



Investment
Management
Exhibition

#IME2024

23 – 24 September 2024
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

#ResilientInvestment

www.ime-europe.eu



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Management
Exhibition

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Welcome message

It is with great pleasure that we welcome all of you to the 9th edition of our Investment Management Exhibition (IME).

As we enter 2024, the world continues to face complex challenges, with the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and its global ramifications still affecting markets and economic systems. Alongside this, we are seeing the long-term impacts of the pandemic ripple through industries. This convergence of events is testing our resilience, but it also highlights the critical importance of innovation and collaboration in securing economic stability and prosperity.

In these difficult times, we at IME remain dedicated to fostering partnerships, facilitating investment, and driving economic cooperation across regions. Our mission is to enhance competitiveness and create sustainable solutions that will shape a better future for the generations to come. For the past decade, IME has stood as a beacon of opportunity and growth, and now, more than ever, we are committed to these values.

We thank you for being a part of this journey and contributing to the success of this year's exhibition. We wish you a fruitful event filled with insightful discussions, new opportunities, and meaningful connections.

Bekim Xhafa
Principal



What is IME?

The Investment Management Exhibition (IME) is an international event dedicated to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) taking place annually in the heart of the investment city Frankfurt. The aim of gathering is to bring multiple stakeholders across different countries and sectors together and to learn from one another about current challenges and trends in FDI. Visitors experience an unforgettable mix of renowned speakers, interesting exhibitors, and fruitful networking sessions during the breaks - perfect blend of high-quality input and intensive networking!

With a unique symbiosis of a conference and exclusive exhibition, IME brings together:

PUBLIC SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS

- Heads of IPAs
- Ministers
- Mayors
- Ambassadors/Consuls
- Secretaries of State
- Heads of IPAs
- PPP Units

INVESTORS AND ENTREPRENEURS

- Corporate Officers and Corporate Executives
- Representatives of Specialized Economic Associations
- Business Clubs
- Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs

ECONOMISTS AND ADVISORS

- CEO of Banks
- Investment Funds
- Development Banks
- Project developers
- Consultants for FDI
- Lawyers

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Agenda

#IME2024

23-24 September 2024
Frankfurt am Main, Germany

Convention Hall of the Westin Grand Frankfurt
Konrad-Adenauer-Str. 7 60313
Frankfurt am Main Germany

Monday, 23 September 2024 – Day One

08:00 Morning yoga workout

09:00 Registration and welcome networking breakfast

10:00 **Opening of IME 2024**
Interactive opening of IME 2024
Review of IME 2023
Outlook for the next two days
Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

10:15 **Welcome remarks**
Bekim Xhafa, Founder of IME

10:30 **Digitalization and innovation in the economic location of Saarland**
The IME 2024 content program gets under way with a presentation on the transformative role of digitalization and innovation in Saarland's economic landscape. Discover how cutting-edge technologies are driving growth, enhancing competitiveness and positioning the region as a dynamic business hub. The session will highlight key initiatives and the impact of digital advancements on the region's economic development.
Speaker
Jürgen Barke, Minister of Economy, Innovation, Digital Affairs and Energy, Saarland

10:50 **Resilient FDI: evolving strategies for companies and investment promoters**
The global landscape for foreign direct investment has been challenging in recent years, forcing a strategic rethink for both investment promotion agencies and the companies they seek to engage. In this session, an expert consultant will highlight the trends shaping FDI at present, provide an outlook for the future, and reveal how IPAs and companies can create resilient strategies to help bolster a global FDI recovery.
Speaker
Jens Manke, Director Germany & Central Europe, OCO Global

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11:20

Coffee break

11:50

Why should companies invest in Ukraine now?

Ukraine as an investment destination and sectors of opportunity
Experiences of investors in Ukraine

Speaker

Kostiantyn Lisnychy, Strategic Advisor, UkraineInvest

12:10

Reasons to invest in Ras Al Khaimah: How this business region has gained in relevance

Investing in Ras Al Khaimah offers a unique combination of strategic advantages, supportive policies, and growth opportunities, making it an attractive destination for investors seeking to expand in the Middle East and beyond.

Speaker

Aminta Zettel, Strategic Country Manager, Europe and the United Kingdom, Ras Al Khaimah Economic Zone

12:40

Lunch break and networking

14:00

Why invest in Mauritius?

Over the years, Mauritius has crafted a strong growth-oriented developmental path which has enabled the country to achieve one of the highest per capita incomes in Africa. With a stable political and economic environment and a strategic location, Mauritius is also emphasizing its commitment to sustainability and innovation, making it an attractive destination for sectors like technology, manufacturing, and green energy investments.

Speaker

Faraz Rojid, Director, Economic Development Board Mauritius

14:25

#InvestInSeychelles: Gateway for international trade and investment

Seychelles is growing in importance as a strategic hub for global trade and investment, thanks to its favorable business environment, tax incentives, and connectivity to key markets. This session will provide insights into how Seychelles' policies and infrastructure support international companies looking to expand in Africa and beyond, positioning the country as a gateway for global business.

Speaker

Simone Hartog, Representative for Abacus (Seychelles) Ltd.



Day one (continued)

14:50

Free zones as catalysts for FDI: the Romania example

Free zones can serve as powerful catalysts for FDI, bringing benefits to local and national economies. Drawing on the experiences of Regional Development Agency Centru in Romania, this session will highlight how free zones can be leveraged for regional economic growth and development. It will include advice on differentiating business locations to stand out in a competitive market and the critical role of free zones in drawing skilled workers, ensuring that businesses not only attract capital but also the talent needed to thrive.

Speaker

Andreea Potinteu, Head of Business Environment Support and Investment Promotion Office, Regional Development Agency Centru

15:10

Panel: FDI promotion in the age of AI

With artificial intelligence and advanced technologies reshaping cross-border investment as well as the work of investment promotion agencies, both challenges and opportunities have arisen integrating national promotional solutions in an increasingly interconnected world. Experts will discuss the potential of AI to streamline processes while overcoming obstacles in global collaboration.

Speakers

Philipp Lemmerz, Government & Public Services Consulting, PwC Dubai
Rakan AlGaraawi, Associate International Office Director - Germany, Saudi Arabia Ministry of Investment

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

15:50

Coffee break

16:25

Insights from SMEs: Understanding corporate site selection criteria

A leading industry expert will delve into the key factors that small and medium-sized enterprises consider when selecting corporate sites, providing unique insights into their decision-making processes and how these criteria shape the location strategies of SMEs.

Speaker

Jürgen Raizner, Director, Steinbeis Enterprises



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16:45 Keynote presentation: Driving FDI with blockchain, crypto and Web3

Discover how blockchain, crypto, and Web3 technologies are transforming the landscape of foreign direct investment in this keynote presentation. Explore the ways these innovations can streamline cross-border transactions, enhance transparency, and create new opportunities for driving sustainable investment. Learn from a top crypto expert how decentralized solutions are shaping the future of global trade and investment.

Speaker

Gordon H. Einstein, Esq., Founding Partner, CryptoLaw Partners

17:00 Summary of the first day

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

17:00 End of the first day of conference

18:10 Frankfurt city tour starting from the Hotel

20:00 Drinks reception in the City

Tuesday, 24 September 2024 – Day Two

08:00 Morning yoga workout

09:00 Welcome networking coffee

10:00 Welcome second conference day


Summary of first day

Outlook for second day of conference

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

10:15 Panel: Building bridges between Europe and Africa

There are growing economic synergies between Europe and Africa as European investors become increasingly aware of the vast investment opportunities that Africa offers. This session will discuss how strategic partnerships can drive mutual growth, which sectors hold the most potential for cross-continental collaboration and how to foster long-term economic ties that benefit both regions.



Day two (continued)

Speakers

Christoph Kannengiesser, CEO, German-African Business Association

Faraz Rojid, Director, Economic Development Board Mauritius

Simone Hartog, Representative for Abacus (Seychelles) Ltd

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

11:00 Resilient economies: the global economic outlook

A leading economist and management consultant will provide an insightful overview of the global economy, exploring the current challenges and opportunities on the horizon. This session will delve into the key ingredients for building economic resilience and shine a light on the economic bright spots and growth areas for 2025 and beyond.

Speaker

Günther Fehlinger, Economist, Management and Development Consultant

11:20 Coffee break

11:50 Panel: Powering the future: new horizons in renewable energy

This session will delve into the future of energy, focusing on the latest advancements in renewable energy, including breakthroughs in hydrogen technology and the impact of artificial intelligence. Industry experts will discuss emerging trends and innovations shaping the renewable energy landscape, highlighting the most promising investment opportunities. Speakers will also explore how these developments are driving the transition to cleaner energy sources and the strategic investments that can fuel sustainable growth in this dynamic sector.

Speakers

Chigozie Nweke-Eze, Managing Director, Integrated Africa Power

Dennis Schulmeyer, CEO, LADE Green

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME



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12:30 Resilient free zones: future trends and current champions

The session will explore what makes a top-performing free trade zone, highlighting successful examples around the globe. It will delve into key global trends shaping the future of free zones and examine how they can adapt to support company expansion, even in challenging times. By examining best practices, the discussion will offer insights into how free zones can stay resilient and thrive amid shifting economic landscapes.

Speaker

Charles A. FitzGibbon, Vice President of Sales, Conway Data, Inc

13:00 Lunch break

14:00 Golden opportunities in Madeira

Investors in Madeira benefit from attractive incentives such as a reduced 5% corporate tax rate, competitive operational costs, stability and security and robust infrastructure. Residency programs like the Golden Visa further enhance its appeal for international businesses. This session will highlight “why Madeira is gold”.

Speaker

Elias Medeiros, Project Manager, Invest in Madeira

14:15 Modernization of Tax Systems Through Digital Transformation

Simplifying tax systems and processes is essential to creating a streamlined and efficient business environment, and digitalization can be harnessed to achieve these goals to the benefit of both businesses and governments. Using Kosovo as a case study, this presentation will demonstrate real-world applications of digital tools in improving tax administration and therefore ease of doing business.

Speaker


Rifat Hyseni, Director of Information Technology Department, Tax Administration of Kosovo

14:25 The investment case for Castilla-La Mancha

The Spanish region of Castilla-La Mancha is a major hub for innovation, particularly in sectors like hydrogen and fuel cell technology, aeronautics, and ICT. It also boasts competitive industrial land prices, a highly skilled workforce, and strong infrastructure, all of which create an ideal environment for businesses looking to expand. Learn more about the region’s compelling attributes for investment.

Speaker

Carmelo Corral, Investment Promotion Manager, IPEX



Day two (continued)

14:40

Panel: Resilience in turbulent times

In this dynamic session bringing together key themes of IME 2024, international experts offer their perspectives on building economic resilience amid global volatility. Beginning with a presentation on how Europe's development agencies can foster resilience in their regions, the discussion will expand into the resilience of cities and how real estate fits into the equation. Learn how investment locations can adapt, innovate and thrive in uncertain environments.

Speakers

Theo Föllings, President, European Association of Development Agencies

Honoré Achille Simo, Executive Director, Value and Risk Advisory, JLL

Moderator

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

15:15

Economic situation of Europe: how to cope with "Eurosclerosis"

This presentation explores the current economic challenges facing Europe, often referred to as "Eurosclerosis"—a period of slow growth, high unemployment, and economic stagnation. A leading economist will analyze the factors contributing to this sluggish performance and the implications for the rest of the world, and suggest remedies.

Speaker

Prof. Peter Platzer, Secretary General of EUREKA, Co-Founder of 3rd School of Austrian Macroeconomics

15:35

Summary of the conference and award ceremony (live voting on the best performer of IME 2024)

Bekim Xhafa, CEO, IME

Courtney Fingar, Presenter and Chair of IME

16:00

End of the conference

Speakers



CARMELO CORRAL

Investment Promotion Manager
IPEX Spain

16 years of experience, from December 2008, working in the FDI business at the Institute for Foreign Trade Promotion of Castilla-La Mancha, a public law entity attached to the Regional Ministry of Economy, Business and Employment, leading agency in the promotion of foreign trade and attracting foreign investment in Castilla-La Mancha, Spain. Responsible for all the activities related to FDI: active search for leads and projects, project management and the aftercare program for foreign companies in CLM.



CHARLES A. FITZGIBBON

Vice President of Sales
Conway Data, Inc.

Charles A. FitzGibbon is the Vice President of Sales for Conway Data, Inc. – the parent company and publisher of Site Selection Magazine, headquartered in Atlanta, GA. He has over 17 years' experience working with economic development and investment promotion agencies, helping them to attract corporate expansion projects. A frequent participant and speaker at industry events, Charles most recently served as the Emcee for the 2022 World Forum for FDI held in Scotland. When he is not working, you will likely find him at the golf course, or fishing for trout on the Chattahoochee River. Charles and his wife of 25 years currently reside in Peachtree Corners, GA with their 3 children. Charles is a graduate of the J. Mack Robinson School of Business at Georgia State University.



JÜRGEN BARKE

Minister of Economics, Innovation,
Digitalisation and Energy and Deputy
Prime Minister of Saarland, Germany

After successfully completing his degree in public administration at the Saarland University of Applied Sciences, Jürgen Barke began his professional career in 1986 as a civil servant in the higher service, most recently as personal assistant to the then State Secretary.

From 1991-2001, he was a full-time alderman of the town of Lebach. In February 2001, he worked as personnel manager and authorised signatory of the company Michels GmbH. At the end of 2002, he founded Jürgen Barke Consult Lebach and became the sole managing director of KomCon GmbH from the beginning of 2003. In May 2012, Jürgen Barke was appointed State Secretary at the Ministry of Economics, Labour, Energy and Transport. Since April 2022, he is the Minister of Economics, Innovation, Digitalisation and Energy and Deputy Prime Minister of Saarland.

Jürgen Barke was born in 1962 and lives in Lebach. He is married and has two children.



OVIDIA CABA

Director of Regional Policies,
Programs Unit RDA Centru, Romania

Ovidia is part of the RDA Center team since 2001. As an expert in regional planning and development she participated and coordinated the elaboration of the Regional Development Plan and Smart Specialization Strategy, having extensive experience in accessing and implementing interregional cooperation projects (approx. 40 implemented projects). Starting from 2022, she coordinates the Unit for Regional Policies and Programs within the RDA Centru. She has also experience in programming of EU funds, working on the elaboration of Centru Region Programme 2021-2027, on interventions addressing education, innovation and business support infrastructure.



PHILIPP LEMMERZ

Partner
Government & Public Services practice,
PricewaterhouseCoopers Middle East

Philipp is a Partner in the Government & Public Services practice at PwC Middle East. He leads the Economic Competitiveness practice for the region, focusing on driving value and ecosystem development through his work on Policy, programme design and operational support, institutional set-up and excellence, primarily in the areas of investment and trade facilitation and promotion. With a background in law, Philipp worked on outbound investment facilitation, investment arbitration, special economic zones, trade accelerators, SME development, innovation and value chain integration aspects before joining PwC Middle East.)



MR. RIFAT HYSENI

Director of Information Technology
Department In Tax Administration of Kosovo

Rifat Hyseni is the Director of the IT department of Kosovo's Tax Administration. He is a Professor of MIS in the Department of Public Policy at the UBT – Kosovo. He has extensive experience in the ICT sector over 25 years, working for International and Local Organizations such as TADAT Assessor, ICT Consultant for IMF/FAD, World Bank, European Commission, and OSCE – Mission in Kosovo. Mr. Hyseni is an electrical technical engineer specializing in Automatics and Informatics, a degree obtained from the University of Prishtina. He received his MSc. in Professional Studies from RIT, USA. He received professional IT Management certification from IIT-Chicago/USA, in IT PM, IT Audit, Cyber Security, data warehousing, and Data Analytics.



JENS MANKE

Director Germany and Central Europe
OCO Global

Jens Manke is Director Germany and Central Europe with OCO Global based in the Frankfurt Region, Germany. In this role he is responsible for the operational management and support of ongoing projects for Central Europe, especially the German-speaking market.

Jens has more than 10 years of experience in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and international trade relations. He advises economic development organisations with their strategic positioning for FDI and related trade and investment advisory programs.

Jens has supported leading investment promotion agencies such as Invest Victoria (Australia), Tunisia Investment Authority (TIA), Bahrain EDB or Maryland Department of Commerce in their positioning and representation in the German-speaking market. He also supports organizations within the DACH- region on various issues relating to investment attraction, including Baden-Württemberg International, Berlin Partner, NRW.Global Business, Invest in Mecklenburg-Pomerania, the Ministry of Economics in Schleswig-Holstein and the Austrian Business Agency. He also advises private companies on their expansion into new markets and on topics such as growth and market entry strategies and entrepreneurial business development.

Before joining OCO, Jens worked for NRW.Global Business, the economic development agency of the German Federal state of North Rhine-Westphalia. There he was responsible for FDI lead generation, investment facilitation and aftercare services to foreign companies in North Rhine-Westphalia. In addition, he developed strategies and concepts along the investment promotion value chain, such as strategic FDI attraction, aftercare and key account management as well as strategies for cross-industry innovation topics such as Industry 4.0, digital economy and e-commerce. In this role, Jens was a frequent speaker at investment attraction events across Europe but also overseas, especially in China.

Prior to that, he worked for Metro Group (Düsseldorf) on location assessments and real estate and property scorings for portfolio analysis. He also worked as research assistant at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver and contributed significantly to the economic impact study of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

Jens completed a degree in economic geography (M.Sc.) at RWTH Aachen University and obtained an MBA from the FOM University of Economics and Management. He spent a semester abroad at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid and is fluent in English, French and Spanish.



KOSTIANTYN LISNYCHYI

Strategic Advisor to UkraineInvest,
Business Development



HOLLY GARFORTH

Business Development Head – Lead
GenerationRas Al Khaimah Economic
Zone (RAKEZ) - Government of Ras Al
Khaimah

Holly is Head of Strategic Business Development – Lead Generation, at RAKEZ, working alongside a team of expert Country Managers who bring FDI into Ras Al Khaimah through the anchoring of large scale industrial and manufacturing projects. Previously building 15 years experience in the UK banking sector in various sales, investment and leadership roles.



AMINTA ZETTEL

Strategic Country Manager Europe and
the United KingdomRas Al Khaimah
Economic Zone (RAKEZ) - Government of
Ras Al Khaimah

Aminta, the Country Manager for Europe and the United Kingdom at RAKEZ, specializes in supporting industrial clients' expansion into the Middle East. With a decade of regional experience, she possesses a deep understanding of the local business landscape and provides strategic guidance and tailored solutions to help companies achieve their expansion goals.



GORDON EINSTEIN

Founding Partner
CryptoLaw Partners – specializing in
crypto and blockchain

Gordon Einstein is a hybrid Crypto-Attorney, Technologist, and Enterprise Strategist. Gordon received his undergraduate degree in Politics in 1991 from Brandeis University in Boston and then received his JD in 1995 from the USC Gould School of Law in Los Angeles. Gordon is also a proud Eagle Scout, having served in Boy Scout Troop 223.

Initially Gordon's law practice centered on startup, venture capital, investment banking, regulatory compliance, intellectual property and general business law. As an avid computer and programming hobbyist, in 2012 Gordon was intrigued by Bitcoin, cryptocurrencies, and the related technologies. By 2014, he was providing legal services to several individuals and companies operating in this space. And by 2016 the majority of Gordon's law practice involved working with crypto, blockchain and FinTech startups and funds, including as Chief Legal Officer of Distributed Lab. The practice was formalized as CryptoLaw Partners in 2017.

Gordon frequently speaks and educates both in the United States and internationally. Some common themes are issues and developments relating to cryptocurrency, the legal aspects of FinTech, structuring blockchain startups, ICOs/STOs, and AML/KYC compliance.



JÜRGEN RAIZNER

Director
Steinbeis Enterprises in Stuttgart (DE),
Baku (AZ), Bucharest (RO), Uzhhorod (UA)
and Vienna (AT)

Jürgen Raizner (1967) studied business administration and logistics at University of Applied Sciences Nürtingen-Geislingen (Stuttgart region) and graduated 1993. His professional experience in doing international business goes back to 1991. Working sessions as long-term and short-term expert took place in almost every country of Central and Eastern Europe. Jürgen Raizner has proven experiences in managing multi-national consortia in EU funded projects and managed major consultancy projects that included reporting to international board level and government secretary state level. Jürgen Raizner is entrepreneur since 1994 and founder of Steinbeis enterprises (STC) in Germany, Austria, Romania and Ukraine. Jürgen Raizner holds a lectureship at University Nürtingen-Geislingen and was awarded 2013 with its Medal of Honor. STCs of Jürgen Raizner support enterprises in finding the right place for foreign direct investment and for outsourcing. Another key competences are to contribute to a business friendly environment in Central and Eastern Europe, to foster innovation by elaborating solutions for effective university-industry collaboration and to promote entrepreneurship what is based more on knowledge and science than on low-cost manufacturing.



HONORÉ ACHILLE SIMO

Executive Director, Value and Risk Advisory,
JLL

Achille is Executive Director at JLL, a global real estate services company with offices in 80 countries. Operating from the Frankfurt office, he oversees the global client care program for the Value and Risk Advisory division (VRA) and the business development team. With more than 2000 experts conducting valuations exceeding \$3.2 trillion annually, VRA is one of the leading providers of valuation and risk analyses across all stages of the real estate life cycle, including acquisition, accounting, financing, and internal decision-making.

Prior to joining JLL in 2007, Achille served as Project Controller at Drees & Sommer, a leading building consultancy firm in Europe. He kickstarted his career in 2002 as a Business Development Manager at Bildau & Bussmann, a Berlin based windows manufacturing company. Achille graduated from the Technical University of Berlin with a degree in architecture, with focus on property development. He is Chartered Surveyor member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Urban Land Institute (ULI) and the European Public Real Estate Association (EPRA). He serves as co-chair of ULI's European Product Council "Office and Mixed-Use" and co-chair of the ULI's Germany Product Council "Sustainable Cities". He sits on EPRA's PropTech and Innovation Committee.

He is co-author of a book on Alternative Real Estates (Spezialimmobilien von A bis Z) and of many publications covering diverse topics such as Office Highrises, Corporate Real Estates, M&A in the Real Estate Market, Leasehold, ESG and Impact on Value and AI. Achille frequently shares his knowledge and insights at conferences and as a guest lecturer in advanced education programs at universities, including IREBS in Germany, ESSEC Business School in France and the European Association for Investors in Non-Listed Real Estate Vehicles (INREV).



GÜNTHER FEHLINGER

Austrian Economist, Management and
Development Consultant

Gunther Fehlinger, Austrian economist, management and development consultant, Gunther was a Austrian student leader during in early 1990s, International officer of Austrian Student Union, Chairman of European Democrat Students 96-98 worked in Brussels from 1998 to 2004, first for BusinessEurope, than 4 years as Secretary General of SME Union of EPP, from 2005 to present Gunther is focused on economic reform and SME policy in European transition countries mainly Kosovo, Albania, Ukraine, Gunther serves as Committee Member of Investments for Technology support of the Agency for Economic Development of North Macedonia. Gunther is a keen interest in energy and infrastructure policy in central and eastern Europe. Gunther serves Board member of AGREEI, Action Group for Regional Economic Integration of Southern Balkans, coordinate a network for tax reformers called Europeans for Tax Reform, is former President of Austria Kosovo Society OeKG and Former Board Member of Austrian Albanian Society in Albania, member of Austrian Kosovo Friendship Society in Austria, and coordinates Austrian Yes to Ukraine in EU activities and support the EU Accession Trio concept in Austria. Gunther supports recognition of Kosovo and freedom for Crimea. Gunther publishes a Podcast of European Union called Pax Europeana, runs a video channel focused on EU Enlargement, publishes articles on EU future and European economic reform and EU and NATO enlargement, Gunther advocates for a European Union of 37 Member and a enlarged NATO of 42 Allies and fast track Eurozone enlargement. Gunther tweets at @GunterFehlinger and can be reached at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/fehlinger/>



RAKAN I. ALGARAAWI

Office Director - Central/Eastern Europe
Saudi Investment Promotion Authority

Within the context of the Saudi Investment Promotion Authority, the International Offices are dedicated to look after the interests of companies in our region and support their market entry or expansion in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They promote opportunities and evaluate requirements for a mutually beneficial relationship. One of the main topics is enabling and enhancing bilateral investment relations. As such, the International Offices serve as the focal point of contact for investors and the Office Directors as the Relationship Managers in this context. In collaboration with sector specialists, our business support center, as well as local stakeholders, we enable access to relevant information and provide guidance for a successful establishment and development of your business.

Rakan has served in the Ministry of Investment and SIPA for over 4 years and leads the efforts in GSA. Prior to joining the government in 2020, he held various positions, including Daimler AG as Head of Sales and Marketing MENA for special vehicles, Rheinmetall AG as Director for Business & Network Development MENA for protection systems and with his own company working with many SMEs from Europe to develop their business in the Middle East.



CHIGOZIE NWEKE-EZE

CEO, Integrated Africa Power (IAP)
Board Member, Hydrogen-Africa

Chigozie Nweke-Eze is an economist and a geographer with specialisations in the international finance, economics, politics, geographies and sustainability of large-scale and cross-border projects in the energy and mining sector. Following the re-emergence of hydrogen, he began working on its role in the energy transition and industrial decarbonisation, using his specialisation lens.

Nweke-Eze has consulted for African and European governments, the private sector, and international organisations, including for adidas, Endeava, REN21 and the German Development Cooperation, and has taught courses on energy transition and natural resources, including at the CIFE European Institute in Nice, France. He previously worked as a research associate in the department of geography at the University of Bonn, Germany, and at the Research Institute for Sustainability Berlin.

He currently manages the multi-unit firm Integrated Africa Power, based in Abuja and Bonn, serves on the board of the Hydrogen-Africa conference and EXPO based in Paris, and convenes the African Hydrogen Hub. His views are regularly featured in public outlets, including the pv Magazine Global, Deutsche Welle, and the Times.



CHRISTOPH KANNENGIEßER

CEO, Afrika-Verein der deutschen
Wirtschaft e.V. (German-African Business
Association)

Christoph Kannengießer has been CEO of the Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft e.V. (German-African Business Association) since June 2012. He studied law and political science in Bonn and Munich and holds a Master's Degree in Law from the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität in Bonn where he worked as a research assistant at the Chair of Public Law. Since 1995 he is registered as Attorney-at-law. In the course of his career in major German business associations, Christoph Kannengießer held leading positions at the DIHK, the Association of German Chambers of Industry and Commerce, the BDA, the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (Managing Director for Labour Market Policy) and at the Markenverband (German Brands Association), where he served as CEO. From 2004 to 2007 he served as Deputy Secretary General of the Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, a leading political think tank with a broad international network i.a. on the African continent.

Nweke-Eze has consulted for African and European governments, the private sector, and international organisations, including for adidas, Endeava, REN21 and the German Development Cooperation, and has taught courses on energy transition and natural resources, including at the CIFE European Institute in Nice, France. He previously worked as a research associate in the department of geography at the University of Bonn, Germany, and at the Research Institute for Sustainability Berlin.

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FARAZ ROJID

Director
Economic Development Board (EDB) of
Mauritius

Faraz Rojid is currently director of the Silver Economy cluster of the Economic Development Board (EDB) and was previously the director of the Financial Services department at the EDB. He holds an LL. B (Hons.) from the University of London and an LL.M in International Economic Law and Policy from the School of Law of the University of Barcelona.

He previously interned at the World Trade Organization and the United Nations in Geneva, and subsequently was a Legal Consultant in the Investment Division of the UNCTAD. He also worked as an Investment Executive at the Board of Investment of Mauritius and was the Officer-in-Charge of the Financial Services Promotion Agency of Mauritius.



MS. SIMONE HARTOG

Representative for
Abacus (Seychelles) Ltd.

Mrs. Simone Hartog is representing Abacus (Seychelles) Limited.

Mrs. Hartog specializes in Compliance and Corporate Administration Services in Seychelles, where she is renowned for delivering exceptional customer service while ensuring strict adherence to the highest regulatory standards. With over 20 years of professional experience in banking, finance, and management, Mrs. Hartog has developed a deep expertise in these fields.

Prior to her role at Abacus (Seychelles) Limited, Mrs. Hartog garnered extensive experience working with various banks and brokers in Germany. Her extensive background in the financial sector and her commitment to compliance make her an asset in her current role.



THEO FÖLLINGS

President
EURADA

As Director of Innovation, Theo is involved in outlining and concretising the strategy for innovations in the East of the Netherlands, together with all relevant stakeholders, the national government and Europe. This innovation is achieved in various ways, including the valorisation of knowledge, innovation programmes, the improvement of innovation ecosystems around companies and the tackling of social challenges together with companies. He helps entrepreneurs to make their businesses stronger and thus indirectly, through their innovations, contribute to a healthier and more beautiful world. He is in charge of translating the government policy and available financial resources of Europe, the Netherlands and the provinces into clear 'instruments' (programmes) and financial resources for companies, to ensure that the innovation actually reaches the market.

Theo Föllings was elected President of EURADA in June 2024 and his mandate will last 3 years.



DENNIS SCHULMEYER

CEO and FounderL
ADE GmbH

Dennis Schulmeyer (born 1978) is the founder and CEO of LADE and has been an IT entrepreneur since 1999. In 2012, he bought his first electric vehicle and, as a trained electrician, installed his hometown's first public charging station at his private home in Mainz. At the same time, he started to develop ideas for smart, scalable charging infrastructure to leverage the potential of BEV batteries for managing renewable energy. In 2020, he founded LADE to turn his ideas into reality. Today, his international team has grown to around 50 people, bringing together years of expertise in electronics, software development, AI, and smart IT.



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