Biographies for MIREIA Workshop
3-4 May 2012 Sevilla

Ronald van Bekkum

Ronald Van Bekkum is a Senior advisor at UWV, the Dutch Public Employment Service, working particularly on cooperation between public and private employment services, He has been organising the network European Network of Heads of Public Employment Services for a number of years.

Clara Centeno

Clara Centeno is senior scientist at the JRC-IPTS in the Information Society Unit, where she is leading since 2005 the research activities of the Socio-Economic Analysis of ICT for Learning and Inclusion Action to support the European policies that aim at applying Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to increase socio-economic inclusion of groups at risk, address the key challenges of education and training in a Lifelong learning context and enhance public services in the EU. She has degrees on Telecommunication Engineering and Business Administration, and prior to joining IPTS in 2001, she worked 13 years on the banking business services sector, managing emerging technology projects and providing technology, systems and business strategy advice on the use of ICTs across Europe and abroad, including from her own company.

Cristiano Codagnone

Professor Cristiano Codagnone graduated in economics from Bocconi University in 1988 and has a Ph.D. (1994) in sociology from New York University in the study of organisation and technology

He is Professor at Milan State University and works as an independent consultant and Managing Partner of Tech4i2 Limited, a research and consulting company specialised in studies and strategies for innovative and inclusive policies and services. Cristiano has collaborated with various organisations (i.e. RSO SpA and MIP of Milan Polytechnic University) and managed projects for the European Commission, for Greek central level government agency (Greek Observatory for the Information Society), and for Italian regional level governments (Emilia Romagna and Lombardy Regional Administrations). He has also served one year as Project Officer in the “eGovernment for Development” programme of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). Professor Codagnone was a researcher at the European Commission Joint Research Centre IPTS in September 2009 –Sept 2011. Starting in January 2005 and up to the present he has managed, and participated, various studies and projects for DG Information Society of the European Commission, including among others: The study on the economics of elnclusion prepared for the 2008 Vienna Ministerial Conference on elnclusion; the impact assessment for the 2007 EU Communication on the e-Inclusion strategy, including an extensive analysis of the potential impacts of e-Inclusion on economic growth and sustainable development; the “eGovernment Economics Project”, a study that produced a model of the economic impact of eGovernment on GDP, as well as an Impact Measurement Framework.
Ian Clifford

In June 2008 Ian became Co-Chair of Telecentre-Europe, a voluntary network of Digital Inclusion networks from 35 nations across Europe, with more than 350 members representing about 35,000 Telecentres. Telecentre-Europe formalised into an AISBL in Oct 2010, where Ian has been elected the Deputy Chair. Ian also sits on the Advisory Board for the Telecentre.org Foundation, the global body for Telecentre networks representing the 200,000 telecentres across the world.

In 2003 Ian became regional manager in the South West for UK online centres, before joining the central team, where he is now responsible for all business development activities, and liaison with government departments, agencies, and corporate organisations, as well as international development. In 1996 Ian founded a publicly-funded voluntary sector project in Devon employing young people to deliver ICT training and website design for local businesses. He worked for the project with disadvantaged young people for seven years, in a range of areas including multimedia design. The centre became a UK online centre in 2001, and is now a leading Social Enterprise in the South West.

Joe Cullen

Dr Joe Cullen is founder and Director of Arcola Research LLP, London; a Principal Associate with The Tavistock Institute, London, and a member of the Board of the MENON Learning Network in Brussels. He has co-ordinated over 100 research and consulting assignments in social inclusion, pedagogy, learning, ICTs, health and culture and more than 50 evaluation studies for the European Commission, other European Institutions, government bodies, foundations and NGOs. He holds a Diploma in Psychology from Birkbeck College, University of London, and a PhD and MA in Social Sciences from the University of Dundee. He has worked as an academic, teaching and researching in social sciences at the University of Cambridge, Loughborough University, the UK Open University, London Metropolitan University and the University of Leeds. He has also served as an advisor on several research committees for the European Commission, WHO and the UK ESRC. He is a Trustee of 'Docklands Outreach', an organisation supporting at risk and excluded young people and is a school governor in London.

Peter Day

A senior lecturer at the University of Brighton, Dr. Peter Day has a long history of academic and practical experience in the community technology movement. A founder member of the Community Informatics Research Network (CIRN)—an international network of researchers, practitioners and policy makers concerned with enabling communities through the use of Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)—Peter also helped establish the Sussex Community Internet Project (SCIP) a community technology advocacy organisation and ICT service provider for the community and voluntary sector in Sussex. He was Principle Investigator on ESRC & BSCKE funded projects and has undertaken commissioned research for the Community Development Foundation and IBM, as well as the Open Society Institute. Peter has published extensively in the field of community networking and community informatics and is currently engaged in developing a community media component of the curriculum, in which students learn to collaborate with community groups on media projects that address social needs, are enjoyable and provide both students and community partners the opportunity to be creative. Recent projects include digital stories, community video and photography, community journalism and poster design tutorials.

Juan Francisco Delgado

A psychologist by training, since 2007 Jan Francisco has lead the team responsible for the Guadalinfo service – a network of 800 public centres for social innovation and ICT access in rural Andalucia and in deprived urban neighbourhoods. Juan Francisco is also the head of the Spanish association of telecentres networks, and on the board of Telecentres Europe.
Kath Edgar

Dr Kath Edgar is a Director and founder member of Substance. Kath has worked on a range of Substance research projects undertaking innovative youth-led field research, on-line consultation, GIS mapping and report writing as well as training staff in the use of Substance’s online evaluation tools. Kath is currently the North West Evaluation Network steering group convener and the North West representative on the UK Evaluation Society Council. Kath is the lead researcher on two Media Trust youth-media projects; Kick it Out Mentoring Project, Sported project and contributes to the research design and implementation of other key projects.

Substance is a social research co-operative, which was founded in 2005. We work with clients and partners to devise innovative approaches to research, monitoring, evaluation and valuing. We do this to help clients better understand and improve the outcomes of their work to enable them to provide the best possible provision for service users and communicate the value of their work to key stakeholders.

Paul Foley

Professor Paul Foley has more than 25 years experience assisting public and private sector organisations with technology adoption, policy development, regeneration and social inclusion. He is a board member of the UK Digital Inclusion Team and has worked with International organisations (OECD and EC), national governments (Australia, Oman, Sweden, Syria, Panama, Poland). He has excellent working relationships with numerous UK central government departments and Regional government offices. Paul has been an adviser for several important UK policies, including the Local Government White Paper, digital inclusion and local information systems. Paul is a director of the consultancy company Tech4i2.

Maria Garrido

Maria is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington’s Information School, in the Technology & Social Change Group. Her research explores how people, in communities facing social and economic challenges, use information and communication technologies to promote social change. Much of her work focuses on technology appropriation in the context of social movements and in international migration. Maria holds a Ph.D. in Communications from the University of Washington and a master’s degree in International Relations from the University of Chicago. Recent publications include: Researching the links between ICT skills and employability: An analytical framework”; Immigrant women, e-skills, and employability in Europe: The case of Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, and Spain; Disaster response in Chile: The critical role of libraries and telecentres.

Anne Green

Anne Green is a Professorial Fellow at the Institute for Employment Research at the University of Warwick, UK. She is currently engaged in a project for JRC-IPTS entitled: Literature Review on Employability, Inclusion and ICT. She has wide-ranging research interests focusing particularly on employment and non-employment; local and regional labour market issues; skills; migration and commuting; and public policy evaluation - with a particular focus on local initiatives to address worklessness and area regeneration. Recent and current research projects include the national evaluation of the City Strategy initiative in Great Britain, a stocktake on evaluation practice for local worklessness initiatives, and a UK study commissioned by OECD LEED to inform the skills for competitiveness agenda.
Alexandra Haché

Alexandra Haché is a sociologist, PhD in social economy and a researcher on ICT for the public good. She has recently ended a post-doctoral position for the JRC-IPTS where she has been developing research in support of policy making in the field of exclusion (both digital inclusion and social inclusion supported by ICT), with a special focus on Migrants, Ethnic Minorities, Youth at risk and intermediaries working with them. She has also worked on the impact of social computing and Web 2.0 on civil society potential for self-organisation and social innovation. She is also researching how social movements use and develop ICT, and in turn how they communicate about them. This orientation has been often marked by her exploration of free software, free culture and gender relations to ICT. Finally, she has been involved since 2004 in the use and development of free software tools for social and political transformation for neighbourhood communities, engaged research networks, immigrant teenagers and women groups. She has been contributing to the design of those tools by producing researching, improving the software and usability and providing training.

Ellen Helsper

Ellen Helsper is Lecturer in Media and Communications at Department of Media and Communications at the LSE, London. Much of her work has focused on the relationship between digital and social exclusion. She has worked on the World Internet Project surveys since 2003, this project has documented and analysed in great detail changing uses and attitudes to the internet in over 20 countries. She has extensive experience advising government on issues of ICTs and inclusion, including advisor to the Welsh Government on their Digital Inclusion Policy, and producing reports such as Digital Inclusion: An Analysis of Social Disadvantage and the Information Society for the UK Government, as well as advising on European surveys on Social Impacts of ICTs. Recently she has published on digital exclusion of the elderly, the internet and marriage, and in family relationships with children. She lectures on research methodology. http://www2.lse.ac.uk/media@lse/whosWho/AcademicStaff/EllenHelsper.aspx

Lee Komito

Lee Komito, Senior Lecturer, School of Information and Library Studies, University College Dublin, Ireland. PhD in Anthropology, with expertise in ethnographic studies of politics, work practices, and social impact of new technologies on individuals and communities. He has conducted studies of political clientelism in Ireland, the impact of new technologies on work practices, e-democracy and e-participation in Ireland, and virtual communities. The most recent study is a two year longitudinal study of migrants’ use of new technologies (including social media) in Ireland and the consequences of use for participation, integration, and transnational communities.

Mara Jakobsone

Dr. Mara Jakobsone is vice-president, and ICT and e-skills project manager at the Latvian Information and Communication Technology Association (LIKTA). Her responsibilities include development, coordination and implementation of information society and e-skills related projects and international cooperation. From 1984-99, she was researcher and assistant professor at the Faculty of Business administration, University of Latvia. She holds a Doctorate in economics (1988) from the Institute of Finances and Economics, St.Petersburg, Russia and University of Latvia. Dr. Jakobsone’s competencies include project management, experience in creating training materials and web content, quantitative and qualitative market research and statistical data analysis. She is experienced in managing research and innovation projects, and has proven organizational skills to coordinate national and international partnerships. Mara Jakobsone has been responsible for coordinating e-skills 2010 and Get Online week 2011 activities in Latvia. Mara Jakobsone is a Board member of Telecentre Europe
Maciej Kochanowicz

Maciej Kochanowicz is Impact Assessment Specialist at the Information Society Development Foundation, Poland. He is responsible for managing research activities for the needs of Library Development Program, a key project carried out by ISDF. The current focus of the on-going research is primarily on assessing the impact of the Program, both in ICT and non-ICT related fields. Previously Maciej Kochanowicz worked for leading Polish market research organization – Pracowania Badań Społecznych and was an editor in opinion section in prominent daily newspaper – Gazeta Wyborcza responsible also for commissioning public opinion polls.

Sonia Liff

Sonia Liff is currently an independent researcher. She was previously a Reader at Warwick University where she led research on telecentres as e-gateways to inclusion in the information society in the UK, Finland and Los Angeles. She has published widely on community-based telecentres and cybercafes and their distinctive social networks through which inclusion is achieved. She was also an academic visitor at the Oxford Internet Institute, Oxford University exploring the extent to which people use the internet in participatory and critical ways including through websites based on their locality. She facilitated British Council briefings to UK civil society groups attending WSIS on the relevant issues and the significance of different approaches. In parallel to this academic research she was also director of a community interest company providing training for third sector organisation on the use of information technology and providing IT training in a rural community. She is currently working on civil society initiatives in relation to environmental sustainability.

Veronique Maes

Her experience in Education and Social Inclusion can be divided into three phases. Initially, responsible for co-ordinating international academic cooperation projects to contribute to the goals of policy initiatives such as ‘Bologna Process’, ‘Lisbon Strategy’ and ‘i2010’ and for co-ordinating large European Higher Education networks and research partnerships. This work for the Coimbra Group (co-funder) was subsequently built on through work carried out for the MENON Network -university & research organisations- and contributed to developing and applying innovative research and networking in lifelong learning. More recently, at the EC’s Education Agency as eLearning Project Officer, she was dealing with selection, monitoring and valorisation of projects under the eLearning programme. The last three years she has focused mainly working with Arcola Research LLP, London more on carrying out research in the education and training fields in social inclusion area’s (study on the use of ‘Web 2.0’ in education and social inclusion, ICT for Youth at Risk and perception of Youth towards ICT) and a study for the European Parliament which focused on a review of all school systems of European member states in the area of Minority Languages & Multilingualism). With Arcola, she started: “Te@ch.us” which is setting up a web community for teachers interested in integrating Web 2.0 in classes and “Links Up” which is exploring issues like: is Learning 2.0 really supporting inclusive life-long learning, is it really fundamentally changing the nature of learning and the educational landscape of Europe and, if so, what are the implications for policy and practice? Evaluating projects for the EDULINK and for the Lifelong Learning Programme at EC gives the opportunity to keep a good understanding of key players in European Education Cooperation and a sound knowledge of innovative European initiatives. Recently joined Online Educa’ & eLearning Africa’s Programme Team.
Gianluca Misuraca

Gianluca Misuraca joined the IPTS IS Unit in February 2009, focusing on the research area of ICT for governance. He coordinated the participation of IPTS in the EU-FP7 CSA CROSSROAD – A Participative Research Roadmap on ICT for governance and policy modelling, being the lead author of the JRC Report Envisioning Digital Europe 2030. He is currently leading the exploratory research on ICT-enabled governance models in EU cities (EXPGOV), in collaboration with EUROCITIES. Gianluca also contributed to the research on The Impact of Social Computing on the EU Information Society and Economy and he is providing policy support and dissemination at international level. Before joining IPTS, Gianluca was the Managing Director and Scientific Coordinator of the Global Executive Master in e-Governance, organised by the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. Previously, he worked for the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), acting as Liaison Officer for Africa on e-Governance and knowledge management. Being seconded to the African Training and Research Centre in Administration for Development, in Tangier, Morocco (CAFRAD), he was responsible for coordinating the implementation of the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance (www.unpan.org) and the design of the e-Africa initiative for good governance, placed under the banner of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) of the African Union. During his career, Gianluca held several positions as lead consultant and policy advisor for different UN agencies, the World Bank, the European Commission, and bilateral cooperation agencies.

Earlier in his career, Gianluca was a Manager at Ernst & Young International where he provided advisory services in the area of public administration reform and regional development. He started his career as an intern for the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and as a consultant for the APRI Spa – International Research Centre for Industrial Cooperation, where he was also a Member of the "Task Force Innovation" at the Italian Ministry of Research and Technological Development.

Gianluca holds a Degree in Business Administration, a Specialisation Diploma in EU Economics and Law, an Executive Master in e-Governance and he is finalizing his PhD in Management of Technology at EPFL. He has several publications in the area of ICT for Governance and ICT for Development, including the book "e-Governance in Africa, from Theory to Action".

Alfonso Molina

Alfonso Molina is Professor of Technology at The University of Edinburgh (UK) and Co-founder and Scientific Director of the Fondazione Mondo Digitale (Italy). He has carried out extensive theoretical and practical work focused on the development of an environment or platform integrating academic theories, instruments of practical application, and projects on a variety of themes: technological and social innovation, industrial clusters, multi-sectoral clusters for territorial development, ICT-based educational innovation, and others. Research themes of particular interest include the mapping and governance of multi-sectoral hybridity in social innovation, knowledge-oriented non-profit organizations, smart regional specialization, and innovation and personalized collaboration in education. Instruments of practical application include the “diamond of alignment,” “evolving business plans,” “evolving bottom-up roadmapping,” “real-time evaluation methodology” and “dynamic strategy mapping.” Alfonso has collaborated as advisor and consultant for the European Commission and has published books, papers, reports, and models. He designed the original strategy for the Global Cities Dialogue, including the writing of its Helsinki Declaration now signed by over 180 cities from all over the world. He has worked with the cities of Rome, Stockholm and Edinburgh and he is former Chairman of the international juries of the Stockholm Challenge Award and the European Citizenship for All Award run by Telecities and Deloitte and Touche; and present Chairman of the international jury of Rome’s Global Junior Challenge. Alfonso led the creation of the Multi-sectoral Cluster on Educational Robotics in Italy, and he is currently Acting Chairman of its Coordinating Board. Alfonso is also the creator of the pioneering virtual social innovation environment Phyrntual.org.
Jeremy Paley

Jeremy joined the Bill & Melinda Gates foundation’s Global Libraries initiative as an Associate Program Officer in July of 2011. He manages grants in Indonesia and Lithuania and works on the team’s impact measurement, evaluation, and measurement technical assistance activities. Before joining Global Libraries, Jeremy worked for three years as an analyst in the foundation’s Impact Planning and Improvement department. Among other responsibilities related to the foundation’s strategy and measurement guidelines, he provided advice and support to the Global Libraries team and its grantees on results frameworks, impact measurement, and evaluation.

Jeremy’s background is in public policy and government. Prior to joining the foundation, he received his Master of Public Policy (MPP) degree from Georgetown Public Policy Institute in Washington, DC, where he studied international policy and development and concentrated in food and trade policy. He has also worked on evaluation and strategy projects for Blueprint Research and Design (now Arabella Associates), a consulting firm for philanthropic foundations, located in San Francisco, CA. His undergraduate degree is a B.A. in Government from Cornell University, which he completed in 2004.

Ismael Peña

Ismael Peña-López, professor at the School of Law and Political Science of the Open University of Catalonia, and researcher at the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute and the eLearn Center of that university. He holds a PhD in the Information and Knowledge Society and works in the field of Public Policies for Development, with a special focus on ICT (so, ICT4D, digital divide. Research interests include Digital Divide, e-Readiness, ICT4D; ICTs in development cooperation, nonprofit technology, online volunteering; e-Inclusion, digital capitacitation; e-Learning, e-Portfolios; Open Access, Open Science, Access to Knowledge. He was a founding member and former Director of the Cooperation for Development Programme at the University.

Eva Piñar

Eva is Directora General de Servicios Tecnológicos y de la Sociedad de la Información de la Consejería de Economía, Innovación y Ciencia de la Junta de Andalucía.

Paco Prieto

Ph.D. degree in Psychology, Oviedo University. Master on Electronic Commerce, Polytechnic University of Catalonia. He is currently director of CTIC Foundation - Information Society, in charge of the strategic consultancy work and the financial and human resources management. He has over 19 years experience in the management and execution of projects related to the development and implementation of the Information Society for citizens, SMEs, e-administration, etc, as well as education and training for employment projects. Co-author together with Javier Garcia and Pablo Priesca of the book “i-Economy” (2011), publication in which it is highlighted the potential of information and communication technologies as a driving force for e-inclusion and social innovation in the territories. Coordinator of the book "Spanish telecentre networks. A story to tell. Co-author of the book "The employment network in Spain." He has worked in the development and monitoring of the e-Asturias strategy of the Government of the Principality of Asturias. He is currently interested in the identification of mechanisms and proposals related to Social Innovation and ICTs as a tool to activate the territories and the innovative society. He is convinced of the need to articulate new ways of thinking among citizens and businesses to face current challenges and therefore, he incorporates work methods associated with creativity in his projects as a basis to make the most of every opportunity. He is certified in the methodology Lego Serious Play.
Yves Punie

Yves Punie is senior scientist in the IS Unit, leading the IPTS research and policy activities on "ICT for Learning and Skilling" and is also involved in projects on ICT for Inclusion and Governance as well as on assessing the socio-economic impact of web 2.0 or social computing. A number of these projects have a strong foresight component. Before joining the IPTS in 2001, he was interim Assistant Professor at the Free University of Brussels (VUB) and senior researcher at SMIT (Studies on Media, Information and Telecommunications). He holds a Ph.D. in Social Sciences from the VUB on the use and acceptance of ICT in everyday life also coined as “domestication”. In general, Yves' expertise is on the social impact of ICT, its potential and use.

Gabriel Rissola

Gabriel Rissola joined the IS Unit in June 2010 as a Senior Scientist in Digital Inclusion. He has a degree in Informatics, academic education in Philosophy and Psychology and wide professional experience with multilateral cooperation bodies (European Commission, United Nations agencies). Before joining IPTS he was Director at Dynamic Organization Thinking (D-O-T), a Barcelona-based Research and Consultancy firm he co-founded (from 2003); external Evaluator for the Lifelong Learning programme of the European Commission (from 2004); European Projects Officer for the Foundation of Viladecans City (2005-08); Senior Expert & Evaluator at UNs' Food and Agricultural Organization (1990-91 and 2002-08); head of an eLearning company in Spain (Didacom Iberoamerica, 2001-03) and of a digital media company in Latin America (Faro Latino, Windows Media content provider). He was also the creator and head of RADAR - the first Internet intelligent search engine in Argentina - and leader of ForTel - one of the largest technology-enhanced learning projects in South America- for Telecom Argentina during the ‘90s.

His research interests focus on the field of ICT and Social Innovation. Gabriel has carried out different Action Research and Learning projects around the contribution of Information Society Technologies (IST) to social and educational innovation and inclusion, and its policy implications in Europe and internationally, covering topics ranging from the digital inclusion and lifelong learning of disadvantaged categories of end users (notably migrants) and the enabling role of the Third Sector, to the development of strategies for learning, innovation and cooperation between small economic actors in complex settings (historical centres, rural areas, etc). He has collaborated with DG INFSO in the organization of the e-Inclusion Ministerial Conference (2008). Gabriel has authored/co-authored/edited several publications on ICT and Social Innovation, while having also been author and reviewer for the Journal of International Development and Information Technologies (USA).

Renata Sadunišvili

Renata Sadunišvili is Impact Assessment Specialist at the Project „Libraries’ for innovation“, Lithuania. Project is implemented by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. She is responsible for the Final Project’s impact assessment – numerous research supervision, results dissemination activities’ (ICT and non-ICT related fields), elaboration of simplified impact assessment model for sustainability after the Project end on 2012/06/07.

Renata Sadunišvili is professional sociologist, and research specialist (member of ESOMAR). Before joining “Libraries for innovations” team, worked as Head of Qualitative research department and moderator for marketing research company - 12 years experience in the research field, conducted over 170 projects’ as main director and specialist.
**Araba Sey**

Araba Sey is a Research Assistant Professor at the University of Washington Information School. Her research interests are in the social and economic implications of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in developing countries. She currently leads the Global Impact Study, a research project investigating the impacts of public access to information and communication technologies. She also studies the development of mobile payphone systems and impacts of mobile phone appropriation in developing countries from industry and user perspectives. Araba is co-author of “Mobile Communication and Society: A Global Perspective.”

**Nicky Stevenson**

Nicky Stevenson is a Partner and Principal Consultant for The Guild, a specialist social enterprise and third sector consultancy based in Norwich in the East of England. Previously she worked for a local community co-operative and in a Co-operative Development Agency. She has a first degree in English and American Studies and a masters degree in Education and Training. She has worked extensively with third sector agencies and local communities for over 20 years. She has undertaken research into the scale and scope of third sector activity in various parts of England and has investigated a number of key policy areas such as the role of social enterprises in reducing re-offending. In recent years she has developed The Guild’s impact measurement services, managing a research contract with partners including Middlesex University, mapping the use of social impact measurement tools, designing and delivering training for small third sector organisations on how to implement social impact systems in their organisations, spoken at a number of regional and national conferences on impact measurement and developed new tools and approaches to impact measurement. She worked with other colleagues to produce “Getting Started in Social Impact Measurement” and is currently developing a Tool Box to help small organisations measure social impact. She is a trained Social Return on Investment Practitioner and is currently awaiting assessment for accredited practitioner status. Nicky is a non-academic peer reviewer for the national Economic and Social Research Council and is a board member of Social Enterprise East of England and the Full Circle Fund, a local women’s micro credit fund.

**James Stewart**

James Stewart is a temporary Scientific Officer at the Institute for Prospective Technology Studies at the European Commission, in the Action on ICTs for Social Inclusion, with responsibility work on carers, digital games, social innovation, and employability. He is a lecturer and research fellow at the University of Edinburgh in the Institute for Science, Technology and Innovation, where he teaches on issues related to the Information Society, and innovation in ICTs. He has a BEng in Electronics, and a PhD in Science and Technology Studies. In the 1990s he researched cybercafes, telecentres and the role of these organisations as intermediaries in societal appropriation of ICTs. In the field of social inclusion through ICTs, he has explored the mechanisms of adoption and non-adoption of ICTs, and strategies to include women in the information society. His research interests are focused on the appropriation and innovation done in technology, policy and practice as new technologies, in particular ICTs, are shaped to support the activities and relationships of particular domains of everyday life, industry or government. He has particularly focused on ICTs in the home, in research, and for women, and on the role of design, users and end-user intermediaries. He is co-author of an early study on social innovation around technology: Williams, R, Stewart J, Slack R. 2005 Social Learning in Technological Innovation: Experimenting with Information Technology, Edward Elgar Publishing.
Victoria Stirling

Vic is responsible for managing the wider UK online centres. This comprises of over 4,000 organisations from all over England and including some in Wales, Scotland and NI. It's Vic's job to support the network to help people to use the internet for the first time and to make sure that the UK online centres team are providing the right services and tools for the job. Vic manages a team of Network Co-ordinators whose job it is to provide the 'human touch' to our network management through regular telephone support, and this can often simply be a phone call to say 'thank you'. Vic's has previous experience in managing government work contracts and adult ed learning provision.

Cristina Torrecillas

Cristina, after graduating in economics, has completed several postgraduate courses related to evaluation and quantitative analysis. Regarding her work experience, extending over seven years, she has been working as Research Manager at Ecorys, an international company that performs research on economic and social areas. During her career she had conducted numerous studies at local, regional and national level, as well as for European institutions in social areas, and specifically in the areas of education, immigration, employment and youth. Furthermore, these studies have allowed her to acquire a broad knowledge and experience in design methodologies and analytical tools for qualitative and quantitative research. Recently she has joined The Institute for Prospective Technological Studies (IPTS), which is one of the seven scientific institutes of the European Commission’s Joint Research Centre (JRC), as a scientific officer. Her responsibilities here are related to carrying out research to support European policies that aim at promoting digital competences for socio-economic inclusion of groups at risk of exclusion.

Dinesh Venkateswaran

Dinesh Venkateswaran is Global Manager of Data Acquisitions at TechSoup Global (TSG). He has an honours degree in Mathematics and a Masters in Computer Science, and is currently pursuing an Executive Masters in Business Administration at Cranfield University.

Dinesh worked in Information Technology Consulting and Innovation Management for over 14 years, serving clients in Life Sciences, Banking and Logistics sectors across continents. His core areas of expertise include Information Management, Business Architecture and Analysis applied to scientific research areas, and transfer of emerging technology to business application. He has contributed significantly to global data standards development initiatives in the Life Sciences as well. At TSG, Dinesh is responsible for ensuring an integrated strategy is put in place for acquiring, organising and disseminating the best information about civil society available worldwide, towards application in improving TSG’s services and for consumption by external actors.