

Biography of speakers

- **Magalie Soenen**



Policy Officer, Flemish Ministry for Education and Training, Belgium, and co-Chair of the Bologna Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue

Magalie Soenen has 20 years' experience in internationalisation in higher education, on institutional level (Ghent University), Erasmus+ national agency level (EPOS vzw) and national policy level (Ministry of Education and Training of Belgium/Flemish Community). Magalie Soenen has developed the mobility policy for higher education in Flanders "Brains on the Move", with special focus on underrepresented groups, their obstacles to mobility and solutions to increase their participation in mobility programmes. The plan also set a benchmark that 33% of all mobile students should belong to underrepresented groups. Magalie Soenen represents Belgium/Flemish Community in the Bologna Follow Up Group and the ASEM process. She was a member of the BFUG secretariat in the past and is currently co-chair of the Bologna Peer Support Group on Quality Assurance and co-chair of the Bologna Coordination Group on Global Policy Dialogue. She is coordinator of 7 European projects and partner in 1 European project.

- **Nadia Manzoni**



Policy Officer, European Commission DG EAC

Nadia Manzoni has been working for the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture since 2013. Currently she is coordinating a team responsible for transposing European higher education policies into the features of the Erasmus+ programme and ensuring smooth implementation of the Erasmus+ programme in the areas of student and staff mobility for studies or traineeships and cooperation partnerships for higher education institutions. Previously she worked as a policy officer overseeing policy initiatives which foster employability of higher education graduates and financing of higher education, having studied Education studies at the University of Cambridge and European studies at the University of Vienna.

- **Els Titeca**



Counselor on Higher Education, Internationalisation and Europe at the Cabinet of the Vice Prime Minister Ben Weyts responsible for Education, Sport, Animal Welfare and Flemish Periphery, Flemish Government.

Els Titeca is a counselor on Higher Education, Internationalisation and Europe at the Cabinet of the Vice Prime Minister Ben Weyts responsible for Education, Sport, Animal Welfare and Flemish Periphery, Flemish Government. Previously Els Titeca worked at the Flemish University Association VLIR as a policy officer university management and administration (i.e. everything from new and future legislation, policy, HR, funding and GDPR). In addition she was also DPO officer for VLIR and DPO for VLUHR.

- **Dominique Montagnese**



Inclusive Mobility Expert, Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education, Belgium

Dominique Montagnese - SIHO is an expert on Inclusive Mobility for SIHO - Support Centre for Inclusive Higher Education. He has been working with international mobility programmes for more than 10 years and with social inclusion in mobility for more than 6 years. He is the initiator of several projects linking inclusion and Erasmus+ mobilities, such as MapAbility, MappED! and the Inclusive Mobility Alliance which he currently chairs. Dominique contributes to the current development of the platform inclusivemobility.eu, which will be the platform for inclusive mobility in the European Higher Education Area.

- **Valérie Van Hees**



Coordinator Support Centre Inclusive Higher Education, Belgium, project manager EPFIME project

Valérie Van Hees graduated from KU Leuven and has accumulated over 20 years of experience in the field of policy and services for minority groups in higher education. She is the coordinator of the Support Centre of Inclusive Higher Education, a cooperation between the Flemish Government and the Flemish university associations. At SIHO, she forms a bridge between policy and practice on a daily basis, being a point of contact for both the Flemish Government and higher education staff. She is acknowledged as an expert in several committees on diversity and inclusion in Belgium and Europe, and has developed a specific expertise in the area of social inclusion, inclusive mobility, defining and monitoring underrepresented groups and drafting tailor-made policy plans and support models to enhance social inclusion in higher education. Valérie Van Hees coordinates the inclusive mobility project 'Establishing a thought-out Policy Framework on Inclusive Mobility across Europe' (EPFIME) and 'Peer Learning Activities and Resources for Social Inclusion in Mobility Programmes (PLAR-4-SIMP).

- **Anthony Reyers**



Anthony Reyers is an alumni communication student from KU Leuven, driven by the innate desire to interact with people all around the world, an ever continuing passion for radio and DJ-ing and the mission to spread the love for melodic dance music. Anthony was one of the first Belgian blind students to have engaged in a European study exchange, this was an experience that besides giving him the opportunity to extend his knowledge of social psychology, also helped him to master the art of managing and thriving in an unknown environment and constantly adapt to new situations as they happen. Anthony also gives training to young people on how to use new accessible devices through ICC Belgium, creating chances in inclusion.

- **Rasmus Benke-Åberg**



Rasmus Benke-Åberg is the Director of the Erasmus Student Network since 2016. Before that he has also been Secretary General of the Organising Bureau of European School Student Union (OBESSU). In these roles he has coordinated many

EU-funded projects, ranging from small-scale youth exchanges to large-scale KA3 projects. He has a Bachelor in Political Science and a Master in International and European Relations from Linköping University, with exchange studies in both Malaysia and Czech Republic. He has also worked as International Coordinator at the Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) in Stockholm.

- **Gorka Guerrero**



Web developer, Erasmus Student Network, Belgium

Gorka Guerrero is ESN's web developer. He finished his studies in Computer Engineering at Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain, in 2012 and since then he has been part of several NGO's both in his home country and in Brussels. He held important positions, including IT Senior Project Manager in JADE and IT Consultant at AEGEE, before joining the Erasmus Student Network (ESN) in 2016.

- **Nora Trench-Bowles**



Nora Trench-Bowles is the Head of Lifelong Learning, Skills and Quality at the Irish Universities Association. She graduated from Uppsala University, Sweden and the University of Strasbourg, France in 2013 with a Erasmus Mundus double MA degree in 'Euroculture', an interdisciplinary European Studies course which has been recognised as an Erasmus Mundus Programme of Excellence by the European Commission. Previously, she completed a BA International (Hons) from University College Dublin in History and Politics, including a year in Lund University, Sweden as part of the Erasmus+ programme. Prior to being appointed to the IUA, Nora worked as Policy and Advocacy Manager in European Movement Ireland, an independent, not-for-profit, membership-based organisation working to develop the connection between Ireland and Europe

- **Lorraine Gallagher**



Lorraine Gallagher has been an Information and Training Officer with AHEAD since 2006. She holds a BA Hons in Fine ART, Master of Fine Art. She is highly qualified in Assistive technology and needs assessment.