



## Developing International Projects for Schools (DIPS) Sunday 20 October - Saturday 26 October 2024, Brussels, Belgium

**#DIPS24**

### Biographies: Keynote Speakers & Presenters

#### **Franck Le Cars**

*Regional Director for Europe and International cooperation, Rectorat de la région académique Occitanie*

Franck has a dual archaeological and history studies and a headmaster qualification background. He has been involved in Erasmus and Fulbright since University. He taught history and geography for 15 years in various cultural contexts in the USA, Great Britain, Belgium and France, frequently in a bilingual class. These multicultural and multilingual environments give him a sense of multi-perceptivity, cooperation and language impact in education. His experience in teacher training and pedagogical advisor has driven him to cooperate with more than 40 educational systems. He founded the Confucius Institute of Montpellier and has participated in the ETwinning launching. He is involved in 15 Erasmus consortia and many international projects and runs one of the largest Erasmus teacher training programmes. He created DIPS with Richard Tallaron, LFEE Europe in 2018.

#### **Óscar Gonzalvo Gutierrez**

*Chief of the Service of European Programs at the Conselleria de Educación, Universidades y Empleo at the Valencian Community.*

Óscar Gonzalvo Gutiérrez, a Secondary School teacher specialising in English, has been managing and coordinating the team of internationalisation activities at the School. For the last 5 years he has been leading the International Project for English teacher's mobilities to UK and Ireland. He has also lead the Commission of Transforming Classrooms within the General Sub-Directorate of Teacher Training. Currently he is Head of the Use, Promotion and European Programs Service in the General Directorate of Educational Planning and Linguistic Policy where he leads a department within his Service focusing on the International Network between European countries.

#### **Javier Magdaleno Fuentetaja**

*Jefe de Servicio de formación del profesorado, innovación e internacionalización, Consejería de Educación, D.G. de Innovación y Formación del Profesorado*

#### **Isabelle Janssens**

*Operational Director, Stichting Leerpunt*

With a lot of experience, expertise and energy, Isabelle Janssens started last year as operational director at Stichting Leerpunt, the knowledge center that supports evidence- informed work towards the educational field. In addition, she is the director of a large GO! secondary school and a fixture in the EFEE/ETUCE network. Her inquiring mind, flexibility and creativity are constantly called upon. At the same time, she works with teaching teams to build effective learning environments in which dreams can be realized. Some key words that characterize her: goal-oriented and shared



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leadership with a focus on learning together (students, teachers and school leaders), communication, systemic working through networking, evidence-informed, but above all seizing opportunities and going for it together. After a varied and challenging career as a teacher, director, teacher trainer and supervisor, Isabelle Janssens is currently director of GO! atheneum Geraardsbergen and of the independent knowledge center Leerpunt. In her spare time, Isabelle also chairs SOK, a network of educational professionals supporting quality assurance, and the Aurore Ruyffelaere Fund, a fund supporting remembrance education and citizenship.

### **Maria Gaydarova**

Maria Gaydarova is a representative of Bulgaria with the right to vote in the General Assembly of the European Association of School Directors (ESHA), as well as in a working group of international experts at the European Federation for Intercultural Learning (Expert Network, European Federation for Intercultural Learning - EFIL). She is the founder of the Foundation World Education Forum Bulgaria (WEFBG) and a member of the European Federation of Employers in Education (EFEE).

Maria Gaydarova is among the first innovators in the education system in Bulgaria. Since 1998, she has been leading a school in Plovdiv - officially recognised by the Ministry of Education and Education as one of the first innovative schools in the country. She is the initiator and driver of the project "Innovative Schools" of the Municipality of Plovdiv and foundation "World Education Forum Bulgaria". Gaydarova is a three-time recipient of the "Rilski Neophyte" honorary award of the Minister of Education for high professional achievements - in 2008, 2014 and 2020. In 2014, she also won the "Director of the Year" prize in the national competition of the Union of the Bulgarian teachers. In 2017 and from May 2021 till June 2023, Maria Gaydarova was a Deputy Minister of Education and Science in Bulgaria.

### **Petra Van Haren**

#### ***Director of ESHA- European School Heads Association***

Petra van Haren is director of ESHA, the European School Heads Association that is active in 25 countries connecting about 125.000 school heads. Petra has abroad experience in the educational sector as a teacher, school manager, and executive. She also worked in the private sector. Her passion is leadership in the public domain as the development of children and schools, the quality of education and care, and the embedding of societal developments all depend on the quality of leadership. She is strongly convinced that investing in children and in their development, and by putting this at the heart of the matter in all kinds of ways, is the foundation on which our society builds its future.

Petra holds the MBA degree in management of Education and was president of the Dutch School Heads association AVS. School leaders have a pivotal role in realising the educational care quality within the school and manage innovation together with the school team; they inspire staff members and other educational partners to collaborate. School leaders create room for research, experimenting, and entrepreneurship. These developments are necessary to equip the school and its pupils for a promising future. Petra has broad experience in collaborations and negotiations with public bodies and has been board member in several governing bodies in education, professional development in education and the educational labour market. She has contributed to several publications and researches.

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/petra-van-haren-mba-me-701b9b15>



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### **Stefan Schaaf**

***Head of Unit and Deputy Director, National Agency for Erasmus+ School Education in Germany***

- Working for EU Programmes since 2000, started with SOKRATES II
- Since 2008 in charge of Key Action 1 / In Service Training
- Started in 2013 a conference scheme based on discussions between National Agencies (NAs) and providers of IST courses in the beautiful town of Cologne.

Stefan Schaaf graduated and worked as a teacher of French and Chemistry. He also worked as a training advisor for the Cologne Chamber of Commerce and Industry for enterprises with owners with migration background. Since 2000 he has been working for the National Agency for Erasmus+ School Education in Germany. As Head of Unit and Deputy Director he currently is in charge of the accreditation process for schools in Germany. Stefan is the initiator of a series of conferences, starting in 2013, with the objective to foster the quality of European in-service training courses by establishing a communication among the key actors: beneficiaries, course providers, National Agencies and the European Commission.

### **Filip Bisschop**

***European Project Manager at GO!***

Filip Bisschop, who studied economics with a specialisation in accounting, has been managing European projects since 2014. In the past, he was a teacher at a secondary school and in evening classes for adults. He is also an accredited travel guide for Tourism Flanders in Belgium. Filip works for about 25 schools within GO! Scholengroep Dynamiek. Dynamiek has managerial authority over all the schools in the Eastern Flanders area. The schools provide primary and secondary education (general-, technical- and vocational education), there is a boarding school and a primary and secondary school for special education. By means of their accreditations, they are working towards the 2030 GO! strategic vision, using a holistic approach when it comes to internationalisation. They focus on educational innovation aimed at creating a more personalised learning experience for its pupils and students.

LinkIn : <https://www.linkedin.com/in/filip-bisschop-854787205/>

Instagram : [https://www.instagram.com/erasmus\\_go\\_dynamiek/](https://www.instagram.com/erasmus_go_dynamiek/)

Facebook: Filip GO Dynamiek

### **Jens Vermeersch**

***Internationalisation Policy Coordinator at GO!***

Jens Vermeersch, MA in contemporary history, is an experienced manager of European projects. In its strategic vision for 2030, GO! focuses on educational innovation aimed at creating a more personalised learning experience for its pupils and students and recent European projects in which GO! was and is involved reflect this: Onse-Stop CLIL Europe on CLIL, Digi-Lingo on the use of digital means for teaching foreign languages and ETAR on the recognition of study periods abroad. Apart from KA2 projects, GO! also coordinates 3 large KA1 consortia for school, VET and adult education and aimed at the professionalisation of its staff. Jens Vermeersch is also very familiar with the quality control process of a project and has a sound knowledge and first-hand experience of effective dissemination and exploitation. Jens Vermeersch is chairperson of the internationalisation committee of VLOR, the Flemish education council. He closely



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follows European and international education policy for GO! and he is a member of DG EAC's working group DELTA on behalf of EFEE.

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### Noelia Cantero

#### ***Director, European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning***

Noelia is Director of the European Association of Regional and Local Authorities for Lifelong Learning since 2017. Law Degree and Master's Degree in European Studies (College of Europe, Bruges), Noelia has over 20 years' experience in following up EU policies in the fields of education and training. She has also been managing EU funded projects for over 18 years. As Director of EARLALL, she has extensive knowledge of interregional cooperation, financial and administrative management, legal issues, coordination of tasks, organisation of events, public speaking, networking, policy follow up, members' engagement strategies, etc. She is also external expert and evaluator for the Erasmus+ French speaking National Agency in Belgium.

### Beatriz Tourón Torrado

#### ***Erasmus+ Expert***

Beatriz Tourón has always been interested in the internationalisation of education and educational mobility. She has been responsible for the Erasmus+ programme for school and adult education as a head of service at the Spanish National Agency. She has participated in various working groups of the European Commission: National Agencies Erasmus+ group for designing the accreditation system in adult education, the Expert Group on Recognition of Learning Periods Abroad (2020-2021), and Expert in school education on the Citizen Panel on Mobility for Learning (2023). Additionally, she has been the National Liaison Officer for the Pestalozzi Programme, the teacher training programme of the Council of Europe. She has also worked as a Teacher Advisor at the Embassy of Spain in Paris (France), promoting mobility between French and Spanish schools.

Currently, she is in charge of the mobility programmes organised by the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training, and Sports. All these tasks are strongly linked with her teaching career as a Spanish teacher, where she coordinated several European Projects, mainly focussed on pupil mobility but also in transnational cooperation. Due to her expertise, she has cooperated with the regional government in Galicia in order to train teachers as European coordinators. Her target groups were school pupils, VET and Adult students. Beatriz holds a PhD in Spanish language.

### Joe Dale

#### ***Independent Languages Consultant***

Joe is based in the UK and works with a range of organisations such as Network for Languages, ALL, The British Council, the BBC, Skype, Microsoft and The Guardian. He was host of the TES MFL forum for six years, former SSAT Languages Lead Practitioner, a regular conference speaker and recognised expert on technology and language learning. The theme of Joe's workshop at DIPS is "Using AI in your school".



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### **Paul Byrne**

***ESHA board member and former Deputy Director of National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals, Ireland***

Paul Byrne is the Secretary General of the European School Heads Association (ESHA) and formerly Deputy Director and president of the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and a council member of the International Confederation of Principals (ICP). With over 34 years' experience as a school leader and a systems leader in education Paul has worked nationally and internationally giving keynote presentations and workshops on school leadership. He is committed to identifying and sharing best practice in education leadership, building international networks, and facilitating international initiatives and projects.

### **Alexis Severin**

***in charge of the Erasmus+ mission for school education at the Direction for Europe and International Cooperation in Occitanie (DRAREIC - France)***

Alexis has been a history and geography teacher; a certified trainer in education and media literacy in the French national education system for more than 15 years; a technical adviser to the Rectors on student involvement and citizenship education; Director of Communication for an education authority; citizenship adviser for the Lycée international de Londres W. Churchill International School (UK); vice-principal of the Toronto French School (Canada); educational advisor for school life and citizenship education for the Mission Laïque Française in Morocco. He has never ceased to be open to innovative teaching experiences and to discovering the richness of international education systems.

He is now in charge of the Erasmus+ mission for school education at the Direction for Europe and International Cooperation in Occitanie, Montpellier (France) and advises and trains school teams in their international and European openness, leads an Erasmus+ consortium and works on international training engineering.

### **Pernelle Benoit**

***Head of Department for International Relations for the Académie de Versailles, France***

Pernelle has a background in linguistics and began her professional career as a teacher of French as a foreign language in France, Wales, Belgium and Saint Lucia. She then spent almost 10 years working for France Education International (formerly the Centre international d'études pédagogiques), an institution under the supervision of the French Ministry of Education, on issues related to student and teacher mobility, and then on setting up and managing European cooperation projects with Erasmus.

In 2015, she joined the Ministry of Education, where she was responsible for supporting the development of bilateral cooperation in the education sector with a large number of countries in Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

In 2018, she became Head of the Department for International Relations for the Académie de Versailles, a position she still holds today. Her Department is responsible for designing, implementing and managing the Académie strategy for opening schools to Europe and the rest of the world, in accordance with national priorities and specific local characteristics.



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### Cormac Noonan

#### *Founder of Wolf Academy*

Wolf Academy is an organisation with a mission to transform education so that young people have all the tools they need to face the challenges of life and reach their true potential. Cormac brings great passion to his work along with his broad experience in the areas of psychology, wellbeing and human development.

After graduating from Ireland's top university, Trinity College Dublin, with a degree in Management Science, Cormac worked as an IT Consultant with Accenture for 3 years, winning a company award during his time. He then became disillusioned with the role and wanted to focus his attention on helping others reach their potential. He set up a Non-Profit called Pizza Sunday Club, which was a supportive community for people who were homeless on the streets of Dublin. He then spent a few years travelling the world and spent time writing and studying human development in both Eastern and Western traditions. In 2020, he returned to Ireland to start Wolf Academy and realise his mission in education.

Throughout his journey over the past 10 years, Cormac has trained with some of the world's leading coaches when it comes to areas of psychology, wellbeing, and human development. Having spent the last four years delivering workshops in schools across Ireland, Cormac has moved his focus to training facilitators to deliver these workshops across Europe. He is also collaborating with other EU organisations to develop Erasmus+ programmes with innovative and effective wellbeing solutions for the whole school community.

### Myrthe Stienstra

#### *ESHA- European School Heads Association*

Coming from an entrepreneurship (MSc) background with a focus on development, improvement and intercultural communication, Myrthe has been working for ESHA as a researcher and project manager for the past 2.5 years. Her passions are environmental sustainability and inclusion. Over the last year she has had the chance to share her knowledge on these subjects and exchange experiences with school leaders and policy makers in the education sector to make an impact. This within the context of Erasmus+ projects.

### Anja Wilke

Anja is a qualified teacher of English (which is her favourite subject) and she has been teaching English in Primary and lower Secondary Schools for about 20 years. Anja is an Erasmus ambassador to Lower Saxony (Germany) and her experience and expertise in this field includes:

- Adviser for European and International projects for the regional education department Hannover;
- Coordinator of the only primary schools-consortium in Germany, consisting of 18 schools in the region of Hannover;
- Involvement in the organisation of mobilities and expert activities for another consortium;
- Development of a range of different low-threshold European projects in and for primary schools;
- Manager of several Erasmus+ school projects KA1 and KA2.



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Anja is an Erasmus enthusiast with a good European network and always open to new ideas who is convinced that we have to start cooperation within European schools at primary level; the early positive emotional connection is the foundation for a future European mindset.

Anja's workshops at DIPS will cover the topics of "Erasmus+ : Inviting an expert to your School" and "Green Travel for your Erasmus+ Project"

### **Dirk Kolar**

#### **Head of Teacher Training, Arnsberg District Government**

With extensive experience as a teacher at grammar schools and special schools, has distinguished himself through a successful 15-year career in school management. His qualification in school management work is reflected in his profound understanding of educational management and school development. He is currently contributing his extensive experience as head of teacher training at the Arnsberg district government, where he is making a significant contribution to the professionalisation and further development of teaching staff. Dirk Kolar is known for his innovative approach to teacher training and his commitment to promoting excellent educational standards.

### **Anna Kapsalis**

#### **Erasmus+ Project Manager, Arnsberg District Government**

Already in her early years as a young teacher, Anna quickly established herself in teacher training, with a particular focus on digital transformation. Her passion for innovative teaching methods, extracurricular exchange and systemic school development led her from classroom teaching to the role of trainer and consultant. Her skills in the moderation and coordination of educational projects were particularly evident in her role as project manager for Erasmus+ at the Arnsberg district government, where she successfully coordinates forward-looking educational initiatives.

### **Jasper Kok**

#### **Managing Director, OPO Hof van Twente**

With my work as the Managing Director of a Primary School Board (OPO Hof van Twente) in the Netherlands, I'm responsible for the quality of education for over 1000 children in 9 schools. I have access to a broad international network and have coordinated successful KA1 and KA2 projects. I hold an MA degree in Educational Leadership.

### **Nalan Atabek**

#### **ELT and Internationalization Coordinator, OPO Hof van Twente**

Originally trained as an English teacher, I currently work as an Internationalisation and English Language Teaching Coordinator to create and/or find opportunities for Primary Schools so that they can be equipped with better language learning environments, global competencies, and wider International networks to learn with and from each other. I also facilitate workshops as an ETS-authorized teacher trainer for TOEFL Young Students Series. I work with administrative





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units of schools and English teachers in all K12 levels to cooperate over their English-language teaching programs, based on the valuable data collected from the assessments. I focus mostly on the benefits of assessment results on daily classroom instruction, creating English-language programs for schools, and developing tailor-made solutions for individuals or groups.

### Heleen Van den Haute

#### *International coordinator, Heilig Hartinstituut Heverlee, Leuven, Belgium*

Mrs. Heleen Van den Haute, graduated as a Master in English and German at the KUL, has been a language teacher at the Heilig Hartinstituut since 2009. About 10 years ago, she started up the international office at the school and wrote her first KA1-application. Since then, the international activities of the school have elaborated to all aspects of Erasmus+ (KA1, KA2, Accreditations) and she has set up several other cooperations under national (Prins Filipfonds, Buurklassen) and international (Creative Europe) programs. On a yearly basis the school sends out about 350 students and 30 teachers and receives several international groups in exchange.

Currently Mrs. Van den Haute is in charge of the international office and is involved as educational expert in a 2-year research project on sustainable internationalisation at the University College Leuven.

### Annick Van den Eynde

#### *Heilig Hartinstituut Heverlee, Leuven, Belgium*

Mrs. Annick Van den Eynde, graduated as a Master in Dutch, German and cultural studies at the KUL. She started her career at the Heilig Hartinstituut Heverlee in 2014 after a career in at a publishing house (Davidsfonds Uitgeverij) where she worked as a marketing & communication manager. At Heilig Hartinstituut Heverlee she teaches Dutch, Public Relations and German to 15-18 year olds. She is the founder of the reading program at the Heilig Hartstintituut and develops school policies in this regard. She is also involved in several strategic working groups (such as the 'pedagogische raad', a consultative body at school). She has coordinated several international projects under Erasmus+ and developed several communication materials for the international office of her school. Currently she is one of the coordinators of the international office, responsible for internships, communication and administrative follow-up.

### Dr Steven Verjans

#### *UCLL University of Applied Sciences, Diepenbeek, Belgium*

Dr. Steven Verjans is a multi-disciplinary professional with a background in different fields, often focused on the role of computers and information systems for humans and organisations. He has worked in research and higher education in Flanders, Denmark and The Netherlands within the fields of information systems, blended learning, learning technology and quality of education. He is currently working as an educational expert, researcher and teacher trainer at the UCLL University of Applied Sciences. LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/sverjans/>





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### Biographies: The InterLFEE Team

#### Richard Tallaron, Director, LFEE Europe

Richard is the Director and Co-Founder of LFEE Europe Ltd where he oversees the management and development of all European training programmes, as well as bilateral / multinational mobility projects for Teachers and other Educators. Richard believes in innovative practices and a blended learning approach to enhance the learning and teaching experiences of practitioners and their pupils. Richard graduated in "Scottish Literature and Culture" and "French as a Foreign Language" from the University of Grenoble. He now works with teachers both at Primary and Secondary levels throughout Europe and beyond. He created DIPS with Franck Le-Cars and his team in 2018. Richard recently published a book called "A Taste of Languages, Stories of French and English / Le goût des langues, petites histoires de l'anglais et du français".

#### Patrick Deas, Director, InterActing

Patrick is Co-Director and Founder of Interacting Spain, UK and Ireland. He is Co-Director of the Connected Learning Community and overall coordinator of Ireland for NUEDU. These companies have taken their blend of interactive language learning theatre to audiences across Europe and Asia over the past 30 years and their teacher training programmes have reached out to teachers with the inspirational use of drama in all areas of learning and development. Patrick works as a director, writer and producer. He has a firm belief in the empowering and healing strength of theatre. Patrick graduated from Newcastle Upon Tyne University in Archaeology.

#### Ed Cousins, Director, InterActing

Co Founder and Director of Interacting Spain; UK and Ireland. Leading on the design and delivery of innovative teacher training courses and connecting drama processes to classroom needs. Ed is also a Director of The Connected Learning Company. Ed is an experienced coordinator of EU projects and an accomplished contributor to conferences both as keynote speaker and workshop host. Ed is Co-Founder and current chair of the European Association of Training Providers. Ed believes in the power of networks to contribute to improved learning opportunities and best practice in the education sector. Ed lives in Madrid and brings his passion for theatre and sports to his love of learning. Ed graduated in English and American literature from the University of Warwick before going on to complete an MA on 'A Legacy of Empire' in Anglo Irish Studies at University College Dublin. His work at Interacting continues to investigate the power of stories as a vehicle for learning and promoting Inclusive cultures.