2017 European Social Innovation Competition
Judges Biographies

Inés BEBEA, Ondula, Spain, @bbaobabb

Telecommunications engineer, actress and educator. Enthusiastic explorer of minds and hearts, on constant search of connections. She firmly believes that everything is interrelated, so she combines knowledge and experience for personal development, linking her interests for education, science, technology, arts, yoga and philosophy, to name a few examples. She is an atypical engineer, who made her way through cooperation for development and sustainability to then reach the field of education and pedagogy, contributing this experience along with her journey in social theatre and alternative therapies.

Cédric CLAQUIN, 1DLab, France, @bigbroz13

Label manager, co-founder of the national French indie label federation CD1D and of the first fairtrade streaming platform 1D touch, Cedric Claquin has been a communication consultant for private and public organizations for many years. Convinced ecosapiens, passionate for alternative models, collaborative economy and new forms of innovation, he drives for the cooperative company 1D Lab (that he co-founded in 2014) the departments of international development, prospective and design thinking. He contributes as a speaker to the Master 2 MCA of Lyon 2 university, to a digital tribune at Observatoire des politiques culturelles and to international musical events (Midem, Mama, European lab, % pop etc).
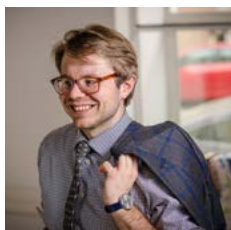
Szilvi KOLESZAR, Skool, Hungary

Curator and Co-Founder of Technology in Education Foundation, an independent nonprofit focused on empowering young women to pursue careers in technology and engineering. It is actively involved in improving the study and career opportunities of underprivileged children.

Szilvi has a strong experience in the technology sector, having previously worked for LogMeIn for 8 years on bringing in more talents. She has experience in strategic and operative management, and she is the legal and financial representative of the Foundation. She is also the Founder of Budapest Startup Jobs and Nagyikam.

Christian KREUTZ, Crisscrossed, Germany, @ckreutz

Christian is a digital and social innovation expert, who has worked in the field for over 10 years. He has provided organizations, such as the United Nations, World Bank, GIZ and the German government, with the necessary knowledge, insights and tools to foster social innovation. Christian is also the founder of WeThinq, a social innovation platform, which supports organizations and companies to solve challenges through collective intelligence. WeThinq successful projects range from renewable energy, citizen participation, future mobility to sustainable product solutions. Christian is a political scientist, a programmer by passion, and a problem-solver enthusiast around digital participation. He is always exploring new trends and ways on how new technologies (e.g. Open Data and Artificial Intelligence) can drive social change.
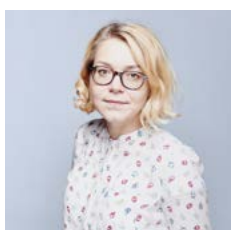
Juha LEPPANEN, Demos, Finland, @juhaleppanen

Juha Leppänen is a social scientist (M.Soc.Sc.) and the CEO of Demos Effect. Demos Effect is a strategy, foresight and co-creation consultancy and part of Demos Helsinki, Finland's leading independent think tank. Juha has previously worked as theme area director at Demos Helsinki. During his years at Demos Helsinki, Juha has led multiple strategy, foresight and co-creation processes for both public and private institutions. He is an experienced speaker and facilitator with over 100 keynotes and workshops with special focus on themes including government innovation, inclusive technologies and platform governance. Prior to his work at Demos, Juha co-founded an award-winning startup tackling click journalism.

Laura ORESTANO, Social Fare, Italy, @lauraorestano

Laura is CEO at SocialFare |Center for Social Innovation Italy. She has extensive experience in social entrepreneurship creation and social innovation ecosystems and is GM of the very first social impact acceleration program for startups in Italy.
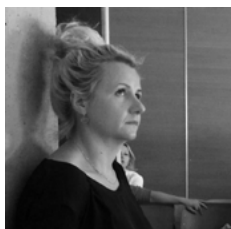
Laura focuses her work on how to leverage social value so that it may generate economic value for different communities and society as a whole. She is also committed to developing a systemic growth approach that includes impact investing as one of the main pillars. She is a member and advisor for various organizations and in 2016 was awarded the WEF Prize "Iconic Trail Blazer Woman of the Decade".

Roxana RUGINA, Simplon.co, Romania, @RoxanaRugina

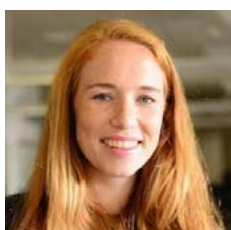Learning & Development Technology Expert, Founder & CEO of Simplon Romania, Program Manager @Spherik Accelerator.

Roxana is a technologist and communication expert engaged in social and disruptive innovation, passionate about startups and the future of education.

Anna SIENICKA, TechSoup, Poland, @sienicka_anna

Director of Fundacja TechSoup, responsible for coordinating both strategic direction and the day-to-day operations of the European hub for TechSoup Global.

She joined TechSoup Global from The Foundation for Social and Economic Initiatives, an NGO focused on building a more inclusive labour market through civil society and social enterprise development. Anna was responsible for the programmatic design and management of projects and programs in Poland and the Ukraine while leading related cross-sector and cross-border initiatives. Anna has also held a position of the head of the legal group of the Council for Public Benefit Work and was a member on the Polish Prime Minister's Social Economy Task Force.

Jessica STACEY, Bethnal Green Ventures, United Kingdom, @JessStacey

Jessica is a Partner at Bethnal Green Ventures (BGV), an early stage investor and accelerator programme for startups using technology to solve big social and environmental problems. She's been involved with four BGV accelerator cohorts to date, mentoring over 40 early stage social ventures and providing support around strategy, communications and fundraising.

She leads on programme and community partnerships at BGV and runs the London Tech for Good meetup – which now has over 5000 members interested in technology and social innovation.

Prior to BGV she worked at Nesta, the UK's innovation foundation, where she led research on supporting startups and early stage social ventures. She has a background in PR and communications. refugees. In 2015, SINGA gathered in France a community of over 20 000 members and created new structures in countries such as Germany, Belgium, or Canada.

Sacha van TONGEREN, Amsterdam 021, the Netherlands

Sacha is an innovation program lead at the Amsterdam Public Library, creating makerspaces in different library branches. Visitors can learn about digital technologies and participate in educational programs aimed at the so-called 21st century skills, a combination of digital fabrication, physical computing and programming. 'Learning by making' is the leading principle for the program.

Throughout Sacha's career she has come to understand the value of knowledge creation in an open innovation context. In recent years she has developed a range of projects and programs connecting arts, technology and society.

Madara ULANDE, Social Entrepreneurship Association, Latvia, @madaraulande

Director of Social Entrepreneurship Association of Latvia, member of the Social Enterprise Law Parliamentary working group. Madara has more than 12 years of experience working with civic society and activist groups around the world - youth initiatives in Europe, social justice organizations in Argentina, climate movement in New Zealand. As the CEO of the e-democracy platform MyVoice in Latvia she was working directly with the Parliament to bring citizens initiatives to life. As the co-author of an e-democracy initiative MyPresident, she was able to get thousands of people raising their voice during the 2015 Presidential election in Latvia, making sure people's opinion is being taken into account. At the moment Madara works with experts, organizations, enterprises and stakeholders involved in social entrepreneurship industry in Latvia, together building a sustainable national level social entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Vasilis VLACHOKYRIAKOS, OpenLab, Greece, @vasilisvla

Vasilis's work centres on designing, developing and evaluating novel, digitally-enabled models of citizen participation that engage communities in developing the future of local service provision, decision-making and democracy.

He is currently running the Open Lab: Athens initiative. OL:Athens, through engagement with the social and solidarity economy in Greece and the embedding of researchers in contexts of civic significance, aims to design and develop digital systems to facilitate and extend the civic activities of solidarity structures (e.g. systems for logistics, communications, decision-making etc.). It aims to invent digital systems that will extend the solidarity economy by embedding its values (i.e. equity, cooperation, environmental sustainability etc.) in the design of systems for wider reach.

More generally, he is interested in the intersection of open source software and the solidarity economy, e-participation, e-democracy and human computer interaction.