

ESIR Kick-off Meeting

January 27, 2020

ESIR: an expert group to support **transformative research and innovation policy**



Get in touch at
RTD-ESIR@ec.europa.eu



Sandrine Dixson-Declève: ESIR Chair

Sandrine Dixson-Declève has 30 years of European and international policy, business leadership and strategy experience with a particular focus on EU and international climate change, sustainable development, green growth, conventional and sustainable energy solutions and sustainable finance. She is currently the Co-President of the Club of Rome and a respected senior advisor, facilitator and lecturer.

Sandrine also divides her time between the following positions: Senior Associate and faculty member of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL); Senior Associate, E3G; Special Advisor, Xynteo & Energy Transition Commission (ETC); Senior Advisor, Interel; Chair of the INKEMIA Scientific Advisory Board; Member of the European Aluminium's Sustainability Advisory Board; Member of the IEEP Advisory Board; Member of the Climate KIC Advisory Board and the European Commission's Technical Expert Group on Sustainable Finance; co-founder of the Women Enablers Change Agent Network (WECAN).

Until recently, Sandrine was Chief Partnership Officer for the UN Agency Sustainable Energy for All and prior to that the Director of the Prince of the Wales's Corporate Leaders Group and the EU office of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (2009-2016). During that period, she was also appointed Executive Director of the Green Growth Platform bringing together EU Ministers and CEOs.

She has previously held numerous high-level advisory and professional positions and has published numerous articles, book chapters and given presentations on green growth and competitiveness, innovation, energy solutions, climate change, sustainable development, transport, conventional and alternative fuel quality legislation as well as on trade & environment.





Pierre-Alexandre Balland

Pierre-Alexandre Balland is a Professor of Economic Geography at Utrecht University, and research fellow at the Center for Complex Systems Studies. He has previously held positions at MIT, UCLA, and Lund University.

Pierre-Alexandre is fascinated by how geography shapes and structures human societies. His research focuses on economic geography, innovation studies, science and innovation policies, complex systems, sustainable cities, and structural and dynamic network analysis. On a more applied side, he works with policymakers and companies to solve real-world problems using network analysis and complex systems thinking.



Francesca Bria

Bria is the Chair of the Italian National Innovation Fund. She is Honorary Professor in the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at UCL in London, and a Senior Adviser to the United Nation (UN-Habitat) on digital cities and digital rights.

She is leading the DECODE project on data sovereignty in Europe, and is an adviser to the European Commission on Innovation Policy and Next-Generation Internet. She is the former Chief Digital Technology and Innovation Officer for the City of Barcelona in Spain.

Francesca has a PhD in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from Imperial College, London and MSc on Digital Economy from University of London, Birbeck. As Senior Programme Lead at Nesta, the UK Innovation Agency, she has led the EU D-CENT project, the biggest European project on digital democracy platforms and digital currencies. She also led the DSI4EU project, advising the EU on digital social innovation policies and purpose-driven innovation. She has been teaching in several universities in the UK and Italy and she has advised Governments, public and private organizations on technology and innovation policy, and its socio-economic and environmental impact.





Céline Charveriat

A gifted researcher and passionate advocate, Céline Charveriat has over 15 years' worth of experience in influencing debates, policies, and practices in the field of sustainable development and climate change. She is the Executive Director at IEEP since 2016.

Céline Charveriat began her career in Washington DC as a researcher at the Peterson Institute and the Inter-American Development Bank.

She worked for over 10 years with Oxfam International. She first represented the agency at the WTO and managed its Make Trade Fair campaign, including its landmark advocacy on agricultural export subsidies and domestic support. In 2011, she became Oxfam's Director of Advocacy and Campaigns, based in Brussels, where focusing her high-level representation duties on the issue of European climate change policy and COP21. Céline Charveriat was recently named by Euractiv as the 30th most influential person on EU's Energy Union policy.

Under her leadership, Oxfam expanded its worldwide influencing network, most recently with the opening of a China-Africa platform in Addis Ababa, and it became the third most influential NGO in the area of climate change according to a 2015 poll of sustainability analysts (Globescan).

Until the end of 2019, Céline Charveriat was also the Chair of the Board of the Climate Action Network in Europe.



Kirsten Dunlop

Kirsten's career spans academia, consulting, banking, insurance, strategy, design, innovation and leadership, across three continents. She joined Climate-KIC in February 2017 from an Australian financial services conglomerate, Suncorp.

She is committed to shaping and placing innovation to catalyse profound systemic change. Her vision for Climate-KIC is to co-create a multi-sided marketplace for transformation and the generation of innovation options to achieve a zero-carbon economy and a climate resilient society.

In her role at Suncorp, Kirsten founded and led a bespoke division focused on managing and responding to strategic risk through innovation, transforming core business and industry models from within. Prior to roles in Second Road, KPMG and Suncorp in Australia, Kirsten led the Generali Group Innovation Academy for Assicurazioni Generali in Italy, pioneering proprietary thinking in the areas of Strategic Risk management, strategic innovation, strategic leadership development and cultural change.

Kirsten holds a Ph.D. in cultural history.





César Hidalgo

César A. Hidalgo is a Chilean-Spanish-American physicist, author, and entrepreneur. He holds a Chair at the Artificial and Natural Intelligence Toulouse Institute (ANITI), and is also an Honorary Professor at the University of Manchester and a Visiting Professor at Harvard's School of Engineering and Applied Sciences.

Between 2010 and 2019, Hidalgo led MIT's Collective Learning group, where he was an Associate Professor. Hidalgo is a founder and CEO of Datawheel, a company specialized in the creation of data distribution platforms.

Hidalgo is known for creating the field of Economic Complexity, which uses fine-grained data and network methods to explain and predict patterns of economic development. Hidalgo is also known for creating multiple data distribution systems and for advancing ideas on the use of Artificial Intelligence in democracy.

Hidalgo's work has been honored with the 2018 Lagrange Prize, three Webby Awards, one Information is Beautiful Award, and the Bicentennial Medal of Science of the Chilean Congress. Hidalgo's is the author of Why Information Grows and a lead author of The Atlas of Economic Complexity.



Ailin Huang

Ailin currently leads the portfolio of energy efficiency projects between the International Energy Agency and China, and has in the past engaged closely with the Chinese and German G20 Presidencies on the negotiation of global energy policy priorities.

Deeply passionate about the circular economy, Ailin previously worked at environmental consulting firm EPEA (the 'cradle' of cradle to cradle), and served as rapporteur to the Horizon 2020 Advisory Group for 'Climate Action, Environment, Resource Efficiency and Raw Materials'. She is living out her passion for circular economy and design as a member of the Advisory Board of early stage start-up UNOWN fashion, a leasing platform for sustainable fashion.

She holds BSc and MSc degrees in Environmental Policy and Economics from the London School of Economics and the University of Oxford.





Francisca Martins

Martins is currently working on her medical degree at the Abel Salazar Institute of Biomedical Sciences. While in high school, she and two of her colleagues developed, over the course of three years, an award-winning research project in Microbiology entitled Sheals - Sea Heals Soil.

Since then, she has participated in numerous high-level meetings and conferences, such as the European Commission's "Live Chat with Commissioner Moedas on the occasion of International Day of Women and Girls in Science", highlighting the importance of women and girls in European Research and Innovation, and the European Commission's 2019 Research and Innovation Days talking about how young researchers and policy makers can work together to fight climate change, in a session called "Young, Innovative, Together - for the Climate".

She was also involved in establishing the basis for an Alumni Program under the EU Contest for Young Scientists, which would fulfil the points contemplated in the Bratislava Declaration, as well as create a network that would make cooperation between contestants, alumni, and accomplished researchers not only possible, but the norm.



Montserrat Mir Roca

Montserrat Mir Roca has been a Special Advisor at the Just Transition Centre of the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) and ETUC since July 2019. She was elected as ETUC Confederal Secretary in Paris in 2015, having served as elected International and Cooperation Confederal Secretary of the Spanish trade union CCOO since 2013.

In the ETUC, her areas of work included sustainable development, climate change and energy policy, as well as gender equality and corporate social responsibility. Intergenerational Solidarity and social protection, building the European Pillar of Social Rights workers vision and ETUC position, she was also responsible of the follow-up of the EU Work Life Balance legislative process.

Montserrat started work as an employee with the Spanish postal service Correos in 1983. She was elected as General Secretary of the CCOO postal section in Girona in 1996. From 2000 onwards, as International Secretary of CCOO's postal sector, she was active in the sector's European Dialogue Committee as CSR vice-President and spokesperson. She was also a founding member of the European Social Observatory in the postal sector.

She became a member of the CCOO Confederation national executive in 2008, and member of the national Council from 2008. Member of the ETUC Executive Committee from 2013 since 2019. She has been the Spanish workers representative at the ILO Conference. As a deputy member of the ITUC General Council she took part in trade union delegations to the IMF and the World Bank. She also participated at the L20 /G20 meetings and TUAC/ OECD forums and meetings.





Andrea Renda

Andrea Renda is Professor of Digital Innovation at the College of Europe in Bruges (Belgium). He is a Senior Research Fellow and Head of the CEPS Unit on Global Governance, Regulation, Innovation and the Digital Economy (GRID). He is a non-resident Senior Fellow at Duke University's Kenan Institute for Ethics. For 2018/2020, he is also a Research Fellow of the Columbia Institute for Tele-Information (CITI) at Columbia University, New York.

In August 2019, he was named Fellow of the World Academy of Art and Science. His current research interests include regulation and policy evaluation, regulatory governance, innovation and competition policies, and the ethical and policy challenges of emerging digital technologies, in particular Artificial Intelligence. A very prolific author and keynote speaker, Andrea provides regular advice to several institutions, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the OECD, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and many more. He was the main author of key studies on better regulation for the European Commission, the OECD and the World Bank. He sits in the Board of the journals Telecommunications Policy (Elsevier), and European Journal of Risk Regulation (Cambridge). He is currently a member of the EU High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence.



Daria Tataj

Dr. Daria Tataj, Founder & CEO of Tataj Innovation, is an expert on high-performance innovation ecosystems. Following her post-doc at the University of Michigan, Daria returned to her home, Poland, and founded the company to commercialise her research.

In collaboration with Prof. Manuel Castells, Dr. Tataj has been developing a new transformational approach to strategic networking for innovation. She built the Network IQ Competence Index and empowers entrepreneurs through Network Thinking strategic solutions.

Dr. Tataj is an experienced policy innovator. She was the Chair of RISE High-Level group of advisors to Carlos Moedas, EU Commissioner for Research, Science & Innovation (2015-2019). She served as an Executive Member of the EIT Governing Board (2008-2014). Her advocacy for entrepreneurship and the competitive funding model of the EIT and the KICs impacted over 1000 organizations across Europe.

A global influencer, Daria served on the Global Agenda Council of the World Economic Forum, was recognized as the Digital Leader in 2017 and is a member of Los100deCOTEC in Spain. She currently serves on the Advisory Boards of Attract Consortium, Re-Imagine Europa, and Digital Future Society of Mobile World Capital Barcelona. An advocate for women empowerment, Daria received the title 'Social Innovator 2014' in Poland.



Excused ESIR Members



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ESIR Support Team

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