

# AI AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES FOR INCLUSION:

Leaving no one behind in the digital transition

18-19 JUNE 2024

 Málaga, Spain



## Setting the scene: Taking a closer look into the world of AI



**David Timis** is the Global Communications & Public Affairs Manager at Generation, a leading global employment program. With a passion for preparing individuals for the future of work, his expertise lies in reskilling, employment, and technology. David holds degrees in Business and Management from the University of Glasgow and European Political and Governance Studies from the College of Europe. With over a decade of experience in marketing, communications, and public affairs, he has worked with prominent organizations like Google, L'Oréal, and BCW. David is a sought-after speaker, having delivered keynote speeches on technology's impact on the future of work for esteemed clients such as TEDx, Google, and the European Commission. He has been recognized as an Influential Leader by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 List for his efforts in equipping young people with digital skills, and invited by the World Economic Forum to participate in the Davos Lab.

## Panel Discussion: What's new? Exploring AI & technologies for inclusion



**Almudena Alcaide Raya** holds a degree in Mathematical Sciences from the Complutense University of Madrid and a PhD in Computer Science from Carlos III University of Madrid. Her professional career has spanned both the public and private sectors. For over 10 years, she was part of the ICT Security Group at Carlos III University of Madrid, engaging in teaching and research, with over 35 articles published in specialized journals and books. She later founded and led the Cybersecurity Training Service for Deloitte EMEA. Also in the security field, she directed the Digital Forensics and Incident Response (DFIR) Professional Services team at One eSecurity. Currently, in the field of accessibility, she is responsible for the R&D department at Fundación ONCE.



**Beatriz Barros** has a Ph.D. in Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence) from the Polytechnic University of Madrid (1999), Spain. She has been a Full Professor at the University of Malaga since 2017. Her research interests include the design of adaptive and interactive learning environments, collaborative learning systems, and the development of efficient solutions for data analysis.



**Christopher Patnoe** is the Head of Accessibility and Disability Inclusion for EMEA at Google. He leads Google's efforts around the accessibility of product, people, policy and partnerships across EMEA - with a particular focus on Emerging Markets. He has almost 30 years experience in Tech working at companies like Apple, Sony Ericsson and Disney where he's built hardware, software, games, and services. His current passion is Accessibility at the intersection of immersive technologies (xR) and consumer hardware. He is the chair for the Immersive Captions Community Group with the W3C, is the Accessibility Working Group Co-Chair for the XR Association, and is a member of the board for SCOPE and sat on the Board of Trustees for the American Foundation for the Blind.



**Miguel Angel Ruiz** has almost 25 years of experience in the IT sector, with extensive experience in leading companies like Madritel, Retevisión, Amena and Orange. 15 years ago, he joined Samsung Electronics as Head of Content and Digital services in Samsung Spain for Internet, Mobile and Consumer Electronics. At Samsung, Miguel Angel's role is focused on the goal of breaking down barriers through technology, hand in hand with partners who share Samsung's vision of investing resources in order to improve people's lives and help them to reach their full potential. For the last six years, he has led the strategic area of Brand and Innovation, promoting the role of technology as a key element in improving people's lives, placing particular emphasis on collaboration with both public and private organisations, in areas such as education, culture, employability and entrepreneurship, accessibility and wellbeing.

#### Moderator:



**Chloé Touzet** is an independent policy analyst with over 8 years of experience researching social and employment policy issues in academic, government, and international organisation settings (including Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government and the OECD's Directorate for Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs). Chloé has worked on issues spanning job quality, the role of collective bargaining, working time policy, teleworking, and the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the Future of Work. In 2023 she led the OECD research project looking at the challenges and opportunities of using AI to facilitate access to the labour market for people with disabilities.

### Expert Discussion: Ethics in the age of AI. Moving beyond bias and discrimination



**Idoia Salazar** is the founder and president of the Observatory for the Social and Ethical Impact of Artificial Intelligence (OdiselA). Currently working on the development of the Pilot (Sandbox) for the regulation of Artificial Intelligence with the Government of Spain, as well as on the design of the National Seal on Artificial Intelligence and the Algorithm Supervision Agency (AESIA). She is a member of the expert team on AI (regulation and governance) of the European Parliament's Artificial Intelligence Observatory, and the World Economic Forum (WEF). Additionally, she is part of UNESCO's Women4Ethical AI (W4EAI).

Salazar is a PhD professor at the CEU San Pablo University, specializing in Ethics and Regulation in Artificial Intelligence, and Director of the International ENIA Public Chair on 'Generative AI: Challenges and Risks'. She is the author of 4 books on the social impact of AI and other new technologies. The latest ones are: 'The Algorithm and I: A Guide to Living Together with Humans and Artificial' and 'The Myth of the Algorithm: Tales and Accounts of Artificial Intelligence'.



**Inmaculada Placencia Porrero** is a Senior Expert in Disability and Inclusion at Directorate-General Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion at the European Commission. Her unit is responsible for the coordination of European policies for persons with disabilities. She works on European disability policies, leading the European Disability Strategy 2021-2030, and the EU implementation of the UNCRPD. Inmaculada holds a degree in Physics and Computer Science and worked in research and development before joining The European Commission in 1991. She has worked on research programmes addressing accessibility as well as assistive technologies and was Deputy Head of Unit for various disability-related units in the Commission. Her work in the "e-Inclusion"

unit of the Directorate-General for Information Society and Media addressed accessibility policy. While at the Directorate-General for Justice she contributed to disability-related antidiscrimination legislation. She was responsible for the Task Force for the preparation of the European Accessibility Act and remains responsible since its adoption in 2015.



**Maureen Piggot OBE** is a member of EDF's Executive Committee, as the key person to projects on AI. She is a former President of Inclusion Europe, the association of people with intellectual disability. Maureen has worked in education, social services and the disability sector. As Director of Mencap in Northern Ireland from 1990 to 2014, her responsibilities included was the delivery of services including early intervention, employment, housing, information and advocacy. In the same period, she participated in projects using AI to support daily living tasks in TIDE and Telematics programmes of the European Union and contributed as an expert to the drafting of the 4th Framework. She led an expert study visit

to North America to review developments in assistive technology and the impact of The Americans with Disabilities Act. In 2008 her advocacy for rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disability was recognised with an award of the Order of the British Empire.



**Pilar Villarino** is linked by profession and conviction to the disability third sector of social action through her work at CERMI, where she began her activity in 2001, after an eight-year stay in Brussels. Strong advocate of the European Union. Convinced that social transformation is achieved through digital transformation. Executive Director of CERMI and Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the CERMI Women's Foundation.

She is Co-Director of the CERMI's Generosity, Gender and Disability Collection. Publications: CERMI Digital Transformation Plan 2023 (Colección Inclusión y Diversidad, 2023), Europe: Building Inclusion People's Europe, a Shared Hope (Colección Inclusión y Diversidad, 2022), Treaty on Disability (Thompson Aranzadi, 2007), Towards a Disability Law, (Thompson Aranzadi, 2009), 10 years of non-discrimination legislation in Spain (Ediciones CINCA, 2012), Manual on Gender Mainstreaming in Public Policies on Disability (Ediciones CINCA, 2012).

She holds a Law Degree from the University of Santiago de Compostela and a master's degree in European Communities from the Polytechnic University. She has completed specialisation courses in Management of Non-Profit Organisations (UNED) and in Digital Transformation (IEBS).



## Afternoon Workshop Sessions

### 1. When does a patient become a person? Moving towards a technology-enabled and community-based continuity of supporting services



**Furio Gramatica** is Director of Development & Innovation at Don Gnocchi Foundation, where he formerly managed technological research and founded the Laboratory of Nanomedicine and Clinical Biophotonics (LABION). Previously, he spent several years at CERN, in Geneva and in high-tech companies, with research, development and innovation management roles. He has twenty years of experience as an expert for the European Commission in the field of health technologies, in models of cooperation between the parties involved in the ecosystem of health technologies and in value-based healthcare.



**Giada Venier** is policy officer at the Department of Development & Innovation at Don Gnocchi Foundation, where she monitors and analyses EU policy and regulatory developments on health technologies, innovation and digital transformation of healthcare systems. Previously, she was a policy assistant at the European Platform for Rehabilitation in Brussels, where she worked on disability rights and social policies in close contact with EU institutions and civil society organizations. She holds a Master's degree in conference interpreting with English and Russian and a Master of Arts in international public affairs.



**Malcom MacLachlan** is Professor of Psychology and Social Inclusion, and Co-director of the ALL (Assisting Living & Learning) Institute at Maynooth University, and Honorary Professor in the Department of Psychiatry & Mental Health, University of Cape Town. He has worked as clinical psychologist, academic, organisational consultant and policy adviser in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America; with government, civil society, industry and United Nations agencies. Mac was the inaugural Clinical Lead for the National Clinical Programme for People with Disabilities in the Irish Health Service and the Research & Innovation Lead for WHO's Global Collaboration on Assistive Technology (GATE) programme. He was also Knowledge Management Lead for the United Nations' Partnership for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD). He is a Fellow of the Psychological Society of Ireland, the British Psychological Society, and the Rehabilitation & Engineering Society of North America; and a Member of the Royal Irish Academy. He is the recipient of a number of awards, including the British Psychological Society's Award for Promoting Equality of Opportunity (2018). Mac has led many international research consortia and has just completed the Smart & Healthy Ageing through People Engaging in Supportive Systems (SHAPES) project funded by the EC Horizon programme.

## 2. Improving organisational efficiency with AI for social services providers



**Borja García** is a Computer Engineer with a Master's degree in E-Business and a Master's degree in Cybersecurity. He also completed the Executive Development Program (PDD) at IESE in 2016. With over 20 years of experience in the technology sector, he has held various senior positions in different companies in Spain. Since 2022, he is the Head of IT in the Corporate Technology and Cybersecurity Department at Fundación ONCE and Inserta



**Timo Heiskala** is the CEO of Autism Foundation Finland. He has over 20 years of expertise in the disability field in different organizations. His EMBA thesis concentrated in service design. Under his lead Autism Foundation Finland has doubled in size and thus has been able to serve more individuals on the spectrum.



**Veronika Kaska** has worked at Astangu VRC for the last seven years. Veronika has a background in the sector of internal security with work experience at both the Estonian Ministry of the Interior and the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences. Her experience ranges from legislative drafting, participating in the EU policy processes, negotiations with third countries to writing studies. At Astangu VRC she's responsible for the Administrative and Development Department, and related issues. She has a BA and MA in law from Tartu University, and a BA in public administration and a MSc in information system design and planning from Tallinn University of Technology.

## 3. AI & new tech: inspiring practices from across Europe



**Bhagya Goonewardhane** is a seasoned technology strategist and Head of Business Development at Envision Technologies, where he works towards expanding the company's global impact. Hailing from Sri Lanka and now based in the Netherlands, Bhagya brings over a decade of diverse experience in the tech and startup ecosystems across Asia and Europe. With a background in biomedical engineering, Bhagya possesses a unique blend of technical expertise and business acumen. Since joining Envision in 2021, he has been instrumental in driving the company's growth trajectory and spearheading initiatives that transcend geographical boundaries. One of Bhagya's key initiatives at Envision is the Envision for Enterprise program, aimed at enhancing employment opportunities for blind and low-vision individuals. Through strategic partnerships with employers, Envision Technologies provides their technology solutions to increase independence and accessibility in the workplace, empowering individuals with blindness and low-vision to thrive professionally.



**Elli Kafritsa** is a dedicated professional with a passion for inclusion, to promote acceptance and drive positive change. Pursuing an MSc in Language Technology at the National & Kapodistrian University of Athens. As a Social Media Officer at MARGARITA VTC, she leads the #asgnoristoume campaign, highlighting the talents of adults with intellectual and other neurodevelopmental disabilities. Committed to preparing adults with intellectual disabilities for employment, I teach essential digital skills. Works at special therapy centers, providing individualized instruction and support to students with a wide range of disabilities.



**Maria José Santofimia Romero** holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and a Law degree from the University of Castilla-La Mancha, as well as degrees in Computer Science Engineering and an MSc in Computer System Security. As an Associate Professor at the University of Castilla-La Mancha, she has published over 26 relevant journal articles and has been involved in numerous projects, leading three of them. Her work demonstrates a significant impact in the fields of AI, tech ethics, and gerontechnology. Bridging academic research with practical applications in technology and education is a central aspect of her work.

## Closing Session: New digital infrastructures to address complex societal challenges



**Gorka Espiau Idoiaga** (PhD) is the Director at the “Agirre Lehendakaria Center for Social and Political Studies”, a University of the Basque Country and Columbia University (AC4) collaborative research initiative. Espiau is also a founding partner of Social Innovation Laboratory Koop (SILK) and Scientific Director of Work4Progress initiative powered by La Caixa Foundation. Previously, he served as Senior Advisor to the Executive Office of the Basque President.

## Panel Discussion. The impact of AI on employment



**Chloé Touzet** is an independent policy analyst with over 8 years of experience researching social and employment policy issues in academic, government, and international organisation settings (including Oxford University's Blavatnik School of Government and the OECD's Directorate for Employment, Labour, and Social Affairs). Chloé has worked on issues spanning job quality, the role of collective bargaining, working time policy, teleworking, and the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in the Future of Work. In 2023 she led the OECD research project looking at the challenges and opportunities of using AI to facilitate access to the labour market for people with disabilities.





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to North America to review developments in assistive technology and the impact of The Americans with Disabilities Act. In 2008 her advocacy for rights and inclusion of people with intellectual disability was recognised with an award of the Order of the British Empire.



**Stefan Tromel** has been serving as a Senior Disability Specialist at the International Labour Organization since August 2013. Prior to this role, from 2008 to 2013, he held the position of Executive Director at the International Disability Alliance. During the period of 2002-2006, he played an active role in the negotiation process of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

**Moderator:**



**Sabina Lobato** has 25 years of experience in the disability sector linked to the ONCE Foundation, where she is currently the Director of Training and Employment, Operations and Studies of the ONCE Foundation.

Throughout her career she has promoted and launched many successful projects related to training and employment of people with disabilities and she is considered an expert in that field.

She’s Member of the Plenary of the Spanish High Council on Statistics and Vice Chair of the European Platform for Rehabilitation (EPR).

**What does meaningful stakeholder engagement look like in the context of AI?**



**Jutta Treviranus** is the Director of the Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC) and professor in the faculty of Design at OCAD University in Toronto (<http://idrc.ocadu.ca> ). Jutta established the IDRC in 1993 as the nexus of a growing global community that proactively works to ensure that our digitally transformed and globally connected society is designed inclusively. Dr. Treviranus also founded an innovative graduate program in inclusive design at OCAD University. Jutta is credited with developing an inclusive co-design methodology that has been adopted by large enterprise companies such as Microsoft, as well as public sector organizations internationally. Jutta has coordinated many research networks with and by people with disabilities. Jutta was recognized for her work in AI by Women in AI with the AI for Good -

DEI AI Leader of the Year award as well as by Women in AI Ethics. She is the chair of the Accessible and Equitable Artificial Intelligence standards committee for the Accessible Canada Act.



**Bianca Prins**, accessibility trailblazer, holds the position of Global Head of Accessibility at ING Bank, based in The Netherlands. As a groundbreaker for ING's accessibility strategy, policy, Accessibility Center of Expertise, and Steering Committee embedding accessibility into ING BAU, she has become one of the leading accessibility experts in banking. Since 2022, she has also been CPACC certified by IAAP, garnering recognition as an international Accessibility professional. Beyond her role at ING, Bianca advocates for increasing attention to the economic (or "purple") value of the disability community for businesses. She feels a strong responsibility towards the global business accessibility community, maintaining close ties

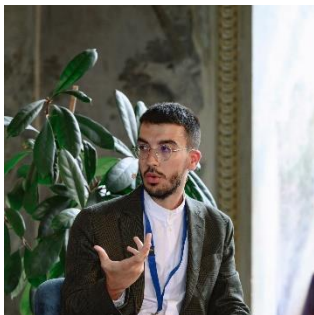
to both national and international politics, business networks, and disability community representatives. Her professional research papers and advice papers are published via CV Works.

#### Moderator:



**Kave Noori** has been the Artificial Intelligence Policy Officer at the European Disability Forum (EDF) since January 2023. He advocates for the EU AI Act to protect persons with disabilities and helps EDF member organisations to build their capacity in the areas of AI and disability rights. Kave also writes weekly articles for the Swedish Data Protection Forum and is a member of Accessible Standards Canada's technical committee on Accessible and Equitable Artificial Intelligence Systems.

### Inspirational Speaker: The Inclusive Revolution. New Art Practices for Robust AI Services



**Manuel Delgado Meroño** is a Spanish visual artist devoted to accessible and collaborative art. His projects usually include artists from different cultures and disciplines and the spectator is given an active role in the process of co-creation. He is currently exploring artificial intelligence techniques to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities in cultural spaces. Manuel is also a PhD candidate in bioethics applied to artificial intelligence at the Comillas Pontifical University (Madrid), where he investigates the impact of artificial intelligence-based algorithms in the well being of minors. Manuel Delgado holds a double bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science, a bachelor's degree in Philosophy, an MA in

International Relations and an MA in European Political Studies



Co-funded by  
the European Union