



INTERENEF
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM

10. International energy forum

INTERENEF

**Energy and food sovereignty in an era
of deglobalization**

Zagreb, 13. October 2026, Westin hotel



ANĐELKO MILARDOVIĆ.

Political scientist and sociologist. Professor of political science with permanent title. He is the founder of the Institute for European and Globalization Studies of the International Energy Forum (INTERENEF), whose ultimate goal is the transition of INTERENEF into a GLOBAL ENERGY FORUM based on the Davos model, based in Zagreb. Within the forum, he deals with conceptual issues with a focus on energy policy and energy geopolitics. In collaboration with artificial intelligence, he prepared the digital lexicon FUNDAMENTAL TERMS OF ENERGY POLICY AND ENERGY GEOPOLITICS.



DARIA KARASALIHović SEDLAR

Daria Karasaihović Sedlar is full professor at University of Zagreb, Faculty of Mining Geology and Petroleum Engineering and Director of Petroleum Engineering

Summer School (PESS) at the InterUniversity Centre in Dubrovnik Croatia. She graduated from the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering of the University of Zagreb in 2000. She obtained a PhD in Technical Sciences in 2007. From 2000 she worked at the Faculty of Mining Geology and Petroleum Engineering, University of Zagreb. Since 2019 she has been teaching as full professor. In period 2013—2015 she worked as a Head of Department for Petroleum Engineering. She is co-author of two books and more than 70 scientific papers on petroleum economics, natural gas management and geothermal energy potential assessment. She was a researcher in different projects relating to energy economics, natural gas sector management, geothermal economics, CCUS policy and development strategies. She was involved in a number of projects and consultations for the energy sector in Croatia and environmental impact studies in the petroleum industry and energy sector. She is member of the Council for Energy Transition of the President of the Republic of Croatia. As SPE student faculty adviser and Education and Accreditation Committee member she was involved in numerous SPE projects. She is also IGU member of Storage and Strategy Committee. She is married and have one child.



MLADEN NAKIĆ

MLADEN NAKIĆ graduated political science at the Faculty of Political Sciences of the University of Zagreb. He received a master's degree in international relations and a doctorate in international relations and National security. He is the Homeland War veteran with military career as an active duty in the Ministry of

Defence. He served as Head of the Department for Foreign Military Attaches. He was Defence Attaché of the Republic of Croatia in the USA and Canada based in the Embassy of Croatia in Washington DC. He was also the Head of the Arms Control Office. He left the Croatian Army with the rank of brigadier in 2006. and continue as a career diplomat in the MFA. He served as Assistant Minister of Administration from 2017-2019. and upon returned to MFA, currently holding the position of Advisor to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs. He graduated the European Centre for Security Studies "George C. Marshall" in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. He is the author of the book "The United States of America and the Global Environment" and numerous articles in the field of International Relations, Foreign Policy and Diplomacy. He was the initiator and first director of the George C. Marshall Club Croatia (Alumni). After being a long-time member and Vice-president, he serves now as the President of the Atlantic Council of Croatia since 2024. Mladen is lecturer at Libertas International University as well as at the MFA Diplomatic Academy. He has been awarded with several decorations and medal including "Storm" Medal, and the Legion of Merit by the President of the USA.



MARIJAN KRPAN

Marijan Krpan, M. Sc. in Business Management and graduate engineer in geology with more than 30 years of experience in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas. Initial experience and knowledge were acquired through geological

and petrophysical analyses at INA, Zagreb. International experience gained in Milano, Italy, through all phases of natural gas exploration and production for INAgip. After this, he held various managerial positions in the Formation Assessment Service and the International Business Development Sector at INA Zagreb. This was followed by gaining additional expertise at Repsol company in Madrid, Spain, leading up to his current role of President of the Management Board of the Croatian Hydrocarbon Agency, which he has held since 2018.



VIKTOR LUČIĆ

Viktor Lučić holds a degree from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing and an MBA from the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Zagreb.

He has spent the majority of his career in senior management positions within the telecommunications industry—specifically at Hrvatski Telekom and A1 Hrvatska—focusing on strategic planning, restructuring and organizational transformation, human resources management, and mergers and acquisitions (M&A).

Viktor joined the KONČAR Group in 2023 as Director of Corporate Strategy and Business Development. In this role, he is responsible for strategic planning, business development, and the management of projects funded by the European Union.



ĐULA BOROŽAN

Đula Borožan, Ph.D., is a tenured full professor at the Faculty of Economics and Business in Osijek, Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of Osijek. She teaches Macroeconomics and related courses at all levels of higher education. She also serves as an external associate at the School of Applied Mathematics and Informatics in Osijek. She has authored numerous scientific papers published in leading international journals with high impact factors, primarily in the fields of macroeconomics and energy economics. For her scientific contributions and research published in leading journals, she has received numerous prestigious awards and recognitions. Since 2021, according to the Stanford University–Elsevier ranking, she has consistently been listed among the world's top 2% of most influential, i.e. most highly cited, scientists. She has been a long-standing member of the Croatian Operational Research Society and, since 2021, has also served as a member of the Economic Council of the President of the Republic of Croatia.



PAOLO TRICHILO

Paolo Trichilo entered the diplomatic career in 1990 and his first assignment was the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE, later OSCE). Current Ambassador of Italy in Croatia and previously in Slovenia, he was abroad Consul in Mulhouse, Commercial Counselor in Ankara, Deputy Chief of Mission in New Delhi and Deputy Permanent Representative to the OECD in Paris. In Rome, he held the following positions in the security related area in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: Deputy of the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator; member of the Iraq Task Force; Deputy of the Crisis Unit at the General Secretariat. He was also Diplomatic Adviser to the Minister of Labor and Social Policies; Deputy Director General for Resources and Innovation and Central Director for Human Resources. Prior to entering the diplomatic career, he was Lieutenant in the Carabinieri Corps, and worked at the LUISS University in Rome at the Human Rights Chair. He is the author of several books and his essays and articles are available in the [academia.edu](https://www.academia.edu) website



PAWEŁ CZERWINISKI

Ambassador Paweł Czerwiński is a professional diplomat, and during more than 30 years of work in the foreign service, he has gone through all levels of his career, starting from attaché. He was born in 1965 in Krakow. In 1989, he graduated from the Jagiellonian University with excellent results in law, and then completed a prosecutor's internship in his hometown. In the fall of 1990, he was hired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, having successfully passed the first open competition for the foreign service in independent Poland. Paweł Czerwiński began his diplomatic career as an attaché responsible for legal issues in the Consular Section of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Moscow. After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the regaining of independence of the Baltic states, Paweł Czerwiński was transferred to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Riga, where he dealt with political and legal issues from 1991 to 1996, and for some time also served as a trade counselor. The analyses and speeches he prepared contributed to the coverage of preferential rules for granting citizenship to Poles living in Latvia and the restoration of their right to pension payments for the period of service in Poland before the collapse of the USSR, which had been suspended by the Social Insurance Office (ZUS). He also authored a comprehensive guide for persons applying for the return (under the property restitution program) of real estate owned by them in Latvia before World War II. After returning to the Ministry in 1996, Paweł Czerwiński took up the position of Lithuania expert in the then Directorate for Western Europe, while at the same time developing and deepening his interest in the processes taking place in the Balkans. In 1998, he was assigned – as First Secretary for Political Affairs and Media – to the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ljubljana, which until the establishment of the Embassy in Sarajevo (i.e. until November 2001) was also responsible for Bosnia and Herzegovina. Accordingly, in addition to tasks in the field of Polish-Slovenian relations. After completing his work at the Embassy, from autumn 2002, Paweł Czerwiński worked

in the Directorate for Europe as an expert for Serbia and Montenegro, Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. His extensive and thorough knowledge of the Balkans was highly valued not only in the Ministry, but also in professional circles (among other things, he published a number of articles at the time devoted to the evolution of the states that emerged after the breakup of Yugoslavia). In August 2004, Paweł Czerwiński, as an advisor, took over the management of the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Ankara as Chargé d'Affaires ad interim. He held this position for half a year, at a crucial moment for the relations between the European Union and Turkey, when decisions were being made on the start of accession negotiations for this country, for the first time with the participation of Poland, which had been an EU member for only a few months at the time. He then continued his work as Deputy Head of Mission, and in July 2006 was transferred to the same position at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland in Belgrade, where he supervised all issues related to the domestic and foreign policy of Serbia and Polish-Serbian relations. In addition, he was responsible for contacts with the Montenegrin authorities (until the establishment of an independent representation in Podgorica), for the analysis of the situation in Kosovo (including cooperation with Polish soldiers and police officers serving there in NATO, UN and EU missions) and for the coordination of the Embassy's activities during the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union. From September 2013 to August 2015, he was Deputy Head of the Minister's Office, supervising the departments responsible for the preparation and organization of visits and meetings of the Minister of Foreign Affairs. From September 2015 to March 2020, he served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to the Republic of Slovenia. From October 2020 to September 2023, he was the Foreign Policy Advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland and a member of the Advisory Board of the Presidents of the Republic of Poland and Ukraine.



ANAR LACHIN OGLU IMAMOV

Date and place of birth

11.04.1975 Baku, Azerbaijan

Educational background

1992-1996 Faculty of International Law, Azerbaijan University

1992-1997 Faculty of Law, Baku State University

Professional profile

1995-1996 Analyst, “Azarbsharqticarət” association, Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations

1996-1998 Lecturer, Faculty of Law, Azerbaijan University

1998-2002 Attaché, Third Secretary, Treaty and Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2002-2006 Second Secretary, First Secretary Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Russian Federation

2007-2008 Head of Division, Department of International Law and Treaties, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

2008-2009 First Secretary, Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Hungary

2009-2013 Counselor, Embassy of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Hungary

2013, December-February Deputy-director, Department of International Law and Treaties,

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

February 27, 2013- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

October 18, 2022 of Azerbaijan to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
December 23, 2013- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic

October 18, 2022 of Azerbaijan to the Kingdom of Cambodia

December 23, 2013- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic

October 18, 2022 of Azerbaijan to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Since October 18, 2022 Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic

of Azerbaijan to the Republic of Croatia

Diplomatic rank Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

Foreign Languages Turkish, Russian, English

Marital status Married, with two children



JAVED PATEL

Javed Patel is His Majesty's Ambassador to Croatia. Previously, he was the Deputy High Commissioner to Bangladesh from February 2020 till March 2023. He has also served as the UK government's Counter Terrorism and Extremism Coordinator for Europe, based 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, as well as being posted to Baghdad, Iraq as Political Counsellor.

Javed's career before arriving at the Foreign Office involved roles in the Home Office, including the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism, and regional government. His expertise is predominantly in national security, but also has a keen interest in public diplomacy, trade and climate change.



JULIJE DOMAC

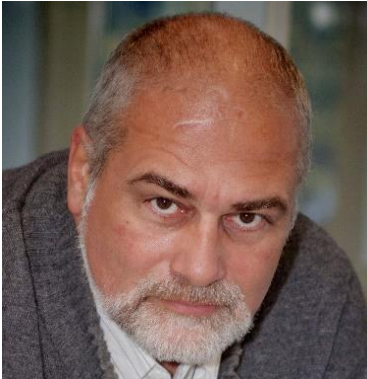
Julije Domac is managing Director of the North-west Croatia Regional Energy Agency, a member of the European Covenant of Mayors Board, and the President of the European Federation of Agencies and Regions for Energy and the Environment - FEDARENE since 2013. From 2020, Julije serves in the Office of Croatian President Zoran Milanović as the Special adviser on Energy and Climate. He published over 70 scientific and professional papers in journals or at major European conferences and initiated many essential policy initiatives at the EU or national level in Croatia. Julije is also a recognized technical expert and scientist, editor and author of special editions and paper reviewer for international scientific journals such as Energy Policy, Forestry Economics and Biomass & Bioenergy. He published over 60 scientific and professional papers in journals or presented at major European conferences. During his career, Julije was the head of the Croatian National Energy Program BIOEN, technical editor and national project director for the FAO – United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization project manager for the IEA - International Energy Agency, National Project Coordinator for UNIDO - United Nations Industrial Development Organization and consultant on projects for the World Bank. Julije was awarded the 2002 Croatian National Science Award, Biomass Junior Award on the occasion of the 2nd World Conference of Biomass for Energy, Industry and Climate Protection (Rome, 10-14 May 2004), Annual Hrvoje Pozar Foundation Award 2005, Charter of Pokupsko Municipality Honorary Citizen – awarded on 15 August 2016 and City of Zabok Award 2018.



MATUŠ MIŠÍK

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

He is senior Researcher, Institute of Political Science, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, Slovakia. 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."



RUBEN MNATSAKANIAN

Professor Ruben Mnatsakanian, b. 1959, is an expert in environmental sciences and policy with more than 40 years' experience. He is graduate of the Department of Geography of the Moscow State University (MSc in 1981, PhD in 1985). Since 1994 he has been a professor at the Department of Environmental Sciences and Policy of the Central European University based in Budapest and now in Vienna, in 2000-2015 served as the Head of Department at CEU. Also, in 1996-2025 Professor Mnatsakanian was the Co-ordinating lead author of various chapters for the Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report series (from GEO-1 in 1996 till GEO-7 in 2025) launched by UNEP (United Nations Environment Program). In 1996-2012 served as the Head of UNEP GEO Collaborating Centre at CEU. Through his career he also participated in projects for WHO, European Commission, OECD, UNDP, etc. Author and co-author of several books.

Spheres of scientific interests include general ecology, adaptation to climate change, ecological history of the countries of Eastern Europe and the former USSR, land use and food security issues, education for sustainable development. Retired in 2025, now Professor Emeritus at CEU.



YAKOV POLEG

Senior Deputy Director General, Center for Foreign Trade and International Cooperation .Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security Israel .

Professional Career at Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

2019- Present

Senior Deputy Director General Foreign Trade and International Cooperation

Working closely with other Ministries and high official government representatives, experts and professionals to implement Israel's food security cooperation policy.

- Responsible for designing and implementing the ministry trade policy (Bilateral and Multilateral).
- Promoting Israel's food security, advocating the development of smart technologies and innovative approaches to ensure resilient food systems and climate change adaptation.
- Representing Israel's agricultural sector's objectives and interests in the international arena.
- 2013-2019 Head of CINADCO, Centre for International Agricultural Development Cooperation
 - 2006-2009 Agricultural and Scientific Attaché at the Israeli Embassy in Washington DC

Special position of responsibility:

2013-2024 chair of the Israeli Honey Production Board

1997-2000 LL. B Law (member of the Israeli Bar Association)

2011-2013 M.A in Public Policy



AGATA MALAK -RAWLIKOWSKA

Agata Malak-Rawlikowska is an economist specializing in the agri-food sector, with over twenty years of experience in research, education, and policy advisory. She serves as a professor at the Faculty of Economics, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, where she leads and participates in numerous projects focused on sustainable agribusiness, food chain integration, and agricultural policy impacts. Her work has supported institutions such as the DGAgri of the European Commission, the European Investment Bank, and various non-governmental organizations. She is the author of more than 150 scientific publications and numerous expert reports. Her expertise has been recognized through long-standing membership in the European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE), the executive board membership of the International Farm Management Association, and her leadership as Chairwoman of the International AgriMBA Network, which accredits MBA programs tailored to the agribusiness sector. ORCID.



DEMETRIS PSALTOPOULOS

Demetris Psaltopoulos is professor of Development Economics at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece). His main research interests and experience include development economics and policy, agricultural and rural development policy analysis and assessment, and quantitative methods. With a prolific academic career spanning over two decades, he has published extensively in high-ranked international journals and presented his work at more than 70 international conferences. Since 2016 he has been working with Agricultural Global Practice, World Bank as a Senior Economist - STC, engaged in various analyses in the Western Balkans, EU, MENA and Africa. His expertise encompasses sophisticated economic modeling techniques used for policy impact assessment. He has coordinated and participated as coordinator, team leader and researcher in many international research projects, mostly associated with economic development and agricultural policy analysis. His work has been extensively cited (over 2,000 citations). Between 2005 and 2013 he served as an elected Member of the Board of the European Association of Agricultural Economists. He has been awarded the University of Helsinki Silver Medal for his research achievements



CYRIL WIDDERSHOVEN

Dr. Cyril Widdershoven is a geopolitical strategist and energy–maritime analyst operating at the intersection of energy markets, shipping, ports, defense, and global power competition. He is widely recognised for his ability to translate geopolitical shocks, energy disruptions, and security risks into strategic insight for boards, investors, and policymakers. With decades of experience across the Middle East, North Africa, Turkey, and Europe, Widdershoven has advised governments, national oil companies, sovereign wealth funds, energy majors, maritime stakeholders, and financial institutions on oil and gas markets, energy security, defense-related investments, and geopolitical risk. His work focuses on how trade routes, ports, offshore energy systems, and naval power are increasingly shaping economic outcomes and political leverage. He is Partner at Blue Water Strategy, an independent advisory platform specialising in foresight-driven strategy for shipping companies, ports, energy investors, and infrastructure developers navigating a world of sanctions, security threats, regulatory weaponisation, and energy transition uncertainty. His analysis is frequently sought on scenarios involving Middle East conflict, maritime chokepoints, offshore energy security, and the geopolitical consequences of decarbonisation. In parallel, Widdershoven is actively involved in developing Executive-level education and training on geopolitics, commodity trading, energy transition, and strategic foresight, bridging academic rigour with real-world decision-making. Known for his direct style and independent thinking, Cyril Widdershoven challenges conventional narratives—arguing that energy, shipping, and security can no longer be treated as separate domains, but as a single strategic system shaping the global economy.



TONČI TOKIĆ

Tonči Tokić has more than thirty years of experience within the energy commodities sector. He has been involved in the planning, strategic development, and execution of numerous energy projects throughout North and South America, as well as the Eastern Hemisphere. In his current role as Project Director at EAGibson UK, he is responsible for spearheading initiatives related to energy hubs, including LNG, LPG, gas-to-power, and green energy development. He was born in Split, Croatia, where he earned a Master's degree in Marine Engineering from the Faculty of Maritime Studies. In 1996, per company direction, he attended the Singapore Institute of Management, focusing on Leadership Management and collaborating with organizations such as Westinghouse, American Bank, Halliburton, and Mitsui. His professional journey began in the USA within the maritime and shipping sector. By 1998, Tonči became the designated Person in Charge (PIC) for methanol and ethanol quality and shipping operations, a position he held until 2009. Afterwards, he joined an LNG project and assessment team, contributing to the energy sector's migration from West to East. He had the privilege of serving as Senior Expert Advisor and later as Senior Vice President for Projects at one of China's largest privately owned entities. In response to evolving markets, he joined the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS) as Vice President, leading global project development initiatives with a focus on LNG, ethane, gas-topower, and LPG commodities. As Project Director, his responsibilities encompass comprehensive strategic planning, coordination, and oversight of project operations. The scope of his work also includes implementing advanced trading platforms for real-time commerce, financial negotiations, and managing both short- and long-term contracts. Close collaboration with energy partners is essential to leverage specialized knowledge and resources, ensuring the successful delivery of projects. Meeting the expectations of our clients for energy efficiency and establishing strong interconnection and investment frameworks are key

priorities. His longstanding involvement in the oil and gas industry has both broadened his professional network and deepened his expertise



DAVOR IVO STIER

Davor Ivo Stier, born on January 6, 1972, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, 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. Currently serving his third term as a Member of the European Parliament (2024), he chairs the Delegation for relations with Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo (DSEE) and is an active member of the Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee (AFET), the Delegation for relations with Latin America (DLAT), and the Delegation for relations with the Andean Community (DAND). Stier's work in these roles closely links to energy policy, international relations, and regional cooperation. He served as Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs in 2016, where he played a key role in shaping Croatia's foreign policy and European integration. Elected multiple times to both the Croatian Parliament and the European Parliament, he has held leadership positions including Vice President of key parliamentary committees and President of the European People's Party Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. Fluent in Spanish, English, Italian, and French, Stier has been honored with awards such as the Order of Duke Branimir and the Parliament Magazine MEP Award for development policy.



ANDREJ PUSTIŠEK

Andrej Pustišek with 35 years' experience in the natural gas and energy industry currently consults international natural gas and energy companies and teaches energy economics at the University of Applied Science, Stuttgart, at the University of Karlsruhe, at the University of St. Gallen, and conducts international courses on natural gas and energy markets. Born in Zagreb, Croatia, raised in Germany, he studied both, Geophysics and Economy in Vienna, Cologne and Münster. In 1990, he started working in international natural gas purchasing of Wintershall AG, Kassel, Germany. As of 1993, he headed WINGAS' natural gas supply logistics department, being responsible for international transit and storage contracts. From 1996 to 2001, he headed WINGAS' natural gas planning and portfolio optimization. After changing to E. ON Ruhrgas in 2002, he led as Senior/Executive Vice President International Natural Gas Sales. In this function, he successfully established and expanded the company's sales activities in 11 countries and was responsible for strategy, conception, negotiation and operation of gas sales, transportation and storage contracts in several European countries. From 2008 to 2011, he was Senior/Executive Vice President for Portfolio Management, as such responsible for the design and handling of the company's contractual and asset portfolio. In this function, he also headed the E. ON team during the January 2009 supply interruption ("Ukrainian crisis"). He has been involved in various arbitration proceedings for natural gas delivery, transportation and storage contracts in Europe and is in monitoring trustee teams for the European commission. He is

author of several publications, inter alia the multi-client study: 'Flexibility – Germany and Austria', 2nd edition 2014 and the textbook 'Natural Gas – A Commercial Perspective' published in 2017 (both together with M. Karasz).



LEON STILLE

Leon Stille is an energy transition leader with over 15 years of experience in renewable and low-carbon energy. Holding both BSc and MSc degrees in Energy Sciences and currently pursuing a PhD in Energy Policy, Leon combines deep technical expertise with strategic vision. He is one of the Directors of the Mediterranean Platform and works with several start-ups and scale-ups on Carbon Capture (Hovyu BV), Waste heat to power (Hydrostatic lift) and Hydrogen (Impact Hydrogen) in different management positions. In addition, he teaches at several universities and business schools, sharing his experience with the next generation of energy professionals. Leon's career has spanned the full spectrum of the energy transition, from innovation and technology development to project execution and policy. His expertise includes hydrogen, CCUS, biomethane and biogas, geothermal energy, wind, and solar. He has held commercial and strategic roles at Alliander, Plug Power and TNO, advancing global collaboration on energy innovation. As former Manager of the New Energy Business School, Leon led an international team and developed academic programs, including the Executive MBA in Energy Policies. He contributed as an expert to Europe's first Hydrogen Valley (HEAVENN) and Canada's pioneering CCUS project at Boundary Dam 3. Leon holds three patents and serves as Scientific Advisor to the European Biogas Association and Hydrogen Europe, as well as a member of the Sustainability Committee of the International Gas Union. A frequent speaker, author, and moderator at international energy events, he is also a top contributor to Illuminem and Oilprice.com



IVANA RENDULIĆ JELUŠIĆ

Ivana Rendulić Jelušić is the founder and CEO of ALTI AGRO d.o.o., a company specializing in smart and precision agriculture, with a particular focus on digital viticulture, drone applications, and multispectral data analysis. She graduated in agronomy and enology and completed her PhD at the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Zagreb, focusing on the use of drones and vegetation indices for qualitative vineyard zoning and improving the economic efficiency of grape production. She developed Vineyard Angel, an AI-powered platform that combines drone-acquired data, multispectral imagery, and agronomic analysis with actionable information for vineyard decision-making. The platform supports vine health monitoring, spatial variability analysis, identification of problematic areas, qualitative vineyard zoning, and the development of targeted crop protection strategies and more efficient vineyard management.

In recognition of its innovative solutions in precision viticulture, ALTI AGRO won 1st place and the “Snaga inovacije” award in 2026. Vineyard Angel had previously received 1st place at the Festival of Ideas 2025 and 2nd place at Laqothon 2025. Ivana is one of the pioneers of digital and precision viticulture in Croatia. Her professional work combines agronomy, remote sensing, artificial intelligence, and business innovation, with a strong focus on translating complex agricultural data into practical, field-ready solutions for growers and wineries. She has extensive experience in development and pilot projects, data analysis, business digital transformation, and the preparation and implementation of national and EU-funded projects.



DAVOR RENDULIĆ

My name is Davor Rendulić, and I was born on December 26, 1975, in Zagreb, Croatia. I completed my undergraduate studies in Telecommunications at the Faculty of Transport and Traffic Sciences, University of Zagreb, with my final thesis titled "Installation of Optical Links." In 2025, I completed a graduate degree in Communication Management at Baltazar University of Applied Sciences. In addition to my formal education, I graduated from the Studio Intermedia School of Journalism, attended speech and language training provided by the Croatian Radiotelevision (HRT) Language and Speech Service, and completed English-language training programs. I work as a radio journalist and editor, with more than two decades of professional experience in the media industry, particularly in radio news and current affairs. I am currently employed at Croatian Radio, where I work as a journalist and editor and oversee news programming. I am also the author and host of several specialized Croatian Radio programs, including "U mreži Prvog" and "Dnevni ritam." Throughout my career, I have also served as Editor-in-Chief of the Laganini radio network, formerly known as Soundset Plavi. I have gained professional experience at Zagreb Radio, Plavi Radio, Antena Zagreb, Totalni FM and Media Servis. I have also been involved in a variety of media productions, marketing initiatives and communication projects. Over the course of my career, I have gained extensive experience in journalism, editorial work and content creation, radio broadcasting, public speaking, and communication with a wide range of guests and audiences. Completing my graduate degree in Communication Management further expanded my professional expertise, allowing me to combine my extensive background in journalism and editorial work with contemporary approaches to strategic communication. I have been nominated twice for the Večernjakova ruža award, one of Croatia's most prominent media awards, in the categories of Radio Editor and Radio Program.



NEVENKA LASTRIĆ-ĐURIĆ

Nevenka Lastrić-Đurić was appointed State Secretary for the Ministry of the Interior by the Government of the Republic of Croatia on July 17, 2024. She assumed office on August 3, 2024. Prior to her appointment, she worked for the U.S. Department of Justice as the Legal advisor for Central, Southern and Eastern Europe at the United States Embassy in Croatia. As a regional advisor, she promoted international cooperation and delivered targeted technical training and assistance to U.S. foreign law enforcement partners, prosecutors and judges in order to counter transnational criminal threats and encourage long-term institutional change. She helped direct and implement U.S. foreign policy and mission goals concerning the combatting of cybercrime and crypto-related fraud across the region. She has also published a paper in the Croatian Annual of Criminal Sciences and Practice titled “The United States Approach to the Investigation and Prosecution of Cybercrime and Cryptocurrency Crime”.

She graduated from the Faculty of Law, University of Zagreb. Her master thesis was published as a scientific article in the Russian Law Journal – “Legal Protection of Sexual Minorities in International Criminal Law”. As part of the Erasmus program, she also attended Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven) in Belgium. For her contribution to the scholarly discussions on international human rights and strengthening the rule of law, she received an alumni scholarship from the American University in Washington D.C. and completed her postgraduate studies where she obtained her master's degree in public international law and

international human rights. Her professional career began at the European Parliament (EP) in Brussels where she worked for a Member of the EP. After Brussels, she moved to the United States where she worked for the War Crimes Research Office of the American University as a research assistant and provided legal analysis to international criminal justice mechanisms. Following this, she worked as a private law clerk to the Honorable Charles N. Brower, providing legal analysis and support in investor-state dispute settlements, including the Russian-Ukraine Bilateral Investment Treaty in connection to the annexation of Crimea. Following her return to Croatia, she passed the Croatian bar exam and worked as a lawyer in private practice. She is a member of HSLS, the oldest Croatian political party and an alumna of the Academy for Political Development, Croatia's largest intersectoral network of over 500 leaders from politics, business, civil society, academia and public administration. She speaks Croatian, English, and German.



LONG JING

Dr. LONG Jing is the Deputy Director of the Center for European Studies of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) and deputy secretary general of Shanghai Institute of European Studies (SIES). She once devoted three years in public diplomacy by working in China-United States Exchange Foundation. Her current research fields are China-EU relationship, China-CEECs relationship, transatlantic relations and European Integration, etc. She has published many papers re the above areas on high-ranking Chinese and foreign academic journals and has been author of many research papers entrusted by Chinese Foreign Ministry and other governmental departments.



TOMISLAV VAZDAR

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.

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.

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.



MARINA PRUSINA

Marina Prusina is a licensed civil engineer and executive with extensive experience in the development and management of complex infrastructure, water-related and energy projects. She currently serves as President of the Management Board of Ribnjačarstvo Končanica d.d., where she leads the company's transition toward a more resilient and sustainable model of pond aquaculture. Her work focuses on the impacts of climate change and hydrological constraints on fish production, and on developing solutions that combine improved water management, controlled production technologies, renewable energy and circular economy principles. Particular attention is given to strengthening domestic fish production while preserving biodiversity and habitats within the Natura 2000 ecological network. Prior to her current management roles, Marina gained extensive experience in spatial planning, permitting, public administration and state asset management. She held a managerial position at the Croatian Ministry of Physical Planning, Construction and State Assets (MPGI) as Head of the Technical Service, where she managed a professional team and complex technical and investment-related matters, including earthquake reconstruction projects for public buildings. She is also a Member of the Management Board of EnergoVizija d.o.o., responsible for technical affairs and project management, with experience in the development of complex renewable energy and infrastructure projects. Marina holds a Master's degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Zagreb and is currently an MBA candidate in Economics in the Energy Sector.



JADRANKA POLOVIĆ

Jadranka Polović is a political scientist with a Master of Science and a PhD in Political Science (specializing in International Relations and National Security) from the Faculty of Political Science, University of Zagreb, she is currently employed as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of International Relations, Libertas International University in Zagreb, where she teaches courses in Geopolitics, International Organizations, and NATO and Other Security Organizations. She is also an external associate of the Department of Demography at the Faculty of Croatian Studies, University of Zagreb. She serves as the President of the Croatian Association for International Studies (HUMS) and, as an independent geopolitical analyst, is a regular columnist for the specialized geopolitical portal Geopolitika.News. She is a member of the Atlantic Council of Croatia, the Institute for European and Globalization Studies (IEGS), 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 many scientific conferences and symposia. She has experience in hosting and editing television and radio programs. From 2009 to 2018, she hosted programs on HRT-Radio Split and the regional TV station TV Jadran, covering key social topics in domestic and international politics, as well as issues related to human rights, civil society, science, art, culture, and environmental protection. Her scientific and research interests include: geopolitics, new technologies and society, global governance, the position of Southeast Europe in international relations, and media studies



BORYS BUDKA

Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats).

Borys Piotr Budka is a prominent Polish politician, lawyer, and academic who currently serves as a Member of the European Parliament (MEP). A leading figure within Poland's center-right Civic Platform (PO) party, he has held multiple high-ranking governmental and parliamentary positions throughout his career, including Minister of Justice and Minister of State Assets. European Parliament Elected as a Member of the European Parliament in 2024. *He is the Chair of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the European Parliament.*



IVAN GÜTTLER

Ivan Güttler has served as the Director General of the Croatian Meteorological and Hydrological Service (DHMZ) since 2024. He earned his degree (2008) and doctorate (2014) in Physics—specializing in Geophysics with Meteorology—from the Faculty of Science at the University of Zagreb. He began his career at DHMZ in 2009 as a research assistant. From 2014 to 2021, he worked as a researcher and

climatologist in the Meteorological Research and Development Sector, and from 2022 to 2023, he served as Deputy Director General.

Since 2022, he has been the Croatian focal point for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). He was a member of Croatian delegations at the COP23, COP25, COP26, and COP27 conferences, and in 2020, he participated in climate negotiations during Croatia's presidency of the Council of the EU. He lectures in the doctoral program at the Department of Geophysics, Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb.

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



MISLAV KONTEK

Mislav Kontek was born in Zagreb. He earned his bachelor's (2014) and master's (2016) degrees in Agroecology from the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Zagreb, and subsequently obtained his PhD (2023) in the field of agricultural engineering and technology. His professional work spans the intersection of agriculture and energy, with a focus on renewable energy sources, green technologies, and the development of circular and sustainable systems.

Since 2016, he has been involved in research and development projects concerning renewable energy and the circular economy—including H2020 and ESIF initiatives—and has been engaged in the development of large-scale energy projects since 2023. He actively participates in various working groups and committees, as well as in the drafting of regulatory frameworks. In practice, he is also involved in the operational management of significant agricultural resources (including fish farming, viticulture, and fruit growing). He has authored or co-

authored over 50 scientific and professional papers and has received numerous significant awards and recognitions.



MARIO JAKIĆ

Dalmatian Energy Agency (DEA), Split, Director

From the scope of work of the Director of the Dalmatian Energy Agency (DEA): performance and contributions to implementation in Split-Dalmatia County. The energy transition in Split-Dalmatia County is becoming increasingly visible on the rooftops of public institutions. Schools, health centers, student dormitories, and homes for the elderly and infirm are acquiring their own sources of electricity, thereby reducing costs and increasing the use of renewable energy sources. The Dalmatian Energy Agency (DEA), a non-profit institution established in 2022, plays a vital expert and operational role in the preparation and implementation of a series of such projects.

Public facilities where photovoltaic power plants have been installed include the Split-Dalmatia County Health Center at Metrijež, Oštrog Elementary School in Kaštel Lukšić, Marko Marulić Elementary School in Sinj, King Zvonimir Elementary School in Solin, the Student Dormitory in Split, the Health Center in Imotski, the Health Center in Lokve, the Pediatric Dispensary in Split (Lovret), Queen Jelena Elementary School in Solin, Vjekoslav Parać Elementary School in Solin, the Health Center in Vrgorac, the Zenita Home for the Elderly and Infirm in Split, the Home for the Elderly and Infirm on Vukovarska Street, and the Health Center in Jelsa.

These projects demonstrate how public facilities can engage in the production of their own electricity. According to DEA records, a total of over 1.2 MW of installed photovoltaic capacity has been recorded across the group of public facilities covered by the projects, while additional power plants on facilities directly managed by the County or county institutions account for another 666 kW. There

are also solar power plants on schools that were installed independently or resulted from donations.

Production figures demonstrate the tangible impact. According to records for 2026, as of July 22, the power plants in the primary group generated a total of approximately 570 MWh of electricity. An additional 157 MWh was generated by plants on facilities where the County directly oversaw installation or which are managed by county institutions. Two donated plants on schools in Dimac and Trilj generated a further 21+ MWh.

Notable among the larger systems is the photovoltaic plant at the Zenita Home for the Elderly and Infirm, with an installed capacity of 232.65 kW, while 113.75 kW was installed at the home on Vukovarska Street. Solar systems are also operating at the Imotski Health Center—with 94.71 kW installed—and at other healthcare and educational institutions. Electricity generation itself is not the only outcome; every kilowatt-hour produced also means a reduced need to purchase electricity from the grid.

The work does not end there. In 2026, DEA prepared the main electrical engineering designs and obtained grid connection approvals for an additional 752.15 kW of new photovoltaic power plants at community health center locations. Power plants are planned for facilities in Split, Trogir, Trilj, and Supetar, and the projects are now entering the public procurement process to select contractors. This marks the continued expansion of the existing network of solar power plants on public buildings.

However, DEA's focus extends beyond the public sector. Through co-financing programs over the past three years, support has been provided for nearly 600 photovoltaic systems on family homes, with a total capacity exceeding 4.8 MW. According to available data, these systems generate over 6,500 MWh of electricity annually—equivalent to the consumption of more than 1,600 households—while reducing CO₂ emissions by over 1,300 tons per year. In 2025 alone, 432 contracts worth a total of €870,000 were signed.

E-mobility is another key area of activity. Electric vehicle charging stations have already been installed across the county in Split, Sinj, Imotski, and Solin, with further expansion to six additional locations planned for 2026. (Data source: Slobodna Dalmacija, October 1)



MARKO VEŠLIGAJ

Marko Vešligaj is a Member of the European Parliament, serving on key committees for Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRI) and Regional Development (REGI), while also acting as Vice-Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) and as a member of the Special Committee on the Housing Crisis. Prior to his mandate in the European Parliament, he gained extensive experience in local and national politics as the long-serving Mayor of Pregrada, a Member of the Croatian Parliament, and a member of the European Committee of the Regions, where he focused particularly on finance, local self-government, and infrastructure. His work in the European Parliament centers on strengthening 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.



MIRO KOVAČ

MIRO KOVAČ received his BA, MA and PhD from the Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) and Sorbonne Nouvelle (Paris III) universities. He defended his doctoral dissertation in the history of international relations on the topic "La vision française de la question croate, 1914-1929" in June 1999. He also received his MA from the University of Hannover. He has participated in Harvard University's (John F. Kennedy School of Government) training programs twice: 21st Century Governance: Critical Skills for Leading and Sustaining Innovative Organizations (2007) and Senior Executives in National and International Security (2009). He is the author of several scientific books and articles, including the work "In the Labyrinth of VersaillesVidovdan Yugoslavia". In state government bodies, he has held, among others, the positions of Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Member of Parliament and Chairman of the Foreign Policy Committee in the Croatian Parliament, and Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany. He teaches at the University of the North as an associate professor



ANDREA ČOVIĆ VIDOVIĆ

European Commission in Croatia

Andrea Čović Vidović has over 15 years of professional experience in European affairs, diplomacy, communications, management, and mentoring. Since July 2022, she has served as Head of Media for the European Commission in Croatia; she also became Deputy Head of the Commission Representation in February 2023 and

Acting Head of the Representation on July 1, 2023. Prior to this, she managed public relations for the European Parliament in Croatia, starting from the opening of its office in the country in February 2013, ahead of Croatia's accession to the European Union. She worked as a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, focusing on Croatia's accession negotiations and lecturing on European policies for public and state administration, after which she led European Union units within the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labour, Pension System, Family and Social Policy. During her studies, she collaborated on international cultural projects at the Institute for International Relations and Development in Zagreb and subsequently served as a regional coordinator for international ICT projects at UNIQA Insurance.

She holds a Master's degree 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 the Technical University of Dresden and conducted doctoral research in comparative politics at the University of Zagreb and the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, D.C. She is an alumna of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the U.S. Fulbright pre-doctoral program, and the UK's Chevening scholarship program. She volunteers with several non-profit organizations and is the creator of the "Women in the Lead" project (Academy for Political Development) and the "AI in PR: Educating the Next Generation of Communicators" project (Croatian Public Relations Association), the latter funded in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Croatia. She served as the program director for HUOJ's annual "KOMferencija," held in Split in 2023.



ALEKSANDAR MEŠIĆ

Prof. Aleksandar Mešić, PhD, is a full professor and the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at the University of Zagreb. His scientific field encompasses plant protection (phytomedicine)—specifically phytopharmacy and pesticide application—as well as entomology and food safety. He also completed a postgraduate specialist program in Agribusiness Management (MBA) and is actively engaged in agricultural policy and food



TOMISLAV VINKOVIĆ

Tomislav Vinković was born on July 15, 1980, in Osijek, where he graduated from the Faculty of Agrobiotechnical Sciences Osijek, earning the title of Graduate Engineer of Agriculture and later a PhD. His entire professional and scientific career has been linked to the same faculty, where he advanced from assistant to full professor. Throughout his extensive career, he has continuously participated in teaching at the faculty's study programs. His scientific work focuses on advancing sustainable crop production, with particular emphasis on modern cultivation techniques and production models, as well as the application of biostimulants and biofortification in agriculture. He is the author or co-author of numerous university publications and over 80 scientific papers indexed in international databases (WoS, Scopus, CC, etc.). He has participated in numerous national and international projects—both as a leader and a collaborator—and has held various organizational roles, including Vice-Dean for the Development of Experimental Stations and Technology Transfer, Head of the Department of Crop Production, and Head of the Chair. He is an active member of the Croatian Society of Agronomists, the Croatian

Chamber of Agronomists, and international organizations such as IOBC and ECPGR. To date, he has mentored over 40 undergraduate and graduate theses and supervised two successfully defended doctoral dissertations. He serves as a reviewer for numerous scientific papers and projects, fosters collaboration with domestic and international institutions, and directs his professional work toward innovative solutions in crop production and the practical application of scientific knowledge. He is married and a father of three children



ROBERT HADŽIĆ

This economist spent years working in managerial positions at food industry companies. He has traveled the length and breadth of Europe—as he puts it—and has conducted business and trade with many countries, giving him a solid understanding of the agricultural sector.

He specialized in economic models of agricultural cooperation. He runs his own family farm featuring orchards in the Moslavina region. He was active in the Croatian Chamber of Agriculture (HPK) and led the Association of Family Farms. He was also a member of the AGROMED forum, which focused on Mediterranean agriculture.



KAMILO VRANA

Kamilo Vrana is a prominent figure, with a career spanning various management roles in realisation of complex energy projects and international trade deals, as well as leading roles in state administration, including the positions of Assistant Minister of Trade, Acting Governor of the State Reserves and Consul General in Istanbul, Turkey, and being the first head of the Croatian Agency for PPP, he also played a key role in the development and implementation of the public-private partnership (PPP) in Croatia and the successful conclusion of Croatia's pre-accession negotiations with EU within Chapter 5 - Public Procurement. As one of the founders and leading managers of the company Energovizija d.o.o., specialized in the development of projects based on renewable energy sources (RES), he was dedicated on the development and implementation of RES projects, such as RES utility plants, agriPV, aquaPV and the like. At the beginning of May 2025 he left EnergoVizija and launched new consulting company SolNet d.o.o., dedicated to create innovative SOLutions NETwork in RES sector in close cooperation with leading experts, business leaders and representatives of funds and financial institutions, to boost RES investments and opening new business opportunities in Croatia.