

Confirmed external speakers so far



Nuria Oliver is a computer scientist and holds a Ph.D. from the Media Lab at MIT. She is well known for her work in computational models of human behavior, human computer-interaction, intelligent user interfaces, mobile computing and big data for social good. She is a frequent keynote speaker both for technical and non-technical audiences and regularly collaborates with and is featured by the media. Being very passionate about the power of technology to improve our quality of life, both individually and collectively she invests significant effort in to make technology more accessible to non-technical audiences and to inspire young people to pursue careers in technology.



Robert Schaffner has worked in the IT market since 1992. After a degree in engineering and additional technical certifications, he worked as consultant, trainer, manager and entrepreneur: cofounder of two companies in the field of System Integration and Software Business (acquired by a Canadian company in 2013). Today, Robert develops and delivers training across the globe, primarily in Europe and Asia. He's passionate by the idea that technology has the influential power to change organizations by enabling people, but sees technology also as one key driver to achieve sustainability in business and society.



Nicola Rosa Product strategist, experience designer, and digital transformation expert, Nicola is currently part of the Accenture Digital UKI where he is the Go-To Market Lead for XR (AR, VR, and MR). A key part of his role is to use User Centric Design and Digital Transformation frameworks to create innovative, transformational, business sounding solutions for his clients using immersive technologies.

Nicola is also a Design Thinking practitioner and trainer, and he has been invited to speak at industry events as the VRShow, VRWorld and TechXLR8 about user experience, product strategy, and the future of the immersive media. With more than 15 years of experience in the media and entertainment industry, Nicola worked for companies like Atari, Google, Spotify, Yahoo!, Virgin Radio and IBM iX designing B2E, B2B and B2C digital products and numerous App Store hits.



David Banes is an independent consultant with over 30 years' experience of supporting access and inclusion through technology. He is director of David Banes Access and Inclusion offering a wide range of services drawing upon a network of associates and is former CEO of Mada (Qatar Assistive Technology Center) He works extensively across the world supporting the implementation of assistive technologies. He worked as a teacher of people with special needs and principal of a school before working in the realm of digital Inclusion in the UK and Europe as Director of Operations and Development for a UK NGO.



Jutta Treviranus is a full Professor at the Ontario College of Art and Design University (OCADU) in Toronto, Canada. She is the Director and Founder of the Inclusive Design Research Centre (IDRC) and the Inclusive Design Institute (IDI). She's an expert in the three dimensions of inclusive design – empowering and responding to our personal human uniqueness, creating inclusive processes of co-design that everyone can participate in, and taking into account our connection to the complex systems that make up our changing world.

Treviranus is a world expert in the field of Inclusive Design and has made appearances at the White House and United Nations.



Jiri Branka works in the fields of skill needs analysis, forecasting and labour market intelligence (LMI). He is an expert at the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Education and Training (Cedefop) since 2016. Jiri is responsible for developing of data content for the Skills Panorama website and he is engaged in designing of LMI tools for various user groups, from policy makers and researchers to career guidance intermediaries. In Cedefop, he also participates on research related to the use of big data analysis for the LMI tools and impact of emerging technologies on jobs and skills. He contributed to Cedefop's study '*Digitalisation, AI and the future of work*' project which analyses the impact and drivers of digitalisation and automation, spurred by advanced in robotics, artificial intelligence (AI) and other digital technologies, on employment and changing skill needs and skill mismatch.



David Pollard lectures in Innovation, Creativity, Design Thinking and Enterprise Development at Tangent, Trinity College Dublin's Idea Workspace and is a Lecturer of Technology and Learning at the National College of Ireland. He is also the Innovation Manager for the Rehab Group where his work on smart rooms has seen him appear on Forbes.

David's initiatives include co-founding and organizing Techstars Startup Week Dublin and over 30 national hackathons in the areas of education, health, sustainability, and smart cities. David has won global hackathons, most recently winning a fellowship with the Institute of the Future for a platform to support disabled people in employment. Recently, he was one of Ireland's national curators of *The pan-European hackathon*, aiming to develop innovative solutions to overcome societal challenges related to coronavirus.



Colin Keogh Colin is an award-winning innovative Engineer, with qualifications & experience in innovative technologies in the Mechanical Engineering, Business and Innovation sectors. He is currently leading new research in the Energy, SDG's, Additive Manufacturing and Innovation fields at UCD, with a focus on policy & technology forecasting, enhanced innovation methodologies, additive manufacturing, 3rd world impact and integrating advanced technologies into social, environmental, philanthropic and entrepreneurial activities. He co-founded a social enterprise in 2014, The Rapid Foundation, which aims to disperse 3d printing technology to 3rd world locations and conduct printing workshops with schools in the UK and Ireland. Its goal is to change the way developmental aid is distributed, and improve the innovation potential of all people, regardless of their circumstances. Colin is also an active technology consultant and developer, advising a number of companies and bodies, from small start-ups to government departments, in areas such as disruptive technologies, engineering practice, advanced energy systems, innovation, design and early stage growth & prototyping.



June Lowery is Head of Unit at the European Commission's DG CNECT, where she is responsible for web accessibility, multilingualism/language technology and internet safety for children. Originally from the North East of England, she will join us today from Luxembourg, where she has worked for the EU for nearly 25 years.



David Maguire is senior analyst in the policy team of The King's Fund, an independent charitable organisation working to improve health and care in England. David is responsible for the analysis of quantitative data, using a range of methods, across topics including workforce, primary care, inequalities, productivity and social care. Before joining the Fund, David worked at the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland where he supported managers to make their services more financially sustainable. He has an MA in health economics from the University of York and previous experience in the commissioning sector in Northern Ireland.



Lidia Best is a vice-Chairman of ITU JCA-AHF (International Telecommunication Union Joint Coordination Activities on Accessibility and Human Factors) and internationally recognised accessibility expert and advocate for persons who are deaf or hard of hearing. She brings her unique knowledge as an expert with lived experience, as a person who is hard of hearing and a cochlear implant user since 2009. Her work has specific focus on accessibility and quality of hearing care for deaf and hard of hearing people including policy development, training, and consulting. She contributed to work on standards as a member of G3ict delegation to ITU in telecoms relay services, captioning and assistive listening devices, she is an editor of the ITU FSTP-RCSO "Overview of remote captioning services" and H.871 "Safety requirements for wearable audio augmenting devices" the recommendation on personal sound amplifiers. Previously as a vice President of EFHOH (The European Federation of Hard of Hearing People) she oversaw development of the reports into situation of hard of hearing and deafened people in Europe in areas of employment, hearing care and accessibility. In UK, Lidia is a Chairman of the National Association of Deafened People (NADP).



Jesús Hernández Galán Director of Universal Accessibility and Innovation of Fundación ONCE, Vice President of the European Network for Accessible Tourism ENAT and Professional Coach. He has been General Director and CEO of Fundosa Accessibility. Doctor Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Madrid, MBA and Master in Environmental Management. It is PDG (General Management Program) and PADITT (Senior Management Program of Research, Innovation and Technology Transfer Institutions) by IESE. Innovation Expert from Stanford University and the London School of Economics. He has participated in many research projects, as well as in more than 10 doctoral theses as co-director or member of the court. He is a member of the jury of the most prestigious accessibility awards both nationally and internationally. Patron of several foundations.