

INSTITUTE OF
INTERNATIONAL
EDUCATION



**International Conference
on
“Higher Education in Emergencies”**

**Université Libre de Bruxelles - ULB
(Campus du Solbosch, Building R42)**

Brussels, Belgium

16 – 17 December 2014

SPEAKERS' BIOS (updated on 12 December)

Mr Adrián Meléndez, Habesha Project, Mexico

Adrian Melendez – holds a BA in Law from Universidad Panamericana in Mexico and a Master Degree in international law and political science from the Jean Moulin University in Lyon, France. He possesses extensive experience in conflict zones, where he has worked with different international relief agencies for the past five years. He has been posted in Islamabad, the Swat Valley of Pakistan, the province of Helmand in southern Afghanistan and Kabul. In 2013, he joined the response to the Syrian crisis in southern Lebanon and later in the Syrian refugee camps of the Kurdistan in Iraq. Prior to his field experience he worked for over two years for the International Organization for Migrations in Geneva.



Mr Alex Munoz, Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies

Alexander Munoz is the New York University Field Project Director for the Center for Global Affairs' ongoing collaboration with the University of Duhok's Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Studies. Based full-time in Iraq, he assists with institutional development, especially in regards to the re-launching of Iraq's only graduate program in peace and conflict studies, while working to build local awareness of peacebuilding and conflict transformation concepts. Last spring, he and a UoD colleague examined Syrian refugee access to local higher education and the potential of utilizing higher education as a means of bridging communities. His research interests include: peacebuilding and social cohesion, refugee and host community integration, civil-military and community-police relations, and utilizing technology to address education gaps. Prior to NYU, he served in the US Army, deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan, where his responsibilities included counterinsurgency analysis and coordinating with USAID representatives in support of area development projects.

Mr Arnaud Borchard, Head of Development Section EU Delegation to the Syrian Arab Republic

Ambassador Lahebib Adami

Head of the Representation of the League of Arab States, Brussels



Mrs Audrone Uzieliene, Deputy Director, Scholarship Programs, Open Society Foundation, UK

Audrone Uzieliene is a Deputy Director for Scholarship Programs Department at the Open Society Foundations in London. The Scholarships department is committed to provide access to higher education to individuals from targeted countries who would like to improve their academic knowledge and ability to create and implement positive change. Audrone is an expert in international higher education, who has worked on academic mobility and grants, including EU-funded Erasmus Mundus projects.



Ms Barbara Moser-Mercer, Professor, University of Geneva

Barbara Moser-Mercer is Professor of conference interpreting and founder and Director of InZone at the Faculté de traduction et d'interprétation, University of Geneva. Her research focuses on cognitive and cognitive neuro-science aspects of the interpreting process and on the human performance dimension of skill development.

She has co-developed the Virtualinstitute©, a fully integrated virtual learning environment, which she also leverages in partnership with ICRC, ILO, UNHCR, UNOCHA, UN-WFP, and UNAMA for training humanitarian interpreters working in conflict zones both on-site in the field and virtually. Through the development and installation of InZone computer labs in refugee camps in the Horn of Africa, she has expanded InZone's activities to include Higher Education in Emergencies working in close collaboration with UNHCR, the International Network for Education in Emergencies (INEE), and higher education institutions in the Global North and South.

She was a member of the High Level Group on Multilingualism of the EU Commission, and coordinated the European Masters in Conference Interpreting, and is a member of the Executive Committee of the Pan-African Masters in Conference Interpreting (PAMCIT). She is also an active conference interpreter, member of AIIC.



Mr Berend Jonker, Policy Officer for International Affairs of the University Assistance Fund (UAF), Scholars-at-Risk (SAR), The Netherlands

Berend Jonker has 18 years of experience working in the field of refugees, asylum and human rights. At present, he works as a Policy Officer International Affairs at the Foundation for Refugee Students UAF in the Netherlands. UAF supports around 3100 refugees and asylum seekers from 77 countries in their studies with: scholarships and financial support, individual advice and guidance, job counseling and consultation of governmental and educational institutions. In addition, UAF in cooperation with Scholars at Risk and higher education institutions in the Netherlands provides sanctuary to professors, lecturers, researchers and other intellectuals who suffer threats in their home country. At this conference Berend will be representing the Scholars at Risk network.



Ms Catherine Gladwell, Director, Refugee Support Network

Catherine is the founder and Director of [Refugee Support Network](#) (RSN) and has worked with refugee and asylum seeking children in the UK and internationally for the last ten years, in both education policy and programmes. RSN provides education support for young people affected by displacement and crisis, and has run an 'Access to Higher Education' programme for the last four years, supporting young refugees from a variety of countries to overcome the barriers preventing them from accessing university. Alongside her work at RSN, Catherine also works as a consultant for [Jigsaw Consult](#), working on refugee and emergency education projects for various international NGOs and UN agencies. Before working at RSN, Catherine worked in humanitarian education policy and with young refugees at Save the Children UK. She is a qualified teacher and has an MA in Education and International Development.

Ms Claire Herrmann, Policy Officer, Unit C/4 – International cooperation, higher education in the world, Erasmus+, European Commission, DG Education and Culture



Ms Daniela Kaisth, Vicepresident of the Institute of International Education (IIE), USA

Daniela Z. Kaisth is Vice President for External Affairs and IIE Initiatives at the Institute of International Education (IIE). Founded in 1919, IIE is a private not-for-profit leader in the international exchange of people and ideas. In collaboration with governments, foundations and other sponsors and donors, IIE implements scholarship and fellowship programs, including the Fulbright Program administered for the U.S. Department of State and the Brazil Scientific Mobility Program for the government of Brazil. Ms. Kaisth is responsible for leading IIE programs that address critical higher education needs in crisis, post-conflict, and transition countries, such as IIE's Scholar Rescue Fund and Emergency Student Fund. With more than 20 years' experience in international non-profit management, she also oversees IIE development, communications, and new programs.



Ms Deana Arsenian, Vicepresident, International Programme and Programme Director, Russia and Eurasia, Carnegie Corporation of New York, USA

Deana Arsenian, as Vice President of the International Program, promotes the development of Carnegie Corporation's grantmaking on international issues. She is also responsible for the Corporation's work concerning Russia and Eurasia. From 1983 to 1990, Arsenian worked as a program officer in the Avoiding Nuclear War Program. In 1990, she left the Corporation to become the assistant director of the Center for Foreign Policy Development at Brown University, which later merged with the Watson Institute for International Studies. In 1997, Arsenian returned to the Corporation from the Watson Institute, where she was assistant director for development and special projects. Arsenian earned a B.A. in political science from Barnard College and an M.A. in international affairs from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs. She is a former member of the board of directors of the Armenian Assembly and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Mr Eddie Dutton, Education in Emergencies Project Officer, UNESCO's Office in Jordan

Eddie Dutton is the UNESCO Office in Amman Project Officer for Education in Emergencies overseeing initiatives for Teacher Professional Development, Non-Formal Education and Informal Education. He has also worked on education



initiatives for UNESCO in Lebanon and Tanzania. He holds a MA in Education from George Washington University.

Ms Erika Alvarez, Project Coordinator, Habesha Project, Mexico

Erika Alvarez – has a B.A. from McGill University in International Development, Political Science and Hispanic Literature. She undertook graduate studies at the London School of Economics and at Sciences Po Paris and is currently enrolled at the University for Peace. She has worked in various UN agencies and at the European Commission. She has also carried out field work in Bangladesh and Lebanon. She is the founder of ECLOS México A.C. non-governmental organization promoting citizen participation.

Mr Ernesto Quipulza, Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Angola



Mr Erol Külahci, Chargé des relations avec l'Union européenne, Agence universitaire de la Francophonie

Erol Külahci holds a PhD in political science from the Université libre de Bruxelles. His published works include book and articles for international journals. Since 2005, he works for the 'Agence universitaire de la Francophonie' where he is in charge of the relations with the EU and the main responsible of EU projects. In partnership with the European Union, he has contributed develop multilateral initiatives with universities and research centres in EU and developing regions such as Middle-East, Maghreb and Sub-Saharan Africa.



Ms Emma Bonar, Youth Project Manager, Norwegian Refugee Council in Jordan, Norway

Emma manages youth programmes for Syrian Refugees in Jordan for the Norwegian Refugee Council. Emma has developed and managed education programmes in development and humanitarian contexts such as Yemen, South America, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, and currently in Jordan as part of the Syria response. Emma also co-chairs the Youth Task Force in Jordan. The Youth Task Force was created under the Protection and Education Sector Working Groups to facilitate coordination of youth actors with the objective to create a safe and enabling environment for youth through coordinated and targeted efforts and to ensure informed youth programming and advocacy.



Mr Gerald P. Doyle, Vice Provost, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, USA

Educated at the University of Chicago (Economics) and at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Jerry has spent over 30 years thinking about issues related to access, attainment, achievement, and advanced degrees, with a strong focus on developing pipeline initiatives for underserved communities. Jerry joined Illinois Institute of Technology in July 2006 and has found that the combination of outstanding faculty and staff and resolute commitment to community and innovation in STEM+ fields at Illinois Tech provides an extraordinary context in which to develop partnerships and collaborative projects.

Ms Helen Murray, Program Manager, Open Society Foundation, UK

I am a program manager at the Open Society Foundations, where I manage postgraduate and faculty fellowship programs in the Middle East, Africa, South-East Asia, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Over the past 15 years I have worked for universities and NGOs in international contexts, with a focus on young people and education justice. In particular, my experiences in Palestine, where I was responsible for monitoring and documenting the challenges facing Palestinian universities, students and faculty, motivated my longstanding interest and commitment to the role of higher education in conflict and post-conflict environments.



Ms Helena Barroco,

Portuguese diplomat, Portugal

Ms Henriette Stöber, Project Officer, European University Association (EUA) Belgium

Henriette Stöber is a Project Officer at EUA's Higher Education Policy Unit. Prior to joining EUA, she has worked as a research assistant at the Hungarian Rectors' Conference and spent several years as a programme manager at the German Academic Exchange Service's (DAAD) National Agency for Higher Education Organisations Cooperation. Furthermore, Henriette has worked for the private sector, mainly based in the UK. She holds a Joint MA in European Public Policy (University of York and Central European University).

Ms Inka Löck, German Academic Exchange Service, DAAD, Germany

Inka Löck works at the DAAD - Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst, German Academic Exchange Service in Bonn at the Section 441/North Africa, Middle East

Ms Irene Omond, MENA, UNHCR



Ms Ita Sheehy, Head of Education Unit, UNHCR

Ita Sheehy is the Senior Education Officer at UNHCR, responsible for global education strategy and programming for refugees both in emergencies and in situations of protracted conflict. Ita has had a long career in education, moving from elementary school teacher to curriculum developer and college lecturer, interspersed with over 20 years in education programming in the global south. She has worked with grassroots organisations, international NGOs, bilateral organisations and with several branches of the United Nations, most notably UNICEF and UNHCR, in situations spanning rural development, natural disasters and conflict affected situations. The primary focus of Ita's work over the past decade has been on education in situations of protracted conflict, with an emphasis on increasing access to education for marginalised populations, partnerships, systems strengthening, funding frameworks, and quality assurance. Her current work with UNHCR focuses on expanding access to quality education at all levels for refugees, and has a broad-reaching programme for higher education.

Ambassador Jan Deboutte

Ambassador Jan Deboutte is currently the chair of the task force on the Belgian Chairmanship of the Council of Europe

Mr Jean Christophe Bas, Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation, Council of Europe



Jean-Christophe has taken over in June 2014 the position of Director of Democratic Citizenship and Participation at the Council of Europe. Prior to this, he has collaborated from 2008 to 2014 with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in New York as Senior Advisor Strategic Development and Partnership and then as deputy Director.

From 1999 to 2008, Jean-Christophe served as the Head, Development Policy Dialogue at the World Bank.

He served as the first Executive Director of the Aspen Institute in France (1994-1999), chaired by the former French Prime Minister Raymond Barre; he is now a vice chairman of the advisory Board of the Institute. He was a Professor of Political Sciences at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Lyon and a Vice President of the European Fund for the Freedom of Expression, one of the very rare Organizations that advocated and supported freedom of speech and pluralism activists in Eastern Europe before the fall of the Berlin wall in 1989. From 1992 to 1994, he was the General Manager of JCB Eurostrategy, a Public Affairs Company based in Paris and Brussels. Jean-Christophe started his career as Head of staff of the President of the Committee on External Economic Relations (1984-86) at the European Parliament, and Secretary General of the French branch of the E P P (1986-1989) at the European Parliament. He has been elected in 1989 as city counselor in Besançon, capital city of the Franche Comte Region. From 1989-1991, he was a journalist working for several newspapers and magazines (founder and Editor in Chief of "Réponse à Tout", columnist at the business magazines "Enjeux les Echos" and "Valeurs Actuelles").

Jean-Christophe is the author of several books, namely EUROPE A LA CARTE (Editions du Cherche-Midi) and he has been visiting and working in approximately 100 countries around the world.



Mr Joel Bubbers, British Council, UK

Joel is currently Director for Syria, British Council.

He is a British Council graduate who has worked on the organisation's Youth Programmes in the MENA region. Alongside his experience of research and fieldwork in Rwanda and Israel-Palestine, he earned a Distinction in his MA in International Peace & Security from Kings College London, and he has held junior roles with the EU Delegation to the UN in New York, and NATO



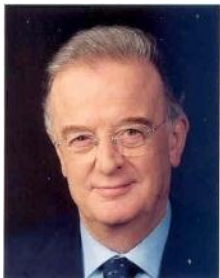
Mr John Law, Higher Education Adviser, British Council, UK

John is a Higher Education Adviser with the British Council, based in Manchester, and has over twenty five years experience in the Higher Education sector. He specialises in promoting collaboration through internationalising higher education.

After graduating with a BSc in Industrial Design, from Edinburgh's Napier University, John worked as a designer in the creative industries, before joining the University of Central England (UCE) in Birmingham, where in 1996 he gained his PhD in Design Management.

In 2000 he was appointed as Head of the Department of Fashion, Textiles and Three Dimensional Design at UCE, before moving to Hong Kong as the Head of Design at the Hong Kong Design Institute, where he led the delivery of UK undergraduate programmes with UK partner Universities.

With the British council, John works with both the UK HE sector and Ministries of Higher Education overseas to promote dialogue and partnership between stakeholders. John has advised on issues of quality assurance, collaborative partnerships, research co-operation and international development, with a focus on MENA and East Asia. He is a regular contributor at international conferences.



Mr Jorge Sampaio, President, Global Platform for Syrian Students (GPSS), Portugal

Born in 1938, Jorge Sampaio graduated in Law at Lisbon University in 1961. During the country's dictatorship he took up a legal career and became a Law Association board member, playing an important role in the defense of political prisoners. After 1974, he held several political positions in the new Portuguese democracy. In 1978 he joined the Socialist Party where he remains to present day. From 1979 to 1984 he was a member of the European Human Rights Commission of the Council of Europe. He is a member of the Socialist Party. In 1989, he was elected Mayor of Lisbon and re-elected in 1993. He was elected twice as President of Portugal (1996-2006).

During the last decade, President Sampaio gave his contribution to several issues, related to the European affairs and to almost all the challenges currently facing the international community, ie pandemics like HIV-AIDS, Drugs, Children, Human Rights, East Timor etc. He was the first UN Special Envoy to Stop Tuberculosis (2006-2012) and the first UN High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations (2007-2013). He is now leading a multi-stakeholders initiative – the Global Platform for Syrian Students – aimed at providing scholarships and emergency academic assistance to Syrian students affected by the conflict. He is a member of the CGI, the Club of Madrid and of the Global Commission on Drugs Policy. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. He is a member of the Clinton Global Initiative and he presides the jury of the Calouste Gulbenkian International Prize.



Ms Jorun Nossun, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation - NORAD, Department for Global Health, Innovation and Research, Norway

Norad is the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad), and is a directorate under the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Jorun Nossun is a Senior Adviser in Norad where she is responsible for the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development of Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED). The programme supports academic partnerships in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and has a particular focus on fragile situations, with a sub-programme on South Sudan. Nossun's background is in International Education, and she has worked in countries like Ethiopia, Egypt, South Africa and Cambodia. Her main focus areas have been education, health and gender.

www.norad.no
www.norad.no/norhed

Mr Júlio Gonçalves Pedrosa dos Santos, Coordinator of the Resource Centre on Cooperation and Development, Institute of Education, University of Minho, Portugal

Júlio Santos is currently employed as an Assistant Professor at the Institute of Education, Minho University, Braga – Portugal, and researcher, Centre for African Studies, University of Porto, has a BA (Minho University 1982) in the Teaching of French and Portuguese and an MA (1996) and PhD in Education (2001 University of Sussex, UK). He has taught in Slovakia, France and Angola and currently coordinates the Resource Centre for Cooperation and Development at the Institute of Education; Minho University. He has coordinated, since 2001 technical assistance for programmes in

Guinea-Bissau, Angola, Cape Verde and has worked as a consultant for JRS (Malawi/Mozambique), UNICEF (Timor Leste), Save the Children, ADRA Angola, and IIEP/UNESCO. He is the representative of the Institute of Education in the Working Group on Education and Fragility of INEE. His research interests include education, aid and development, curriculum innovation in developing countries, education in small states and education in post-conflict situations and fragility.

Ms Liliana Oliva, Project Coordinator, Habesha Project

Liliana Oliva - holds a BA in Law from Universidad Panamericana (Mexico), and an LLM in public international law from the London School of Economics and Political Science. Currently, she is General Director to the Spanish-Mexican Business Council at the Mexican Embassy in Spain. Prior to her current position, she worked at the Federal Judiciary and Chief of Staff to the Attorney General of the state of Aguascalientes. Prior to her studies in London, she was assistant professor of public international law at Universidad Panamericana and has been judge to the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition since year 2006. Moreover, she assisted several research projects at the Law Department of the LSE and was pro bono researcher for the papers on Mexico and France in the "No Safe Haven" project of Amnesty International.

Ms Magda Zaki Eltoulouny, Head of the Education Department League of Arab States (LAS)

Ms. El-Toulouny is a graduate of the American University in Cairo where she majored in Political Science. During her years of college she had the chance to participate in an exchange program in Grand Rapid State College as well as to travel intensively for courses in China and as parts of the world. In 2000 she received her Master degree from the same university her thesis topic was "National Identity in the Central Asia in Post Soviet era. As of 1993 she has been working for the League of Arab States: first in the department of cooperation with Africa, then the department of North America, in 2008 she became manager of the department of the Dialogue among Civilizations and now she is leading The Education Department. Her hobbies are: alternative healing, reading and writing with special love to art and architecture and finally travel, she is a mother of one daughter: Nour

Ms Mame Bougouma, Project Coordinator, Habesha Project, Mexico

Mame Bougouma – is an International civil servant, with ten years' experience in international development, beginning with the United States Peace Corps and more recently the International Organization for Migration. Mame has volunteered in local development in Bangladesh with the Peace Corps, and early education with a spiritual component, at Sathira Dhamassatan in Bangkok Thailand. For the IOM Mame has worked as a Capacity Building Officer in Data Analysis and Policy Development in Geneva, Dakar, and Brussels, and more recently as Head of Sub-Office and project manager for the reintegration of returnees and ex-combatants in Agadez, Niger. He also has experience in the Middle East, volunteering with the African Refugee Development Center in Tel Aviv, Israel, working as a tutor and higher education case manager for African Asylum-Seekers in Israel.

Mr Manuel Domingos Augusto, Secretary of State for Foreign Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Angola



Ms Maria Carvalhosa, Senior Programme Officer, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, Portugal

Maria Carvalhosa Empis was born in Lisbon in 1962. She was graduated in International Relations before completing a Master's degree in International Cooperation and Development at the Lisboa School of Economics and Management. In 2012 she joined the PhD programme in African Studies at the ISCTE-University Institute of Lisbon. Between 2000 and 2013 she worked in the Aid Development Programme of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation and since 2013 is a Senior Programme Officer at the Armenian Communities Department, at the same Foundation. She is responsible for the Scholarship Programme of the Department.

Ms Martina Sedlakova, Syria Programme Coordinator, SPARK, The Netherlands

Martina Sedlakova has been working at SPARK on educational and capacity building projects that aim to respond to refugee crisis in Turkey and strengthen emergency and transition management inside Syria. Besides management of these projects, she actively engages in the network of activists inside Syria, monitors violation of human rights and works on raising awareness and mobilization of international support to education in Syria. She focuses on

transnational admission procedures, student and academic mobility, and long-term capacity and institution building in conflict affected societies. Her previous experience includes transformation cooperation projects with civil society organizations and EU delegation in Egypt. Martina obtained her MA degree at Charles University in Prague and accomplished a number of research projects at Cairo and Tel Aviv University as well as several long stays in Syria, Palestine and Tunisia. She is fluent in Czech, English and Arabic.



Ms Meriem Belabbes, Research and Data Officer, UK NARIC

Originally recruited as an Information Officer at UK NARIC with fluency in Arabic and French, Meriem has gained extensive experience dealing with qualifications from the Middle-East and Africa. In her current role as a Research and Data Officer, Meriem has had the opportunity to deepen her knowledge of these education systems, examining the latest developments and changes, whilst building strong relationships with government bodies, national agencies and related stakeholders. Therefore, Meriem is a key decision maker in the UK NARIC credential evaluation decision-making process, presenting and reviewing qualifications for the purpose of recognition. Additionally, Meriem regularly contributes to the development of informational material and the delivery of regular face-to-face training sessions, relating to country specific education systems. Keen to further exercise and develop her research skills, Meriem is also currently working towards a Master of Arts in Global Diplomacy at The School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London, for completion in 2015.

Ms Michel Richter, Co-director, SPARK

Ms Michelle Manks, Manager, Student Refugee Program, World University Service of Canada



Michelle Manks has been working within the World University Service of Canada's Campus Engagement team since 2008, and is currently the manager of the organization's unique Student Refugee Program (SRP). She is responsible for engaging post-secondary institutions across Canada on development issues and refugee sponsorship, and for providing student, faculty, and staff volunteers on each campus with ongoing refugee resettlement and public engagement training. In addition to engaging in-Canada partners, her role also involves overseeing the program in Kenya, Malawi, South-East Asia, and the Middle-East, and coordinating educational programming provided to refugees in these countries of asylum. Prior to joining WUSC, Michelle worked in sport for development in the Caribbean, as a teacher in South Korea, and on the designation of Wolfville, Nova Scotia as Canada's first Fair Trade Town. She holds a BBA from Acadia University and an MA in Conflict Studies from the University of Ottawa and Saint Paul University.



Dr. Neil Sparnon, Chief Academic Officer, JC:HEM, UK

Based in the UK, Neil Sparnon is JC:HEM's Chief Academic Officer responsible for the interface between our donating institutions, International Faculty and the staff and students at our learning sites. Other responsibilities include Faculty recruitment and orientation, the provision of texts and software, transcripts and inter-university agreements and collaboration.

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Ms Oula Abu-Amsha , Scholarship, Former Professor, University of Geneva, Syria



Dr. Oula Abu-Amsha is a Syrian associate professor. She used to teach courses of computer science and applied mathematics in several higher education institutions in Damascus since 1999.

She used to have a special interest in educational technologies and blended learning in order to motivate active learning among students and improve higher education in Syria.

Since she left her country in 2012, the interest of Dr. Abu-Amsha shifted to education in emergencies. She was involved in the past year with the education team of the World Bank in a field research caring about Syrian refugee children in the Lebanese schools.

Dr. Abu-Amsha is at present a visiting scholar at the university of Geneva where she participates to the European project "Citizen Cyberlab" and has the responsibility of studying the learning analytics of participants to pilot citizen science projects.

Mr Paolo Artini, Deputy Regional Representative, UNHCR

Mr. Paolo Artini graduated in Law from the University of Pavia, Italy and in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), London.

From 1990 to 1992 he worked for the Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy where he was in charge of the immigration office.

He entered into the service of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 1993 and since then has been posted to several countries including Kuwait, Mauritania, Ethiopia and Bosnia Herzegovina. From 2005 he worked



for UNHCR Regional Representation in Rome as head of the protection unit, where he has been working on the plight of refugees crossing the Mediterranean sea.

In July 2010 he was appointed Deputy Regional Representative in the UNHCR Regional Representation for Western Europe, based in Brussels, where he has been serving until present.

From September to November 2012 he was deployed as acting Deputy Representative to Jordan in the context of the emergency response to Syrian refugees.

Ms Racha Fayek, Al Fanar Media, Deputy Managing Director Jordan

Rasha Fayek is the deputy CeO of Al Fanar Media, the only bilingual independent publication covering all aspects of higher education in the Arab world.



Mr Salah Abu Osbeh, Executive Director, Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization (TAG-Org), Jordan

Mr. Abu Osbeh is currently working as the VP - Administration at Talal Abu-Ghazaleh University.

His professional career includes extensive banking and financial experience, developing marketing strategies, planning and managing large scale governmental training projects, developing training programs, designing professional e-learning programs, and also experienced in planning development automated testing software, E-learning platforms, E-practice solutions and Automation of manuals.

Salah is a passionate initiator and in his 24 years of solid experience, he has developed a deep understanding for education and e-learning. At Talal Abu-Ghazaleh Organization, he led the first Arab IT Literacy program validated by Cambridge International Examinations, a program aiming at providing Arab nationals with the needed skills to use computer applications and access the information society.

An important aspect of his life is family – Salah is married and has two sons and two daughters.



Dr Sameer A. Abu Eisheh, Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, Former Acting Minister of Education and higher Education , Na-Najah National University, Palestine

Professor of Engineering at An-Najah National University in Nablus, Palestine. Received PhD from Pennsylvania State University, USA in 1987. Former Dean of Engineering and President's Assistant for Planning and Development at An-Najah University. Former Minister of Planning, Acting Minister of Finance and Acting Minister of Education and Higher Education in Palestine. Consultant to various organizations. Author of more than 100 papers and academic contributions.



Dr. Sansom Milton, Research Fellow, Post-war Reconstruction & Development Unit, University of York, UK

Sansom Milton is a Research Fellow at the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit at the University of York where he is also the Coordinator of the Education in Conflict and Emergencies research programme. He completed a PhD in Post-war Recovery Studies in 2013. His thesis examines the role of higher education systems in post-war recovery through the case-studies of Iraq and Libya. Prior to his doctorate he worked as a researcher for the Regional Human Security Centre in Amman, Jordan.



Baroness Simone Susskind, President, Actions in the Mediterranean (AIM), Belgium

President of "Actions in the Mediterranean", Member of the Regional Parliament of Bruxelles-Capitale. She holds several awards: "Woman of the Year in Belgium" (1991); Doctor Honoris Causa of the Free University of Brussels (2000); Citizenship prize of the Foundation P&V (2008)



Mr Sjur Bergan, Council of Europe

Sjur Bergan is Head of the Education Department of the Council of Europe. He was one of the main authors of the Lisbon Recognition Convention and is a former Co-Secretary of the ENIC Network as well as of the Council of Europe's Higher Education and Research Committee. He also represents the Council of Europe in the Bologna Follow Up Group and is a frequent contributor to the discussion of higher education policies in Europe. He is the author of numerous articles as well as of two monographs in the Council of Europe Higher Education Series: *Qualifications: Introduction to a Concept* (2007) and *Not by Bread Alone* (2011).



Mr Stefan Delplace, Honorary Secretary General, EURASHE, Belgium

Stefan Delplace is an educationalist, with a professional background in teaching, who later specialised in Higher Education policies and their interaction with civil society. Stefan was the Secretary General of EURASHE (www.eurashe.eu) for over 10 years, (2004-2014), and during this period he represented EURASHE in the Bologna Follow up Group. Stefan has wide experience in quality assurance and accreditation issues, and was also a member of the Executive Board of EQAR (2012-2014), the European Register for Quality Assurance Agencies. In 2014 he was elected a member of the Bureau of the Steering Committee for Policy and Practice at the Council of Europe.



Ambassador Stephen Wordsworth, Executive Director, CARA (Council for At-Risk Refugee Academics), UK

Wordsworth was born in Port Talbot, South Wales, and educated at St John's School Porthcawl, Epsom College and Downing College Cambridge, where he studied German and Russian (MA). He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1977 and served abroad in several countries. In 1992 he was honoured by Her Majesty the Queen with the award of Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order for his part in the organisation of her State Visit that year to Germany. At the same time he was awarded the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany. He was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George in 2011.

After leaving the FCO, Wordsworth joined the Council for Assisting Refugee Academics (CARA) as Executive Director in 2012. Originally founded as the Academic Assistance Council in 1933 by William Beveridge, A V Hill and others, to assist Jewish and other academics forced to flee the Nazi regime, CARA now works with a network of some 70 universities in the UK to support academics from all over the world who have been forced to flee their home countries by discrimination, violence and death threats, at the hands of repressive regimes and extremist groups. CARA also operates overseas programmes to support academics in Iraq and Zimbabwe.



Mr Sultan Barakat, Director, Post war reconstruction and development Unit, University of York / Doha

Sultan Barakat is director of research at the Brookings Doha Center and senior fellow at the Center for Middle East Policy at Brookings. He is known for having pioneered both scholarship and practice in the field of post-war recovery. In 1993 he founded the Post-war Reconstruction and Development Unit, a world-leading center at the University of York. Barakat's current research focuses on state fragility and recovery in the Middle East, as well as the role of Qatar in conflict mediation. Barakat has been widely published, and has over 25 years of professional experience working on issues of conflict management, humanitarian response, and post-conflict recovery and transition. Much of his work has been based in, but not limited to, the Middle East and North Africa, sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. His research focus includes strategic conflict assessment; post-war reconstruction and state-building; humanitarian action; education in emergencies; and program evaluation and value attribution. Underlying these themes is a principal research concern with public diplomacy towards the Muslim world and the effectiveness of the research-policy nexus. Barakat has acted as principal investigator on numerous large-scale conflict and recovery research projects for the World Bank, the EU, U.K. Department for International Development (DFID), the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, The Institute of International Education, United States Institute of Peace, the International Labour Organization and others. Over the past three years, he has led an international multidisciplinary team in carrying out an education focused conflict analysis of Somalia on behalf of UNICEF; evaluated the effectiveness of the Afghanistan National Solidarity Program in terms of the reintegration of refugees on behalf of the World Bank; and completed a flagship Economic Social Research Council funded project investigating the impact of DFID sponsored research on British state-building policy. Professor Barakat has published more than 100 scholarly articles, book chapters, papers and commissioned reports and has conducted research across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.



Ms Valerie Ceccherini, EU Advocacy Adviser, Norwegian Refugee Council, Norway

Valerie Ceccherini joined NRC as EU Advocacy Adviser, last June. Since 1996, she has been working in the aid and human rights sectors in Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. And she has led the policy and advocacy work of different international humanitarian and development organisations –including on migration issues in the EU- for the past 12 years. Valerie holds a journalism diploma and she has also worked several years as a reporter, focusing on foreign affairs, human rights and humanitarian issues.