.com.

He was elected as CHP Mayor of Edirne after the elections held in March 30th, 2014.
He was awarded as "The Best Mayor of the Year" by Beşiktaş Platformu Genç Profesyoneller in 2014.
He was also selected as the best Mayor of 2014, after a survey held by ORC Research Firm's survey held in 2015, in 81 cities with 12500 participants face to face.
He was awarded as "Successful Politician of the Year" in January, 2015 by Mebus News Magazine.
He was awarded as "The Best Mayor of the Year" in February, 2015 by Siyaset Magazine's 20th year anniversary awards public poll.
In March, 2016, he was awarded with the "Science and History Award" with the "Historical Electricity Factory Restoration Project" in Local Government Awards held by Union of Social Democrat Municipalities. Mr. Gürkan personally accepted award from Mr. Kemal Kılıçdaroğlu.
He was awarded "City Solidarity Award" after getting chambers, civil society organizations and local traders in the purpose of Edirne, in May, 2016. The awards organized by Genç Arayışlar Platformu Derneği.
In June, 2016, he was awarded as "The Best Environmentalist Mayor of the Year" by the Kaz Dağları Natural Life Awards held by Municipality of Edremit in name of the Master artist, Tuncel Kurtiz.
Gürkan was re-elected as Mayor of Edirne in the Local Administrations General Election held on 31 March 2019.
He is married and has two children, named Eylem and Yiğit.
Prof. Dr. Alim Işık
Mayor of Kütahya

Prof. Dr. Alim Işık was born in Kütahya in 1959. He obtained his undergraduate degree in Agricultural Machinery from the Faculty of Agriculture, Çukurova University with an honors degree in 1982. He obtained a Masters in engineering in 1984. He received his Ph.D. in 1988. He became an associate professor in 1991 and received the title of professor in 1997.

From 1997 to 2000, Alim Işık served as the Dean of Simav Technical Education Faculty, Dumplunar University. During 2000-2001, he was the Deputy Rector. In 2000, he served as a professor at the Department of Industrial Engineering.

Alim Işık is (co)author of around 200 national and international publications including articles, papers and books.

From 2007-2015, Alim Işık served as the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) deputy for Kütahya three legislative terms.

In 2015, Alim Işık served as a professor in the Aircraft Technology Program at the University of Turkish Aeronautical Association. He also served as the Vice Dean, the Vice Rector, the Deputy Rector and the General Secretary at the same university. He resigned from his duties in order to become a candidate for Kütahya’s mayoral election on the 1st of December, 2018.

Prof. Dr. Alim Işık, who was elected as the Mayor of Kütahya in the local elections on the 31st of March, 2019, has a very good command of English and is married with 3 children.
Louisa Vinton
UNDP Resident Representative in Turkey

Louisa Vinton is the Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the Republic of Turkey from May 2021. Vinton is a development professional with more than 30 years of work experience in the region covered by the Regional Bureau for Europe and Central Asia.

Previously she served as the UNDP Resident Representative in Georgia from November 2018 to March 2021. Earlier she held the dual roles of UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in North Macedonia, from November 2013 to October 2018, and Croatia, from July 2010 to June 2014.

In these roles, she successfully championed UNDP initiatives focused on job creation and self-employment, vocational training, public service delivery, local and regional economic development, social inclusion, gender equality, human rights, flood prevention, nature protection, energy efficiency, climate resilience, and crisis prevention and post-conflict recovery. She led the UN response to the migration crisis of 2015-16 in North Macedonia and spearheaded COVID-19 socio-economic response and recovery efforts in Georgia in 2020-21. She has a strong track record in building partnerships with Government, civil society, the private sector, academia and the international community.

Her first post with UNDP was as Division Chief in the Regional Bureau for Europe and Central Asia in New York, starting in February 2004, where she was responsible for UNDP activities in seven countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine. She also led UN coordination on issues related to the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear accident of 1986.

Before joining UNDP, Louisa Vinton worked for the Economist Intelligence Unit for nine years, first as Editor of the weekly newsletter Business Eastern Europe and Editor in Chief of the company's East European business publishing operations in Vienna, and later as head of the company's Executive Services unit in New York. She is a champion of effective communications and excels at advocacy and messaging.

She holds a B.A. in Russian Studies from Cornell University and an M.A. in History from the University of Michigan. As well as English, she speaks conversational Croatian, German, Polish and Russian.
Serhan Ada

Prof. Dr. Serhan Ada is the Head of Art and Cultural Management Department, and Director of Cultural Policy and Management Research Center at İstanbul Bilgi University. He is also the Head of UNESCO Chair in Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy of the same university. Ada has been a visiting professor in various universities in Paris, Barcelona, Lyon, Beirut, Turin Hildesheim, Venice, Warwick and New Jersey. Ada is the chief editor of Cultural Policy Yearbook and the editor and writer of the book entitled Turkish Cultural Policy: A Civil Perspective (2011) focusing on the civil society’s perspective on cultural policy in Turkey as an alternative to the National Report. He works as an expert of the Culture Committee of UCLG. He also writes poetry and essays.
Álvaro Andrés Ortiz Vera

Álvaro Andrés Ortiz Vera, Mayor of Concepción, 43 years old, Journalist from the University of Concepción. Married, three children. Since 2012 he is the mayor of the Concepción commune, where he was also a councilor between 2004 and 2012. He is a member of the Christian Democratic party and is a lover of music, especially rock and soccer. During his tenure, he created the Culture Directorate and developed the Culture plan, being a pilot city for the Agenda 21 for Culture between 2015 and 2017.
Onur Eryüce

Counsellor to the Mayor, Izmir Metropolitan Municipality

Secretary General, Association of Social Democratic Municipalities

Mr. Onur Eryüce is committed to strengthen economic, social and cultural ties between cities through international cooperation. In 2011, he played a pivotal role in the foundation of the Association of Social Democratic Municipalities (SODEM). The organization was set up to foster strategic partnerships among Turkish municipal leaders and their European counterparts. SODEM led to great impact and increased city level interactions among urban stakeholders and communities. Under Onur’s management, the organisation has grown to 141 member municipalities, representing more than 18 million people, and has successfully contributed to EU-Turkey collaboration on issues at the municipal level. Onur is responsible for setting up and furthering political, social, cultural and economic dialogue between the municipalities and their counterparts from all around the world. In April 2019, he was appointed as the Counsellor to the Mayor by the Izmir Metropolitan Municipality Assembly; one of the largest Mediterranean port cities with 4.5 million inhabitants. In his new function, Onur is engaged and focused on linking Izmir and its local communities to the global value chain and global cooperation networks. Onur’s prior objective and drive are to improve the growth, governance, and finance of the city.
Luca Trifone

Luca Trifone is the Diplomatic Advisor to the Mayor of Rome. He has served in several positions in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs: International relations officer at ANAC - Italian National Anticorruption Authority (2016-2020), Head of the South America Office (2011-2014), Head of the Commercial Office of the Embassy of Italy in Beijing (2008-2009), among other positions.
Ilsur Metshin

Ilsur Metshin serves the position of the Mayor of Kazan since 2006 and was re-elected several times. He is a member of the Board of the Union of Russian Cities and is the Chairman of the Association of Cities of the Volga Region. In 2019, Ilsur Metshin joined the Presidium of the High Council of the Russian National Association for the Development of Local Government.

He has been elected to the leading positions at the major international organizations such as the United Cities and Local Governments World Organization and the Organization of World Heritage Cities. In 2019, at the UCLG World Congress Ilsur Metshin was elected as a President of the United Nations Advisory Committee of Local Authorities (UNACLA).

From 2016 to 2020 Ilsur Metshin served as one of the representatives of Russia in the Chamber of Local Authorities of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. In 2016, he was elected as a Deputy chairman of the Committee on Current Affairs of the Congress. In 2018, he was re-elected to the same position.
Madelaine Yorobe Alfelor

Mayor Madel is the first lady Mayor of Iriga. She was elected in 2004 and was re-elected twice for six consecutive years. As a City Mayor, she has placed many innovative programs on environmental protection and management that generated massive multi-stakeholders participation and contributed to the city's fight against global warming. As a result, the City has received several awards for these endeavors.

With a 75% net trust rating from SWS (Social Weather Station) Survey in 2009 and 2017, the City IRA (Internal Revenue Allotment) went up to 500 million pesos from 103 million. Local revenue has increased from 12 million pesos to 130 million pesos for the period of 2006 to 2018. City Government's asset became six times higher, from 200 million pesos to 1.2 billion from 2007 to 2018. These were achieved due to the innovative economic enterprises that contributed to the massive increase of income and assets; and due to the trust and confidence of the Iriga constituents.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Mayor of Iriga City, Philippines
- Treasurer, United Cities and local Government (UCLG) World
- Co-President, United Cities and Local Government Asia Pacific (UCLG AsPac) representing East and Southeast Asia Sub-Region
- Regional Representative of the League of Cities of the Philippine (LCP)
- Association of City Mayors President of City Mayors in Bicol Region, Philippines
- Executive Vice-President, League of Organic Agriculture Municipalities and Cities in the Philippines
- Champion on Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) of UCLG ASPAC
- Kaya Natin Champion: Kaya Natin Movement Secretary Jess Robredo Legacy
- Kaya Natin Champion on Good Governance
Mohamad Saadie

Mayor of Deirnbouh

President of UCLG-MEWA

Vice-president of UCLG world

Member of UNACLA

Active member of many international organizations

Master’s degrees in local development, law, financial management and insurance.

Lecturer at various universities, institutes and international conferences

Expert in localizing the SDG’s and NUA especially in the development of: culture, participative democracy, women empowerment, participatory approach of youth and civil society.

Holder of the National Order of Merit Knight and several Medals

Holder of the first degree of absolute transparency in Lebanon.

Honored in LU as the one of the most important graduated
Yury Grishan
Mayor of Magadan

Mr. Yury Grishan was born in Magadan. In 1979, after graduating from Omsk Technical University, he started his professional career at the Magadan mechanical and repair factory. In 2003, he worked as Assistant to the Deputy of the State Duma. From 2004, he worked as Deputy Mayor of Magadan. In September 2013, he was appointed First Deputy Mayor of Magadan. On November 13, 2015, Yury Grishan was elected by the Magadan City Duma as Mayor of the city of Magadan. In 2012, he was awarded a Merit Badge “For Service to the city of Magadan”.
Mr. Zhasur Azimov was born in the city of Osh on 7 April, 1978. In 1985, Mr. Azimov entered the secondary school No. 3 named after M.V. Lomonosov. In 1994, he graduated from school and entered the Kyrgyz-Uzbek Higher Technological College with major in "Finance and Credit". In 1999, he successfully graduated from the Kyrgyz-Uzbek University and in the same year remained at this university as a teacher at the Department of Finance and Taxes of the Financial and Economic Faculty. In 2004, he successfully defended his thesis and did PhD in Economics. In 2006, he was elected Dean of the Financial and Economic Faculty of CUU. In 2016, Mr. Azimov was elected Deputy of the Osh City Council. In 2018, he was appointed Vice-Mayor of Osh. Currently, Mr. Azimov is Vice-Mayor of Osh, supervising urban planning, municipal property and architecture of the city of Osh.
Carine Rolland

Deputy Mayor of Paris in charge of culture and the City of the quarter hour

A graduate of the Institut d'Études Politiques de Rennes, Carine Rolland has been elected since 2008 in the 18th arrondissement of Paris, where she was first Deputy to Daniel Vaillant in charge of culture (2008-2014) then First Deputy in charge of general affairs, culture and heritage of Eric Lejoindre (2014-2020).

At the same time, she pursued an executive career in the fields of marketing and communication within various media companies (Lagardère Groups, Bauer Médias, Metronews). She worked as a consultant specializing in communication and participatory approaches since 2017.
Rasikh Sagitov

Secretary General of the Eurasia Regional Section of the World organization “United Cities and Local Governments”

Rasikh Sagitov has a linguistic education with a specialization in English, Arabic and French translation. He also has a degree in International Currency and Credit Relations.

He started his career in 1984 in the position of military translator.

He has been working in the sphere of international relations for more than 30 years. He stood at the origins of a new stage of the development of international activities of Kazan.

On an ongoing basis, Rasikh Sagitov carried out work on the development of international and interregional cooperation of the city of Kazan within the framework of UCLG’s activities.

In 2003, he was elected Regional Coordinator of the Organization of World Heritage Cities for Euro-Asia.

In 2004, he was elected Secretary General of the Eurasia Regional Section of the World organization “United Cities and Local Governments”.
Alison Tickell

Alison Tickell established Julie’s Bicycle in 2007 as a non-profit company helping the music industry reduce its environmental impacts and develop new thinking in tune with global environmental challenges. JB now works across the arts and culture internationally.

Originally trained as a cellist, Alison worked with jazz improviser and teacher John Stevens as a performer and trainer. She worked for many years with socially excluded young people at Community Music, training professional musicians in teaching, mentoring and business development, and then at Creative and Cultural Skills where she helped establish National Skills Academy for the music industry. Advisory roles include, Tonic Theatre, Observer Ethical Awards, Royal College of Arts, D&AD White Pencil Awards, Music Week, Tonic and WOMEX awards. Alison was made an Ashoka Fellow in 2021.
Almudena Maíllo del Valle

Born in Madrid in 1977. She has a degree in Business Sciences, specializing in Financial Management and Accounting from the Complutense University of Madrid. She has a Leadership for Public Management program at IESE Business School.

Currently, she is the Delegate Councilor for Tourism of the Madrid City Council, General Secretary of the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities (UCCI) and President Councilor of the Moratalaz district.

From 2015 to 2019, she was Councilor of the Madrid City Council in the popular municipal group; (2013-2015) Councilor President of the San Blas-Canillejas district; Presiding Councilor in the district of Hortaleza (2012-2013); General Director of Early Childhood and Primary Education (2011-2012); General Director of Tourism Madrid (2007-2011); Advisor to the Cabinet of the Presidency of the Community of Madrid (2005-2007) and Technician in the General Directorate of External Relations (2003-2005).

In addition, she was part of the Financial Department of Dragados y Construcciones and has taught as a teacher in the Foreign Trade Technicians course of the Madrid Chamber of Commerce.
Alvaro Narvaez

Master in Dramatic Art and specialist in Arts. He was president of the Municipal Council of Culture, co-founder of the research group Hipertrópico convergence between art and technology at the University of Antioquia. He has taught at the universities of Antioquia, Nacional and Pontificia Bolivariana.

He has directed more than 25 plays with which he has toured America and Spain. His creative process includes general direction, art and stage production, integration of technologies to the stage, development of educational campaigns, brand positioning, fairs and audiovisual projects. He was Undersecretary of Arts and Culture in 2020 and is currently Secretary of Citizen Culture of the Mayor's Office of Medellin.
Ann Wishart

**Arts Development Manager, Leeds City Council**

Ann has worked in the field of Arts Development for over 20 years, she has previously worked at the Sydney Opera House, Pilot Theatre & Northern Ballet. In her current role she provides strategic support for the city’s cultural organisations through the arts@leeds programme and manages the Arts Development team producing events including Light Night Leeds & Holocaust Memorial Day.

Ann supports many initiatives through her role and is on the board of Leeds Arts, Health & Wellbeing Board (LAWHN), Sustainable Arts in Leeds (SAIL) and is on the steering group for the Age Friendly Leeds Partnership.
Annica Floren  
Acting Head of Unit  
European Commission’s DG for International Partnerships  
Unit G3: Youth, education and culture

After having pursued studies in development and law, Annica joined the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1988 where she held different positions including postings to the Swedish Embassies in Pakistan and Greece. She was recruited to the European Commission’s External Relations Directorate-General in 1998. Her work has since been dedicated to development cooperation in several capacities, including legal matters, operations and thematic expertise.

In 2016, she was nominated head of sector in the Directorate-General for International Partnerships, and the unit in charge of culture, education and health and - since 2021- youth, dealing with policy and strategies, technical support to EU delegations and management of programmes. She holds the position of deputy head of unit since 2017.
Azadeh Ramezani Tabrizi

Azadeh Ramezani Tabrizi (1977) is a Tehran-born artist graduated from Tehran Azad University of arts and architecture. Her illustration for UNESCO’s poster became the main visual for their events on 2010. She participated group exhibitions in Iran, Turkey & U.S.A. She teamed Murat Savaşkan designing identity of Selçuk Memory Center. She exhibited her own project “Free Range” in Selçuk on her own balcony (2016). “Free Range” became a solo exhibition in Electric Room/Dastan Gallery (2018). Parts of the project toured in U.S.A. She co-founded “Balconnection” on September 2019 which funded by "Spaces of Culture".
Dr. Buğra Gökçe
Secretary General of İzmir Metropolitan Municipality

Dr. Buğra Gökçe was born in 1974 in Ankara. He completed his bachelor’s and master's degrees on Department of Urban and Regional Planning at Gazi University and he had his PhD degree on Urban Planning at the Middle East Technical University in 2008. He participated in an international training in Japan titled “Japan Cities, Urban Planning and Implementations”.

Within the scope of his professional career, between the years of 1996 and 2014, he worked on urban plans and various city planning projects at Ankara Metropolitan Municipality and Çankaya Municipality.

While he was continuing to his academic and professional studies, he undertook active managerial responsibilities at the Chamber of City Planners and Izmir Regional Board for Conservation of Cultural Heritage No II.

Mr. Gökce, who has many academic publications, papers, and degrees in project competitions, has been working as a part-time lecturer at Gazi University City and Regional Planning Department since 2005 and as the Secretary-General of Izmir Metropolitan Municipality since 2016.

He alloyed his academic studies on Central Business Areas, Office Uses, and Upper Scale Planning with his professional experience on management of various projects, investments, and applications in the context of Urban Transportation, Urban Design, Landscape Planning, Construction Technologies and Urban Development
Cangül Kuş

Head of Blue Growth Policies Unit

Izmir Development Agency (IZKA)

Research area: blue growth, regional policy, creative industries, creative ecosystems,

She was born and raised in Ankara. Graduated from the Hacettepe University, Department of Sociology in 2002. She has got a double postgraduate degree in Global Governance and Political Sciences. Currently, she is a Ph.D. candidate in Human and Economic Geography at Ege University and preparing her thesis on coastal cities' effects on the creative industries. She has been working at Izmir Development Agency (IZKA) since 2008 on different units and her current position is Head of Blue Growth Policies. Cangül’s main research interests are the blue economy sectors in Izmir, financial support mechanisms design and implementation and the creative industries-recently.

More about Cangul: https://www.linkedin.com/in/cangul-kus-b691329/
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Daan Stelder

Daan Stelder is an experienced project manager at VNG International, which he joined in 2015. He is mainly involved in strengthening local governance in Sub Sahara Africa. He is the international coordinator of UCLG’s global Peace Prize for local governments and worked at the Secretariat of UCLG’s Capacity and Institution Building Working Group in the past. Besides UCLG he represents VNG International in networks like the Global Alliance for Urban Crises and the Development Partners Network on Decentralisation and Local Governance. He studied International Relations at the University of Groningen in The Netherlands and the University of Bologna in Italy.
Denise Bax, is the Chief of Communication, Cities and Events Unit within the Culture Sector of UNESCO, where she heads the coordination of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and the UNESCO Cities Platform (UCP).

Over 20 years of experience at UNESCO, she has been involved in the promotion of culture and creativity through strengthening the international visibility of various cultural and creative programmes including the UCCN. Furthermore, her engagement and comprehensive outreach with various stakeholders of the 2005 Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, and beyond, has supported the development and expansion of the Convention.

Ms Bax has developed and implemented several international cultural cooperation and development programmes and has managed a series of culture-driven initiatives in both the public and private sectors, notably towards the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and now the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals across the local, national and international levels. For many years, she headed the Crafts and Design Programme at UNESCO, during which she contributed to the development of related international cultural policies and frameworks, as well as a multitude of projects including various publications, workshops and international forums.
Evgeniya Lodvigova

Evgeniya Lodvigova is a Deputy Mayor of the city of Kazan. Since 2003, she has been involved in the field of tourism and hospitality and has been at the forefront of a new hotel industry development in Kazan. From 2011 to 2014, she has served as a General Manager and Commercial Director of Kazan Hotel Group LLC. From 2014 to 2015, she has been a Director of the Committee for Tourism Development. In 2015, Evgeniya Lodvigova was appointed as a Deputy Mayor of the City of Kazan. She is in charge of international relations and tourism development in the city of Kazan.
Farida Shaheed was the first Special Rapporteur of the United Nations in the field of cultural rights (2012-15), following a period as Independent Expert on Cultural Rights (2009-12). She proposed several initiatives to promote cultural rights as human rights in her periodic reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations and country reports. These have become fundamental references on culture, human rights and sustainable development. She identified and documented the main challenges of respecting protecting and promoting cultural rights in our societies, including the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage, the right to benefit from scientific progress and its applications, the right to freedom of artistic expression and creativity, cultural rights of women on an equal basis with men, historical and memorial narratives in divided societies. With extensive work on rights-based development in her native Pakistan, her interest led to extensively exploring the interface of culture and identity in relation to both development and rights, and the State’s responsibilities in this regard. Extensive work encompassed deepening conceptual understanding as a social analyst and translating that knowledge in practical terms as a development consultant and practitioner with decades of grounded work at the grassroots level, building skills across a wide range of cultural contexts. She received the Prime Minister’s award for her co-authored book, Two Steps Forward One Step Back? Women of Pakistan, and several human rights awards. She is currently based in Shirkat Gah Women’s Resource Centre, the only pioneer on sustainable development issues in Pakistan with a gendered lens and has been very active for several years in activism to protect the cultural heritage of Lahore city. She was also awarded in the category “Individual” for first edition of the International Award UCLG – Mexico City – Culture 21.
Frédéric Vallier has been Secretary General of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) since 1 February 2010.

Expert in European affairs at the local and regional levels, he has over thirty years of experience working with local and regional governments. As Secretary General of CEMR, he campaigns for the full recognition of local and regional governments as strategic partners of the European governance and calls for a Europe closer to its citizens and their first levels of democracy. He represents European local and regional authorities within the global task force for 2030 development agenda and climate change negotiations. He leads the representation of L&RGs associations in the European and Global Agenda negotiations.

Frédéric Vallier holds an Executive Master’s Degree in public management from Science Po Paris. He held a mandate as deputy mayor between 1995 and 2001 in France, his home country, in charge of citizenship, communication and twinning. He is Vice-president of the European Mouvement International.

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), created in 1951, is the broadest and most senior association of local and regional governments in Europe. Its members are national associations of local and regional authorities in 41 countries.
Gabriel Caballero

Gabriel Caballero is the Focal Point for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for ICOMOS and acts as facilitator and coordinator for ICOMOS’ work in relation to the global sustainable development policy arena. He coordinates the activities of the SDGs Working Group, develops ideas and monitors progress to support the implementation of the ICOMOS Action Plan for Cultural Heritage and Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Caballero is focused on mobilising local stakeholders in harnessing heritage as a driver and enabler of sustainable development in this Decade of Action. He also believes in the power of young people to effect change to society at large.
Glòria Pérez-Salmerón

Currently engaged in international relationships Department of Diputació de Barcelona (Barcelona Provincial Council), I am the immediate past president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), and the current president of Stichting IFLA-Global Libraries Foundation.

I bring a long experience of working with libraries, culture and government at different levels.

I was the Director of the National Library of Spain 2010-13, and also on the Board of the Library 2008-13. During this time, I introduced a number of key innovations focused on digitisation and access, notably through a partnership with Telefonica, and oversaw a new legal deposit law. Furthermore, I led the library through its tercentenary celebrations.

Prior to my work at the National Library, I led library systems at the regional level, notably those in the Barcelona Region (2001-2005), and then in Catalonia as a whole (2005-2008). During my time, I oversaw modernising changes that have seen libraries become one of the most appreciated public services.

Between 2008 and 2010, I returned to the Barcelona regional government, taking on the role of Director of the Office of Assistance in Electronic Administration at Barcelona’s Provincial Council, helping both to set up citizen’s advice centres, and to redevelop the website services of government agencies.

I began my career at the local level in Badalona, with ten years of managing libraries and library networks, as well as engaging as a delegate to the UNESCO Model Library Network.

I have complemented my professional work with engagement in associations which work to support the sector. In addition to my work at IFLA, I am a former president of the Spanish Federation of Library, Archive and Museum Associations (FESABID), as well as former vice-
President of the European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations (EBLIDA). I continued to serve as a Counsellor to the Brazilian Institute for Information in Science and Technology (IBICT).

My education is in documentation and library management, and I have a post-graduate certification in e-Government and public administration from the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

2019- : President, Stichting IFLA Global Libraries Foundation

2013- : Advisor, International Relationships Department of Diputació de Barcelona (Barcelona Provincial Council)

2017-2019: President, International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA)


2010-2013: General Director, National Library of Spain

2008-2010: Member of the Executive Board, National Library of Spain


Goshtasb Mozafari

Secretary General of Asian Mayor Forum (AMF).

Born in Khalkhal, Iran in May 29th, 1967.

Ph.D. in Higher Education Management, Shahid Beheshti University at Tehran, Iran in 2011.

**Executive Background:**

- Senior Expert in charge of Supervision over Healthcare Services, Iran University of Medical Sciences (IUMS)
- Researcher, Healthcare Management Research Department, Social Security Research Institute (SSRI)
- Director, Healthcare Management Research Department and Member of Research Board, Social Security Research Institute (SSRI)
- Deputy of CEO for Research Affairs, Mehr Research Institute (private sector)
- Deputy Director General for Research Affairs and Member of Research Board, Cultural and Social Studies Center, Tehran Municipality
- Deputy Director General for International Relations, Public and International Relations Department, Tehran Municipality
- Vice-President, Communication and International Relations Center, Tehran Municipality
Iñaki Lopez de Aguileta

Iñaki Lopez de Aguileta is a doctor on Pedagogy (with a thesis on cultural politics), Graduate on Psychology and Master on Cultural Management. His professional life has always been linked to cultural management in the local area, especially in Bilbao (Basque Country), and has been the Chief of Publication, Subdirector of Cultural Programming and Director of the Culture Area (from 2009 up to now) in Bilbao’s City Council. Due to his position he has participated in the Administration Boards in several cultural institutions in his city (museums, theaters, conservatories, artistic production centers, etc.). He has been a member of the Basque Board of Culture, a consultative organization in the Basque Government for counseling in cultural politics.

In 2000 he published Cultura y ciudad, considered in his country one of the most complete manuals on municipal cultural politics.
Inês Cámara

Inês Cámara is the President of Culture Action Europe. Inês created Mapa das Ideias, with Ana Fernambuco and Daniela Araújo, in November 1999. Her activity at Mapa das Ideias thrives on the overlapping of different areas such as Education, Mediation, Marketing and Management for the fields of Culture, Heritage and Citizenship. Her primary focus relates to marketing and project development, being also responsible for the creative department, as well as the consultancy and research sector. Inês is also quite active as a lecturer and trainer, both in academic and non-academic settings. Within Mapa’s, she was the coordinator of the Knowledge transfer project, Museum Mediators Europe, between 2012 and 2014. Inês is also President of the non-profit “A Reserva”, created in 2015, that focuses on research and community development based upon the arts, non-formal education and cultural entrepreneurship.
Jon Finch

Jon is Head of Culture and Creative Industries at Bristol City Council, and runs a wide ranging portfolio of services including museums, city events, archives, the film office and Bottle Yard studios. He has extensive experience of working across the cultural sector, both in the UK and abroad.

Jon spent eight years working in senior roles for the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). First as Head of Policy at MLA North West, and then as Chief Executive of MLA West Midlands in 2006. As Director of Engagement – West at MLA, he led delivery across the West Midlands and South West on behalf of the organisation.

Jon then moved into the private sector, setting up a successful consultancy company at the beginning of 2012 focused on providing support to cultural organisations around governance and enterprise. After a family move to Australia he spent 15 successful months over there working as a consultant with museums, libraries and arts institutions across Australia, as well as taking short term opportunities to run a heritage service.

Jon returned to the UK in 2015 and took on the role of repositioning one of the north-west’s foremost cultural institutions. As Head of Culture he was jointly employed by Preston City and Lancashire Councils to run the Harris Museum, Art Gallery and Library, as well as leading the initiation of a major £11 million capital redevelopment project of the Grade 1 listed building. In his three years in Preston Jon secured ACE National Portfolio status for the Harris for the first time, significantly increased visitor figures and income, and played an integral role in the raising of the profile of the cultural sector across the city. He is a Fellow of the RSA and is a Board member at the Jenner and Bristol Aerospace Trusts.
Jordi Martí Grau (Barcelona, 1965)

He has spent great part of her professional career in the field of culture and municipal politics.

He was coordinator of the strategic culture plan of Barcelona City Council between 1996 and 1999, and manager of the Barcelona Institute of Culture between 1999 and 2013. He also promoted the Strategic Culture Plan of Barcelona, The Library Plan and the Network of Creative Factories.

He was Councilor (2011-2014) and Manager (2015-2019) of Barcelona City Council. He is Councilor again since 2019. He is currently Deputy Mayor for Culture, Education, Science and the Community.
Katja Dörner

Katja Dörner took office as Mayor of Bonn on 1 November 2020. From 2009 to 2020, she was a member of the German Bundestag; as of 2014, she served as Deputy Chair of the Bündnis 90/Die Grünen parliamentary group and as a member of the Committee for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth. Since March 2021, Mayor Dörner has co-chaired the ICLEI Global Executive Committee 2021-2024 portfolio on Climate Action and Low Emission Development. Her priorities for Bonn are making Bonn climate neutral by 2035, advancing sustainable mobility, fighting inequalities and promoting affordable housing.
Prof. Dr. Khalid Tadmori

- Architect / Restorer / Urban Planner & Conservator
- B.E. in Architecture / Masters in Architectural Restoration / Ph.D. in Preservation and Renovation of Historical Urban Sites / Graduated from Mimar Sinan University, Istanbul
- Professor, Lecturer, Faculty of Fine Arts and Architecture / Lebanese University, B.E. Master & Ph.D. programs / Tripoli, Lebanon
- Member of the National Council of UNESCO in Lebanon
- Elected Member of the Tripoli City Council / Chairman of the Heritage and Historical Monuments Sub-Committee / Municipality of Tripoli, Lebanon
- Representative of EMA “European Museum Academy” in the Middle East
- Representative of “Turkish World Engineers & Architects in the Middle East”
- Member of the “Arab Archeologists Union”
- President of the “Lebanese Turkish Association”
- Awarded in May 2014 by the “Turkish Writers and Artists Foundation” in Ankara as being the Year’s International Personality for Promoting the Turkish Culture and Heritage
- As architect he directed 45 restoration projects in Lebanon, Turkey and the Arab World.
- As a professional photographer he opened 25 exhibitions related to old photography, heritage, art and architecture.
- He Published 2 books and a large number of articles in architectural, archeology, art and in-flight magazines.
Koray Velibeyoğlu

Koray Velibeyoğlu is an associate professor at the Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Izmir Institute of Technology. The main foci of his research are urban design, planning history, knowledge management, local asset-based development, nature-based solutions, urban ICT policy-making and knowledge-based development processes. Dr. Velibeyoğlu is project member of EU-funded H2020 projects entitled “UrbanGreenUP: New Strategy for Re-Naturing Cities through Nature-Based Solutions” and “RURITAGE: Rural regeneration through systemic heritage-led strategies”. He can be contacted at korayvelibeyoglu[at]iyte.edu.tr
Laia Gasch Casals

Originally from Barcelona, Laia lives in London for over 25 years. As Senior Advisor for Culture and Creative Industries to the Mayor of London she has positioned culture as a key driver for good growth. She devised and led the UK’s first Night Czar, the world’ first Creative Enterprise Zones and the London Borough of Culture. She was instrumental for the most pro-culture planning legislation, with policies for affordable workspace and protection of grassroots venues. She is Director of Partnerships for the World Cities Culture Forum, a network of 40 global cities. Previously, she worked for the BBC, the London 2012 Olympic Games, Tate Modern and London International Festival of Theatre.
Ivanova Lena Stepanovna

Ivanova Lena Stepanovna is the head of Oleneksky evenky national district of the Republic of Sakha Yakutia, one of the largest district its area is 318.1 km² and 10% of all territory of the Republic of Sakha Yakutia.

Oleneksky district is included in the list of areas which are densely inhabited by small indigenous peoples.

In 2005 by the Resolution of the State assembly Il Tumen Oleneksky district was assigned evenky national status. In 2013 Oleneksky district was declared the Area of Traditional natural resource use.


She started to work as an organizer of extracurricular activities for schoolchildren and a Russian language and literature teacher at Oleneksky secondary school.

Lena Stepanovna has the work experience in governmental authorities, she worked in the Department of Peoples'Affairs of the Republic of Sakha Yakutia, in the Ministry for the Development of Civil Society Institutions of the Republic of Sakha Yakutia and she was the Commissioner to protect the rights and interests of small indigenous peoples of the Republic of Sakha Yakutia.
Luciana Blasco

Political scientist and cultural manager.

She was a deputy in the Local Parliament of the Autonomous City of Buenos Aires (CABA) between 2010 and 2012. She was Director of youth policies at CABA, an organization from which she directed, between 2013 and 2015, the Buenos Aires Biennial of Youth Art.

Since December 2015 she is Undersecretary of Cultural Policies and New Audiences of the local government (Government of the City of Buenos Aires – GCBA).

She has a degree in Political Science and International Relations (National University of Rosario). She completed a Master’s Degree in Administration and Public Policies (Universidad de San Andrés) and the Postgraduate Programme in Cultural Management and Policies (University of Barcelona). In 2020 she joins the UADE teaching team as a holder in two Chairs.
Maciej Hofman

Maciej Hofman works as Policy Officer at the European Commission in Brussels since 2015. He is responsible for managing initiatives related to the role of culture in cities and regions, access to culture via digital means as well as EU funding for culture. Previously, he worked at the Polish Ministry of Culture, British Council offices in Warsaw and Paris, a French e-learning start-up and as a freelance editor and translator for cultural NGOs, film festivals and digital projects. Maciej holds degrees from the College of Europe and the University of Warsaw, he has also studied at Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris III.
Nathalie Guay holds a Master’s degree in Geography from the Université du Québec à Montréal. She worked for ten years at the Confédération des syndicats nationaux, first as a research advisor, then as head of international relations. Nathalie Guay has served on numerous boards of directors in Quebec as well as in international organizations. In particular, she has worked on issues of regional and sustainable development, trade agreements, international solidarity and the changes brought about by digital technology. She has been leading the Coalition for the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity since April 2018.
Nesim Bencoya

Born in Izmir, Nesim Bencoya studied sociology in Haifa University and worked for 20 years in city’s cinemathque as programmer and director where he developed programmes for intercultural dialogue and solidarity with Palestinian film makers.

Upon his return to Izmir in 2010, he functioned as the director of Izmir Short Film festival, artistic director of International Malatya Film Festival and International Antalya Film Festival. He founded a company that promotes short films from Turkey in Europe. He is the founder and director of Izmir Sephardic Culture Festival as well.

Since 2010 he is the Izmir Jewish Heritage Project manager. The Project deals in promotion of the Jewish Heritage through and for intercultural dialog and respect. The Project includes preservation of tangible and intangible heritage.
Nichola Khamis

In his own words “Nothing is impossible, with the right planning, all things are possible!”

Mr. Nichola Khamis is a visionary in his own special way, and a man of integrity.

Back in the 1970’s he was his father’s right-hand man, and worked with him in the food retail and wholesale industry where he managed to get the franchise for certain food products. In the 1980’s Mr. Khamis decided to become independent from his father. He bought his own truck and started distributing food products to stores and merchants. Despite the difficult circumstances confronted by Palestinians at the dawn of the first Intifada, Mr. Khamis remained steadfast and optimistic. In the 1990’s, he was invited to become a partner in many local companies, during which he also opened his own group of companies and achieved a well-deserved success.

Apart from his position as Council Member at the Beit Jala Municipality from 2005-2012, and the Mayor elect from 2012 until today, Mr. Khamis is very active on the community and humanitarian levels. He is a big supporter of sports, culture and many other activities, and creativity and promising initiatives fascinate him. In simple words, his interpretation of the concept of corporate social responsibility is about going the extra mile, giving a helping hand, doing what is right, and making a difference.
Nicolas Barbieri

Nicolas Barbieri holds PhD in Political Science (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona). He is a researcher and lecturer on cultural policy analysis and evaluation. He is author of the article on culture and inequalities for the United Cities and Local Governments “GOLD VI” report. He is co-author of the first Survey of cultural participation and cultural needs in Barcelona. He has published books, chapter books and papers in international journals, available at link. He is the author of the blog http://ubicarse.net
Nidai Güngördü

Nidai Güngördü was born in Limassol in 1958.

After his education in Cyprus, he graduated from Ankara State Architectural Engineering Academy as a Civil Engineer.

In April 1985, he started working as a temporary Civil Engineer in Kyrenia Municipality. He later served as head of the Department of Zoning, Public Works, Water, and Sewerage, respectively. As a result of the examination held in January 1996, he became a Director.

He also took part in and contributed to various non-governmental organizations in Kyrenia.

Güngördü, who became mayor for the first time in June 2014, speaks fluent English, and Greek. He is married and has two children.
Ralph Waltmans

Director of Cultural affairs of the City of Esch-sur-Alzette (Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg), European Capital of Culture 2022

Head of the Culture Department since 2009 and working closely with the CGLU since 2016, when Esch-Alzette became a Pilot city for the Agenda 21 Culture between 2017 and 2020.

His mission is the establishment of the first cultural strategy for the Grand-Duchy, (connexions), developed by him for the city of Esch 2017-2027.

The accomplishment of tasks defined for Esch-sur-Alzette Pilot city was an important step towards the defined objectives.
Rosanna Binacchi

Senior Official of the Ministry of Culture. The Hon Minister’s Cabinet for the coordination of international relations and activities

Master of Art, SPB London; Diploma in European Public Management, International Relations and Negotiations, SNA, Rome.

She has held positions in numerous departments of the Ministry in charge of the coordination of a wide range of international, bilateral, European and multilateral initiatives, including:

The Conference of the G20 Ministers of Culture (Rome 29/30 July 2021);

The G7 Culture Ministers' Meeting (Florence 30/31 March 2017);

The International Conference of the Ministers of Culture of the Countries participating in EXPO Milano 2015, (Milan 30 July/1 August 2015).

Member of delegations on bilateral intergovernmental committees; Project Coordinator of international promotion and exhibition projects in China, the US, Russia, Japan, Cuba, Brazil, Israel, Belgium.

Member of the Advisory Board - Master in Cultural Diplomacy, ALMED – UNICAT, Milan.
Salim Korkmaz

He was born in Adana, Turkey on 4th of December, 1984. He received his undergraduate degree on American Culture and Literature at Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey. He is currently studying for his MA at the Local Government, Urban and Environmental Studies program at Istanbul University.

He started his professional career at Turkish Handball Federation in 2008, and subsequently served as the Coordinator of International Relations. Between 2010 and 2012, he gave lectures in the Applied English-Turkish Translation department at Cappadocia Vocational Colleague, Nevşehir, Turkey.

He joined the UCLG-MEWA team in 2013, and he has been the General Coordinator of UCLG-MEWA since 2017.
Engineer Samira Dhayyat

Currently the Executive director of cultural action group for Arab towns and Executive director of the Arab Forum for Smart Cities, two institutions of the Arab Towns Organization, hosted and sponsored by the Greater Amman Municipality.

She holds a master's degree in business administration and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

She has more than 20 years of experience in government administration and municipal work.

- She worked as a district manager for several areas in the Greater Amman Municipality, Director of the Social Centers Department, and Director of Strategic Planning Department.

She worked as a member and a team leader in several committees in the Greater Amman Municipality, including the Executive Committee of Amman Smart City, the Climate Change Committee, Amman Green City Committee, the Executive Committee for Strategic Planning, and the committees participating in the King Abdullah II Award for Excellence.

She participated as a moderator, a panelist in different conferences, webinars, and workshops.
Sana Ouchtati

Sana Ouchtati, as an independent cultural relations consultant, is steering important initiatives dedicated to International Cultural Relations. She is the Team Leader of the Cultural Relations Platform and is also coordinating MORE EUROPE – external cultural relations- initiative since 2012. She has two Master's degrees, in European Union policies and in International Relations & Business Administration. In 2001-2011, she worked at the European Institutions in Brussels, mainly on trade multilateral and bilateral agreements and has been responsible for the cultural dimension of the EU external relations mainly with ACP Countries, MENA Countries and Emerging Countries before becoming an independent consultant. She has a thorough knowledge of the cultural field, international relations as well as EU policies and instruments dedicated to external relations, culture and intercultural dialogue. She has a thorough knowledge and experience in the MENA and Gulf region.
Şebnem Yücel

Şebnem Yücel’s research questions the representation of places, buildings, and histories, and concentrates on modernization in non-western contexts. She received her BArch (1993) from Middle East Technical University, her MScArch (1998) from University of Cincinnati, and her Ph.D. (2003) from Arizona State University. Her publications include ‘Art Museums and the Middle East: A Contested Territory’; ‘Minority Heterotopias: The Cortijos of Izmir’; and ‘Identity Calling: Turkish Architecture and the West’. She served on the Executive Board of Izmir Chamber of Architects between 2013-2018. She currently teaches at MEF University in Istanbul and is the chair of the Architecture Department.
Sergenç İneler

He was born in 1981 in Izmir. He completed his education at Izmir Private Saint Joseph French High School. He studied Philosophy at METU and successfully completed two master's degree programs as a master's degree student.

He worked as an instructor in EU projects and also worked at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. After he returned to Turkey he started working with the World Bank.

In November 2017, he joined the TARKEM family. He has been working as the General Manager of TARKEM since January 2018.

He is an active member of various non-governmental organizations. The most important issue for him in the Historical Area is; participation, improvement and development.
Dr. Shipra Narang Suri  
Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat, Nairobi

With nearly 25 years of experience within and outside the United Nations, Dr. Shipra Narang Suri leads UN-Habitat’s Urban Practices Branch, which is the hub for UN-Habitat’s normative work and the home of its portfolio of global programmes spread across fifty countries. The Branch leads several major areas of UN-Habitat’s work such as national urban policies; legislation and governance; urban planning and design; planning and health; public space; urban regeneration; land, housing and shelter; urban economy and finance; urban basic services; safer cities; human rights and social inclusion. Dr. Narang Suri is also the senior advisor within UN-Habitat for local governments and their networks. She is a regular public speaker and has numerous publications to her credit.

Twitter: @ShipraSuri ● LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/shipranarangsuri
Silja Fischer studied in Berlin, Moscow and Hamburg. She joined the General Secretariat of the International Music Council (IMC) in 1993 and has served since 2009 as Secretary General. In this capacity, she is notably in charge of IMC’s advocacy action, membership and programme strategies. Silja ensures also the IMC liaison with the UNESCO Secretariat and diplomatic representations of Member States to UNESCO. Besides her great passion for music and its transformative power, Silja strongly believes in strategic collaborations for effective and efficient advocacy work. She represents IMC in various advocacy groups such as the Climate Heritage Network and the #culture2030goal campaign steering group.
Sybilla Britani

Sybilla Britani is the Network Manager at EUNIC, the network of European Union National Institutes for Culture with 38 members from all 27 EU member states and associated countries. EUNIC members join together in over 130 clusters — in cities, regions, and countries — to collaborate together with local partners on common projects and programmes and to promote the role of culture in the EU’s internal and external relations. Sybilla coordinates the strategic and operational development of the global network of 132 clusters spread over 6 continents. Within the network she plays an active role in streamlining the topics of sustainable development and gender equality through culture.
Carles Sánchez Márquez

Carles Sánchez Márquez holds a Ph.D. in Art History from the Autonomous University of Barcelona, where he is a professor in the Department of Art and Musicology. He currently combines teaching with directing the candidacy of the See of Egara for UNESCO World Heritage (Terrassa City Council). His research focuses mainly on cultural heritage and medieval art. He has participated in numerous national and international conferences in Rome, Montpellier, Pisa, Perpignan, Barcelona and Madrid. He is author of the books *A painted tragedy. The martyrdom of Thomas Becket in Santa Maria de Terrassa and the diffusion of its cult in the Iberian Peninsula*, and he has also published several articles in academic and prestigious journals.
Vandana Shiva

Vandana Shiva is one of the pioneering figures of ecofeminism most recognized worldwide. Born in Dehradun, India, Ms Shiva is doctor of Physical Sciences, philosopher of science, ecologist, feminist and pacifist. She directs the Research Foundation for Science, Technology and Natural Resource Policy (RFSTN) in India, which she founded in 1982. She is also the founder of Navdanya, a movement focused on women and dedicated to the promotion of biological and cultural diversity. In her defence of the food cultures treasured by indigenous peoples and their cultural and natural heritage, Vandana Shiva has explicitly linked issues such as food security and climate emergency to neoliberalism, cultural relativism, and the colonization and spoliation of traditional agricultural knowledge. In this sense, she has provided keys to place culture at the core of the global debate on humanity’s challenges. She has especially helped put women and girls, and biodiversity at the forefront of the fight to implement human rights policies, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other global agendas. Her approach to ecofeminism emphasizes scientific knowledge and dissemination as tools to preserve biodiversity and the autonomy of food cultures, and to guarantee people’s cultural rights, including the most at-risk groups, without leaving anyone or any place behind.
Yunus Arıkan

Yunus Arıkan has a Master of Science and Bachelor of Engineering degree at the Middle East Technical University in Ankara, Turkey, as well as a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Environmental Diplomacy from the University of Geneva, Switzerland.

Until 2009, he was involved in promoting cleaner production, climate change and sustainability in Turkey through collaborations with the Turkish government, Parliament, intergovernmental organizations, as well as civil society.

Since 2009, at the World Secretariat of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability in Bonn, Germany, Yunus is leading ICLEI's global advocacy on climate change as well as at the UN bodies and multilateral environmental agreements. He also acts as the Focal Point of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC.
Gunter Axt

Gunter Axt is a historian and currently Porto Alegre’s municipal secretary of culture. He graduated and defended master's degree in History at Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS), Brazil; PhD in Social History at Universidade de São Paulo (USP); and Postdoctoral developed by the Centro de Pesquisas e Documentação da Fundação Getúlio Vargas (CPDOC-FGV). He was visiting professor at the Université Denis Diderot, Paris VII, France. He was researcher associate at the Intolerance Studies Laboratory (LEI), at USP. Author of Gênese do Estado Moderno no Rio Grande do Sul (1889-1929), among other books.
Vannesa Bohórquez López

She studied a degree in Plastic Arts from the National School of Painting, Sculpture and Engraving "La Esmeralda" of the National Institute of Fine Arts and Literature (INBAL). She has studies in contemporary cinematography and a specialization in Contemporary Art.

She has extensive experience in the production of museum spaces and curatorship, among them, the production of the exhibition A Thousand Images of the City, the Louis Hock exhibition, the coordination of the Star Flight project and the co-curator of the exhibition: Dataspace. First electronic art exhibition during the International Contemporary Art Fair.

Throughout her career, she has shown a marked interest in offering cultural programming for children, such as the project A Christmas Story, Art for Children for the Papalote Museum. As a UNESCO advisor, she participated in the research project on Visual Literacy and Rock Art for preschool schools.

She was in charge of the production and artistic realization of the “First Short Film Festival” and the “First Mexico City Film Festival”. As Coordinator of Culture in the Metro Collective Transport System, the last position she held before being designated as Secretary of Culture of Mexico City, she was the leader of the Yoko Ono project, as well as the recovery of the archaeological space Adoratorio de Ehécatl, of the Zócalo subway station; she was also in charge of the creation of the Metro Museum and the Metro Cinema.

She has been a lecturer on various topics related to the promotion of art in education, on cultural policies, museums, art and collecting; She has also participated in the organization of multiple exhibitions in Mexico and abroad.

She is currently the head of the Secretariat of Culture of Mexico City.
Dr. H.C. José Alfonso Suárez del Real y Aguilera

Current Head of the Office of the Head of Government, he served as Secretary of the Government of Mexico City (2020-2021) and Secretary of Culture of Mexico City (2018-2020). He has a recognized career as a journalist and cultural promoter, as well as vast experience in matters of public cultural policies and human rights.

He has been recognized with the National Journalism Award from the Journalists Club (2015 and 2017), José Pagés Llergo Journalism Award (2016). He was a Federal deputy in the LX legislature (2006-2009), in which he served as Secretary and later President of the Culture Commission. As a parliamentarian, he has been a promoter of the Law of Cultural Rights of Inhabitants and Visitors of Mexico City. In the federal council he promoted the recognition of cultural rights in Article 4 of the Federal Constitution (2009).

Luca Bergamo

Co-founding “father” of the 2020 Rome Charter

Luca Bergamo is a cultural professional actively engaged in politics and civil society, father of two sons. From 2016 to 2021 he was the city of Rome’s Vice-Mayor in charge of Cultural Development and UCLG’s Cultura Committee’s Vice-President.

Previously, (2012-16), he was Culture Action Europe’s – the largest European network of the cultural sector and one of its major representatives with the EU - secretary general.

Between 2004 and 2012 he was Director General to the Glocal Forum, an international foundation promoting peace dialogue in post-conflict areas, and later Director General to the Italian Youth National Agency as well as leader of the Youth World Summit, ran in collaboration with several of the major UN Agencies. From 1999 to 2004 he ran Zone Attive, designing and implementing most of the Italian trend-setting initiatives focusing cultural innovation and emerging artists. Since 1994 to then, he was the Head of Youth Policy and member of the leadership for the Rome Municipality reorganisation.

Previously he worked ten years in the ICT sector, being a specialist in knowledge representation for the Olivetti group, with incursion in the AI in collaboration with the National Research Centre.