06 innoLab

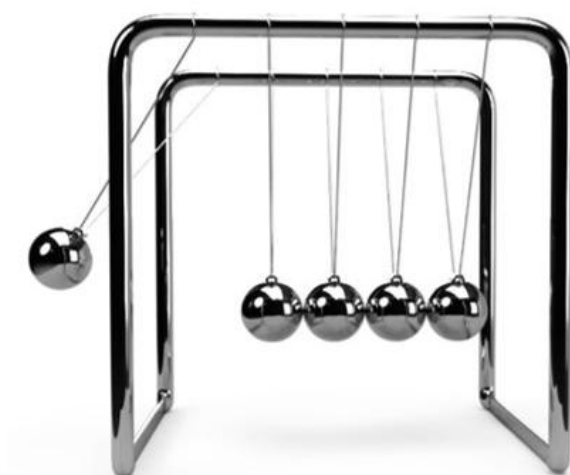## ASEF HIGHER EDUCATION

Universities' Role in Developing Skills for an AI-Powered Future

2-5 December 2025
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice | Košice, Slovakia

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AE4AI NETWORK

No.	Prefix	First Name	Last Name	Country of Residence	Main Designation / Position	Main University / Organisation
1.	Dr	Aneela	YASMIN	Australia	VE Teacher	RMIT University
2.	Dr	Fernaz Narin	NUR	Bangladesh	Professor	Daffodil International University
3.	Dr	Lafifa	JAMAL	Bangladesh	Professor	University of Dhaka
4.	Mr	Marco	COMOTTI	Belgium	Web Project Administrator	Erasmus Student Network
5.	Dr	Tiong Hoo	LIM	Brunei Darussalam	Associate Professor	Universiti Teknologi Brunei
6.	Prof	Yi	SHEN	China	Professor of SIRPA & Director of the International Research Institute of Global Cyberspace Governance	Fudan University
7.	Mrs	Leïla	BENABDALLAH	France	President	OCEANS Network
8.	Prof	Sabrina	SCHARPEN	Germany	Professor of Creative Producing and Audiovisual Media	BHT - Berlin University of Applied Sciences and Technology
9.	Ms	Stefanie	ENGERT	Germany	Senior Desk Officer for the ASEM Education Process	German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
10.	Dr	Dalma Lilla	DOMINEK	Hungary	Associate Professor	Ludovika University of Public Service
11.	Mr	Krisztián	GÁL	Hungary	Ecosystem Lead	28DIGITAL
12.	Dr	Tuan	TRINH	Hungary	Regional Director	28DIGITAL
13.	Dr	Zsolt	ALMÁSI	Hungary	Head of Department, Associate Professor	Pázmány Péter Catholic University
14.	Mr	Anshumaan	GOEL	India	PhD Scholar	O.P. Jindal Global University
15.	Dr	Madhuri	ISAVE	India	Associate Professor	S.P.Mandalis Tilak College of Education Pune India
16.	Dr	Manmeet	KAUR	India	Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School	O.P Jindal Global University
17.	Prof	Karanam	PUSHPANADHAM	India	Professor and Head, Department of Educational Administrtion, Faculty of Education and Psychology,	The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat
18.	Prof	Ram B	RAMACHANDRAN	India	Professor & Vice Dean	O.P. Jindal Global University
19.	Dr	Sravani	BHARANDEV	India	Assistant Professor	BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus
20.	Dr	Ika	SYAMSIANA	Indonesia	Head of Industrial Automation Laboratory	State Polytechnic of Malang
21.	Mr	Alessandro	BROLPITO	Italy	Senior Human Capital Development expert, Digital Skills and Learning	European Training Foundation
22.	Mr	Joel Naoki Ernesto	CHRISTOPH	Italy	PhD Researcher in Economics	European University Institute
23.	Ms	Vera	LUCKE	Italy	Deputy Head of the ASEM Education Secretariat	ASEM Education Secretariat / CIMEA-NARIC Italia
24.	Dr	Saltanat	AKHMADI	Kazakhstan	Instructor	Nazarbayev University
25.	Dr	Claudio	RIVERA	Latvia	Academic Director, Assistant Professor	RTU Riga Business School
26.	Dr	Vanessa	CAMILLERI	Malta	Senior Lecturer	University of Malta
27.	Dr	Nadeem	MAHMOOD	Pakistan	Associate Professor	University of Karachi
28.	Dr	Tehreem	MASOOD	Pakistan	Head of Department / Associate Professor	Superior University Lahore
29.	Mr	Henry	ENCABO	Philippines	Center Manager, Mindanao Center for Education Research, Training and Innovation	University of Southeastern Philippines
30.	Mr	Judel	ROMAN	Philippines	Dean	National Teachers College
31.	Dr	Mildred	LIBOT	Philippines	Chief Education Programme Specialist	Commission on Higher Education, Philippines

32.	Dr	Vicente	PITOGO	Philippines	Vice-President for Academic Affairs	Caraga State University
33.	Mrs	Jolanta	PIETRKIEWICZ-KNECHT	Poland	Attorney-at-Law	PELION S.A
34.	Ms	Cleo	CACHAPERO	Singapore	Project Lead for Higher Education	Asia-Europe Foundation
35.	Mr	Lei	ZHANG	Singapore	Deputy Executive Director	Asia-Europe Foundation
36.	Mr	Martin	HAMMERBAUER	Singapore	Senior Project Executive, Education Department	Asia-Europe Foundation
37.	Prof	Gabriel	SEMANIŠIN	Slovakia	Professor & Vice-Dean for Development and Quality Management, Faculty of Science	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
38.	Mr	Matej	ŠTEFÁNIK	Slovakia	Head of International Cooperation and the European Union Digital Legislation Unit	Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization
39.	Assoc Prof	Renáta	BAČÁROVÁ	Slovakia	Associate Professor, Faculty of Law	Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
40.	Mr	Ronald	BLAŠKO	Slovakia	Director	Research and Innovation Authority (VAIA)
41.	Dr	Soňa	FTÁČNIKOVÁ	Slovakia	National Contact Point for Research Ethics and Integrity in HE	Slovak Center for Scientific and Technical Information
42.	Prof	Bundit	THIPAKORN	Thailand	Advisor to the President	King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
43.	Ms	Christelle Mae	AGUSTIN	Thailand	Director for Knowledge Maximisation	SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development
44.	Prof	John	SHAWE-TAYLOR	United Kingdom	Professor and UNESCO Chair of AI	University College London
45.	Dr	Muhammad Zahid	IQBAL	United Kingdom	Assistant Professor in Immersive Technologies	Teesside University
46.	Prof	Peipei	YU	United Kingdom	Associate Professor / Director of School	University for the Creative Arts
47.	Mrs	Thi Kim Anh	VO	Viet Nam	Lecturer	Ton Duc Thang University
48.	Dr	Quoc Cuong	NGUYEN	Viet Nam	Director	Dong Nai Institute for Innovation

Dr Aneela YASMIN
VE Teacher
RMIT University

AUSTRALIA

Dr. Yasmin is an educator of Applied Sciences with 20+ years of experience across academia and research. Her research spans plant genetic resistance, algal biotechnology for wastewater treatment, and public health (SDG-6) with 30+ peer-reviewed publications and supervision of 11 graduate students. As Principal Investigator, she has led projects on viral resistance, Agrobacterium-mediated transformation, and pharmaceutical impacts on aquatic microbiomes. Currently, she explores the convergence of biosciences and emerging technologies, developing AI- and blockchain-enhanced adaptive learning tools for neurodivergent learners, investigating AI's impact on student creativity and examining the disruptive role of AI in education. She also leads the AI for Lab Technicians series in Lablines magazine, advancing responsible AI use in laboratory science.

Dr Fernaz Narin NUR
Professor
Daffodil International University

BANGLADESH

Dr. Fernaz Narin Nur is a Professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at the Daffodil International University, Bangladesh. With more than fifteen years of experience in academia, she has established herself as a dedicated teacher, researcher, and mentor, inspiring the next generation of technology leaders. Her professional journey reflects a sustained commitment to advancing research and education in computer science, particularly in the areas of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), wireless sensor networks, cloud computing, and machine learning.

Dr. Nur earned her PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from the University of Dhaka in 2017, focusing her doctoral research on "Duty-cycle Medium Access Control for Directional Wireless Sensor Networks." Prior to that, she completed her Master's in Information Technology from the same university in 2010 and her Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering.

Dr Lafifa JAMAL
Professor
University of Dhaka

BANGLADESH

Dr Lafifa Jamal is Professor in the Department of Robotics & Mechatronics Engineering at the University of Dhaka, where she also served as Chairperson. She holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science and is a Senior Member of IEEE and Fellow of the Bangladesh Computer Society. Her research spans Intelligent Robotics Systems, VLSI Design, and Gender in STEM, with numerous publications and a best paper award. She has delivered invited talks in Spain, the USA, South Korea, China, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Malaysia. Dr. Jamal has held prominent roles in global conferences, including Inclusion Chair of IEEE RO-MAN 2023, Associate Editor of IEEE RO-MAN 2024–25, Workshop Organizer at ICSE (2022–25), and General Chair at ICIET. She is also the Founding Director of Bangladesh Flying Labs, Vice President of Bangladesh Open Source Network, Founder President of Bangladesh Robot Olympiad, and Central Committee Member of the International Robot Olympiad, where she advanced Bangladesh's global presence in STEM.

Mr Marco COMOTTI
Web Project Administrator
Erasmus Student Network

BELGIUM

Marco was born 28 years ago in Italy. He graduated in Computer Science and Engineering from Politecnico di Milano. His final dissertation focused on the environmental sustainability of blockchains and was developed in cooperation with Instituto Superior Técnico de Lisboa, where he studied as part of the Erasmus+ programme and participated in a funded thesis opportunity. Before embarking on this adventure as an IT Manager/Web Project Administrator, he worked as a Data Engineer at a consultancy firm.

As IT Manager, he is responsible for managing the IT infrastructure, designing ESN's digital ecosystem, and overseeing all our websites. Recognising the strategic role of digitalisation, Marco is also responsible for driving the digital transformation of ESN and Erasmus+ projects. His main goals include ensuring a smooth and user-friendly digital experience for mobility and making participation in mobility as easy as the click of a button.

Dr Tiong Hoo LIM
Associate Professor
Universiti Teknologi Brunei

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

Other affiliations:
Director of Green Technology and Sustainability Research (UTB), Chairperson of Subcommittee for Microelectronic and Information Technology (ASEAN COSTI)

Dr Lim Tiong Hoo is a Associate Professor specialising in Artificial Intelligence within the Faculty of Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, at Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB). He obtained his higher education qualifications from renown UK Universities. His current research focuses on both scientific and applied AI in agrotechnology and E-Health, where he has achieved remarkable success. He was a US AEAN Fulbright Visiting Scholar and has published over 45 publications with over 200 citations. He has also been invited as keynote speakers, technical reviewer for research paper, grants, and Policy Papers. He recently secured a substantial research grant for his AI-driven smart aquaculture, which has won numerous innovation awards with his Alquatic. His works have gained widespread recognition locally and internationally. He is currently the chairperson of ASEAN COSTI SCMIT.

Prof SHEN Yi
Professor of SIRPA & Director of the International Research Institute of Global Cyberspace Governance
Fudan University

CHINA

Professor SHEN Yi is the Director of the International Research Institute of Global Cyberspace Governance, a non-resident researcher at the China Cyberspace Studying Institute, and individual director of the China Association of Cybersecurity. His main research focuses on cybersecurity, cyber diplomacy and the governance of global cyberspace. From 2008 to 2009, Professor SHEN Yi went to Georgetown University as a post-doctoral research fellow in the School of Foreign Affairs.

In 2013, Professor SHEN Yi published his book on the National Cybersecurity Strategy of the US and also participated the Conference of Cybersecurity and Informatization, which was hosted by President Xi Jinping on 19 April 2016, as one of the ten key speakers.

Mrs Leïla BENABDALLAH
President
OCEANS Network

FRANCE

Leïla Benabdallah is the President of OCEANS, a network of Erasmus+ Students and Alumni of international mobility exchanges. French and Moroccan, she studied International Management of SMEs, marketing and social development. Following studies and professional experiences in France, Türkiye, UAE and UK, she joined, in 2018, the European Commission at DG GROW (Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs). Engaging in various volunteering activities both locally and Internationally, Leïla joined the OCEANS Network with the aim of expanding Erasmus+ opportunities for young people worldwide. Her passion lies in fostering a more cohesive society, ensuring equal access to education for all, and advocating for youth participation, and mutual understanding.

Prof Sabrina SCHARPEN
Professor of Creative Producing and Audiovisual Media
BHT - Berlin University of Applied Sciences and Technology

GERMANY

Other affiliations:
AI, Art and Film

Sabrina Scharpen is a Professor for Creative Producing and Audiovisual Media and Head of Studies for Screen-Based Media at BHT – Berlin University of Applied Sciences and Technology. She is also an award-winning format developer, filmmaker, creative strategist, and innovation leader working at the intersection of media, AI, arts, film, technology, and storytelling. Her work focuses on AI and creativity, digital film production, and interdisciplinary media formats across teaching, research, and practice. Previously, she served as Deputy Head of the Technology Department at ZDF, Germany's national public broadcaster, where she managed the AI Portfolio. As Deputy Managing Director of funk (ARD/ZDF Youth Media Network), she co-led the program portfolio and AI strategy to better serve and understand Gen Z audiences. She also co-led ZDF's contribution to the international project "Public Spaces Incubator" with CBC/Radio-Canada, RTBF, SRG SSR, and New Public.

Ms Stefanie ENGERT
Senior Desk Officer for the ASEM Education Process
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

GERMANY

Stefanie Engert is Senior Desk Officer at the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Together with her colleagues at the EU policy support section, she contributes to the ASEM Education Process and coordinates the ASEM Expert Group on Digitalisation and Artificial Intelligence, in collaboration with the German Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space (BMFTR). The DAAD is the world's largest funding organisation for the international exchange of students and researchers. It provides scholarships for individuals, supports universities in their internationalisation and advises decision makers on education, foreign science and development policy. Stefanie is based at the DAAD headquarters in Bonn, Germany.

Dr Dalma Lilla DOMINEK
Associate Professor
Ludovika University of Public Service

HUNGARY

Other affiliations:
Researcher, Mathias Corvinus Collegium

Dr. habil. Dalma Lilla Dominek, PhD, is a sociologist of education and a lawyer. She graduated from the University of Pécs with degrees in Geography and Culture Management, later qualifying in Law. She subsequently received her doctorate in Educational Sciences from the University of Pécs' Doctoral School of Educational Sciences, and her habilitation diploma from Eszterházy Károly Catholic University. Her research focuses on the emergence of flow-based education in cultural and higher education institutions. She is an associate professor in the Department of Social Communication at the Faculty of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Public Service, Ludovika. She is also Head of the Experience-Based Digital Education Laboratory and she is also researcher at the Mathias Corvinus Collegium.

Mr Krisztián GÁL
Ecosystem Lead
28DIGITAL

HUNGARY

Krisztián has joined EIT Digital among the first colleagues when the new Budapest Node office (the first in CEE) was set up in 2018. Since then, in different roles he has gained experience in project and event management (ie organizing highlight events such as Master School Kick-offs, Graduation Day, various innovation-related workshops and trainings together with ecosystem partners, holding webinars on Master School courses portfolio). Since 2023 he works as ecosystem lead of the East Region covering in total 19 countries, overseeing the network, also being part of the Hungarian DigitalTech European Digital Innovation Hub coordination team. As part of his position he has been invited to various innovation, and cybersecurity- related events as speaker in panels and also as moderator or jury member. Prior to EIT Digital he worked as freelance journalist focusing on foreign policy, as well as line producer of an award-winning documentary series. Besides his native Hungarian, speaks fluent English and Spanish, as well has a solid level of German. Krisztián holds a Master of Science in political science

from Eötvös Loránd University, as well as from University of Granada (Erasmus scholarship), and a Bachelor of Science in international relations (major on EU affairs) from Corvinus University of Budapest.

Dr Tuan TRINH
Regional Director
28DIGITAL

HUNGARY

Tuan Trinh is the Regional Director at 28Digital (formerly EIT Digital) responsible for DACH and Central and Eastern Europe, including the Western Balkans. 28Digital is a leading European digital innovation and entrepreneurial education organization, formerly part of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology. He holds a Ph.D. in Computer Science from the Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME), where he founded the Network Economics Group. He also established the Corvinus Fintech Center at Corvinus University of Budapest.
Tuan has been a visiting scientist at various institutions, including Ericsson Research, British Telecom, and Oxford University. He teaches courses at BME, University of Bern, and University of Luxembourg. He has advised the Hungarian government on spectrum auctions and the European Commission on emerging technologies. He is a Pollák-Virág prize recipient and a MIT Certified Senior Cybersecurity professional. His Erdős number is 3.

Dr Zsolt ALMÁSI
Head of Department,
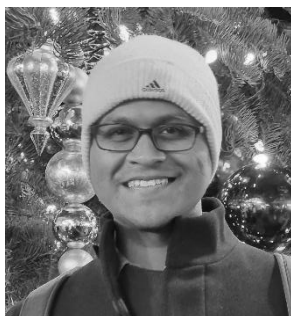Associate Professor
Pázmány Péter
Catholic University

HUNGARY

Zsolt Almási is Associate Professor and Head of Department at Pázmány Péter Catholic University. He initiated the Digital Culture specialisation within the MA programme in Digital Humanities at PPCU and serves as editor of the Hungarian journal Digital Humanities. His research interests include Digital Culture, with particular emphasis on digital textuality, artificial intelligence and philology, AI and the visual arts, as well as AI and higher education. He regularly publishes scholarly articles in both Hungarian and English on these topics. He also leads the university's Research Group on Artificial Intelligence and the Human Being. Another area of his research focuses on the oeuvre of William Shakespeare, with particular attention to contemporary, Hungarian prose and dance theatre adaptations and performances. He appears as a researcher on radio and television. In addition to his academic work, he is active as a theatre critic within the Hungarian cultural sphere.

Mr Anshumaan GOEL
PhD Scholar
O.P. Jindal Global University

INDIA

Other affiliations:
Enforcement Officer,
Government of India

Anshumaan Goel is presently a public policy researcher and a UGC-JRF fellow at OP Jindal Global University with a Gold Medal in M.A. Public Administration from Jamia Millia Islamia, India. He has received the Best Paper Award at IISc Bangalore and is currently conducting field research with the Government of India on institutional reforms and the role of technology in governance. Supported by UGC fellowship, his work explores Human-Algorithm Interaction bias in Public Policy Decision Making and citizen-centric policy design. With a strong academic foundation and hands-on engagement in government projects, he is committed to bridging research and practice while fostering cross-regional collaboration on governance and public sector innovation. He has presented his works at multiple National and International conferences.

Dr Madhuri ISAVE
Associate Professor
S.P.Mandalis Tilak College of Education Pune India

INDIA

Other affiliations:
Ph.D.Guide, Referee, BOS Member in SP University, Academioc Council member of Dr.P.A. Inamdar University, Experts, Speaker, Mentor

Dr. Madhuri Isave, an esteemed Educator & Researcher, holds M.Sc. (Botany), B.Ed., M.Ed., DSM, Ph.D. (Education), along with NET & SET. She is Associate Professor at S.P. Mandali's Tilak College of Education, Pune, with 29 years in teaching & 15 years in research. Recipient of the Best Teacher Educator, Best Research Guide Award, she has guided ten Ph.D. scholars (four awarded, including two elderly women aged 70 & 80) and M.Phil. M.Ed. & DSM candidates. A recognized Ph.D. adjudicator at various universities, she also guides at, IGNOU, & MSCERT. With 50+ papers in journals & 50+ presentations globally, Mentorship at state, Nat& Intl. she has authored books, book chapters & delivered expert talks across 20+ states. She has developed MOOCs internationally (OE4BW) (Classnet 17 ASEF) and completed funded projects (ICSSR, UGC, IUCTE & Telemark University Norway collaboration). Former HOD Research & M.Ed. Viva Chairperson (SPPU), she has earned nearly 20 state, national & Intl award.

Dr Manmeet KAUR
Associate Professor,
Jindal Global Law School
O.P Jindal Global University

INDIA

Other affiliations:
DIrector, Centre for Advancing Research in Management and Law

Dr. Manmeet Kaur is an Associate Professor of finance in JGLS, O.P. Jindal Global University. She is the Director of Centre for Advancing Research in Management and Law (CARML). She has completed her PhD in Finance from the Faculty of Management Studies, University of Delhi. Her specialization includes corporate governance, financial markets and services, and corporate finance. She has published articles extensively in various international and national journals (ABDC and SCOPUS) in the area of governance and banking. Completed Executive Education in Wharton Business School, University of Pennsylvania in 2025.

Prof Karanam PUSHPANADHAM
Professor and Head, Department of Educational Administrtion, Faculty of Education and Psychology
The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat

INDIA

Other affiliations:
Officer on Special Duty, PhD. Programs

Prof. Karanam Pushpanadham is a distinguished academician and thought leader in the field of educational administration, presently serving at the Department of Educational Administration, Faculty of Education and Psychology, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara, India. Over the past three decades, he has established himself as an authority on educational management, policy, and leadership, contributing significantly to both scholarly research and institutional development. His academic journey reflects an enduring commitment to strengthening the foundations of education through teaching, research, and policy interventions.

He has held several key positions within the university, including Coordinator of the UGC/DSA Programme in Educational Administration, Officer on Special Duty for Ph.D. Programmes, and University Coordinator for the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020.

Prof Ram B. RAMACHANDRAN
Professor & Vice Dean
O.P. Jindal Global University

INDIA

Other affiliations:

Prof. Ramachandran teaches in the areas of strategic technology, Artificial Intelligence, management, leadership, and entrepreneurship. His current research interest includes transformative nature of AI and FinTech across industries, government policies on education, and impact of EdTech in educational pedagogy. Prof. Ram has published widely in international journals and industry magazines. His most co-edited book on "Handbook of Global Philosophies on AI Ethics: Toward Sustainable Futures" was released in August 2025.

Prior to the academia, Prof. Ram was an accomplished hands-on senior executive with over thirty-five year's track record of building

Associate Director,
Motwani Jadeja Institute
for American Studies

and leading global consulting practices and high-growth businesses across the financial services and retail industries. Most recently, he was the Managing Director at Ernst & Young, New York responsible for driving digital transformation and risk and regulatory agenda for his clients.

Dr Sravani BHARANDEV
Assistant Professor
BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus

INDIA

Dr. Sravani Bharandev is an Assistant Professor at BITS Pilani, Hyderabad Campus. She earned her Ph.D. in Finance from IIT Bombay, where she was awarded the SJMSOM Endowment Fellowship. Her research lies in behavioural finance, investment decision-making, and emerging markets, with a focus on stock market anomalies and investor biases. She teaches courses in behavioural finance, corporate finance, valuation, and investment analysis.

Mrs Ika SYAMSIANA
Head of Automation Laboratory
State Polytechnic of Malang

INDONESIA

Other affiliations:
Members of Cognitive Artificial Intelligent Research Group (CAIRG)

As a lecturer and Head of the Industrial Automation Laboratory at the State Polytechnic of Malang, Indonesia. With expertise in curriculum development, monitoring and evaluation, and laboratory management, she leads and coordinates automation research and teaching activities. Her research interests include artificial intelligence applications in energy systems, particularly predictive maintenance of power transformers using Cognitive AI. She has actively participated in international collaborations, including ASEF InnoLab5, and continues to engage in academic initiatives bridging Asia and Europe.

Mr Alessandro BROLPITO
Senior Human Capital Development expert, Digital Skills and Learning
European Training Foundation

ITALY

Alessandro Brolpito is a senior human capital development expert at the European Training Foundation (ETF), an agency of the European Union based in Turin, Italy. Alessandro's work focuses on policies and practices for developing digital skills and competences, the use of digital technology, including AI, and the overall digitalization of education, training, and labour market systems. He has been working in Eastern Partnership countries, Western Balkans countries and Türkiye and Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries. He is author of several publications and since 2014 is a member of the European Commission's working group on digital education "DELTA". Prior to joining ETF, he worked as software analyst in the private sector. Alessandro is graduated in Computer Science in Milano (Italy), with a postgraduate diploma in Management of Software Projects at the Open University of London (UK).

Mr Joel Naoki Ernesto CHRISTOPH
PhD Researcher in Economics
European University Institute

ITALY

Other affiliations:
Founder, 10Billion.org

Joel Christoph is a PhD Researcher in Economics at the European University Institute, where his work focuses on the governance of artificial intelligence, global labour transitions, and the role of universities in preparing society for emerging technologies. He has led the development of AI governance curricula for policy professionals and served as Area Chair for an international research sprint on the economics of transformative AI. His professional background spans policy research, consulting, and educational programme design, with contributions to the World Bank, the International Energy Agency, and Oxford's Future of Humanity Institute. Joel is the founder of 10Billion.org, a movement for global public goods, and co-founder of Formal Markets, an initiative designing mechanisms to incentivise beneficial AI. He has published on AI governance, labour markets, and misinformation mitigation, and has been recognised through

fellowships with the Atlantic Council, the Japan-IMF Scholarship Programme, and Harvard's Technology & Human Rights Fellowship. A dual French-Japanese national, Joel speaks six languages and brings extensive experience in intercultural collaboration across Europe and Asia.

Ms Vera LUCKE
Deputy Head of the ASEM Education Secretariat
ASEM Education Secretariat / CIMEA-NARIC Italia

ITALY

Vera Lucke is Deputy Head of the ASEM Education Secretariat (a rotating Secretariat currently hosted by Italy 2022-2026) and is coordinating and co-organising the activities of the ASEM Education Process. She works at CIMEA (Italian ENIC-NARIC) and coordinated and worked in a number of international projects on recognition and internationalisation of higher education. She also worked in the Bologna Follow-Up Group Secretariat 2018-2020 when it was hosted by Italy and she has been involved in several working groups since then.

Dr Saltanat AKHMADI
Instructor
Nazarbayev University

KAZAKHSTAN

Dr. Saltanat Akhmadi is an instructor at the School of Engineering and Digital Sciences, Nazarbayev University, Kazakhstan. Her research interests include but are not limited to statistical analysis, optimization techniques, and econometrics with applications in technology management, operations and supply chain management. She also studies gender gap in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), as well as the capabilities of AI and its impact on creativity. Her work has been published in the Q1 and Q2 journals, including the International Journal of Gender and Entrepreneurship and the International Journal of Innovation Science. She has also presented her research at the leading international conferences such as the IEEE Technology and Engineering Management Society Conferences and the Global Engineering Education Conferences.

Dr Claudio RIVERA
Academic Director, Assistant Professor
RTU Riga Business School

LATVIA

With over 20 years of experience in business schools, training, and both non-formal and higher education, Claudio has led and contributed to a wide range of projects across multiple countries. Over the past 12 years, he has spearheaded and collaborated on programs with universities such as MIT, University at Buffalo, BI Norwegian Business School, and Fudan, primarily through his roles in management and teaching at Riga Business School. His work extends beyond the classroom, as he actively engages in advocacy and policy initiatives focused on higher education reform, AI integration in education, youth development, and workforce upskilling. His core areas of interest include executive leadership, AI in education, youth development, and social entrepreneurship, where he continues to drive impact through research, education, and consulting.

Dr Vanessa CAMILLERI
Senior Lecturer
University of Malta

MALTA

Dr. Vanessa Camilleri is Senior Lecturer at the Department of AI, Faculty of ICT, University of Malta, specialising in AI in Education, Intelligent Interfaces, and AI Ethics. Her research explores how emerging technologies such as VR and AR foster empathy and behavioural change. As Principal Investigator of SWIM-360 and DIVE, she advances multimodal explainable AI and intelligent video evaluation, developing novel tools for performance analysis in sport and education for coaches and athletes. She is co-coordinator of the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) AI in Education Group, leading international collaborations and co-authoring peer-reviewed position and white papers on AI and education. She is also committed to democratising AI education, authoring a practical guide that teaches AI through games. Beyond academia, she chairs the Faculty of ICT Outreach Committee, coordinating

bootcamps, workshops, and public engagement to bridge AI and society. She holds a PhD from Coventry University.

Dr Nadeem MAHMOOD
Associate Professor
University of Karachi

PAKISTAN

Dr. Nadeem Mahmood is an Associate Professor at the Department of Computer Science (UBIT), University of Karachi. He has made significant contributions to the fields of artificial intelligence, advanced data management, and health informatics. His research interests span application of artificial intelligence in healthcare, temporal and spatial database systems, IOT and complex networks, with a strong focus on developing technology-driven solutions for the betterment of society. He actively works on applying emerging technologies to address real-world challenges in healthcare, public safety, and data-driven decision making. He has supervised numerous postgraduate research students and research projects, encouraging students to engage in innovative, problem-driven, and impactful research. Dr. Mahmood has delivered keynote addresses and invited talks in international conferences and published over 50 research publications in leading international journals and conference proceedings.

Dr Tehreem MASOOD
Head of Department
/ Associate Professor
Superior University Lahore

PAKISTAN

Dr. Tehreem Masood is an accomplished academician, AI researcher, data scientist, and entrepreneur with over 14 years of experience in industry, academia, and research. She currently serves as Head of the Department of Software Engineering at Superior University Lahore. Dr. Masood earned her PhD in Computing from University de Lyon, France, as an Erasmus Mundus Scholar. Her research focuses on AI, machine learning, and predictive models for decision support, with applications in sustainable development, higher education innovation, and healthcare technologies. She has contributed to over 20 publications and has experience working on EU Horizon 2020 projects. She is passionate about leveraging AI for early disease detection and sustainable intelligent systems, shaping the future of technology and education.

Mr Henry ENCABO
Center Manager,
Mindanao Center for Education Research, Training and Innovation
University of Southeastern Philippines

PHILIPPINES

Henry C Encabo is an academic with extensive experience in educational research, administration, and quality assurance. He holds a Master of Science in Educational Measurement and Evaluation and is currently pursuing a PhD in Educational Administration. His career includes significant leadership roles, serving as the Center Manager for the Mindanao Center for Educational Research, Training and Innovation and Deputy Director for the Teacher Training and Research Center at the University of Southeastern Philippines from 2024 to the present. Previously, he was the Quality Assurance Director at the same university from 2018 to 2023. He has also assumed various leadership roles in the private education sector from 2014 to 2016. Academically, Mr Encabo is an Associate Professor of the College of Education at the University of Southeastern Philippines. His research contributions include commissioned work on assessments in Science, Mathematics, and early childhood learning difficulties, and scoping studies on Philippine teacher education. Mr Encabo has been recognised with several accolades, including the Excellence in Workplace Innovation award and the Excellence Awards for Teachers by the Professional Regulatory Commission - Philippines.

Mr Judel ROMAN
Dean
National Teachers College

PHILIPPINES

Dean of the School of Arts, Sciences and Technology at the National Teachers College. A science teacher by training and an avid supporter of technology-driven teaching and learning.

Dr Mildred LIBOT
Chief Education Program Specialist
Commission on Higher Education, Philippines

PHILIPPINES

Dr. Libot brings extensive academic and administrative experience to her current role at the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). Her distinguished background spans both Philippine and international higher education institutions.
Dr. Libot's spent a transformative decade in Saudi Arabia. She served as Department Chair of the QAAA at two prominent state universities specializing in evidence-based assessment, monitoring, and evaluation. She also assumed the position of Director for the Center for Learning and Teaching at an American University where she spearheaded an Innovative Pedagogy training program and as a member of the National Task Force for K-19 Education Reform.
Dr. Libot's career trajectory reflects a consistent dedication to educational excellence, quality assurance, and innovation. Her unique combination of technical expertise, administrative leadership, and international perspective positions her as a valuable asset to Philippine higher education.

Dr Vicente PITOGO
Vice-President for Academic Affairs
Caraga State University

PHILIPPINES

Dr. Vicente A. Pitogo is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Caraga State University in Butuan City, Philippines, and former Dean of the College of Computing and Information Sciences. He earned his Doctorate in Information Technology from De La Salle University, Manila in 2021. His research focuses on electronic governance, digital transformation, information systems, and data science. A founding member of the Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence (AE4AI) Network, he also served as a mentor for the Asia-Europe Foundation's InnoLab 5 Project in Shanghai and currently coordinates the AI in Education Group. He leads a multimillion-funded programs developing an intelligent, data-driven platform for agriculture and contributes to the ICT for Responsible Mining Project promoting sustainable practices in the Philippines.

Mrs Jolanta PIETRKIEWICZ-KNECHT
Attorney-at-Law
PELION S.A

POLAND

Other affiliations:
External Expert of the Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (GRAI) under the Ministry of Digital Affairs in Poland

Jolanta Pietrkiewicz-Knecht is an attorney-at-law specialising in AI, pharmaceutical and medical law, with extensive experience in public administration and advisory roles. Her expertise covers legal frameworks for AI, data processing, pharmaceutical and medical law, and the adoption of digital solutions in healthcare. She serves as an expert in the Working Group on Artificial Intelligence (GRAI), convened by the Polish Ministry of Digital Affairs, where she contributes to the Legal Framework and Health Sections. Her work bridges legal analysis with the practical implementation of technology, ensuring compliance with current and forthcoming EU regulations.

Ms Cleo CACHAPERO
Lead for Higher Education Projects, Education Department
Asia-Europe Foundation

SINGAPORE

Cleo CACHAPERO, a Filipino national, joined ASEF's Education Department in July 2023 and now leads its higher education portfolio. Prior to joining ASEF, Cleo worked at the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) of the Philippines for 10 years as the Desk Officer for ASEAN and SEAMEO Affairs of its International Affairs Service (IAS). Cleo earned her undergraduate degree Bachelor of Science in International Relations major in Diplomacy from Lyceum of the Philippines University – Manila in 2013 and finished her Master of Public Administration at the University of the Philippines' National College of Public Administration and Governance in 2021.

Mr ZHANG Lei
Deputy Executive Director
Asia-Europe Foundation

SINGAPORE

Mr ZHANG has served in different departments of the Chinese Foreign Ministry and has extensive experience in multilateral affairs. Prior to his appointment at ASEF, he was Counsellor at the Department of International Economic Affairs. Mr ZHANG has also been posted to several overseas missions, including the Permanent Mission of China to the United Nations in New York, as well as the Chinese Embassies in Bangladesh, New Zealand, and Trinidad and Tobago. Mr ZHANG graduated from the Beijing Foreign Studies University and holds a Master's degree in Diplomacy and International Strategy from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Mr Martin HAMMERBAUER
Senior Project Executive, Education Department
Asia-Europe Foundation

SINGAPORE

Martin Hammerbauer works as a Senior Project Executive in the Education Department of the Asia-Europe Foundation, where he focuses on the Higher Education portfolio. Prior to ASEF, he worked on international projects at the Charles University in Prague, where he helped to develop the 4EU+ Alliance and co-developed the first micro-credentials framework in the country. He is also a former member of the Executive Committee of the European Students' Union (ESU), and an alumnus of the 4th ASEF Young Leaders Summit. Martin grew up in Czechia, where he graduated from Prague University of Economics and Business with a Master's Degree in International Trade.

Prof Gabriel SEMANIŠIN
Professor & Vice-Dean for Development and Quality Management, Faculty of Science
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

SLOVAKIA

Gabriel Semanišin is a Professor of Computer Science at the Faculty of Science at Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice. He also serves as Vice-Dean for Development and Quality Management. His research focuses mainly on algorithmic graph theory and its application in various areas of theoretical and applied informatics. He is co-guarantor of the Data Analysis and Artificial Intelligence, and Computer Science study programmes. He has supervised six PhD students on the Computer Science, Discrete Mathematics and Theory of Teaching Informatics study programmes. He previously served as Dean of the Faculty of Science and Vice-Rector for Informatisation and Quality Management. He has participated in several fundamental and applied research projects, as well as in the development of the Slovak Republic's Tax Information System and the Academic Information System AiS2. He is currently participating in the AI-BOOST, AI2SEP and EDIH Cassovium projects, which were founded by prominent European grant schemes.

Mr Matej ŠTEFÁNIK

Head of International Cooperation and the European Union Digital Legislation Unit
Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization

SLOVAKIA

Matej Štefánik (born in Slovakia, 1994) works as a Head of International Cooperation and EU Digital Legislation Unit at the Digital Agenda Section of the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatization of the Slovak Republic. He is also a Secretary of the Governmental Council on the Single Digital Market and eGovernment. Graduated from internatinal relations and economic diplomacy (University of Economics in Bratislava, 2018), attended courses on science diplomacy (Vienna School of International Studies, 2019) and smart nations (Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, 2024) as well. In November 2022, he joined the Digital Agenda Section and dealt mainly with AI, metaverse and internet governance. Matej is also a member of several working groups, expert groups and committees on national, European and international levels (incl. Global Partnership on AI, OECD Working Party on AI Governance, EU AI Committee and Committee on AI of Council of Europe). His expert team covers european and international cooperation as well as negotiation of legislative and non-legislative acts in the field of digital agenda. Co-author of an analytical study related to digitalisation in public services (published in Slovakia, 2023).

Assoc Prof Renáta BAČÁROVÁ

Associate Professor, Faculty of Law
Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice

SLOVAKIA

Renata is an Associate Professor of Civil Law and an Attorney-at-Law specializing in Intellectual Property Law, Civil Law, Media Law and ICT Law. She also participated in the project Artificial Intelligence from the Point of View of Law and Ethics. She completed her LL.M. studies at Humboldt University in Berlin and specialized studies in intellectual property at the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic. She lectures at the Intellectual Property Institute of the Industrial Property Office of the Slovak Republic. She serves on the editorial board of the journal Intellectual Property and on the editorial board of the publication New Technologies, Internet and Intellectual Property. She is also a member of the international group Asia-Europe for Artificial Intelligence (AE4AI), a nominated expert speaker of WIPO for the Slovak Republic, a member of the Commission for Conceptual Activities and Cooperation at the National Technology Transfer Centre of the Slovak Republic, and a member of the international scientific committee of the Law in Business of Selected Member States of the European Union conference.
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Mr Ronald BLAŠKO

Director
Research and Innovation Authority (VAIA)

SLOVAKIA

Ronald Blaško holds a Master of Science degree in Aviation Operations and Economics (University of Žilina, Slovakia) and a postgraduate degree in International Economics from the Kiel Institute for World Economics in Germany. He has got over 20 years of experience in finance, consulting, insurance, public finance, European nuclear affairs and energy risk management. During his international career, he served as a representative of Slovenské elektrárne at Foratom (Brussels, Belgium). He was a vice president of Globsec and executive director of the American Chamber of Commerce in Slovakia. Currently he is a director at Research and Innovation Authority at the Deputy Prime Minister office.

Dr Soňa FTÁČNIKOVÁ
National Contact Point for Research Ethics and Integrity in HE
Slovak Center for Scientific and Technical Information

SLOVAKIA

Other affiliations:
President of the National Committee for Research Integrity and Ethics in Slovakia

Dr. Soňa Ftáčniková earned her doctorate at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics of Comenius University in Bratislava, where she defended her thesis in biophysics. She began her career as a researcher in radiation protection and later served as an external expert for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

In the European Commission Framework Programmes, she held several key roles: National Contact Point (NCP) for 7FP IDEAS, for ERC, and in the field of research ethics and integrity under Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. She authored the brochures Ethics in H2020 and Ethics in Horizon Europe and co-authored the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, which remains a binding guideline for applicants.

She coordinated creation of National Declaration for the Strengthening of Ethics and Integrity in Slovakia and National Code for Research Integrity and Ethics, and currently serves as President of Slovakia's National Committee for Research Integrity and Ethics.

Prof Bundit THIPAKORN
Advisor to the President
King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi

THAILAND

Assoc.Prof. Bundit Thipakorn, Ph.D. is the Advisor to the President for Learning Innovation of King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) in Bangkok, Thailand. He also serves as the Chairman of the Advisory Committee for the Next Generate Graduate Project, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation. Besides serving various significant positions at KMUTT, he also served as Deputy Secretary General at the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand. He has been actively involved in policy-related projects and activities of the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation including 21st-century teaching and learning, transforming Thailand's higher education, skill-based education and lifelong development of human capital. His international connections that have been built previously, can also take a crucial part in seeking more cooperation and achieving higher goal of the nation.

Ms Christelle Mae AGUSTIN
Director for Knowledge Maximisation
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development

THAILAND

Christelle Mae Agustin is a passionate advocate for regional cooperation, youth empowerment, and gender equality in Southeast Asia, with a strong focus on innovation in higher education. She serves as a Programme Officer at SEAMEO RIHED, where she leads learning and knowledge exchange initiatives that advance regional harmonisation, cross-border collaboration and online higher education community connection. Her experience spans international organizations, non-profits, and social enterprises, including the ASEAN University Network, where she supported harmonised approaches to quality assurance, and Female Entrepreneurs Worldwide, where she designed educational content to help women entrepreneurs adapt to digital transformation. She also worked in the tech start-up, Outwiths, focusing on digitalising skills and talent development, which deepened her expertise in leveraging technology to empower learners and institutions.

Prof John SHAWE-TAYLOR
Professor and UNESCO Chair of AI
University College London

UNITED KINGDOM

Other affiliations:
International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence under the Auspices of UNESCO (IRCAI)

John Shawe-Taylor is professor of Computational Statistics and Machine Learning at University College London and Director of the International Research Centre on Artificial Intelligence (IRCAI) under the auspices of UNESCO at the Jozef Stefan Institute in Slovenia. He has published over 300 papers and two books that have attracted over 86000 citations.

He has assembled a series of influential European Networks of Excellence. The scientific coordination of these projects has influenced a generation of researchers and promoted the widespread uptake of machine learning in both science and industry that we are currently witnessing. He was appointed UNESCO Chair of Artificial Intelligence in November 2018.

Dr Muhammad Zahid IQBAL
Assistant Professor in Immersive Technologies
Teesside University

UNITED KINGDOM

Dr. Muhammad Zahid Iqbal is an Assistant Professor in Immersive Technologies at Teesside University, United Kingdom, with expertise in artificial intelligence (AI), human-computer interaction (HCI), virtual reality (VR), augmented reality (AR), and the metaverse. He earned his PhD from University College Dublin, where his research centered on interaction technologies in extended reality and the application of machine learning agents in immersive learning environments.
Dr. Zahid's research focuses on the development and application of immersive technologies to address critical challenges in education, healthcare, and climate change. He teaches and supervises research in areas including VR, AR, digital twins, and cyber-physical systems, contributing to advancements in these interdisciplinary fields. In addition to his academic role, Dr. Zahid serves as an External Examiner at Northeastern University London, Salford University, and Manchester Metropolitan University.

Prof Peipei YU
Associate Professor / Director of School
University for the Creative Arts

UNITED KINGDOM

Other affiliations:
Designer, Artist, Creative Educator & International Partnership Builder

Dr Peipei Yu is an Associate Professor and Director of the School at the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), UK, where she leads degree programmes, English language programmes, and short course programmes across multiple campuses. She holds a BA in Industrial Design, an MA in Product Design, a PGCert in Creative Education, and a PhD from Birmingham Institute of Art and Design, where her doctoral research focused on design culture identity and the transformation of design education in China. A practising designer, artist, and researcher, Peipei has published and exhibited internationally and brings over 15 years of experience in creative education and international partnership development. Her research explores cultural identity, design pedagogy, and cross-cultural exchange. Within this programme, she is particularly interested in examining the role of AI in creative education and its potential for inclusive, interdisciplinary learning.

Mrs Thi Kim Anh VO
Lecturer
Ton Duc Thang University

VIET NAM

With over 13 years of experience spanning academia and industry, Vo Thi Kim Anh is a dedicated Information Technology Lecturer and Consultant at Ton Duc Thang University. Her work centers on applying Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) to solve real-world challenges, particularly in healthcare and business strategy. Ms Vo is also passionate about the human side of technology, focusing on enhancing educational practices through technology , exploring human factors in cybersecurity , and pursuing further studies in psychology. As a regular contributor to academic conferences and journals , she is deeply committed to advancing technological education and mentoring the next generation of IT professionals.

Dr Quoc Cuong NGUYEN
Director
Dong Nai Institute for Innovation

VIET NAM

Other affiliations:
Professor, Dong Nai Technology University

Nguyen Quoc Cuong is the Director of the Dong Nai Institute for Innovation. He was the former Head of the Consultation and Training Division at the Dong Nai Department of Science and Technology (2007). He worked as a researcher in the Center of Bionics at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (2012). He serves as an assistant professor at the Faculty of Engineering, Dong Nai Technology University (2017). He received his BS (2004) and MS (2008) in the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at Ho Chi Minh University of Technology and his Ph.D. (2017) in the Department of IT-Mechatronics Fusion at Seoul National University of Science and Technology. His research interests include science and technology policy, digital transformation and innovation ecosystems, AI applications, smart manufacturing, technology transfer, and intellectual property.

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