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Francesco Bonfiglio

Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Francesco is the CEO of the Gaia-X Association. He is responsible for the overall strategy and execution of the program. With more than 30 years' experience in the business of consulting and information technology, he brings his knowledge of the cloud and digital market needs, and his vision on how Gaia-X should revolutionise it. Independent Advisor since 2020, he has worked as an executive in many multinational contexts.

Co-founder and Board Member of FOOLFARM (first Italian AI centric Startup Studio), Formerly Chief Executive Officer for ENGINEERING D.HUB (Hybrid Cloud and Digital Transformation company), Vice President for Technology Services at AVANADE and Managing Director within ACCENTURE Group, Chief Technology Officer for HEWLETT-PACKARD EMEA, SW Factory Director at UNISYS, Technical Director and Professional Services Director at RATIONAL SOFTWARE amongst his positions. Of Italian descent, he resides in Milan. He is a father of three sons and speaks English, and Italian.

STRATEGY



Gabriela Oprea

Personal Assistant to the CEO & HR Staff Coordinator

Gabriela is the PA and HR Staff Coordinator of Gaia-X. For 13 years, she has been working in international and multicultural contexts, providing daily support to decision makers to find solutions in compliance with regulations and protocols. Her role aims to directly collaborate on strategic conception; manage action plans and to ensure operational coordination with various interlocutors.

Activities included the organisation of big events, acting as a first point of contact, managing agents, financial, research and operational functions, within local, national and international authorities etc.

Working with elected officials (keeping agendas, writing minutes, official letters or messages) with local or regional organisations and associations have allowed her to grow across various political and diplomatic settings, with the ability to hold a key role in identifying, analysing and assessing organisational needs. Autonomous, versatile, with a positive aptitude and proactivity, she is able to be both proactive and reactive to meet all set-out requirements. She speaks English, French, Spanish, and Romanian.



Pierre Gronlier

Chief Technology Officer (CTO)

Pierre is the CTO of Gaia-X. He has been working for the last 12 years in the IT industry with a particular interest on operationalising and scaling systems in the field of real-time communication and cloud services.

With an academic background in real-time embedded systems and applied mathematics in signal processing and machine learning, he started as a research engineer in video compression before joining Skype and Microsoft.

He then joined OVHcloud as a cloud solution architect, advising and helping key accounts with their IT resources architecture and consumption. He participated in the development of the first Gaia-X prototypes.

TECHNOLOGY



Cristina Pauna

Open Source Community Manager

Cristina is the Open Source Community Manager of Gaia-X. She has fifteen years of professional experience covering the full lifecycle of software development, with extensive team leadership experience. She has been involved in Open Source for more than half a decade, holding a range of roles from contributor to elected Technical Steering Committee member. The projects she was involved in cover the full cloud stack on multiple platforms, from infrastructure to VNFs and orchestration. As an Open Source enthusiast she fosters openness, collaboration and finding ways to achieve common goals.



Valentin Misiaszek

Software Developer

Valentin is a Software Developer for Gaia-X, he works to make CTO Office Team life easier with automation processes and user interfaces, he also participate to Gaia-X Lab projects. Valentin is passionate about development and new technologies, he appreciates teamwork, injecting positive energy and carrying out his projects.



Viridiana Alverde

Project Manager to the CTO

Viridiana is the Project Manager of the Gaia-X CTO office. She holds over 10 years of international working experience in the Tech sector. She brings her experience in Marketing and Project Management acquired from organizing and delivering large scale events and conferences such as: TEDx events, FinTech Belgium Summits, Sustainability Summits. Prior to Gaia X, she worked at Microsoft Europe organizing digital policy events and leading digital marketing initiatives.

Viridiana has a demonstrated track record in developing and executing integrated marketing and communications plans from end-to-end. She grew up in Mexico and followed her University Studies in Sweden, Canada, and Belgium. She holds a master's in international business and a diploma from University College of Dublin in Digital Policy. She speaks English, French, Spanish and Italian.



Roland Fadrany

Chief Operations Officer (COO)

Roland is the COO of Gaia-X from May 2022 onwards. He establishes effective policies, processes and organization that promote the Gaia-X vision and mission.

With over 20 years of international management and consulting experience in the IT industry, he brings strong leadership and digitalisation knowledge to the team. He has led a global service line, successfully delivered complex, critical programs and managed multinational development-, delivery- and partner organisations at companies like EDS, HP, A1 Telekom Austria, Microsoft and Detecon.

Roland oversaw comprehensive innovation and transformation initiatives in various industries in Europe and the USA. He holds a masters degree in "Engineering Management" from Southern Methodist University in Dallas, TX. He speaks English and German and lives in Vienna.

OPERATIONS

**Petra Makovec**

Operations Manager

Petra is the Operations Manager of the Gaia-X COO office. She has 20 year's experience in Organisational Development, Portfolio Management and Program Management. Since 2009 she is running her own company delivering various Transformation Projects for clients in different Industries.

The last three years she was managing contractors on pharmaceutical and chemical construction Projects in Germany. She was responsible to ensure the quality and in time production of the deliverables by setting up clear working procedures, supporting the team in achieving the milestones, assuring good communication and relationship within a multi-company environment. She is known for her solution-driven, results-oriented and agile work-methods. She speaks German and English.

**Przemek Halub**

Program Manager

Przemek is the Program Manager of Gaia-X. He has 15+ years of experience in project management and has led multidisciplinary teams across service delivery, presales, and software development areas. His main duties are:

Definition; planning; monitoring and control of program; program requirements; milestones; risk planning and documentation; program reporting; coordination and support of Gaia-X Hubs in relation to their project activities.

Prior to this role Przemek has spent 5 years at Atos and was assigned to the Siemens Account. He managed large global IT presales programs in the areas of digital transformation, digital workplace, application management and could. Previously Przemek led projects in R&D (technology transfer area) and the banking industry (management and implementation of new processes for stock exchanges in Singapore and Asia-Pacific region). He is certified in Agile Project Management (Agile PM) and is a project management graduate and a scholarship holder from the University of Stanford.



Guiditta Del Buono

Committees and Working Groups Manager

Guiditta supports the management of the Gaia-X Committees and Working Groups. Previously, she contributed to the Gaia-X project by participating in the WG Provider and OWPs Self Descriptions and Cross-Environment Service Orchestration for Netalia, an Italian cloud provider that is a Day-1 member of Gaia-X. As Regulatory Compliance Manager for Netalia, she was in charge of the analysis and implementation of regulatory rules, guidelines, and industry standards, representing the company within the Associations CISPE (Cloud Infrastructure Service Providers in Europe), among the founders of Gaia-X, and SWIPO (Switching Cloud Providers and Porting Data).

From a Chemical Engineering perspective, she is passionate about collaborative innovation projects and holds over ten years of experience in the innovation & technology transfer sector, where she carried out research activities and contributed to the implementation of scouting and acceleration programs addressed to high-tech startups, both for public business incubator and for private VC firms.



Alberto Curatolo

Finance & Administration Manager

Alberto leads financial, and administrative tasks for Gaia-X. He holds a Master Degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences from Bologna University and a Master's in European Law and Economics from Sorbonne. He has been working as a project manager in the social economy sector, being responsible for corporate, legal and financial matters. During his years as a legal officer and public procurement correspondent at the European Commission, he acquired an extensive experience in all legal, administrative and financial aspects of EC funded projects and procurement processes.

As a Financial Director at the European Organisation for Security (EOS), he was in charge of the company's financial management, the EU Project Management Team and the HR department. He speaks English, French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese.



Alessandra Perna

Hubs & Data Space Manager

Alessandra oversees the relations with Gaia-X members and leads the Gaia-X Project and Proposal Office. She also supports the management of the Finance Working Group within the Data Space Business Committee and the operations of the Data Space Business Alliance for Gaia-X.

Alessandra previously worked on project management and governance in International Associations of different sectors. She holds a degree cum laude in Philosophy, a master's degree cum laude in Neuroethics and a Master in European Project Management. She speaks English, Italian and French and a beginner's level of Hungarian.



Francesca Nista

Membership Relations Manager

Francesca works in the Membership department at Gaia-X and assists the Community and Funding Manager in providing support to Gaia-X members. She also supports the Financial Department and the Gaia-X Project and Proposal Office. Francesca has been previously working as a Policy and Administration assistant in different NGOs in Brussels and holds a master's degree in Comparative International Relations at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. She speaks English and Italian.



Dr. Vassilia Orfanou

Chief Marketing Officer (CMO)

Vassilia leads the 360 Mktg, Press, Comms, Content and Events for Gaia-X. She is an international, multi-disciplinary content and communications expert with 21 years in 360 communications, program and project management, budget forecasting/analysis, quality assurance, risk and compliance having served on senior key roles for the Public and Private Sectors.

Public Clients include the European Commission, such as DG CONNECT, DIGIT, DG EMPL, DG JUST, DG AGRI, DG REGIO, DG MARE, DG TAXUD, DG DEVCO, DG COMM, the European Investment Bank, the European Parliament and EU Agencies including EUIPO, EEA, OPOCE, EAAS and others. Private clients include Marco, Deloitte, Ecorys, European Dynamics, Bloomberg LP and Marriott International.

Specialisations include: entrepreneurship, start-up scaling, data space ecosystems, electronic identity, AI, EU funded projects, international relations, mediation/diplomacy, public policy, negotiations, financial, banking, fintech, tourism, social corporate responsibility, and IT communications. She is certified in Strategic Integrated Comms, AI and Machine learning Comms, Public Policy, and Empirical evidence.

She holds a PhD in International Relations and Media, a MSc in Diplomacy and International Relations, an MA in Strategic Communications and Leadership, and a BA in Journalism, Public Relations and Psychology. She is a Native English and Greek speaker and intermediate in French.

MARCOMM



Cosmina Gantner

Digital Comms Director

Cosmina is the Digital Comms Director of Gaia-X. She supports the 360 communications efforts of Gaia-X, mainly responsible for digital communications, website management and social media.

Previously, Cosmina managed the communications strategy and media relations for a Brussels based organisation in the Social Policy field. Prior to that, she was responsible for events communication in the field of Research and Innovation in the European Parliament, including the European Innovation Summit and the EU Top 50 Startups Competition.

Cosmina holds a MA in Visual Communication & Advertising and a BA in Communications and Public Relations awarded by the West University of Timisoara, Romania. She speaks English and Romanian and has an intermediate



Thomas Stevens

Digital Media Officer

Thomas is the Digital Media Officer of Gaia-X. Prior to joining Gaia-X, Thomas worked as a Communications officer for an NGO that aims to advance the exchange of knowledge in European public social services and has experience as a project manager for an NGO involved in European youth work. His interest in communications started when he was enrolled in an internship for a research centre promoting European defence cooperation and has grown ever since.

Thomas holds an MA in International Politics from Ghent University, Belgium, and a BA in Social Cultural Work from the University of Leuven, Belgium. Outside Gaia-X, Thomas enjoys going for a run in Ghent or, weather permitting, soaring the skies of the Belgian Ardennes with his paraglider. He speaks English and Dutch (Flemish), while he has an intermediate knowledge of French.



Robert Goia

Stakeholder Engagement Officer

Robert is the External Stakeholder Engagement Officer of Gaia-X. He has advocacy experience in the civil society, and he particularly specialised in EU political rights advocacy and citizenship education. Throughout the years he has been extensively involved in civil society advocacy and has acquired important skills related to project management. By organising conferences and engaging mobile European citizens in political rights discussions, he has improved both his creative and advocacy writing and speaking skills.

Outside work, he enjoys playing music, both in terms of producing and listening, and he has decent bass guitar skills as well as stage experience. Hiking is also an activity that he is particularly interested in. He speaks English and Romanian and a beginner's level of Hungarian and French.



Krzysztof Lechowski

Key Research & Comms Expert

Krzysztof supports Gaia-X's communication team on a 360 basis and across all activities. Prior to joining Gaia-X, Krzysztof worked at the Chancellery of the Senate in Poland and most recently volunteered at the Italian Red Cross during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Krzysztof is a graduate from the University of Southern Denmark and the University of Bialystok. Outside of Gaia-X, Krzysztof likes to relax by cooking, reading, and playing volleyball.

He speaks English, and Polish and he has an intermediated knowledge of French and Italian.