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Founder & Head of INTERENEf

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ANĐELKO MILARDOVIĆ

Founder of INTERENEF
Political Scientist and Sociologist



**DARIA KARASALIHović
SEDLAR**

Full Professor, University of Zagreb
Faculty of Mining, Geology
and Petroleum Engineering



MLADEN NAKIĆ

President
Atlantic Council of Croatia



MARIJAN KRPAN

President of the Management Board
Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency



VIKTOR LUČIĆ

Director of Corporate Strategy
and Business Development
KONČAR Group



ĐULA BOROZAN

Tenured Full Professor
Faculty of Economics and Business
Osijek



PAOLO TRICHILO

Ambassador of Italy
to the Republic of Croatia



PAWEŁ CZERWIŃSKI

Career Diplomat
Polish Diplomatic Service



**ANAR LACHIN OGLU
IMAMOV**

Ambassador of Azerbaijan
to the Republic of Croatia



JAVED PATEL

Ambassador of the United Kingdom
to the Republic of Croatia



JULIJE DOMAC

Director, REGEA
Special Advisor to the President
of Croatia for Energy and Climate



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Associate Professor
Comenius University Bratislava
Visiting Professor, College of Europe



RUBEN MNATSAKANIAN

Professor Emeritus
Central European University



YAKOV POLEG

Senior Deputy Director General
Ministry of Agriculture
and Food Security, Israel



**AGATA
MALAK-RAWLIKOWSKA**

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Warsaw University of Life Sciences



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Professor of Development Economics
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Geopolitical Strategist
and Energy Analyst
Blue Water Strategy



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Project Director
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Chair, Delegation for Relations with
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Natural Gas and Energy Expert
Advisor and Lecturer
in Energy Economics



LEON STILLE

Energy Transition Expert
Director
Mediterranean Platform



IVANA RENDULIĆ JELUŠIĆ

Founder and Director
ALTI AGRO
Precision and Digital Agriculture



DAVOR RENDULIĆ

Journalist and Editor
Croatian Radio



NEVENKA LASTRIĆ-ĐURIĆ

State Secretary
Ministry of the Interior
Republic of Croatia



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Osijek



ROBERT HADŽIĆ

Economist and Farmer
Expert in Economic Models
for Agricultural Cooperation



KAMILO VRANA

Founder
SolNet
Renewable Energy Advisor

BIOGRAPHY

Andjelko Milardović

Political Scientist and Sociologist

Institute for European and Globalization Studies

International Energy Forum

Zagreb, Croatia



Professional profile

Andjelko Milardović is a political scientist and sociologist, and a professor of political science with a permanent titular appointment.

Energy policy and geopolitics

He is the founder of the Institute for European and Globalization Studies at the International Energy Forum (INTERENEF) in Zagreb. The forum's long-term aim is to develop into a Global Energy Forum modelled on the Davos forum. His work within INTERENEF focuses on the conceptual foundations of energy policy and energy geopolitics.

Publications

Working with artificial intelligence, he prepared the digital lexicon "Fundamental Terms of Energy Policy and Energy Geopolitics".

BIOGRAPHY

Daria Karasalihović Sedlar

Full Professor

Faculty of Mining, Geology
and Petroleum Engineering
University of Zagreb



Academic career

Daria Karasalihović Sedlar has worked at the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb, since 2000 and has held the rank of Full Professor since 2019. She is also Director of the Petroleum Engineering Summer School (PESS) at the Inter-University Centre in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

She graduated from the faculty in 2000 and earned her PhD in Technical Sciences in 2007. From 2013 to 2015, she served as Head of the Department of Petroleum Engineering.

Research and consultancy

She is the co-author of two books and more than 70 scientific papers on petroleum economics, natural gas sector management and geothermal energy potential assessment.

Her research includes projects on energy economics, natural gas management, geothermal energy economics, and policies and development strategies for carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS). She has contributed to numerous projects and consultancy assignments for Croatia's energy sector, as well as environmental impact studies in the petroleum industry and energy sector.

Professional engagement

She is a member of the Council for Energy Transition of the President of the Republic of Croatia. As faculty adviser to the Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) student chapter and a member of its Education and Accreditation Committee, she has participated in numerous SPE projects. She is also a member of the Storage and Strategy Committee of the International Gas Union (IGU).

BIOGRAPHY

Mladen Nakić

Adviser to the Minister

Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs

Republic of Croatia



Education and teaching

Mladen Nakić graduated in political science from the University of Zagreb and earned a master's degree in international relations and a doctorate in international relations and national security. He trained at the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, and lectures at Libertas International University and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Diplomatic Academy.

Military and diplomatic career

A veteran of the Croatian War of Independence, he served as a Ministry of Defence officer, Head of the Department for Foreign Military Attachés, Defence Attaché to the United States and Canada in Washington, D.C., and Head of the Arms Control Office.

He left the Croatian Army as a brigadier in 2006 and continued his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He was Assistant Minister of Administration from 2017 to 2019 and now serves as an adviser to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs.

Publications and professional engagement

He wrote "The United States of America and the Global Environment" and numerous articles on international relations, foreign policy and diplomacy. He initiated the George C. Marshall Club Croatia and was its first president.

A long-standing member and former Vice-President of the Atlantic Council of Croatia, he has been its President since 2024. His decorations include the Storm Medal and the Legion of Merit awarded by the President of the United States.

BIOGRAPHY

Marijan Krpan

President of the Management Board

Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency



Professional profile

Marijan Krpan has been President of the Management Board of the Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency since 2018. He holds an MSc in Business Management and a degree in Geology, and has more than 30 years of experience in oil and natural gas exploration and production.

Professional career

He began his career in geological and petrophysical analysis at INA in Zagreb. At INAgip in Milan, he gained international experience across all phases of natural gas exploration and production.

He subsequently held management positions in INA's Formation Assessment Service and International Business Development Sector, and gained further experience at Repsol in Madrid before joining the Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency.

BIOGRAPHY

Viktor Lučić

**Director of Corporate Strategy
and Business Development**

KONČAR Group



Professional career

Viktor Lučić joined the KONČAR Group in 2023 as Director of Corporate Strategy and Business Development. He is responsible for strategic planning, business development and the management of EU-funded projects.

He spent most of his earlier career in senior management at Hrvatski Telekom and A1 Hrvatska. His responsibilities included strategic planning, restructuring and organisational transformation, human resources management, and mergers and acquisitions.

Education

He holds a degree from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and an MBA from the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb.

BIOGRAPHY

Đula Borožan

Full Professor

Faculty of Economics and Business

Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek



Academic career

Đula Borožan is a tenured Full Professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek. She teaches macroeconomics and related courses at all levels of higher education and is an external associate of the School of Applied Mathematics and Informatics in Osijek.

Research and recognition

She has published numerous scientific papers in leading international journals, primarily on macroeconomics and energy economics, and has received awards for her research. Since 2021, the Stanford University–Elsevier ranking has consistently placed her among the world's top 2% of most highly cited scientists.

Professional engagement

She is a long-standing member of the Croatian Operational Research Society and has served on the Economic Council of the President of the Republic of Croatia since 2021.

BIOGRAPHY

Paolo Trichilo

Ambassador of Italy to Croatia

Republic of Italy



Diplomatic career

Paolo Trichilo is Ambassador of Italy to Croatia and previously served as Ambassador to Slovenia. He began his diplomatic career in 1990 with an assignment to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, later OSCE).

His overseas postings include Consul in Mulhouse, Commercial Counsellor in Ankara, Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi and Deputy Permanent Representative to the OECD in Paris.

At the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Rome, he served as Deputy Counter-Terrorism Coordinator, a member of the Iraq Task Force and Deputy Head of the Crisis Unit at the General Secretariat. He was also Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister of Labour and Social Policies, Deputy Director General for Resources and Innovation, and Central Director for Human Resources.

Earlier experience and publications

Before joining the diplomatic service, he was a Lieutenant in the Carabinieri Corps and worked at the Human Rights Chair at LUISS University in Rome. He is the author of several books; his essays and articles are available on Academia.edu.

BIOGRAPHY

Paweł Czerwiński

Career Diplomat

Polish Foreign Service



Professional profile and education

Paweł Czerwiński is a career diplomat with more than 30 years of foreign service experience, having progressed through every rank from attaché. Born in Krakow in 1965, he graduated in law with excellent results from Jagiellonian University in 1989 and completed a prosecutor's internship in his hometown.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in autumn 1990 after passing the first open competition for the diplomatic service in independent Poland.

Early diplomatic career

He began as an attaché for legal affairs in the Consular Section of the Polish Embassy in Moscow. Following the dissolution of the USSR and the Baltic states' independence, he moved to Riga. From 1991 to 1996, he handled political and legal affairs and also served for a time as a trade counsellor.

His analyses and speeches helped resolve preferential citizenship rules for Poles in Latvia and restore pension rights for service in Poland before the USSR's dissolution, whose payment ZUS had suspended. He also prepared a guide to restitution claims for properties owned in Latvia before World War II.

Returning to the ministry in 1996, he became its Western Europe Directorate's Lithuania expert and deepened his interest in the Balkans. In 1998, he became First Secretary for Political Affairs and Media in Ljubljana, whose embassy also covered Bosnia and Herzegovina until the Sarajevo embassy opened in November 2001.

Paweł Czerwiński

Career Diplomat

Polish Foreign Service



Work in the Balkans

After working on Polish–Slovenian relations at the embassy, he joined the Europe Directorate in autumn 2002 as an expert on Serbia and Montenegro, Kosovo, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. His Balkan expertise was valued by the ministry and professional circles; he also published articles on the development of states that emerged from Yugoslavia’s breakup.

Senior diplomatic positions

In August 2004, as a counsellor, he took charge of the Ankara embassy as chargé d’affaires ad interim. He served for six months while the EU decided on opening accession negotiations with Turkey, with Poland participating for the first time as a new EU member.

He continued as Deputy Head of Mission and moved to the same role in Belgrade in July 2006. He oversaw Serbia’s domestic and foreign policy and Polish–Serbian relations. He also handled contacts with Montenegro until the Podgorica mission opened, Kosovo analysis and cooperation with Polish soldiers and police in NATO, UN and EU missions, and embassy coordination during Poland’s Presidency of the Council of the EU.

From September 2013 to August 2015, he was Deputy Head of the Minister’s Office, supervising the preparation and organisation of ministerial visits and meetings. From September 2015 to March 2020, he was Poland’s Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Slovenia.

From October 2020 to September 2023, he advised the Polish President on foreign policy and served on the Advisory Board of the Presidents of Poland and Ukraine.

BIOGRAPHY

Anar Lachin Oglu Imamov

Ambassador of Azerbaijan to Croatia

Republic of Azerbaijan



Diplomatic career

Anar Lachin Oglu Imamov has served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Azerbaijan to Croatia since 18 October 2022.

From 1995 to 1996, he was an analyst at the “Azarbsharqticarət” association, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. He lectured at Azerbaijan University’s Faculty of Law from 1996 to 1998.

From 1998 to 2002, he served as Attaché and Third Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs’ Treaty and Legal Department. He then held Second and First Secretary positions at Azerbaijan’s Embassy in Russia from 2002 to 2006.

He headed a division in the Department of International Law and Treaties from 2007 to 2008. At Azerbaijan’s Embassy in Hungary, he was First Secretary in 2008–2009 and Counsellor in 2009–2013.

2013: Deputy Director, Department of International Law and Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He was Ambassador to Vietnam from 27 February 2013 to 18 October 2022, and to Cambodia and Laos from 23 December 2013 to 18 October 2022.

Education

He studied at Azerbaijan University’s Faculty of International Law in 1992–1996 and Baku State University’s Faculty of Law in 1992–1997.

Background and languages

Born in Baku on 11 April 1975, he speaks Turkish, Russian and English.

BIOGRAPHY

Javed Patel

His Majesty's Ambassador to Croatia

United Kingdom



Diplomatic career

Javed Patel is His Majesty's Ambassador to Croatia. He was Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh from February 2020 to March 2023 and has served as the UK government's Counter-Terrorism and Extremism Coordinator for Europe in Brussels.

Since joining the Foreign Office in 2007, he has held positions in the National Security, Middle East and North Africa, and Consular Directorates. He also served as Political Counsellor in Baghdad, Iraq.

Earlier experience and areas of expertise

His earlier career included roles in the Home Office, including the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism, and in regional government. His principal area of expertise is national security, with further interests in public diplomacy, trade and climate change.

BIOGRAPHY

Julije Domac

Managing Director

North-west Croatia Regional Energy Agency



Professional positions

Julije Domac is Managing Director of the North-west Croatia Regional Energy Agency and a member of the European Covenant of Mayors Board. He has been President of the European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment (FEDARENE) since 2013, and Special Adviser on Energy and Climate to Croatian President Zoran Milanović since 2020.

Research and international projects

He has published more than 70 scientific and professional papers in journals and at major European conferences, and initiated energy policy measures at EU and national level. He has worked as an editor, author and reviewer for journals including Energy Policy, Forestry Economics and Biomass & Bioenergy.

His roles have included Head of Croatia's National Energy Programme BIOEN; technical editor and national project director for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); project manager for the International Energy Agency (IEA); National Project Coordinator for the UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); and consultant on World Bank projects.

Awards and recognition

His awards include the Croatian National Science Award (2002), the Biomass Junior Award at the second World Conference on Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection in Rome (10–14 May 2004), the Hrvoje Požar Foundation Annual Award (2005), honorary citizenship of Pokupsko (15 August 2016) and the City of Zabok Award (2018).

BIOGRAPHY

Matúš Mišík

Associate Professor

Department of Political Science
Comenius University Bratislava



Academic career

Matúš Mišík is an Associate Professor at the Department of Political Science at Comenius University Bratislava and a Visiting Professor at the College of Europe, Bruges. He is a Senior Researcher at the Institute of Political Science, Slovak Academy of Sciences, in Bratislava, Slovakia.

Research and publications

His research interests include small states and energy security in the EU.

He is the author of *External Energy Security in the European Union* (Routledge, 2019), co-author of *Energy Transitions in Central and Eastern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2024), and has published articles in journals including *Nature Energy*, *Energy*, *Energy Policy*, and *Geopolitics*.

BIOGRAPHY

Ruben Mnatsakanian

Professor Emeritus

Central European University



Academic career and education

Ruben Mnatsakanian is Professor Emeritus at Central European University (CEU), with more than 40 years of experience in environmental sciences and policy. Born in 1959, he earned an MSc in 1981 and a PhD in 1985 at Moscow State University's Department of Geography.

He worked at CEU's Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy from 1994 until his retirement in 2025, serving as Head of Department from 2000 to 2015. The university was based in Budapest and is now in Vienna.

International projects and publications

From 1996 to 2025, he was a coordinating lead author of chapters in the UN Environment Programme's Global Environment Outlook series, from GEO-1 to GEO-7. He headed the UNEP GEO Collaborating Centre at CEU from 1996 to 2012.

He has contributed to projects for the WHO, European Commission, OECD and UNDP, and is the author and co-author of several books.

Research interests

His interests include general ecology, adaptation to climate change, the ecological history of Eastern Europe and the former USSR, land use, food security and education for sustainable development.

BIOGRAPHY

Yakov Poleg

Senior Deputy Director General

Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Israel



Professional responsibilities

Yakov Poleg has served as Senior Deputy Director General at the Centre for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation in Israel's Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security since 2019.

He works with ministries, senior government officials and experts on food security cooperation, and designs and implements bilateral and multilateral trade policy. His work promotes smart technologies, resilient food systems and adaptation to climate change, while representing Israel's agricultural interests internationally.

Professional career

He headed CINADCO, the Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation, from 2013 to 2019, and was Agricultural and Scientific Attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Washington, D.C., from 2006 to 2009. He chaired the Israeli Honey Production Board from 2013 to 2024.

Education

His education includes a law degree (LL.B.; 1997–2000) and a master's degree in Public Policy (M.A.; 2011–2013). He is a member of the Israeli Bar Association.

Agata Malak-Rawlikowska

Professor of Economics

Warsaw University of Life Sciences



Academic and advisory work

Agata Malak-Rawlikowska is an economist specialising in the agri-food sector, with more than 20 years of experience in research, teaching and policy advice. A professor at the Faculty of Economics, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, she leads and contributes to projects on sustainable agribusiness, food chain integration and the effects of agricultural policy.

She has supported the European Commission's DG AGRI, the European Investment Bank and non-governmental organisations. She is the author of more than 150 scientific publications and numerous expert reports.

Professional engagement

She is a long-standing member of the European Association of Agricultural Economists, a member of the Executive Board of the International Farm Management Association, and Chair of the International AgriMBA Network, which accredits MBA programmes for the agribusiness sector.

Demetris Psaltopoulos

Professor of Development Economics

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki



Academic work and research

Demetris Psaltopoulos is Professor of Development Economics at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. His research covers development economics and policy, agricultural and rural development policy analysis and assessment, and quantitative methods.

During a career spanning more than two decades, he has published extensively in international journals and presented at more than 70 international conferences. His work has received over 2,000 citations.

International projects

Since 2016, he has worked with the World Bank's Agriculture Global Practice as a Senior Economist and short-term consultant (STC), undertaking analyses in the Western Balkans, EU, Middle East and North Africa, and Africa. His expertise includes economic modelling for policy impact assessment.

He has served as coordinator, team leader and researcher on international projects concerning economic development and agricultural policy.

Professional engagement and awards

He was an elected Board Member of the European Association of Agricultural Economists from 2005 to 2013 and received the University of Helsinki Silver Medal for his research achievements.

Cyril Widdershoven

Geopolitical Strategist and Energy Analyst

Blue Water Strategy



Professional profile

Cyril Widdershoven is a geopolitical strategist and energy and maritime analyst covering energy markets, shipping, ports, defence and global power competition. He translates geopolitical shocks, energy disruptions and security risks into strategic insights for boards, investors and policymakers.

Advisory work

With decades of experience in the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey and Europe, he has advised governments, national oil companies, energy majors, sovereign wealth funds, maritime stakeholders and financial institutions on oil and gas markets, energy security, defence-related investment and geopolitical risk.

He is a partner at Blue Water Strategy, an independent platform specialising in strategic foresight for shipping companies, ports, energy investors and infrastructure developers facing sanctions, security threats, regulatory weaponisation and energy transition uncertainty.

He examines how trade routes, ports, offshore energy systems and naval power shape economic outcomes and political influence, as well as scenarios involving Middle East conflict, maritime chokepoints, offshore energy security and the geopolitical effects of decarbonisation.

Education and strategic approach

He develops executive education and training in geopolitics, commodity trading, energy transition and strategic foresight, linking academic rigour with practical decision-making. He views energy, shipping and security as a single strategic system shaping the global economy.

BIOGRAPHY

Tonči Tokić

Project Director

EAGibson UK



Professional profile

Tonči Tokić has more than 30 years of experience in energy commodities and in planning, strategically developing and delivering projects across North and South America and the Eastern Hemisphere. As Project Director at EAGibson UK, he leads energy hub initiatives involving LNG, LPG, gas-to-power and green energy.

Education and career

Born in Split, he earned a Master's degree in Marine Engineering at the Faculty of Maritime Studies. In 1996, at his company's request, he attended the Singapore Institute of Management, focusing on management and leadership and collaborating with Westinghouse, American Bank, Halliburton and Mitsui.

He began his career in US maritime and shipping operations. From 1998 to 2009, he was Person in Charge (PIC) for methanol and ethanol quality and shipping. He then joined an LNG project and assessment team, contributing to the sector's shift from West to East.

At one of China's largest private companies, he served as Senior Expert Adviser and then Senior Vice President for Projects. As Vice President at the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), he led global project development involving LNG, ethane, gas-to-power and LPG.

Project management

He is responsible for strategic planning, project coordination and oversight, advanced real-time trading platforms, financial negotiations, and short- and long-term contracts. He works with energy partners to combine specialist knowledge and resources for successful project delivery.

His priorities include clients' energy efficiency and robust interconnection and investment frameworks. His long involvement in oil and gas has broadened his professional network and expertise.

BIOGRAPHY

Davor Ivo Stier

Member of the European Parliament

European Parliament



Political and diplomatic career

Davor Ivo Stier began his third term as a Member of the European Parliament in 2024. He chairs the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (DSEE), and serves on the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) and Foreign Affairs (AFET) committees, and the delegations for relations with Latin America (DLAT) and the Andean Community (DAND).

He served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in 2016, working on Croatia's foreign policy and European integration. Elected several times to the Croatian and European parliaments, he has been Vice-President of parliamentary committees and President of the European People's Party Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe.

Education and background

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 6 January 1972, he holds a master's degree in Political Science, International Relations and Journalism from the Catholic University in Argentina, and graduated from the Diplomatic Academy in Zagreb.

Languages and awards

He speaks Spanish, English, Italian and French. His awards include the Order of Duke Branimir and the Parliament Magazine MEP Award for development policy.

BIOGRAPHY

Andrej Pustišek

Energy Economist and Adviser

Natural gas and energy markets



Professional profile and education

Andrej Pustišek has 35 years of experience in natural gas and energy. He advises international companies, teaches energy economics at the University of Applied Sciences in Stuttgart and the universities in Karlsruhe and St. Gallen, and conducts international courses on gas and energy markets.

Born in Zagreb and raised in Germany, he studied geophysics and economics in Vienna, Cologne and Münster.

Professional career

He began in international gas purchasing at Wintershall AG, Kassel, in 1990. From 1993, he headed WINGAS's supply logistics and international transit and storage contracts; from 1996 to 2001, he led gas planning and portfolio optimisation.

He joined E.ON Ruhrgas in 2002 as Senior/Executive Vice President for International Natural Gas Sales. He established and expanded sales in 11 countries and oversaw strategy, contract design, negotiation and operation for gas sales, transportation and storage across several European countries.

From 2008 to 2011, as Senior/Executive Vice President for Portfolio Management, he managed the contractual and asset portfolio. He also led E.ON's team during the January 2009 supply interruption ("Ukrainian crisis").

He has participated in European arbitration proceedings on gas delivery, transportation and storage and serves on European Commission monitoring trustee teams.

Publications

His publications include the multi-client study "Flexibility – Germany and Austria", second edition, 2014, and the textbook "Natural Gas – A Commercial Perspective", 2017, both co-authored with M. Karasz.

BIOGRAPHY

Leon Stille

Director and Energy Transition Specialist

Mediterranean Platform



Professional profile and education

Leon Stille has over 15 years of experience in energy transition, renewable and low-carbon energy. He holds BSc and MSc degrees in Energy Sciences and is pursuing a PhD in Energy Policy, combining technical knowledge with a strategic approach.

He is a Director of the Mediterranean Platform and holds management roles with start-ups and scale-ups in carbon capture (Hovyu BV), waste heat-to-power (Hydrostatic lift) and hydrogen (Impact Hydrogen). He teaches at several universities and business schools.

Experience and projects

His work spans innovation, technology development, project delivery and policy. His expertise covers hydrogen, CCUS, biomethane, biogas, geothermal energy, wind and solar.

He held commercial and strategic roles at Alliander, Plug Power and TNO, advancing international energy innovation. As Manager of the New Energy Business School, he led an international team and developed programmes, including an Executive MBA in Energy Policies.

He contributed to Europe's first Hydrogen Valley (HEAVENN) and Canada's CCUS project at Boundary Dam 3.

Patents and professional service

He holds three patents, is a Scientific Adviser to the European Biogas Association and Hydrogen Europe, and serves on the International Gas Union's Sustainability Committee. He is a speaker, author and moderator at international energy events and a contributor to Illuminem and Oilprice.com.

BIOGRAPHY

Ivana Rendulić Jelušić

Founder and CEO

ALTI AGRO d.o.o.



Professional profile and education

Ivana Rendulić Jelušić is the founder and CEO of ALTI AGRO d.o.o., specialising in smart and precision agriculture, digital viticulture, drone applications and multispectral data analysis.

She graduated in agronomy and oenology and earned her PhD at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb. Her doctoral research examined drones and vegetation indices for qualitative vineyard zoning and the economic efficiency of grape production.

Digital viticulture

She developed Vineyard Angel, an AI-powered platform combining drone data, multispectral imagery and agronomic analysis to support vineyard decisions. It enables vine health monitoring, spatial variability analysis, identification of problem areas, qualitative zoning and targeted crop protection.

Her work combines agronomy, remote sensing, artificial intelligence and business innovation to provide practical solutions for growers and wineries. A pioneer of digital and precision viticulture in Croatia, she has experience in development and pilot projects, data analysis, business digital transformation, and the preparation and implementation of national and EU-funded projects.

Awards

ALTI AGRO won first place and the “Snaga inovacije” award in 2026 for its precision viticulture solutions. Vineyard Angel won first place at the Festival of Ideas in 2025 and second place at Laqothon 2025.

BIOGRAPHY

Davor Rendulić

Radio Journalist and Editor

Croatian Radio



Journalism and editorial career

Davor Rendulić is a radio journalist and editor with more than two decades of experience in news and current affairs. At Croatian Radio, he works as a journalist and editor, oversees news programming, and creates and hosts programmes including “U mreži Prvog” and “Dnevni ritam”.

He was Editor-in-Chief of the Laganini radio network, formerly Soundset Plavi. He has also worked at Zagreb Radio, Plavi Radio, Antena Zagreb, Totalni FM and Media Servis, and on media productions, marketing initiatives and communication projects.

Education

Born in Zagreb on 26 December 1975, he graduated in Telecommunications from the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Zagreb, with a thesis on the installation of optical links. In 2025, he completed a graduate degree in Communication Management at Baltazar University of Applied Sciences.

He completed the Studio Intermedia School of Journalism, speech and language training at HRT's Language and Speech Service, and English-language training programmes.

Expertise and recognition

His expertise spans journalism, editing, broadcasting, public speaking, audience communication and strategic communication. He has twice been nominated for the Večernjakova ruža award, in the Radio Editor and Radio Programme categories.

BIOGRAPHY

Nevenka Lastrić-Đurić

State Secretary

Ministry of the Interior

Republic of Croatia



Professional positions

Nevenka Lastrić-Đurić was appointed State Secretary at Croatia's Ministry of the Interior on 17 July 2024 and assumed office on 3 August 2024.

Previously, she was the US Department of Justice's Legal Adviser for Central, Southern and Eastern Europe at the US Embassy in Croatia. She promoted international cooperation and provided technical training and assistance to law enforcement partners, prosecutors and judges to counter transnational crime and support institutional change.

Her work supported US foreign policy and mission goals in combating cybercrime and cryptocurrency-related fraud. She published "The United States Approach to the Investigation and Prosecution of Cybercrime and Cryptocurrency Crime" in the Croatian Annual of Criminal Sciences and Practice.

Education

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. Her master's thesis, "Legal Protection of Sexual Minorities in International Criminal Law", was published as a scientific article in the Russian Law Journal. She also studied at KU Leuven, Belgium, through Erasmus.

She received an alumni scholarship from American University in Washington, D.C., for her contribution to international human rights scholarship and the rule of law, and completed a master's degree in public international law and international human rights.

Nevenka Lastrić-Đurić

State Secretary

Ministry of the Interior

Republic of Croatia



Professional career

She began her career working for a Member of the European Parliament in Brussels. She then moved to the United States and joined American University's War Crimes Research Office as a research assistant, providing legal analysis to international criminal justice mechanisms.

As a private law clerk to Judge Charles N. Brower, she provided analysis and support in investor–state dispute settlement, including cases under the Russia–Ukraine Bilateral Investment Treaty relating to the annexation of Crimea. After returning to Croatia, she passed the Croatian bar examination and worked in private practice.

Professional engagement and languages

She is a member of the Croatian Social Liberal Party (HSLP) and an alumna of the Academy for Political Development, a network of more than 500 leaders from politics, business, civil society, academia and public administration. She speaks Croatian, English and German.

BIOGRAPHY

Long Jing

Deputy Director

Center for European Studies

Shanghai Institutes for International Studies



Professional positions

Long Jing is Deputy Director of the Center for European Studies at the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS), and Deputy Secretary General of the Shanghai Institute of European Studies (SIES).

Diplomacy and research

She spent three years working in public diplomacy at the China–United States Exchange Foundation.

Her research covers China–EU relations, China’s relations with Central and Eastern European countries, transatlantic relations and European integration. She has published in leading Chinese and international academic journals and prepared research papers commissioned by China’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government departments.

BIOGRAPHY

Tomislav Vazdar

Founder and CEO

Riskoria Advising & Professional Services



Professional profile

Tomislav Vazdar is the Founder and CEO of Riskoria Advising & Professional Services, an advisory firm working in cybersecurity, risk management and regulatory compliance.

His career spans international roles in corporate IT leadership and risk management advisory, followed by more than a decade leading corporate security at one of Croatia's largest banks.

Advisory work

He advises essential and important entities on implementing the Croatian Cybersecurity Act and the NIS2 Directive, with a focus on risk management and the resilience of the systems that energy, supply and other essential services depend on. He also works on AI governance and the threats posed by autonomous AI systems.

Academic work and professional engagement

He serves as Programme Lead for the MSc Enterprise Cybersecurity at OPIT – Open Institute of Technology and as a Board Member of the Croatian Artificial Intelligence Association (CroAI). As a member of the NKS community, he is an active stakeholder in Croatia's cybersecurity ecosystem.

He holds a degree in finance from the Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, where he is completing his doctoral studies in Economics and Global Security.

BIOGRAPHY

Marina Prusina

President of the Management Board

Ribnjačarstvo Končanica d.d.



Professional responsibilities

Marina Prusina is a licensed civil engineer and President of the Management Board of Ribnjačarstvo Končanica d.d. She leads its transition towards more resilient and sustainable pond aquaculture, drawing on extensive experience in infrastructure, water and energy projects.

Her work addresses climate change and hydrological constraints on fish production through improved water management, controlled production technologies, renewable energy and circular economy principles. She focuses on strengthening domestic fish production while protecting biodiversity and habitats within the Natura 2000 network.

Professional career

Her earlier experience includes spatial planning, permitting, public administration and state asset management. As Head of the Technical Service at Croatia's Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets, she led a professional team and managed technical and investment matters, including earthquake reconstruction of public buildings.

She is also a Management Board Member at EnergoVizija d.o.o., responsible for technical affairs and project management in renewable energy and infrastructure.

Education

She holds a master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Zagreb and is an MBA candidate in Economics in the Energy Sector.

BIOGRAPHY

Jadranka Polović

Assistant Professor

Libertas International University

Zagreb, Croatia



Academic career and education

Jadranka Polović is an Assistant Professor at Libertas International University's Faculty of International Relations in Zagreb. She teaches geopolitics, international organisations, and NATO and other security organisations, and is an external associate of the Department of Demography at the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Croatian Studies.

She holds an MSc and a PhD in Political Science, specialising in International Relations and National Security, from the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb.

Professional engagement and publications

She is President of the Croatian Association for International Studies (HUMS) and an independent geopolitical analyst and columnist for Geopolitika.News. She is a member of the Atlantic Council of Croatia, the Institute for European and Globalization Studies and the Croatian Political Science Association.

She is the author and co-author of three books and numerous academic and professional articles, and has participated in scientific conferences and symposia.

Media experience and research interests

From 2009 to 2018, she hosted programmes on HRT–Radio Split and TV Jadran covering domestic and international politics, human rights, civil society, science, art, culture and environmental protection.

Her research interests include geopolitics, new technologies and society, global governance, Southeast Europe's position in international relations, and media studies.

BIOGRAPHY

Borys Budka

Member of the European Parliament

Chair of the Committee on Industry,
Research and Energy



Political career

Borys Piotr Budka is a Polish politician, lawyer and academic. Elected to the European Parliament in 2024, he is a member of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) Group and Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy.

A leading figure in Poland's centre-right Civic Platform (PO), he has held senior government and parliamentary positions, including Minister of Justice and Minister of State Assets.

BIOGRAPHY

Ivan Güttler

Director General

Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological
Service (DHMZ)



Professional career and education

Ivan Güttler has been Director General of the Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ) since 2024. He earned a degree in 2008 and a doctorate in 2014 in Physics, specialising in Geophysics with Meteorology, at the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb.

He joined DHMZ as a research assistant in 2009, worked as a researcher and climatologist in its Meteorological Research and Development Sector from 2014 to 2021, and was Deputy Director General in 2022–2023.

International service and teaching

He has been Croatia's focal point for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) since 2022. He served on Croatian delegations at COP23, COP25, COP26 and COP27, and participated in climate negotiations during Croatia's 2020 Presidency of the Council of the EU.

He lectures in the doctoral programme at the Department of Geophysics, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb.

Awards

His awards include the Croatian Meteorological Society's "Young Hope of Croatian Meteorology" (2014), the Annual Award for Research Assistants in Natural Sciences (2013), the European Meteorological Society Award (2010) and the Dean's Award (2007).

BIOGRAPHY

Mislav Kontek

Agricultural Scientist

Agriculture and renewable energy



Education and professional profile

Mislav Kontek was born in Zagreb and earned bachelor's (2014) and master's (2016) degrees in Agroecology at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb. He completed a PhD in agricultural engineering and technology in 2023.

His work connects agriculture and energy, with a focus on renewable energy, green technologies, and circular and sustainable systems.

Projects and professional engagement

Since 2016, he has contributed to research and development projects on renewable energy and the circular economy, including H2020 and ESIF initiatives. Since 2023, he has also worked on the development of large-scale energy projects.

He participates in working groups, committees and the drafting of regulatory frameworks, and is involved in the operational management of agricultural resources, including fish farming, viticulture and fruit growing. He has authored or co-authored more than 50 scientific and professional papers and received numerous awards.

BIOGRAPHY

Mario Jakić

Director

Dalmatian Energy Agency

Split, Croatia



Professional profile

Mario Jakić is Director of the Dalmatian Energy Agency (DEA) in Split, a non-profit institution established in 2022. DEA provides expert and operational support for electricity generation projects at public institutions, including schools, health centres, a student dormitory and homes for the elderly, reducing costs and increasing renewable energy use.

Solar power at public facilities

Photovoltaic plants have been installed at health centres at Metrijež in Split and in Imotski, Lokve, Vrgorac and Jelsa; the Lovret Paediatric Dispensary in Split; Oštrog Primary School in Kaštel Lukšić and Marko Marulić Primary School in Sinj; the King Zvonimir, Queen Jelena and Vjekoslav Parać primary schools in Solin; Split's student dormitory; and the Zenita and Vukovarska Street homes for the elderly and infirm in Split.

DEA reports more than 1.2 MW of installed capacity in this primary group, plus 666 kW at facilities directly managed by the County or county institutions. Schools also have independently installed or donated solar plants.

Electricity generation

By 22 July 2026, the primary group had generated approximately 570 MWh, while plants installed directly by the County or managed by county institutions had generated another 157 MWh. Donated plants at schools in Dimac and Trilj generated a further 21+ MWh.

Mario Jakić

Director

Dalmatian Energy Agency
Split, Croatia



Larger systems and new projects

Installed capacity includes 232.65 kW at the Zenita Home for the Elderly and Infirm, 113.75 kW at the Vukovarska Street home and 94.71 kW at Imotski Health Centre. Their output reduces the need to purchase electricity from the grid.

In 2026, DEA prepared electrical engineering designs and secured grid connection approvals for a further 752.15 kW of photovoltaic capacity at health centres in Split, Trogir, Trilj and Supetar. These projects are entering public procurement to select contractors.

Support for households

Over the past three years, co-financing programmes supported nearly 600 home photovoltaic systems with combined capacity exceeding 4.8 MW. They generate more than 6,500 MWh annually, equivalent to the consumption of over 1,600 households, and reduce CO₂ emissions by more than 1,300 tonnes per year. In 2025, 432 contracts worth a total of €870,000 were signed.

Electric mobility

Electric vehicle charging stations have been installed in Split, Sinj, Imotski and Solin, with expansion to six locations planned for 2026.

Data source

Slobodna Dalmacija, 1 October 2026.

BIOGRAPHY

Marko Vešligaj

Member of the European Parliament

European Parliament



Political career

Marko Vešligaj is a Member of the European Parliament, serving on the Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and Regional Development (REGI) committees. He is Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) and a member of the Special Committee on the Housing Crisis.

He previously served as the long-standing Mayor of Pregrada, a Member of the Croatian Parliament and a member of the European Committee of the Regions, focusing on finance, local self-government and infrastructure.

Areas of work

His parliamentary work centres on cohesion policy, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and gender equality. In 2026, he was appointed the European Parliament's lead rapporteur on the situation of farmers.

BIOGRAPHY

Miro Kovač

Associate Professor

University of the North



Academic and public service career

Miro Kovač teaches at the University of the North as an Associate Professor. His public service roles have included Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Member of the Croatian Parliament and Chair of its Foreign Policy Committee, and Ambassador to Germany.

Education and training

He holds BA, MA and PhD degrees from Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris III), and an additional MA from the University of Hannover. In June 1999, he defended his doctoral dissertation in the history of international relations, “La vision française de la question croate, 1914–1929”.

He completed two programmes at Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government: “21st Century Governance: Critical Skills for Leading and Sustaining Innovative Organizations” (2007) and “Senior Executives in National and International Security” (2009).

Publications

He is the author of several scientific books and articles, including “In the Labyrinth of Versailles–Vidovdan Yugoslavia”.

Andrea Čović Vidović

Acting Head of Representation

European Commission in Croatia



Professional profile

Andrea Čović Vidović has more than 15 years of experience in European affairs, diplomacy, communications, management and mentoring. At the European Commission in Croatia, she has been Head of Media since July 2022, Deputy Head of Representation since February 2023 and Acting Head since 1 July 2023.

She led public relations at the European Parliament's Croatian office from its opening in February 2013, before EU accession. At the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, she worked on accession negotiations and taught European policies to public administration. She later headed EU units at the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy.

Earlier, she worked on international cultural projects at Zagreb's Institute for International Relations and Development, then coordinated regional ICT projects for UNIQA Insurance.

Education and training

She holds a master's in Contemporary European Studies from the University of Sussex, UK, and degrees in English and German Studies from the University of Zagreb. She studied International Relations and German Studies at Dresden University of Technology, and conducted comparative politics doctoral research at the University of Zagreb and Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C.

She is an alumna of DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), the US Fulbright pre-doctoral programme and the UK Chevening programme.

Projects and professional service

She volunteers with non-profit organisations and created Women in the Lead for the Academy for Political Development, and AI in PR: Educating the Next Generation of Communicators for the Croatian Public Relations Association (HUOJ), funded with the US Embassy in Croatia. She directed HUOJ's KOMferencija in Split in 2023.

BIOGRAPHY

Aleksandar Mešić

Full Professor and Dean

Faculty of Agriculture

University of Zagreb



Academic career

Aleksandar Mešić is a Full Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb.

Research and professional interests

His research covers plant protection (phytomedicine), particularly phytopharmacy and pesticide application, as well as entomology and food safety. He completed a postgraduate specialist programme in Agribusiness Management (MBA) and is active in agricultural policy and food safety.

BIOGRAPHY

Tomislav Vinković

Full Professor

Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek



Academic career and education

Tomislav Vinković is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek, where he has spent his entire academic career and teaches across its study programmes. Born in Osijek on 15 July 1980, he graduated from the faculty as an agricultural engineer and later earned his PhD.

Research and professional work

His research focuses on sustainable crop production, modern cultivation techniques and production models, biostimulants and biofortification. He has authored or co-authored university publications and more than 80 scientific papers indexed in international databases, including WoS, Scopus and CC.

He has led and contributed to national and international projects. His roles have included Vice-Dean for the Development of Experimental Stations and Technology Transfer, Head of the Department of Crop Production and Head of the Chair.

He has mentored more than 40 undergraduate and graduate theses and supervised two successfully defended doctoral dissertations. He reviews scientific papers and projects, collaborates with Croatian and international institutions, and works on innovative crop production solutions and the practical application of research.

Professional engagement

He is a member of the Croatian Society of Agronomists, the Croatian Chamber of Agronomists, and international organisations including IOBC and ECPGR.

BIOGRAPHY

Robert Hadžić

Economist

Agricultural cooperation and family farms



Professional profile

Robert Hadžić is an economist with years of management experience in the food industry. His business and trade work across Europe and with many countries has given him extensive knowledge of agriculture.

Agriculture and professional engagement

He specialises in economic models of agricultural cooperation and runs a family farm with orchards in Moslavina. He was active in the Croatian Chamber of Agriculture (HPK), led the Association of Family Farms and was a member of the AGROMED forum on Mediterranean agriculture.

BIOGRAPHY

Kamilo Vrana

Founder and Consultant

SolNet d.o.o.



Professional career

Kamilo Vrana has held management roles in complex energy projects, international trade and public administration. His positions included Assistant Minister of Trade, Acting Director of the State Commodity Reserves and Consul General in Istanbul, Turkey.

As the first head of the Croatian Agency for Public-Private Partnership (PPP), he played a key role in developing and implementing PPP in Croatia and in successfully concluding the country's EU accession negotiations under Chapter 5, Public Procurement.

Renewable energy projects

As a co-founder and senior manager of Energovizija d.o.o., which specialises in renewable energy sources (RES), he worked on large-scale RES plants, agrivoltaics (agriPV), floating solar power plants (aquaPV) and related solutions.

In early May 2025, he left Energovizija and founded the consultancy SolNet d.o.o., focused on innovative renewable energy solutions. It works with experts, business leaders, funds and financial institutions to support renewable energy investment and new business opportunities in Croatia.

Source

LinkedIn.

9th of October 2026.