

CEV Autumn Volunteering Congress 2021 - Speaker photos and bios



George Thomson

George Thomson is now Co- Director, Networks & Convenings (International Association for Volunteer Effort) following 19 years as CEO of Volunteer Scotland. He has played a senior leadership role in the development of an SDG aligned national strategy in Scotland called “Volunteering for All” and will share his experience of the Stirling Volunteer Festival and Evidence Expo which were important national developments.

george@iave.com



Gabriele Bischoff

In May 2019, Gabriele Bischoff was elected as Member of the European Parliament for the Socialists and Democrats Group. Here, she serves as Vice-Chair of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs (AFCO) and as full member of the Committee on Employment and Social Affairs (EMPL) and Substitute of the Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs (ECON). She commits her parliamentary work to core social-democratic

topics: A fair and functioning European labor market, decent minimum wages and strong collective bargaining, more democracy at work and a socially fair and democratic EU-Semester. Last but not least, in her capacity as AFCO Vice Chair and member of the EP delegation to the “Conference on the Future of Europe” she is dedicated to ensuring a broad participation of citizens within this reform process.

Gabriele Bischoff began her working career at the Berlin Institute for Social Research and subsequently worked at the FHW Berlin School of Economics as a researcher. In 1990, she started to work full-time at IG Metall Germany as a senior advisor for equality. She became Head of Department and was an active member of the EMF and the ETUC Women's Committees. In 2000, she worked at the Permanent Representation of Germany to the EU as Social Attaché in Brussels, where she was responsible for European social dialogue. After that, she worked as a senior advisor for the EU Presidency in the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in Germany, dealing particularly with social

partner meetings and conferences. Between 2008-2014, she was Head of the European Policy Department at the Federal Executive of DGB. Gabriele Bischoff had been the President of the Workers' Group of the European Economic and Social Committee from October 2015 until March 2019.

She is a member of the board of the European Movement in Germany.

She is a board member of SPD-queer in Berlin.

Gabriele Bischoff studied Political Science at the Universities of Marburg and Berlin and holds a diploma in political science from the Free University of Berlin.

gabriele.bischoff@europarl.europa.eu (Photograph provided by the European Parliament)



Piotr Sadowski

“Piotr Sadowski has been President of Social Platform since April 2019, having first been elected to the Management Committee in 2017. His second mandate as President was renewed in May 2019, just after his intervention at the Porto Social Summit on behalf of Europe’s civil society. He has been Secretary General of Volonteuropa (an international civil society network advocating for volunteering and active citizenship as routes to achieving more social justice) since 2008. He was directly involved in the advocacy and subsequent implementation of the 2011 European Year of Volunteering (EYV), as a member of the 2011 EYV Civil Society Alliance Executive Group. His passion for volunteering and social action dates back to his International Baccalaureate studies at UWC

Atlantic College in Wales, UK (1996-1998). He then went to study Economics at the London School of Economics. Polish by birth, he lives between Spain and the UK, but above all, considers himself to be a European citizen.”

piotr@volonteuropa.eu



Dr. Frank Heuberger

Dr. Frank Heuberger has studied German Literature and Linguistics, Political Science, Philosophy and Sociology in Berlin, Frankfurt am Main, Germany and Trenton, USA and holds PhD in Sociology. From 1990 to 1995 he was Assistant Professor of Sociology at Boston University, USA and Research Associate at the Institute for the Study of Economic Culture (ISEC). Until the end of 2010 Dr. Heuberger was Head of the “Civil Society and Civic Participation Office”, State Chancellery of Rhineland-Palatinate, Germany.

Main areas activity include:

Analyses of social change, citizen engagement and models of political participation at municipal level, corporate social responsibility (CSR/CC) and perspectives of civil society at municipal, national and European level.

- Member of various working and research groups (inter alia scientific advisory board on the surveys on volunteering in Germany commissioned by the Federal Ministry of Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, and Placing Civil Society on the Economic Map (ZiviZ))
- Numerous publications, among others on the interdependence of economic and social change, civic engagement, civil society and corporate social responsibility
- From 2002 to 2008, Frank served as representative of federal government, states and municipalities on the Board of Speakers of the German National Network for Civil Society, 'BBE', Berlin
- In 2005, he was co-founder of the Center for Corporate Citizenship Germany (CCCD)

Frank Heuberger is at present Representative for European Affairs of the National Network for Civil Society (BBE) and represents the BBE on the board of the European Civic Forum (ECF), Brussels.



Lucie Brocard

Lucie joined Volunteer Ireland in January 2021 as the Programmes and Events Officer. Her role is to develop, plan, and manage both the National Volunteer Management Conference and the Volunteer Ireland Awards. She also supports the planning and delivery of corporate programmes including Team Impact Days and Business Advice sessions. Before joining Volunteer Ireland, Lucie worked within the film industry in her native France and became involved with the not-for-profit sector while working for festivals in Australia and the UK where she coordinated events, oversaw festivals' logistics and managed volunteers as part of her different roles.

lucie@volunteer.ie



Maida Pieper

Maida has a Master's degree in Governance and Human Rights (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, 2019-2020), a Postgraduate in Nonprofit Organizations (Universidad de San Andrés, 2012-2013) and a Bachelor's in Psychology (Universidad Abierta Interamericana, 2001-2005). She's been working in the Third Sector for more than 10 years. Her most recent job positions include the Coordination of the Centre of Social Innovation in Universidad de San Andrés (Argentina, 2012-2019) and the Coordination of the Social Enterprise Knowledge Network (2016-2018).

She's currently working in the PVE team, managing projects related to acknowledgment and validation of learning through volunteering.

maida.pieper@plataformavoluntariado.org



Sawsan Chebli

Sawsan Chebli holds a degree in political science from Otto-Suhr-Institut, Freie Universität Berlin where she was also an assistant at the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Politics between 2001 and 2004. In 2005 she became assistant at the German Bundestag for Brigitte Wimmer, Member of the Bundestag, then from 2005 to 2009 worked as a Research assistant at the German Bundestag for Johannes Jung, also a Member at the Bundestag. From 2010 to 2013 she became policy adviser for intercultural affairs at the Berlin Senate Department for the Interior and Sport, before moving in 2014 to become Deputy spokesperson at the Federal Foreign Office until 2016.

Since Dec 2016 Sawsan Chebli has been State of Berlin Delegate to the Federation Permanent Secretary for Active Citizenship and International Relations.

Membership in organizations and associations:

- Social Democratic Party of Germany
- Ver.di trade union
- Willy Brandt Center Jerusalem funding association
- Friends of the Museum of Islamic Art at Pergamon Museum
- Women in International Security
- German Council on Foreign Relations
- Checkpoint Charlie Foundation
- Atlantik-Brücke e.V.

bv@senatskanzlei.berlin.de

(Photo credits to Mathias Bothor)



Jorg Wojahn

Career:

September 2019 - European Commission, Representation in Germany – Berlin

Head of the European Commission's Representation in Germany

2015 - European Commission, Representation in Austria – Vienna

Head of the European Commission's Representation in Austria

2010 - European Union Delegation for Saudi Arabia, UAE, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain - Riyadh Embassy Counsellor

2004 - European Commission - European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF) - Brussels Spokesperson

2002 - Daily newspaper Der Standard - Brussels EU and NATO Correspondent

2000 - Daily newspaper Der Standard - Vienna

Editor Foreign Policy

1998 - Higher Regional Court District - Karlsruhe

Trainee lawyer

Education:

2000 - Second State Exam in Law / Baden-Württemberg

1999 - Doctorate in Law

1997-1998 - Christian-Albrechts-University Kiel, Walther-Schücking-Institute for International Law
Doctoral Studies

1997 - First State Exam in Law / Bavaria

1991-1997 - University of Passau Law Studies

1993-1994 - University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain Erasmus - Law and International Relations

1990 - High-School Diploma - Michael Gymnasium, Munich.



Monika Chabior

Monika Chabior is a deputy mayor of Gdańsk responsible for social development and equal opportunities. This portfolio entails bringing together education, social care and citizens activism and engagement. She is a sociologist with a background in NGOs, human rights and social innovation. In the past she cooperated with the European Solidarity Centre on Gdańsk, Gdynia Urban Lab and Polish Government in the field of social responsibility of UEFA EURO 2012 and its social legacy.



Szymon Knitter:

Szymon Knitter - coordinator of foreign volunteering - an experienced youth worker specializing in promoting civic activity. He graduated in political science from the University of Gdańsk with a specialization in regional policy. He worked as a consultant at the European Information Center Europe Direct-Gdańsk, and cooperated with the largest regional network of youth information points, Eurodesk Pomorze. Former coordinator of the Gdańsk Youth Fund. Involved in voluntary work for

different local organizations in Gdańsk. Short-term volunteer in Slovakia (under the Youth in Action program). Since 2017, he has been supporting foreign volunteers as a mentor. He also has 3 years of experience in working on projects (youth exchanges, volunteering projects, strategic partnerships) financed by the Erasmus + program. Participant of the international EVS/ESC quality seminars and training. On a daily basis he coordinates the Volunteering Program at the European Solidarity Center, and moderates the program for school voluntary groups "Termosfera".

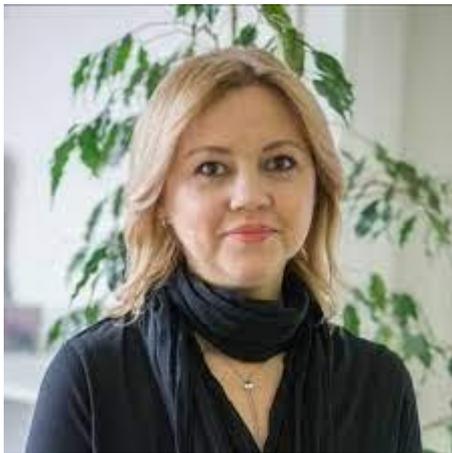


Gabriella Civico

Gabriella is originally from the UK and has lived in Spain & Portugal before moving to Belgium in 2010 and becoming a Belgian citizen in 2020. She has a degree in Social Policy and Education from Surrey University (UK) and a Masters in Education in E-learning from the University of Hull (UK). Her professional background is in business and the Youth NGO Sector where she has worked first as an administrator and then as a trainer and expert in both paid and voluntary capacities. Through her work in the youth field, and having volunteered since childhood in a variety of fields including Youth Advocacy, International Development, Disability, Environment, Immigration, Human Rights, Sports etc, Gabriella was involved

in the campaign to establish 2011 as the European Year of Volunteering. She has worked closely with the Centre for European Volunteering (CEV) since 2010 in her role as Project Manager for the EYV2011 Alliance until the end of the project in 2012 when she became CEV Director.

Gabriella.civico@cev.be



Lejla Šehić Relić

Lejla Šehić Relić (born 1971) founder and managing director of Volunteer Centre Osijek, committed civil society leader and activist since 2003, expert for the development of volunteerism and community development programs, mentor for the implementation of quality assurance system for non-profit organizations, trainer and consultant for organizational development and development of quality volunteer programs in non-profit organizations. Lejla holds a university degree in public administration. For the past 10 years she has been active in the development of public policy in favour of civil society and volunteerism in Croatia. In the period 2012- 2014 Lejla was president of the Croatian

National Council for the development of volunteerism. She is the co-author of several publications on volunteering, civil society and conflict management. Lejla was elected as President in 2019 for 4 years.

lejla.sehic@cev.be



Daniel Helmes

Daniel Helmes works for the National Network for Civil Society (BBE) in Berlin and is responsible for "Information and Communication". In the Digital Neighbourhood project, he supports confident and safe engagement on the internet through networking of actors, workshops and expertises. Daniel studied media culture, he is active in his spare time as a DOSB exercise instructor and

photographer. Previously, he worked for the Bundesverband Filmschnitt Editor the Funke Zentralredaktion Berlin.



Carola Schaaf-Derichs

Carola Schaaf-Derichs works as a board member of the German National Network for Civil Society (Bundesnetzwerk Bürgerschaftliches Engagement – BBE). The Federal Network for Citizenship Engagement (BBE) is an association of actors from civil society, the state and businesses which aims to sustainably promote civil society and civic engagement in all areas of society and politics. Carola, in her efforts to strengthen democratic processes, is also the CEO of the Berlin Volunteer Agency (Landesfreiwilligenagentur Berlin), and

board member of the Berlin Network of Civil Organisations (Landesnetzwerk Bürgerengagement Berlin). Standing out as a pioneer in the German voluntary sector, she takes responsibility for enforcing infrastructure and democracy.