SPIDER
EU-LAC Digital Partnership

Alejandra Davidziuk - Outreach Manager, BrainLat Institute

She has a degree in Social Communication Sciences from the Universidad de Buenos Aires, a Master of Arts in International Affairs at The New School (United States) with a specialization in Social Economic Development. She is currently a student in the doctoral program in Social Sciences at the Instituto de Desarrollo Económico y Social (IDES-UNGS). In addition, she counts with a post-graduate course in Public Policy Management (FLACSO-INAP) and training courses in Project Management (Universidad Nacional de Lomas de Zamora), Quality Communication (INAP), Funding R&D and Innovation Business Management (European Commission). She has over twenty years of progressive experience as journalist, researcher, project manager, and outreach officer with special focus on virtual and onsite communication strategies and community relationship building. She worked for 13 years at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation of Argentina, where she was the coordinator of the Argentina-European Union Liaison Office and National Coordinator of the Argentinean EEN Node (Enterprise Europe Network). Currently, she is Outreach Manager at the BrainLat Institute de la Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez de Chile.

Alice Rangel de Paiva Abreu - Professor Emerita, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

She is a Professor Emerita of the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil, has a PhD in Social Sciences from the University of São Paulo Brazil (1980), and M.Sc. in Sociology from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) of the University of London (1971). She was a Full Professor of Sociology at the UFRJ for twenty-five years and has published extensively in sociology of work and gender as well as, more recently, on gender and science. Since early 2000 her career has been closely linked to science, technology, and innovation policy, holding important positions in Brazil and internationally. She was the vice President of CNPq, the Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development, the Director of the Office of Education, Science and Technology of the Organization of American States, in Washington D.C., the Director of the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean of the International Council for Science (ICSU). More recently, Prof. Abreu was the Director of GenderInSITE (2015-2017), a global initiative aimed at promoting the role of women in science, innovation, technology and engineering (SITE). Prof. Abreu is a member of several important boards and advisory committees of different institutions and project, such as the Gender Advisory Board of the UN Commission of Science and Technology for Development (CSTD), and keeps active in the area of equality policies in science and technology. Professor Abreu received the Ordem Nacional do Mérito Científico (Comendador) of Brazil in 2001; the Palmes Académiques (Officier), of the Ministère de la Jeunesse, de l'Éducation Nationale et de la Recherche. République Française, in 2003. Prof. Abreu is an International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and an International Science Council Fellow.

Constanza Bohle - Institutional Excellence Incentive Program Coordinator, University of Chile

Constanza Bohle Gutiérrez is an economist with a Master's degree in Economic Analysis and a diploma in University Management with a Gender Perspective from the University of Chile. She currently leads the institutional accreditation of the research, artistic creation, and innovation area at the same institution. She coordinates the Institutional Excellence Incentive Program, aimed at strengthening knowledge generation in the faculties through a distributive model of internal resources. Her career is notable for monitoring R&D&I according to the Research Policy and leading the development of the InEs Gender Project, which seeks to develop institutional capacities to reduce gender gaps in the area.

Cristian Patiño - Specialist in Quality Management and Sustainability, CEDIA

Cristian Patiño is a Specialist in Quality Management and Sustainability with more than 15 years of experience. He's been involved in Public and Private projects in both executive and technical roles. He has worked in Ecuador, Peru and Colombia in the fields of quality management, environmental science and sustainability. Today, as a Quality Assurance Specialist at the Ecuadorian Research and Education Network CEDIA, he is coordinating the Work Package 1 of the SPIDER project. He has an Undergraduate degree in Industrial Engineering in Ecuador and a Masters in Science in Sustainable Development in The United Kingdom.

Cristina López - Researcher at LifeSTech, UPM

She is a creative and enthusiastic biomedical engineer, with a master's degree in UX/UI and graphic design. She works on european projects at the LifeSTech research group (Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain) implementing User-Centered Design (UCD) methodologies for the creation of solutions in the areas of Active and Healthy Aging (AHA) in smart environments. Additionally, she has expertise in applying design thinking and co-creation methods to integrate gender and other diversity perspectives into Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI).

WG2

Elisabeth Kohler - Senior Policy Officer, French National Centre for Scientific Research

She is a senior science policy officer and director of the Gender Equality Unit at CNRS, an institution that has been awarded the EU-gender equality champion prize in 2014. Between 2018 and 2023, she coordinated the Horizon 2020 project GENDER-NET Plus dealing the integration of the gender dimension in research contents and participated in two other EU funded projects, GE Academy (design of training programmes on gender equality) and GENDER STI (gender equality in international cooperation STI agreements). She is member of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Panel of the Horizon Europe project GEO-INQUIRE. Prior to her appointment as director of the Gender Equality Unit, she worked at the CNRS in various fields, ranging from scientific information to innovation policy, European project management and international cooperation. She has a Master's degree in cultural history.

WG2

Gabriela Ferreira - Postdoctoral Researcher, University of São Paulo

She is a post-doctoral researcher at the Institute of Advanced Studies, University of São Paulo (USP). She holds a PhD in International Relations from USP and King's College London (KCL). Since 2014, she has been a researcher at the Center for International Negotiations Studies (CAENI/USP). Gabriela's expertise lies in International Relations, with a focus on the intersection of Science, Technology, and Innovation (STI) with public policy. Her work explores how scientific advancements inform and shape effective public policy. Her research interests include Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI), Global Environmental Change (GEC), and socioeconomic development.

WG2

Julia Palma - Undersecretary of Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer in Ecuador

Master's in Constitutional Law, Attorney of the Courts of the Republic of Ecuador. She entered the public sector in 2013 and has held positions such as Advisor to the Regional Director of CNE Manabí, Provincial Legal Specialist of the Comptroller General of the State (first place in the 2014 competition), and Advisor to the General Director of the Judiciary Council (service commission) in 2021. In 2022, she was Supervisor of Predetermination at the Comptroller General of the State, and she is currently the Undersecretary of Research, Innovation, and Technology Transfer. She has been a faculty member at the School of Law of the Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo since 2021. She is a student of Psychology at the Universidad de Especialidades Espíritu Santo and a Master's student in Human Rights at the European University.

WG2

Karen N. Salt - Professor at Manchester Metropolitan University and Director for Trusted R&I, UK

Prof. Karen Salt is an expert on governance, systems and transformative change. She is currently Professor of Culture, Place and Communities at Manchester Metropolitan University and also has a partial appointment as Portfolio Director of Trusted Research and Innovation within UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the UK's largest public funder of research and innovation. She has led and managed interdisciplinary research centres, collaborative research teams and large research projects, including those focused on producing evidence-informed interventions and policies. A sought after thought-leader and speaker, Salt works closely with leaders across Government, academia, civil society and industry and contributes to numerous international initiatives focused on inclusive policymaking and responsible innovation.

WG2

Lidia Zakowska - Professor on Transport Engineering, Cracow University of Technology

Lidia Zakowska, Ph.D., professor on transport engineering and safety at Cracow University of Technology, Director for research at Institute of Management in Building and Transport of Civil Engineering Faculty, chair of the Section of Transport. Her international research activities concentrate on the following topics: sustainable transport, methodology of safety studies in road transport, visualization in transportation, transport environment and climate change, perception of safety, mobility and accessibility of transport users, equity and equality in transportation, women mobility conditions and life quality. She is an author of over 100 research publications. She has led numerous Research Grants and Projects, on national and international levels, including transportation studies in: Management Committee Member at COST Actions TU1002 (mobility and life quality), TU1305 (social networks and travel behaviour) and TU1209 (equity in transportation); 3 Polish MNiSW Grants coordinator; EC 5th FW Research Grants Partner; International Research Co-operation Israel-Poland Grant leader; BPRPP (The British-Polish Research Partnership Program) Grant. She is a Member of Editorial Board of some prominent international journals, lays also as referee of the top journals in transportation and civil engineering sector, as an expert on social aspects in sustainable transport, safety and equity. She is a national expert at the Transport Committee of PAN, Polish Academy of Sciences. Funding member of WIE (Woman in Engineering) Standing Committee at World Federation of Engineering Associations. President of the Polish Association of Engineers and Technicians of Transportation, SITK RP in Krakow.

Liisa Ketolainen - Gender Equality Expert, Digital for Development (D4D) Hub

Liisa Ketolainen is a gender equality expert with specific focus on technology and digitalisation. Currently, Ketolainen works at the Digital for Development (D4D) Hub in Brussels, Belgium. The Hub is a strategic platform that aims to strengthen digital cooperation between the European Union and its Member States and partners in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the EU neighbouring countries. With over a decade of experience in international development questions at governmental, multilateral and civil society levels, Ketolainen is seasoned in cooperating with various stakeholders. At the Hub, Ketolainen facilitates the Working Group on Digital Connectivity, committed to promoting human rights-based digital transformation.

Luciana Ayciriex - SPIDER senior researcher, INMARK

Luciana Ayciriex is a Senior Consultant at INMARK. She has more than 15 years of experience in managing international cooperation on Science, Technology and Innovation and interdisciplinary programmes and projects between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. She worked with national and international authorities and institutions, promoting dialogue between main actors responsible for national Science and Technology policy. Expertise in integrating gender perspective in STI through design thinking and co-creation process. She was in charge of the technical and financial management of more than 25 European Union-funded research and innovation projects. As a Project Manager at the Ministry of Science, Technology and Productive Innovation in Argentina, She also led the Political Dialogue on STI between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union and participated at the Senior Officials Meetings of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean and the European Union States in STI as well as in the bi regional Working Groups meetings.

Maria Augusta Hermida - Rector, University of Cuenca

María Augusta Hermida Palacios is an Architect from the University of Cuenca, with a Master's Degree in Architectural Projects and Computerization. She has a PhD in Architecture from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia. Principal professor at the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning of the University of Cuenca and director of the Sustainable Cities Research Group – LlactaLAB. His research focuses on topics related to urban-architectural design and the sustainability of Latin American cities. She is the director of several research projects on: urban sustainability, urban resilience, sustainable use of water, urban energy efficiency, city and public services, urban rivers and city ecosystems. She was director of the Graduate Centre of the Faculty of Architecture, founder and director of the Master of Architectural Projects for several years. Coordinator of national and international architecture and city networks, such as the Urbenere Network, Efficient and Sustainable Inclusive Resilient Cities Network; and the REDEUS_LAC Network, Network of Sustainable Urban Development Study Centres in Latin America.

Maria F. Cabrera - SPIDER Quality and Risk Manager, UPM

Dr. Maria Fernanda Cabrera is Telecommunication Engineer, with a PhD in Biomedical Engineering, working as Professor of Bioengineering at the Telecommunication Engineering School. She is the Innovation Director of Life Supporting Technologies (LifeSTech) research group, financial director of the Universaal-IoT Alliance, Treasurer of the IFMBE, and Secretary of ACTIVAGE.ORG association. In addition to her role in teaching, she undertakes integral positions as a project coordinator and technical manager in various European and Spanish research-funded projects. Her contributions encompass acting as a project coordinator, technical lead, or quality manager in a portfolio of over 20 research initiatives supported by the European Commission. With a remarkable track record, she has led more than 60 European research projects as the Principal Investigator, underscoring her ability in orchestrating impactful research actions. Her field of expertise spans a broad spectrum of applications in the domains of the ICT applied to different sectors like digital health and social inclusion. This includes areas such as services personalization, human factors, telemedicine, diversity-equity-inclusion, and enhancing digital accessibility. She stands as the author of an extensive body of work comprising over 120 scientific papers featured in both national and international journals. She is member of the editorial board of the IEEE Open Journal of Engineering in Medicine and Biology and cofounder of the Committee for Women Engineering activities of the IEEE BHI.

Marina Tisner - Communications Manager, INMARK

Marina Tisner is Communications Manager at INMARK. With over six years of expertise in the field of communication, the past three years, she has specialized in European Projects, focusing on communication and dissemination strategies. She has worked in the international research project, Gender STI, which investigated women's participation in science, technology, and innovation (STI) dialogues between Europe and third countries. Additionally, she has contributed to the dissemination efforts of the Gender STI project's Community of Practice. Marina's experience extends to other European projects related to Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), such as REINFORCING.

WG2

Martha Zequera - Full Professor, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana

Prof. Martha Zequera is a biomedical engineer with an MSc from Dundee University and a Ph.D. from the University of Strathclyde. She has been a Full Professor at the Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá, Colombia, since 2010, and an Honorary Research Fellow at Strathclyde University. Prof. Zequera's research focuses on Active and Healthy Aging, particularly using IoT, continuous monitoring systems, and deep learning for telemedicine, diabetes care, and physical rehabilitation. She has extensive experience in integrating gender perspectives into science, technology, and innovation, and has contributed to numerous scientific publications and conferences. She has also played key roles in IEEE/EMBS, IFMBE, and CORAL, promoting biomedical engineering education and collaboration. Prof. Zequera coordinates the biomechanics research lab Footlab and has led several European Commission-funded projects aimed at improving healthcare through emerging technologies.

WG2

Martina Lindorfer - Senior Project Manager & Researcher, Centre for Social Innovation

Martina Lindorfer is a senior researcher in the department for "Equal Opportunities and Employment" at the Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI), in Vienna. She graduated from the University of Vienna with a degree in International Development. At ZSI, she has led numerous international cooperation projects, many of which have focused on RTI cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean. Her current research focus is on different aspects of the social embedding of innovations to tackle social problems. Her thematic portfolio encompasses social innovation, citizen participation, gender and diversity, and social inclusion. Her methodological expertise is in qualitative social research and participatory methods. Martina Lindorfer has completed a training course on gender and diversity management and is currently enrolled in a training course on change management.

WG2

Silvia Kochen - Researcher at CONICET, Secretary and founder of RAGCyT

Sara Silvia Kochen is a Principal Researcher at CONICET and Associate Professor at the University of Buenos Aires, where she also directs the Master in Neurosciences at Univ. Jauretche. She founded and leads the Unit of "Studies in Neurosciences and Complex Systems" (ENYS), focusing on epilepsy and healthy aging-dementia. Kochen is involved in various leadership roles, including as Secretary and founder of the Argentine Network of Gender, Science, and Technology (RAGCyT), and she coordinates the CONICET Medicinal Cannabis Program. Additionally, she holds a PhD in Audio-Visual Arts and has directed multiple documentary films.

WG2

Valeria Lentini - Economist at UNHCR, Professor at the University of Costa Rica

Ph.D. Valeria Lentini Gilli is an Economics Professor with a Ph.D. from the University of Zaragoza, Spain, an M.A. from the University of Sussex, UK, and a B.A. from Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica. She teaches Economic Data, Research Seminars I and II, and Practical Exercises in Economics. Dr. Lentini's recent publications cover public policy in education, human capital depreciation in OECD countries, university strategies during COVID-19, and higher education in Costa Rica.

WG2

Yolanda Ursa - SPIDER Project Coordinator, INMARK

Yolanda Ursa is the Director of Innovation Management at INMARK. Yolanda has an extensive experience as project manager and coordinator of research and innovation projects funded by the EC Framework Programmes. Yolanda contributes significantly to the human factors of technological solutions, including gender analysis and intersectional bias. Her research areas cover a wide range of digital and emerging technologies, including Cybersecurity, Artificial Intelligence, IoT, Big Data, Digital gaming technologies, Energy Transition, Health and Wellbeing. Yolanda is actively involved in supporting policy dialogues in Science, Technology and Innovation between Europe and strategic partners countries. Currently, she is the coordinator of SPIDER that aims to support the exploitation of the full potential of the BELLA network (Building the Europe Link to Latin America and the Caribbean) and the implementation of the outcomes of EU-LAC digital dialogues in R&I cooperation. Additionally, Yolanda is the chair of the Secretariat of the European Observatory on Gender in STI.

WG2

Elisabeth van Holthe tot Echten - Senior Project Manager, Female Founders

Elisabeth is working as a project manager at Female Founders, overseeing several women-focused programmes and initiatives. During her master studies "Global Studies - A European Perspective", she focused on female entrepreneurship and innovation, and completed research on gender lens investing for the United Nations Industrial Development Organization. In her role at Female Founders, she has been responsible for the inception, design, and implementation of projects such as Lead F Africa (a leadership programme for women innovators and policy-makers, in collaboration with GIZ), Grow F (Female Founders' investment-readiness accelerator), The EIC Women Leadership Programme, and the publication of a report on the fundraising landscape in DACH for women entrepreneurs (in collaboration with the Vienna Business Agency).

WG2

Tania Altamirano - Gerente de Relaciones Académicas, RedCLARA

Nicaraguan living in Chile for 18 years. With a background on social communications, since 2009 is part of the RedCLARA's team, from the Communications and Public Relationship area, with the generation of informative material, the participation in IT international events and the organization of virtual meetings. Starting on 2014 her activities involved actions to support and enhance the work of research and academic communities in RedCLARA and with other regional networks in the world through global initiatives including ELCIRA and MAGIC projects. Since 2018 her role as Academic Relations Manager es focused on the articulation of initiatives on priority areas such as eHealth, Climate Change and education, the development of engagement strategies for the BELLA II Project (Building the Europe Link to Latin America and the Caribbean).

WG2

Eliana Ulate Brenes -International Cooperation Coordinator, MICITT

A political scientist specialized in international cooperation, passionate about science and technology, with over 10 years of experience in bilateral and multilateral international relations with entities in the science, technology, and innovation system. National Contact Point Coordinator for Costa Rica for the Horizon Europe program of the European Union, part of the working group of the Ministry of Science, Innovation, Technology, and Telecommunications in the OECD accession process. Particularly interested in topics such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, digital governance, climate change, public-private partnerships for development, digital trade, among others.

WG2

Nina Rilla - Senior Scientist in Ethics and Responsibility of Innovations, VTT

Works as Senior Scientist at VTT Technical Research Centre of Finland. She has more than 15 years of research experience in innovation studies. Her research interests have recently focused on studies that combine aspects of sustainability, gender equality and transformative innovation policy. She deems integration of gender equality and inclusion in R&D&I contents important in creating inclusive practices for science and technology, and is also interested in social value creation and socio-technical change in fast-developing technology fields, such as AI. She holds a Doctoral degree in International Business.

WG2

Kemly Camacho - Researcher, Cooperativa Sula Batsu and UCR

Co-founder and general coordinator of Cooperativa Sulá Batsú, a cooperative focused on digital technologies for local development. With backgrounds in computer engineering, anthropology, and dual master's degrees in knowledge society and program evaluation for development, Kemly has over 20 years of experience exploring the social impacts of digital technologies. She leads the TIC-as Program, promoting rural technology hubs with female leadership across Central America and fostering women-led tech entrepreneurship. Kemly also serves as a researcher and lecturer at Universidad Latina (Powered by Arizona State University) and has held leadership roles in Costa Rica's ICT sector.

WG2

Katherine Chaves - Director and Founder, Fundación Rocket Girls

"The idea is to present access to technology as a human right." This premise guides the non-governmental organization Rocket Girls and is also Katherine Chaves' life mission.

WG2

Fannella Giusti - Institute of Women's Studies, Universidad Nacional

Holds a master's degree in Domestic and Gender Violence from the Women's Studies Program at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) and the National University of Costa Rica (UNA). With over fifteen years of experience in addressing and preventing gender-based violence, she has been an academic and researcher at UNA's Institute of Women's Studies (IEM) for over a decade. She teaches in the Master's Program in Domestic and Gender Violence at UCR-UNA and in the Gender and Development Bachelor's Program at IEM. Her research focuses on domestic violence and other forms of violence against women. She also coordinates gender programs and contributes to policy implementation against sexual harassment at UNA.

WG2

Adriana Oviedo - Coordinator of the Digital Transformation Team, State Distance University

Journalist and Master's in Intellectual Property; she holds a specialization in Transformational Leadership and a diploma in Digital Transformation. She has been working at UNED since 1999 and served as the coordinator of the Telework Program at UNED from 2012 to 2022. She has been a speaker at various conferences and seminars on telework and has authored several articles on this topic. Additionally, she coordinates the UNED's Digital Transformation leadership team.

Deryhan Muñoz - Director, SUTEL

Serves as the Director of Competition at the Telecommunications Superintendence (SUTEL). Previously, she held roles as a Regulation Specialist and market analyst at SUTEL and in the coffee sector, respectively. Ms. Muñoz played a pivotal role in shaping Costa Rica's current competition law, Law No. 9736, and has actively supported Costa Rica's accession to the OECD in competition matters. She led SUTEL's internal restructuring for law implementation and spearheaded efforts to develop new regulatory tools for enforcing competition law in the telecommunications sector. Ms. Muñoz holds a degree in Economics, specializes in Competition from the University of Costa Rica (UCR), and has studied Telecommunications Law at the University of Valladolid (Spain) and Competition Law at University Ulead (Costa Rica).

Ana Lucía Ramírez -Executive Director, INFOCOM

For over 15 years, she has served as a legal advisor and in management roles within Costa Rica's private sector, specializing in construction, telecommunications, and technology. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the INFOCOM Chamber, actively participating in government committees such as MICITT, the Vice Ministry of Telecommunications, and SUTEL. She is also involved with UCCAEP, focusing on national development, public policy, and regulatory frameworks in technology, telecommunications, cybersecurity, digital transformation, and more. Personally, she's been a member of the Construction Law Commission at the Costa Rican Bar Association since 2021.

Ana Eugenia Rodríguez - Senior Scientist in Ethics and Responsibility of Innovations, VTT

Lawyer specializing in Competition and Telecommunications Law, and a certified mediator, with over 25 years of experience in pivotal roles within government. She has contributed to national policy development and strategy formulation at the Ministry of the Presidency, and previously led the Procedures and Mergers Department at Costa Rica's Competition Promotion Commission. Since October 2021, she has served as Head of Investigations and Mergers at SUTEL, ensuring a fair regulatory framework in the telecommunications sector.

Martha Ávila- Administrator, Corporación Universitaria para el Desarrollo de Internet

Seasoned educator with a master's degree in education. She currently leads academic initiatives at CUDI, a prominent institution in Mexico's online education landscape. With over two decades of experience, she has contributed significantly to various virtual education initiatives and held key positions at UACJ and CIITA. Villanueva's expertise extends to both education and technology, making her a valuable asset in the field of online learning.