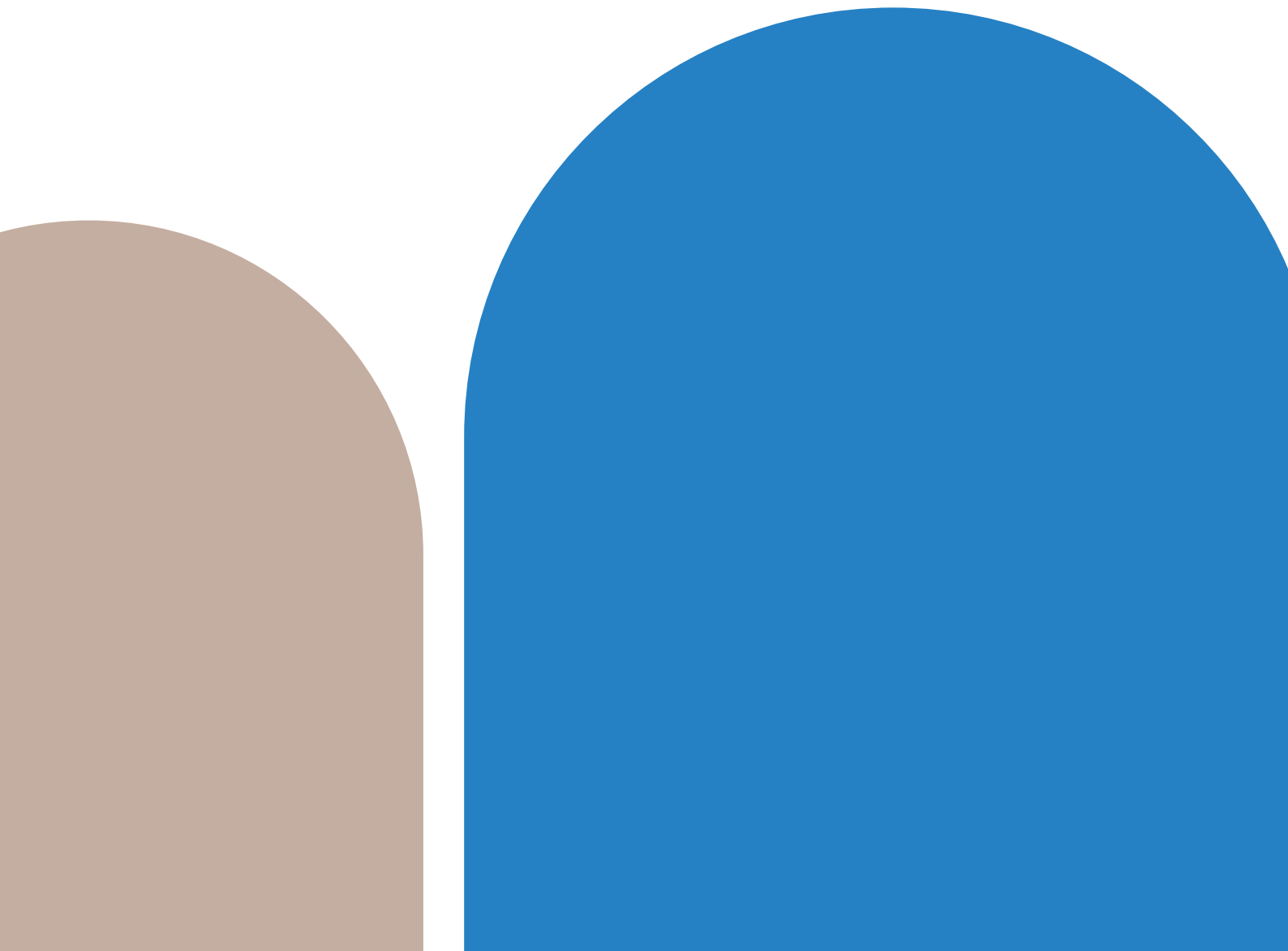


POLICY LEADER FELLOWS

2020-2021





Dastan Abdyldaev

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 31 January 2021

Dastan Abdyldaev, as a public official and policy maker in the government of Kyrgyzstan, is often in a position to apply his leadership skills and take significant responsibility in policymaking for major issues on the national level. His fellowship topic is "Effectiveness of good governance, inclusive institutions and development through anti-corruption policy. Policy cooperation between EU and Central Asia."

His work at the Prime Minister's office of Kyrgyzstan involved taking the leadership role in implementing and making policies in such areas as economic growth, regional development, investment, and anti-corruption policies. He led a technical group and was in charge of coordinating the preparation and submission of Prime Minister's 2016 Annual Report to the Parliament on socio-economic development. Lately, he was responsible for the policy formulation on the regional development of his country. Dastan graduated from Waseda University, Tokyo, and currently pursuing MSc Global Governance and Emerging Powers at the University of London Birkbeck. He has been a Hubert H. Humphrey Fellow at Syracuse University, NY, USA.



Nathan Awuapila

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 30 June 2021

Nathan Tyohemba Awuapila has 10 years of Energy Policy and Planning experience. He is a Senior Scientific Officer at the Energy Commission of Nigeria. He is actively involved in the strategic planning and coordination of Nigeria's National Energy Policy; formulation of short, medium, and long-term plans for the sustainable consumption of the nation's energy resources through modeling and projections of present and future energy demand and supplies.

He attended the Benue State University (Nigeria), and obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics. He is currently pursuing a Master of Science degree in Environmental Physics. At the EUI, he will focus his research on Assessment of Policy Instruments Designed to Promote the Development of Renewable Energy in Developing Countries: Case Study of Nigeria.



Mohamad Al-Ashmar

Fellowship period: : 1 September 2020 - 30 June 2021

Sumbal Bashir is a development practitioner and a Fulbright scholar with over five years of experience working on social innovation and development projects. Before joining EUI, she worked with Mott Macdonald on DFID's projects for improving health and education in Pakistan. Previously, she led a US-Embassy-funded project at Akhter Hameed Khan Resource Center (AHKRC) to establish a library and learning center for young girls in an urban slum.

Sumbal holds a Master's degree in Innovations Management and Entrepreneurship from Temple University (USA) and a Bachelor's degree from Lahore University of Management Sciences (LUMS, Pakistan). She was selected for participation in an Executive Training Seminar on Evidence-Based Policy-Making at EUI and received a scholarship for training on Innovative Financing for Education at the Central European University (Hungary). As a Policy Leader Fellow, Sumbal will be examining the role of international aid and development in mainstreaming gender in public policies in developing countries.



Petr Bohacek

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Petr Bohacek's BA in Political Science and International Studies from St. Norbert College (US), was followed by MA in Security Studies at Charles University (Czech Republic), as well as study stints in Argentina, Portugal, and Germany. Petr has worked as an intelligence and security analyst in the public and private sectors before moving into academia and think-tank work as a research fellow on space policy, transatlantic relations and global security at Charles University and Association for International Affairs.

He is a frequent public commentator and policy advisor on foreign affairs and founder of the European Security Journal. Petr's doctoral study focuses on the global governance of global threats. His current main professional involvement focuses on the peaceful use of lasers in space, space resource utilization and planetary defense.



Tariro Lynette Bure

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Tariro Bure works at the Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) as coordinator of the African Youth Networks Movement (AYNM). AYNM aims to be integral to spurring growth and prosperity, strengthening democratic governance, and enhancing peace and stability across Africa. In her role, she was instrumental in the launch of the movement and setting up chapters for the initiative which now has a reach of more than 900,000 in 37 African countries.

She earned a BA in Global Economics and Management at Jacobs University Bremen in Germany and is passionate about working on social impact initiatives. Tariro's professional interests focus on youth inclusion and effective participation in the socio-economic transformation in Africa. Previously, she helped start up one of the most innovative tertiary institutes on the continent, the African Leadership University. At EUI, she will research the best practices in transnational governance in Europe and their application to youth movement platforms in Africa.



Michael Charokopos

Fellowship period: 1 April - 30 June 2021

Michael Charokopos works for the Hellenic Ministry of Foreign Affairs as an economic diplomat. His last assignment was to the Embassy of Greece in North Macedonia. He is also a visiting lecturer at the University of Piraeus, Department of International and European Studies (Programme on Energy).

He studied International Relations and History at LSE and the University of Athens where he completed his PhD in Political Science. His research interests include energy and transport networks, Balkan politics and society, and EU external relations.

During his stay at the EUI, Michael intends to work on a project exploring to what extent and how the promotion of connectivity in the Western Balkans is related to the development of transnational cooperation and 'region-building'.



Abdolrasool Divsallar

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 31 January 2021

Abdolrasool holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Tehran. His research interests include Iranian security policy, Iran's relations with great powers, the Persian Gulf security order, and comparative threat analysis. As a Policy Leader Fellow, he will analyze the EU's approach to the Iran Crisis (de-escalation and nuclear talks). Since September 2019, he is a Program Associate at the Middle East Directions Programme of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies. He also teaches courses on 'Political Insecurity' and 'Islamic Republic's strategic culture' in Master in Middle Eastern Studies at the Graduate School of Università Cattolica (ASERI).

Previously, he was a senior fellow at the Institute for Middle East Strategic Studies (2017-2019), and director of the National Resource and Development Program (2009- 2015) in Tehran. He has published several books in Farsi, while his peer reviews, policy briefs, and op-eds have appeared in different international outlets.



Nikhil Dubey

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Nikhil Dubey is currently serving as an Assistant Director to the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Madhya Pradesh, India. In this capacity, he is exploring the policy applications of emerging technologies such as Blockchain or Artificial Intelligence in various departments of the state.

Prior to this role, he served as a Policy Assistant to a Member of Parliament in India and advocated in favor of agriculture-sector policy reforms. He holds a Master's degree in development studies and public policy from Ambedkar University, Delhi and, Central European University, Budapest, respectively.

After attaining his Bachelor's degree in economics, he interned at Grameen Bank, Bangladesh, and studied political economy of microfinance. At 29, he is now a co-founder of 'PANI Alliance'- a policy collaboration between 20 US Department of State Fellows from Pakistan, Nepal, and India.



María Garzón Maceda

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 30 June 2021

María Garzón Maceda is a professional focused on global security, disarmament, and non-proliferation issues. She has worked for over ten years at the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, particularly on implementing the Chemical Weapons Convention in Argentina and other Latin American countries. She has also collaborated with the IHEID Global Governance Centre, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance. Maria sits on the Board of the NGO Just Innovate and has co-directed its flagship educational programme on social innovation for future practitioners.

Her fellowship topic is "From Below and On Top: the Global South in the Governance of Weapons of Mass Destruction." With a strong interdisciplinary background, María will receive a Master's Degree in International Affairs from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, and had previously graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor in Political Science from the University of Buenos Aires. Among other distinctions, she was a Fulbright Fellow in the Young Leaders Program.



Philip Nyakundi Gichana

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 – 30 June 2021

Philip is a graduate of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) with an LLB in Law and a post-Graduate Diploma from the Kenya School of Law. He has worked with Kituo Cha Sheria, a center for legal aid and awareness, where he litigated various Public Interest cases, especially on economic and social rights. He proceeded to work for Caritas Nairobi before joining International Institute for Legislative Affairs as a Policy and Legislative Drafting Officer, where he was in charge of policy and legislative development initiatives including the Mental Health Policy 2015 – 2020.

He currently heads Policy and Legislative Drafting at TI – Kenya under the Policy Legal and Institutional Frameworks Programme. He is an experienced drafter and trainer on policy and legislative development with a keen interest in good governance. He is the British Council Future Leader's Connect Fellow, 2019, and is currently a Consultant for the British Council, Ideas for a Better World – Massive Open Online Course (MOOC).



Joshua Gimba

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 31 January 2021

Joshua Gimba is a political economist and international development professional with over eight years of experience in providing policy-oriented research and advice in the fields of development financing, and impact assessment of sustainable development. Working as a Policy Specialist in the United Nations Development Programme, Joshua has extensive knowledge and practical experience in assisting developing countries design and executing technical assistance programmes, and building collaborative frameworks to tackle transnational challenges.

His fellowship topic is “De-risking European private sector investments for Africa’s infrastructural development”. Joshua holds an MA in International Political Economy of Development (from the University of Birmingham). As a fellow at the EUI, Joshua intends to focus on the role of non-state actors in development cooperation, specifically on how leveraging public sector resources to de-risk European private sector investments for Africa’s social and physical infrastructure development could catalyse much-needed investments for Africa.



Frances Hackett

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 31 January 2021

Frances Hackett is Head of the Data Analytics Research Team at the UK National Audit Office, where she leads a world-leading team of auditors and data scientists to develop data analytics tools for the audit of government bodies in the UK. As a trained data scientist and auditor with a background in political economy, Frances has worked in the third and public sectors in the UK on issues as broad as gender justice and machine learning quality assurance. She is involved in multiple transnational audits and public finance initiatives.

Her research interests are in transnational tax fairness and transparency, and the impact of differing tax rates on economies within and beyond Europe. During her EUI policy fellowship, she proposes to create an open data tool allowing citizens and policymakers to interrogate the corporation tax paid by multinational firms in EU countries.



Costanza Hermanin

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 31 January 2021

Costanza Hermanin is a pro-European political activist and a professional with experience as a public official, think tanker and advocate, lecturer, and party leader. Throughout her career, she has been working for both governmental and non-governmental organizations. Her work and research have addressed particularly race and gender equality, migration, and the institutions and policies of the European Union.

Costanza holds MA and MPhil degrees from Sciences Po Paris and a Ph.D. from the EUI. She has been a Fulbright Research Scholar at Columbia Law School and UC Berkeley and taught at the College of Europe, Sciences Po, LUISS, and John Cabot University. Her fellowship project focuses on increasing the participation and impact of women in politics, with a focus on women from ethnic minorities, based on her experience as the creator of the first party school for the political empowerment of women in Italy, #PrimeDonne.



Alice Hubbard

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 31 January 2021

Alice Hubbard is a young leader in national and transnational green politics. She currently holds two elected positions: Secretary of the Global Young Greens; and International Coordinator of the Green Party of England and Wales. Additional roles include the elected President of an International Student Association for Leiden University in The Hague, Co-Chair of the Freedom of Movement Committee, and Young Greens International Committee.

Alice has initiated, led and facilitated learning and capacity-building projects for young environmental activists around the world (including in the UK, North Macedonia, East Africa, Guatemala and Mexico), and strengthened and expanded associated transnational governance networks. Based in Spain until the Summer of 2020, Alice works for the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office. Her work involves a prevention campaign role, including campaigns on 'modern slavery' and global youth safeguarding, the latter for which Alice has won a Foreign Office Excellency award. Her project at the EUI will establish a worldwide network of young leaders to champion young people's participation in transnational governance networks responding to the climate crisis and social justice.



Leszek Jazdzewski

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Leszek Jazdzewski is editor-in-chief of the “Liberté” journal, an activist, and a public speaker. His work at the EUI would focus on the narratives of change that could counter the rise of national populism in EU countries. As a Policy Leader Fellow, he will examine how the narrative of change could overcome the European identity crisis.

Leszek is a co-creator of Freedom Games which with 4000 attendees and 350 speakers is one of the major public events in Poland. He is a founder of Bookme - an application for people who read, making book-reading internet friendly. Leszek is a Europe’s Futures, Non-Resident Fellow at the Institute of Human Sciences in Vienna (IWM), a member of the Council of European Forum for New Ideas, a Marshall Memorial Fellow and a Young Leaders for Europe Bertelsmann Stiftung Fellow. Leszek was recognised as one of the 25 leaders for the next 25 years by the “Teraz Polska” Foundation promoting Polish brands abroad.



Bayartsetseg Jigmiddash

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 30 June 2021

Bayartsetseg Jigmiddash is a policy practitioner from Mongolia with extensive experience working across the peace and security, development, human rights, management, gender, and reform sectors. She has held senior positions in the national government and has played a pivotal role in spearheading the development and implementation of programs and approaches to improve and accelerate women's empowerment and rights-based approaches. Her fellowship topic is "The Gender Norm Diffusion in national Security Architecture: Case of the Peacekeeping".

From 2012 to 2016, she served as the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Justice and Home Affairs of Mongolia overseeing national legal policy, strategy, and law enforcement agencies. Prior to this post, she served as the legal advisor to the President of Mongolia, where she has been involved in the judicial reform and abolishment of the death penalty. She has extensive international development experience working with the Open Society Institute and the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative. Recently, she established the Mongolian chapter of the Women in International Security, the global organisation to promote inclusive security policy, and partners with the Asia-Pacific Security Sector Governance Network in cooperation with DCAF Geneva Center for Security Governance. She is contributing writer, and columnist for major news outlets in Mongolia on issues of democracy, human rights, and gender equality.



Ibrahim Magara

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Ibrahim Sakawa Magara is a peace researcher and practitioner with many years of work experience both in academia and practice. He holds a Master of Arts degree in peace studies and international relations from Hekima University College – a Constituent of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. He has a background in Philosophy, Theology and Leadership, and Management. Magara is a Research Associate and Adjunct Lecturer at St. Paul's University. His fellowship topic is "Towards bridging the research and policy gap in the IGAD region".

Ibrahim is equally a Founding Director of Amani Africa Consultancy based in Nairobi, Kenya, where he is actively engaged in peace research and peace policy advice in Africa. Among other roles, Ibrahim has previously worked with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) as a Peace and Justice Programmes Coordinator.



Armiliza Magno

Fellowship period: 1 September - 30 November 2020

Prior to the Fellowship, Armiliza Magno served as a Senior Program Officer for a program management team overseeing ASEAN development cooperation programs and projects based at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta. Her fellowship topic is “The Role of Development Cooperation in Building the ASEAN Community: Perspectives Beyond 2025”.

Her eight-year experience in project management, particularly in monitoring and evaluation (M&E), is backed up by extensive exposure to initiatives geared towards policy reforms across a wide array of sectors and operating both at the national and regional levels. She has worked with both the government and civil society in the Philippines, including The Asia Foundation, a non-profit international development organization. She is a Knowledge Management practitioner and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Master’s in Philippine Studies (External Relations) from the University of the Philippines.



Petar Markovic

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Petar Markovic, Slovenian and Montenegrin, is the EU Citizens' Rights Training Coordinator at the European Citizen Action Service (ECAS). Until 2020, he was the director of the ECIT Foundation. In both these Brussels-based civil society organisations, he has been devoted to the research, advocacy and promotion of European citizenship. Petar holds a double Ph.D. in political theory and political science from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB) in Belgium and LUISS in Rome with research stays at the University of Oxford. He now puts his knowledge of transnational democratic innovations countering the democratic deficit of the EU into practice by advocating for citizen-led politics beyond the nation-state.

In 2019, he was in charge of the training and political impact activities of Transeuropa Caravans, a transnational project that saw 25 young activists across 15 EU countries in search of partnerships and best practices of innovative transnational political participation. Petar is also a collaborator at ULB Institut d'études européennes and teaches EU Politics and International Relations History at Vesalius College. Beyond the EU, his research interests include the democratization of the Western Balkans. At the EUI, he hopes to strengthen the bonds between academia and civil society necessary for the recovery of the freedom of movement and European democracies in the aftermath of the COVID-19 crisis.



Özge Mercan

Fellowship period: 1 September - 30 November 2020

Özge Mercan has strong academic background combined with Engineering, MBA, and International and European Energy Law. She worked as finance and credits manager at the largest state-owned natural gas company (BOTAS) in Turkey for five years. She actively participated in various energy supply security projects such as underground gas storage projects (Salt Lake and Silivri), TANAP (Trans Anatolian Pipeline Project) and TurkStream Project in Turkey. During her professional career, she has been engaged with energy policies, which play a fundamental role in the government designing energy sector and energy investment plans.

At the EUI, she will focus on the implementation of “Clean Energy for all Europeans” package in the EU Member States, its reflection on investment decisions in Turkey, and potential collaborations between the EU and Turkey under this package to achieve the goals of Paris Agreement and Kyoto Protocol.



Hani Okasheh

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Hani Okasheh is a researcher, who is passionate about the rights of people on the move. He has worked extensively to promote refugee rights in Jordan by enhancing their access to justice, civil documentation, labour, and education. Regionally and through civil society networks, Hani advocated for safeguarding the rights of migrants. His fellowship topic is “Strategic public policy planning in the context of protracted emergencies: Enhancing Syrian refugees’ protection in states of the first arrival”.

Nominally, he actively engaged in the negotiations that preceded the formulation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM). In addition, Hani worked extensively to advocate for enhancing the protection of internally displaced people in Syria by calling for sustained humanitarian access to populations in need. Hani holds an MA in Human Rights and Human Development from the University of Jordan, and a BA in Cultural Studies from the Hashemite University in Jordan



Márta Pardavi

Fellowship period: 1 September - 30 November 2020

Márta Pardavi is an experienced civil society leader and human rights advocate and is the co-chair of the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC), a Budapest-based leading human rights non-governmental organisation. The HHC protects human rights and the rule of law through legal and advocacy methods, with a focus on civic space, rule of law, refugee protection, and criminal justice. Lately, Márta has focused on protecting civic space, rule of law, and refugees, leading the HHC's work to challenge unlawful policies and winning critical safeguards by engaging with the public, and international and European intergovernmental and civil society organisations. Her fellowship topic is "Transnational Human Rights Advocacy Networks: Towards Better Collaboration".

Márta holds a law degree from the ELTE University Faculty of Law in Budapest. She has won international recognition for her work, having been awarded the 2018 William D. Zabel Human Rights Award from Human Rights First, Civil Rights Defender's Civil Rights Defender of the Year 2019 award and was selected to be a member of POLITICO28 Class of 2019.



Lucas Peterson

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Luke Peterson was the founding director of the Office of New Urban Mechanics-Utah (ONUM). Along with its sister offices embedded within the mayoral offices of Boston and Philadelphia, ONUM developed cutting-edge solutions to “wicked” problems facing partner cities. As part of this work, Luke developed the Policy Hacking Lab that assists understaffed local and state policymakers in developing data-driven policy. He has also worked extensively with local government, startup, and nonprofit executives on market research and strategy as tools of social innovation. Luke is now the executive director of The Policy Lab, which develops knowledge and solutions around innovation policy, intellectual property issues, tourism, policy advocacy, and Smart Cities technology.

Luke escaped generational poverty to become the first college graduate in his family. He then completed graduate studies in public policy at Harvard University where he received the prestigious Presidential Fellowship. Luke worked with actor Richard Dreyfuss to advance civic education, studied social capital with Robert Putnam, assisted in the renewal of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, served as a local film commissioner, worked in economic development and public administration in five U.S. states, and has trained over 1,400 non-profit and local government executives. As a Policy Leader Fellow, he will work on mapping the future of transnational smart cities technologies and policies.



Kesaobaka Pharatlhathe

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Kesaobaka Pharatlhathe is a youth development practitioner from Botswana. She is passionate about closing the gap between adopted policies at international and regional levels and their actual implementation on the ground - ensuring a positive impact for the most vulnerable populations they are intended for. She holds a Bachelor of Business Science in Economics and Marketing from Monash University, South Africa, and currently works as a Youth Community Building Consultant for CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation implementing the Goalkeepers Youth Action Accelerator Project.

During her time at the EUI, she will further expand published research work on the role of regional organisations in tackling youth unemployment in Africa. She is a former Global Shaper and has previously worked for the European Centre for Development Policy Management in the Netherlands as well as the African Union Commission in Ethiopia.



Augusto Rey

Fellowship period: 1 April - 30 June 2021

Augusto Rey is a public policy expert with over ten years of experience in positions that include political representation, consulting and management at the local, national and international levels. He holds an MSc in Urban Development Planning from University College London as a Chevening Scholar. He also holds an MSc in Political Science and Government from Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú.

He has been an elected councilman for the Metropolitan Council of Lima, and a consultant at the Inter-American Development Bank and the Education Ministry of Peru. Formerly, he has been an advisor to the Metropolitan Municipality of Lima. His fellowship topic is: "The capture of the state by international corruption networks: framing the right to the city after the Lava Jato operation". He has been a Global Shaper of the World Economic Forum and nowadays he is a daily Op-Ed columnist in Peru 21, a Peruvian nationwide newspaper, from where he influences the Peruvian national debate on democracy, politics, human rights, and social struggles.



Diana Rusu

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Topic: Define a new model for the EU innovation ecosystem

Diana Rusu is an Innovation strategist with proven experience in leading successful initiatives & programs across sectors: private, public, not-for-profit/professional associations. Her areas of interest include innovation ecosystem building, sustainability, impact funds, digitalization policies/projects, and entrepreneurship. As a Policy Leader Fellow, she will work on defining a new model for the EU innovation ecosystem. In her current position as the Executive Director of Spherik Accelerator, the Startup Europe ambassador accelerator in Romania, and a leader of the regional (CEE) collaboration, she designs programs providing valuable scaling-up support to innovative CEE startups. At the same time, she acts as a consultant in European projects and is a frequent guest speaker at various national and European events, addressing the following topics: innovation ecosystem design, impact investments, sustainability, and gender policies.

Diana holds a BA in Political Science (Babes-Bolyai University, Romania) and a MA in International Relations and European Studies (Central European University, Hungary). She is a fellow of the Aspen Young Leaders Program in Romania, a member of Global Shapers network, and a recent awardee of the Visitors Leadership Program run by the US Department of State.



Gideon Sarpong

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Gideon Sarpong is a policy analyst and media practitioner with over six years of experience in policy journalism. Gideon is currently the Policy and News Director at iWatch Africa. His major role includes developing news strategy for correspondents across Ghana, as well as designing strategic projects and policy focus for the organisation. He is an author; a fellow of the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI), Thomson Reuters Foundation, Commonwealth Youth Program, Free Press Unlimited, and Bloomberg Data for Health Initiative.

Gideon holds a degree in economics from the University of Cape Coast (Ghana), a Ph.D. in Fiscal Policy for financing sustainable development from the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning, in South Africa, and a Ph.D. in Policy Journalism and Media Studies from the University of Zambia. At EUI, Gideon's policy work will focus on designing implementation systems for policymakers that would highlight the incorporation of ocean climate agenda into developmental plans at the decentralized and centralized levels in Africa.



Omer Shatz

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 30 June 2021

Omer Shatz is an international lawyer, lecturer in international law at Sciences Po Paris, and Yale Law School graduate. In Israel, his law firm specialized in Supreme Court litigation of human rights matters, such as targeted killings, the siege on and war crimes in Gaza, the Israeli settlements and the deportation of human rights defenders. He co-founded We Are Refugees, an NGO that provided pro-bono representation to detained asylum-seekers, and co-litigated the 'Anti-Infiltration Law' case, a landmark ruling that led to the release of 1,500 refugees and secured the liberty of tens of thousands of others.

In France, he was a senior associate in the international arbitration group of Shearman & Sterling LLP. He gave advice to organisations and individuals such as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and Julian Assange and initiated a legal aid project in Sicily. He is currently leading a strategic litigation project concerning EU migration policies in the Mediterranean, Libya, and the criminalization of NGOs, with cases before the International Criminal Court ICC and The European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR).



Zuzana Sladkova

Fellowship period: 1 September 2020 - 30 June 2021

Zuzana Sladkova is an expert on development-related policies with over 10 years of actively working on policy and advocacy both on the national and Brussels level. Most recently Zuzana led the engagement of the European development NGOs under CONCORD Europe with the EU institutions on the negotiations of the Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027. She also coordinated a pan-European campaign – AidWatch, which monitors the quality/quantity of aid provided by the EU.

Previously she worked as Policy Officer for the Czech Forum for Development Cooperation (FoRS), where she founded the policy work of the platform. Zuzana is closely following new trends in the EU and global policies and has a passion for digitalisation/fourth industrial revolution, its links with development cooperation, and its impact on our society. She holds a PhD. in International Relations from the University of Economics in Bratislava, Slovakia.



Malin Strand

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Malin Strand is an industry and policy expert focusing on the transition to a sustainable society with net-zero emissions. Since 2017 Malin has been one of 100 Future Energy Leaders, a global program by the World Energy Council. Previously, she has been working as a policy advisor in the Swedish parliament and has a background in engineering.

Currently, she is working as a policy strategist at the strategic initiative Fossil Free Sweden at the Government Offices of Sweden. Malin develops and implements methods that speed up climate action in the industry and transport sectors while at the same time increasing their competitiveness. As an STG Policy Leader Fellow, Malin will further explore methods for speeding up climate action in industry, as well as find strategies for states to support and share risk in the investments needed for implementation.



Linda Zeilina

Fellowship period: 1 February - 30 June 2021

Linda Zeilina is the Founder & CEO of the International Sustainable Finance Centre, where she oversees its work on sustainable investing and inclusive economies. Linda focuses on ways how to drive transformational change, and how to develop and implement sustainability initiatives. Previously, Linda was Director at RE-DEFINE, a boutique consultancy and think tank in London. In addition, Linda is a Fellow at the Royal Society of Arts, and until recently was a Think Visegrad Fellow at the EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy.

She has been honoured as a New Security Leader by the Warsaw Security Forum and a Future European Leader by the Prague European Summit. Linda is an alumna of the University of Glasgow, McGill University, and the London School of Economics and Political Science.



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

The European Commission supports the EUI through the European Union budget. This publication reflects the views only of the author(s), and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.



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