



Change
tomorrow
today

SOCIAL INNOVATION TOURNAMENT

2023 | 12TH EDITION
STOCKHOLM, 27 SEPTEMBER



GRAND FINALE



#SIT23STOCKHOLM | @EIBInstitute



The **EIB Institute** was set up within the EIB Group (European Investment Bank and European Investment Fund) to promote and support social, cultural and academic initiatives with European stakeholders and the public at large. It is a key pillar of the EIB Group's community and citizenship engagement.

The **EIB Institute** supports social innovation and entrepreneurs who target social, ethical or environmental goals or seek to create and sustain social value. This is typically related to unemployment, equal opportunities, the marginalisation of disadvantaged groups and access to education and other basic social services.



The Social Innovation Tournament (SIT) is the flagship initiative of the EIB Institute's Social Programme. The SIT final event is organised every year in a different country to reward and sponsor European entrepreneurs whose primary purpose is to generate social, ethical or environmental impact. Projects are typically related to combating unemployment, improving the environment, tackling the marginalisation of disadvantaged communities and promoting access to education in a wide range of fields, including healthcare, the natural and urban environment, and new technologies, systems and processes.

In 2023, the fifteen selected projects will compete for prizes worth a total of €290 000. Finalists will compete for four cash prizes awarded by a jury of specialists from the academic and business worlds. First and second prize projects in the General Category and the Special Category will receive €100 000 and €40 000, respectively. The Special Category prizes will go to projects focusing on the **sustainable cities and sustainable communities**. This year's competition will also feature an online vote by the audience. The project with the most votes will receive the €10 000 Audience Choice Award.

The tournament has two rounds. A Selection Committee comprising mainly EIB Group experts in innovation, the environment and other relevant disciplines selects 15 projects. The finalists are then invited to a mentoring programme consisting of a mentoring and rehearsal bootcamp, pitching training and one-to-one online coaching to provide them with the necessary guidance to finalise their proposals. This year, the finalists' formal presentations to the Jury (the "Deep Dive Pitches") will be an invitation-only event, held on 27 September. Each contestant will have seven minutes to give a Deep Dive pitch presenting their project, after which the Jury will have five minutes to ask questions.

On 28 September, the finalists will provide "Spark Moments", after which the winners will be announced at an awards ceremony followed by a celebratory dinner.

Finalists from all SIT editions become members of the SIT Alumni Network and can access webinars and training programmes on scaling impact, communications, investor engagement, fundraising, measuring and managing impact and digital marketing. SIT Alumni can apply for small grants — SITolarships — and be supported by a network of EIB Group experts, benefiting from partnerships with corporates (such as Amazon Web Services and EY) and with top business schools (Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics, INSEAD, IE and Oxford).

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AGENDA

GRAND FINALE: DEEP DIVE PITCHES **27 SEPTEMBER 2023**

IVA Konferenscenter, Wallenbergsalen (Grev Turegatan 16, 114 46 Stockholm)

15:00 – 15:15	Rules and procedures Order of presentations (draw)
15:15 – 19:00	Finalist presentations (15 projects)
22:00	Opening of online voting for the Audience Choice Award

ORDER OF PRESENTATIONS



PROJECT NAME	COUNTRY	SECTOR	#
AIDROLYST BY C2CAT	The Netherlands	Circular Economy	
BETTAFISH	Germany	Sustainable consumption and production	
BRAINTRIP	Malta	Health	
DIAMENS	Austria	Health	
GRIBOULLI	France	Employment	
HUSMUS	Sweden	Inclusion	
MONUMENTI APERTI BY IMAGOMUNDI	Italy	Education	
MUNEVO	Germany	Health	
SMART FIBER BY FIBSEN	Spain	Water	
SOCIALCARD	Austria	Inclusion	
SOPHIA CHATBOT BY SPRINGACT	Switzerland	Information and communications technology/ e-economy	
STUTTER STARS BY SAY IT LABS	Belgium	Inclusion	
SUMM AI	Germany	Inclusion	
VEMOTION BY REACTIVE ROBOTICS	Germany	Health	
WE DO SOLAR	Germany	Energy	

IF YOU CAN, YOU MUST:

12 YEARS OF CREATING IMPACT AND CELEBRATING HUMANITY IN MOTION

It is now twelve years since the EIB Institute held its first Social Innovation Tournament (SIT) final event in Luxembourg in 2012. The tournament's 12th edition will take place this year in Stockholm, with previous editions having been held in Budapest (2013), Madrid (2014), Milan (2015), Ljubljana (2016), Riga (2017), Copenhagen (2018), Dublin (2019), online due to the pandemic situation (2020) and Lisbon (2021), and last year in Vienna. This year, 15 social innovation projects are competing in Stockholm, Sweden, and joining a growing community of over 160 projects from 31 different European countries (EU, EFTA and enlargement countries) working to create societal impact. It is just the beginning of a long journey packed with learning, networking and creating opportunities to solve some of modern society's most pressing problems.

In its first edition in 2012, the Hungarian project HandInScan won first prize for its hand hygiene system based on digital imaging technology for the direct control of handwashing effectiveness in medical environments.

In 2013, the Special Category Prize was introduced with the theme of "environment." The prize was awarded to the Romanian-based paper recycling project Recicleta, which collects small quantities of waste paper from offices for recycling using cargo bicycles and employs socially disadvantaged people.

When the tournament was held in Madrid in 2014, the winner of the General Category was the French microfranchising initiative Adie. In the same year, the Special Category Prize for "urban and natural environment" was awarded to Blue Badge Style, a style website and app for disabled people recommended by the Guardian and the Financial Times that enables users to explore travel options, restaurants, theatres, sporting arenas and retailers.

The fourth edition of the tournament was held in Milan in 2015. In the General Category, Koiki, based in Spain, won first prize for its initiative that enables people with intellectual or physical disabilities to work as postal delivery workers or messengers either walking or cycling short distances.

The fifth edition of the tournament was held in Ljubljana in 2016. First prize in the General Category went to Aprendices Visuales, a project that aims to help children with autism access the tools they need to develop their full potential.

The sixth edition of the tournament was held in Riga in 2017. For this edition, the Special Category theme was "ageing," which saw the Freebird Club (Ireland) and Walk With Path (United Kingdom) share first and second prize.

At the seventh edition in Copenhagen, Denmark, the first prize in the General Category was awarded to Glowee (France). Glowee offers a sustainable living light source powered by waste products and produces reusable biomass to illuminate our world by harnessing the natural power of bioluminescence.

The eighth edition took place in Dublin, Ireland, and HeHop (France) and Jelly Drops (United Kingdom) received first and second prize in the General Category. Fazla Gıda (Turkey) and Zouri Shoes (Portugal) received first and second prize in the Special Category for projects focusing on sustainable consumption and production.

In 2020, the final pitching competition took place online due to the pandemic. NaviLens, (Spain) and BeeOdiversity (Belgium) won the first and second prize in the General Category, while Sponsh (Netherlands) and PlasticFri (Sweden) won the first and second prize in the Special Category for environmental projects with a strong focus on biodiversity and ecosystem conservation. HeraMobileApp (Turkey) was the winner of a new category, the Audience Choice Award.



2012 – HAND-IN-SCAN



2013 – RECICLETA



2014 – BLUE BADGE STYLE



2015 – KOIKI



2016 – APRENDICES VISUALES



2017 – WALK WITH PATH & FREEBIRD CLUB



2018 – GLOWEE



2019 – HEHOP



2020 – NAVILENS



2021 – MAGRID



2022 – DREAMWAVES

In 2021, the tournament was held in Lisbon (Portugal). Magrid (Luxembourg), won the first prize in the General Category, Cellugy (Denmark), was awarded the first prize in the Special Category, dedicated to projects focusing on sustainable living. The Institute for Inclusive Education (Germany), won the second prize in the General Category and Orange Fiber (Italy), won the second prize in the Special Category as well as the Audience Choice Award.

In 2022, the tournament was held in Vienna (Austria). Dreamwaves (Austria) won the first prize for their App WaveOut guiding blind persons by using sounds to find their way independently through crowded cities. The special-category first prize, focusing on blue and green economy, went to ROSI (France). The second prize in the general category went to Newcy (France) and the special category to AlgaEnergy (Spain). The Audience Choice Award went to Hale (Italy).

JURY

	 ILONKA JANKOVICH			
		 CONCEPCIÓN GALDÓN		 ELENA CASOLARI
				
	 JUSTINA ALDERS-SHEYA		 KARIN RUIZ	
		 MAGALI ROY		
	 NIKOLAUS HUTTER			 OLIVIER DE GUERRE
 PIETER OOSTLANDER				

PRESIDENT OF THE JURY



Ilonka Jankovich

Venture Partner, Rubio Impact Ventures

Ilonka Jankovich is a serial entrepreneur of Dutch and Hungarian origin. She is a partner since 2022 at Rubio Impact Ventures, a leading impact VC in Europe. Rubio's vision is a balanced economy where people and planet thrive. Ilonka is heading the People Power investment team: empowering people with education, employment opportunities and wellbeing.

She started her career as a M&A lawyer at Clifford Chance and after 10 years became an entrepreneur. She built two HR businesses which became market leaders and were acquired by Monster.com and Randstad. After the last exit, she started and managed the Randstad Innovation Fund making 20 HR tech investments in Europe and the US.

She currently serves on the boards of several Peopletech startups and is on the Board of Exact business software.

Ilonka is an angel investor who is passionate about what education and work can do to enhance people's lives and loves to support businesses that are able to make a systemic impact and have ambitious business goals.

[!\[\]\(3211b5d1d968fc1665909b34f9f16010_img.jpg\) Rubio Impact Ventures](#)

[!\[\]\(6059a5aa8b4ca7bb793408023d6c6e42_img.jpg\) Ilonka Jankovich](#)

MEMBERS OF THE JURY



Concepción Galdón

Director of IE Center for Social Innovation and Sustainability/ Lead of IE Sustainable Impact Teaching and Research

Concepción Galdón is the social innovation director/academic lead at IE University, where her role is to promote academic content on social innovation across schools and programmes, encourage more research in social innovation and reach out to organisations and partners interested in social innovation. She is also a professor of entrepreneurship and innovation at IE. In addition, Concepción is the president of social venture Puentes Global, which she co-founded in 2009. She is a member of Ashoka Spain's venture board and the investment committees of several impact funds.

Concepción is an economics graduate of Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and has a master's degree in public administration and international development from Harvard Kennedy School. Concepción holds a PhD in international economy and development from Universidad Complutense de Madrid, with an Outstanding Award for her doctoral dissertation. Her PhD research focuses on the use of technology in social entrepreneurship. She has published papers in peer-reviewed journals and chapters in books. She regularly contributes to mass media and is a speaker at international conferences. Her professional experience includes founding an NGO and working for the United Nations' Procurement Division, Banco Santander's Latin America Division and the Liberian government under Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

[!\[\]\(235bfe13ebf007ce2eea9e689707fac7_img.jpg\) IE University](#)

[!\[\]\(eabd9f9ababee93effadc3b380fe65fd_img.jpg\) @IEuniversity](#)

[!\[\]\(83bbbd261710c59db0214aa27b2edc0d_img.jpg\) Concepción Galdon PhD](#)

MEMBERS OF THE JURY



Elena Casolari

**Co-Founder and Partner of OPES Italia Sicaf EuVECA,
Co-Founder and Chairwoman of Fondazione OPES-LCEF**

Elena believes in the transformative power of impact investing and the social enterprise movement, and is an advocate and practitioner of gender-smart investing. She is the co-founder and partner of OPES Italia Sicaf EuVECA, which invests in impact enterprises in Italy, and OPES-LCEF Fund, an impact investment vehicle that provides financial resources and management support to early-stage social enterprises whose businesses serve low-income people and disadvantaged communities.

For ten years, Elena was CEO at ACRA, an international NGO, and before that spent 12 years in the investment banking industry covering emerging markets. Elena serves as a director at Fondazione Umamo Progresso, a family-run foundation, and is also a member of the General Council of Fondazione Compagnia San Paolo, one of the leading banking foundations in Italy. She is also a director at LBV, an edtech startup promoting diversity in workplaces, and Selco India, a social enterprise delivering sustainable energy solutions for poorer people. After graduating in management, Elena was a Monbusho fellow at the Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo for two years.

 [@opes_impact](#)

 [Elena Casolari](#)



Justina Alders-Sheya

Impact Investor, Fund Manager, Triodos Investment Management

Justina is a fund manager in the financial inclusion fund management team at Triodos Investment Management (a globally recognised leader in impact investing, making money work for positive change). In that role, she manages the Triodos Microfinance Fund, the Triodos Fair Share Fund and the SFRE Fund. Justina has over 18 years of experience in the financial services sector, focusing on investment management, impact investing and financial inclusion. Before joining Triodos Investment Management, she had a number of roles at EY and ING Group. Justina is a certified chartered accountant, holds a postgraduate degree in accounting from the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, a master's degree in financial economics from the University of London and a bachelor's degree in commerce from the University of Namibia.

Justina is a passionate impact investor, focusing on sustainable and positive impact-driven organisations globally. She is a strong believer in the role that impact investing can play in making money bring about positive change as well as generating healthy long-term financial returns.

 [Triodos Investment Management](#)

 [Justina Alders-Sheya MSc. RA CIA](#)

MEMBERS OF THE JURY



Karin Ruiz

Deputy CEO, Sting

Karin is Deputy CEO and a business coach at Stockholm-based startup accelerator Sting, and is responsible for Sting's climate action agenda. She is an entrepreneur by heart, has been involved in building several of her own startups and has coached well over 50 impact and climate tech startups. Karin has 25 years of international business development experience in leading positions in corporates as well as startups, including Tetra Pak, Capiro, Peepoople and Quizrr, and has worked extensively across Asia and Africa. Karin holds a MSc in industrial engineering and management from Chalmers University of Technology.

Karin is passionate about climate action and the role innovation and entrepreneurship can play in addressing big societal challenges and driving positive change. She is also a strong advocate for female founders and improved gender balance in the startup world.

[in Sting](#) [in Karin Ruiz](#)



Magali Roy

Investment Lead, Norrsken Accelerator

Magali Roy is the Investment Lead for the Norrsken Accelerator, focusing on finding the best startups at pre-seed and seed stage around the world that are having a large and positive impact. Before this, she worked at the leading market access platform for impact investing based in Geneva, Switzerland, called Symbiotics. She has also worked within the world of global public health, primarily within enabling vaccinations in emerging markets as well as better nutrition. Whilst in Geneva, she also worked on a paper with the World Health Organization to better understand the role of global health initiatives when financing public health systems, before moving to the world of impact investing.

[in Norrsken](#) [in Magali Roy Bentley](#)



Nikolaus Hutter

Founder, New Paradigm Ventures

Nikolaus Hutter is the founder of New Paradigm Ventures, an international advisory firm. He has more than ten years of experience in venture capital investment, private equity and strategy consulting, and has held operating roles in the cleantech industry. Nikolaus advises international non-governmental organisations on impact ventures and investment and works with impact entrepreneurs around the globe. He serves in several non-executive roles such as an investment committee member for CHI Impact Capital's Burning Issues Fund, and as a board member of the Hellenic Impact Investing Network, the Hungarian Impact Investor Association, and EUObserver, an investigative news platform. Prior to this, he initiated the first accelerator for social innovators in Central Europe, led the impact investor network Toniic in Europe, and worked in the venture capital industry for over a decade. He read economics in Vienna, Strasburg and at the London School of Economics.

[in New Paradigm Ventures](#) [in Nikolaus Hutter](#)

MEMBERS OF THE JURY



Olivier de Guerre

Chairman, PhiTrust Active Investors and PhiTrust Impact Investors

Olivier co-founded GT Finance/Cristal Finance in 1987 before joining Credit Suisse Asset Management in 1998 as a managing director. In 2003, he founded PhiTrust in order to support families and foundations in the implementation of financial, social and philanthropic strategies, believing that investors have responsibility through their financial and social investments. He has long-standing experience in asset management for families, foundations and institutions, in particular in assisting them with their investment strategies. Olivier is a board member of ON Purpose UK and EVPA, among others. He is also the chairman of PhiTrust Partenaires Social Investment Fund and a member of ADMICAL, a French network of corporate foundations.

 [Phitrust](#)

 [Olivier de Guerre](#)



Pieter Oostlander

Founder of Shaping Impact Group, Fund Manager of SI2 Fund, INZET and SI3 Fund

Pieter founded what is currently known as Shaping Impact Group in 2011 as an impact fund management and impact consulting firm. Shaping Impact Group works with investors, philanthropists, funds and foundations to generate maximum societal impact.

Pieter's professional background is in accountancy and finance. He has held various top-level finance functions in several international companies. In 2004, he switched to the social investment and venture philanthropy sector, driven by the aspiration to make societal impact a significant part of his professional life. Up until 2011 he was director of the Noaber Foundation. This is where he started shaerpa, which was the foundation for Shaping Impact Group.

He works tirelessly on what he calls "the marriage between the business approach and societal goals." He has been a member of the board of directors of EVPA for ten years, three of which as chairman. Pieter is also a member of the board of directors of Social Value International, an international network nurturing and promoting the use of a systematic approach to social value accounting.

 [SI2 Fund](#)

 [Pieter Oostlander](#)

www.shapingimpact.group

FINALISTS

		 FARNAZ SOTOODEH		 MICHEL POPPINK
	 LILITH GAWOL		 DENIZ FICICIOĞLU	
 JURIJ DREO		 IGOR AKENTIJEVIĆ		
 MARLENE REZK			 ANGELIKA LACKNER	
		 MAÏMONATOU MAR		 AMINATA DIOUF
 SARAH WERNÉR	 MATTIAS WERNÉR		 MARCO CABITZA	
			 FABRIZIO FRONGIA	

FINALISTS



**KONSTANTIN
MADAUS**



**JAVIER
SANZ LATORRE**



**JAKOB
LECHNER**



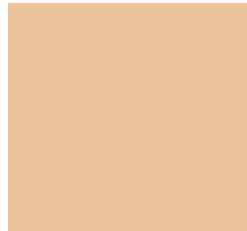
**LUIS ROMERO
CORTÉS**



**JULIAN
PETERMAIER**



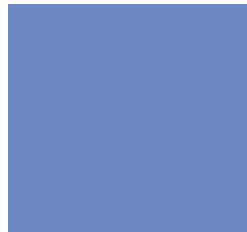
**ARNE
NOSTITZ-RIENECK**



**RHIANA
SPRING**



**ERICH
REITER**



**NDEYE DIODIO
CALLOGA**



**LUKAS
LATA CZ**



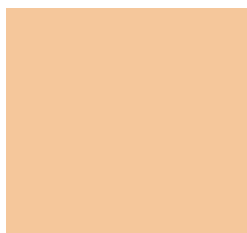
**FLORA
GESKE**



**NICHOLAS
WOLF**



**RAMONA
SCHLÄFER**



**KAROLINA
ATTSPODINA**



**MAXIMILIAN
BOHRER**

FINALISTS

AIDROLYST BY C2CAT

COUNTRY: THE NETHERLANDS

#CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Aidrolyst develops high-performance, custom-made catalysts for hydrogen production and storage. The standard catalysts have shown to largely fail for these unique applications, due to inefficiency and high usage of expensive critical materials such as Pd and Pt, constituting a severe burden on the overall process cost.

Aidrolyst's technique has unique unmatched advantages: the catalysts are made application-specific by being designed at multiscales, combining molecular modelling via artificial intelligence-aided machine-learning techniques, selection of the right combination of active catalytic phases, eliminating the usage of critical raw materials, and enhancing catalyst performance and durability using C2CAT's patented synthesis process. This will be a global breakthrough in enabling green hydrogen.

www.c2cat.eu info@c2cat.eu [in C2Cat](https://www.linkedin.com/company/c2cat)



Farnaz Sotoodeh
CEO and Founder

Farnaz is the founder and CEO of C2CAT (2020-present), holding a PhD in Chemical Engineering, heterogeneous catalysis, from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada (2011). Farnaz was a Humboldt research fellow and lecturer at TU Munich, Germany (2013-2015) and Team Leader, CO₂ valorisation, at FeyeCon, the Netherlands (2016-2020).



Michiel Poppink
Business Developer

Michiel is Business developer at C2CAT (2022-present), an entrepreneur and CEO at Stage Gate 11 BV (2020-present). Michiel has More than 15 years of experience in business development.

FINALISTS



BETTAF!SH

COUNTRY: GERMANY

#SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

BettaFish produces plant-based tuna and salmon based on seaweed. A variety of products are available in eight European countries (and counting). We are driven by the positive and regenerative impacts seaweed cultivation creates. Seaweed farming creates new livelihoods and opportunities for coastal communities and enables them to earn a living while regenerating marine ecosystems. Unlike destructive fishing, this can have a positive impact on people, the planet and the economy.

www.bettafish.co lilith@bettafish.co [in](https://www.linkedin.com/company/bettafish) **Bettafish**



Lilith Gawol

Head of Business Development

Lilith has gathered lots of experience in the food sector. She sees food as a potential engine for positive change. She worked for organic producers and the innovation hub KitchenTown before she joined BettaFish in 2021. She leads European expansion, overseeing retail and business-to-business growth.



Deniz Ficicioglu

Co-Founder

Before co-founding BettaFish, innovation manager and accomplished author Deniz Ficicioglu had already published two cookbooks and researched the future of food while working at various food startups. Today she works on restoring the maritime ecosystem by turning seaweed into everyone's favourite food. In Turkish, "Deniz" means the sea — so her destiny at BettaFish was inevitable.

FINALISTS

BRAINTRIP

COUNTRY: MALTA

#HEALTH

BrainTrip's solution is the BrainTrip Dementia Index (BDI) — an EEG-based biomarker which can detect dementia in its early stages and be used to measure its progression. BrainTrip has developed an algorithm on high-quality automatically processed EEG data to detect subtle changes early on, before symptoms of dementia become evident. Our BDI algorithm combines neuroscientific knowledge with complex mathematical models to extract hidden biomarkers contained in the brain's electrical activity. BrainTrip's solution for diagnosing dementia is based on a 15-minute EEG test with an accuracy of 96.9%, can be used by minimally trained staff at any facility, and is compatible with semi-dry and mobile EEG recordings with as little as 16 channels, making it very scalable and widely applicable.

www.braintrip.net info@braintrip.net [in Braintrip](https://www.linkedin.com/company/braintrip)



Jurij Dreo
CTO and Co-Founder

Jurij Dreo is the co-founder, Chief Technical Director (CTO), and Head of R&D at BrainTrip. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ljubljana. In 2012, he transitioned into the field of neuroscience research, specialising in critically assessing and interpreting neurophysiological data (EEG, EMG, TMS). He was trained to collect various kinds of electro and neurophysiological data at the Clinical Institute for Clinical Neurophysiology, focusing especially on EEG and EMG with a variety of high-density (Brain Products, 128 chan) and clinical (Nicolet, CareFusion) EEG equipment. In 2019, he officially co-founded BrainTrip Limited with his long-time research collaborator, David Sakić. Dreo has spent five years in basic R&D to develop the company's EEG-based, rapid, non-invasive, and scalable screening tool for early dementia detection. Since 2012, Jurij Dreo has published four original scientific articles and presented 14 papers at scientific conferences. He is a member and regular presenter at the Society for Neuroscience, the most prestigious neuroscience conference in the world.



Igor Aksentijević
Grant Writer

Igor Aksentijević is a social scientist and head of the grant writing team at BrainTrip. He received his master's degree from the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ljubljana. In 2018, he transitioned into the field of neuroscience research, after doing a brief internship at a neuromarketing company, where he learned how to do basic EEG recordings and familiarised himself with the discipline as a whole. Aksentijević was one of the earliest employees at BrainTrip, having joined the company upon its founding in 2019. For the last four years, he has been writing grant applications for the company, doing small-scale research in the domain of dementia care and gender inequality in diagnosis, while representing the company at international conferences and lectures. He has been attending the Society for Neuroscience, the most prestigious neuroscience conference in the world, since 2016.

FINALISTS

DIAMENS

COUNTRY: AUSTRIA

#HEALTH

One in ten women suffer from endometriosis. Affected girls and women live with growths outside the uterus, leading to infertility, severe pain during menstruation and painful sexual intercourse. Women who suffer from an undiagnosed endometriosis have a lower quality of life, as some are unable to work for several days a month, often suffer from depression, relationship problems, and much more.

While the disease itself has been recognised as a medical condition for decades, it is still under-researched and under-diagnosed. As a result of this, the large majority of the population worldwide is unaware of endometriosis is and cannot name symptoms.

We develop a diagnostic kit for an easy, pain-free diagnosis of endometriosis in menstrual blood from home in under 30 minutes. The development is based on evidence from 1064 patients. Our kit will enable diagnosis of endometriosis without surgery and affected women can finally receive the treatment they urgently need. There is no need for venous blood sampling, invasive surgery, cost-intensive laboratory staff or consumables. It is discrete and can be done in the comfort of one's own home.

info@diamens.org

[in Diamens](#)



Marlene Rezk

CEO

Marlene is currently CEO at Diamens. After she finished her master's degree in biomedicine, she did her PhD thesis in Medical Sciences in the Experimental Gynaecology Group at the Center for Medical Research of the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria. Her doctoral thesis was focused on the identification of biomarkers in gynaecological diseases, like preeclampsia and endometriosis. She developed an in silico method to detect biomarkers in large patient samples for lab research. Alongside her dissertation, she gained startup experience in diverse programmes, igniting her entrepreneurial spirit and passion for innovative management. Now, she aims to develop her dissertation project into a product that empowers women's self-determination and healthcare security.



Angelika Lackner

Chief Scientific Officer (CSO)

Angelika Lackner is Chief Scientific Officer (CSO) at Team Diamens. Her academic journey began with a focus on biophysics, which gave her a solid foundation in the intricacies of biological systems. Prior to this, she attended a school with focus on economics, where she acquired a comprehensive understanding of business fundamentals. This unique blend of science and business has been instrumental in her current role. Presently, she is doing her PhD in medical sciences at the Johannes Kepler University. Her background positions her at the intersection of science and business, enabling her to drive innovation while ensuring that it can be effectively applied in the real world.

FINALISTS



GRIBOULLI

COUNTRY: FRANCE

#EMPLOYMENT

Gribouilli's project reaches 1 000 nannies each year and aims to provide support via a dedicated space to break isolation (monthly breakfast support groups); a daily social and charity service for housing, food bank tickets, parenthood talks, etc., in partnership with non-governmental organisations; and a legal programme for combating modern slavery, occupational diseases, and undeclared work (30%), together with unions and employer federations. It also aims to professionalise via more than 500 weekly peer-to-peer workshops on career plans, educational programmes, and diploma preparation; job opportunities like job-dating sessions; recruitment via our cooperative; and support on digital platforms. Lastly, it organises via the upskilling of 100 nannies leading and managing operations as volunteers, employees or co-operators, and an innovation lab and advocacy through two movies, a symposium at the Senate, and a COVID campaign.

www.gribouilli.fr bienvenue@gribouilli.fr  [Gribouilli](#)



Maïmonatou Mar

Co-Founder and Deputy Director

Maïmonatou is Co-Founder and Deputy Director for Gribouilli, the first vocational organisation to support and empower women working as nannies in France. Since founding Gribouilli, Maïmonatou has built a network of more than 1 500 women and established partnerships with childcare companies, employers, city halls and the government. She has received multiple awards like the Business Prize from Ariane de Rothschild Foundation or the Obama Leader nomination. She is also a board member of several non-profits and foundations. Maïmonatou believes that bottom-up initiatives and cooperative models have the power to revive democracy and the economy. She is passionate about systems thinking, for which she has experience in materials science as a researcher on energy storage.

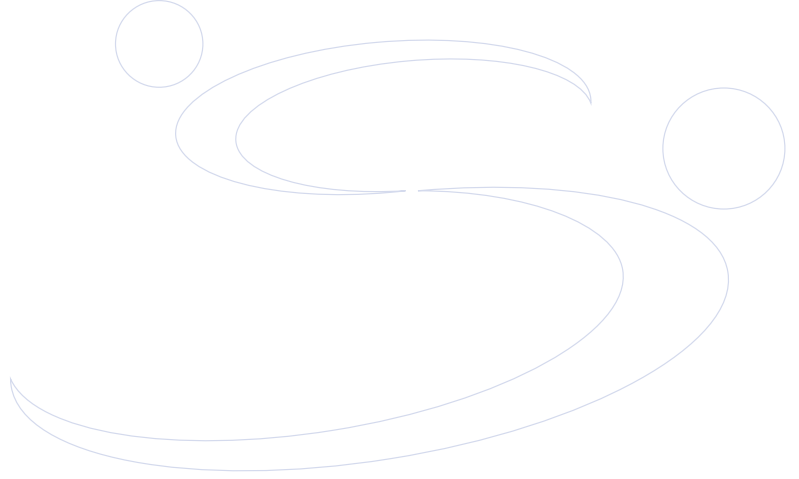


Aminata Diouf

Co-Founder

Aminata Diouf is co-founder of Gribouilli, an association of childcare professionals that she was inspired to create by her experience working as a nanny. She was in that profession for 15 years, and even sat on a jury for vocational certification. Aminata has always volunteered in local and international solidarity initiatives for families. She also loves to explore entrepreneurship as a tool for empowerment. Prior to Gribouilli, she ran her own restaurant to promote cuisine from her home country of Senegal.

FINALISTS



HUSMUS

COUNTRY: SWEDEN

#INCLUSION

Financial services are not built to help everyone. Husmus is here to change that. It is pioneering the next era of insurtech — the value-add lifestyle enabler. 78 million households across Europe cannot access suitable housing or housing cover because they are misclassified as high risk or because available products do not meet their needs. Husmus is an artificial intelligence-powered insurance marketplace that is reinventing household risk evaluation and mitigation for homeowners, renters and providers. Our platform recommends products priced by individual risk and tailored to individual circumstances in order to improve housing affordability, access and cover. We evaluate individual user risk using inclusive metrics extracted from financial, behavioural and smart home-tech data, enabling more accurate real-time decision-making that leaves no household behind. Although all households can benefit from Husmus, our primary use case is the rental sector. We are here to drive change by eliminating the need for guarantors, paying up to 12 months of rent upfront, extra rent for pets, etc. Now all households can access housing and cover without compromising on their lifestyle freedoms or paying through the nose.

www.husmus.net

sarah@husmus.net

 [Husmus](#)



Sarah Wernér

Co-Founder & CEO

Sarah Wernér is an award-winning entrepreneur who is obsessed with making the world a fairer place. She is the co-founder and CEO of Husmus, an AI-powered insurance marketplace she started with her life partner Mattias. The company mission is an important one, create an unbiased, financially inclusive world for all households.

An Imperial College London alumna, Sarah is a keen problem solver with a strong affinity for data science and strategic planning. Before devoting herself to Husmus, Sarah worked as a data scientist and consultant for top companies like J&J, Informa and Roche.



Mattias Wernér

Co-Founder and Tech COO

A natural in creative thinking, Mattias Wernér is the co-founder of Husmus, an insurtech startup on a mission to create an unbiased, financially inclusive world for all households. As a homeowner, landlord and tenant, Mattias has unique insight into the pain points he is working hard to resolve.

Known for wearing lots of hats from technical to business operations, Mattias is credited with paying attention to the details, leading on people, and driving best-in-class tech advancements in his time as Husmus's Technical Chief Operating Officer.

Following a degree in animation from Teeside University, Mattias began his career working on film and entertainment sets. Gaining unparalleled experience, he established himself as a respected technical director and even picked up a couple of Academy awards along the way.

FINALISTS

MONUMENTI APERTI BY IMAGOMUNDI

COUNTRY: ITALY

#EDUCATION

Monumenti Aperti started in Cagliari in 1997 and has now reached its 27th edition. It is designed to promote the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage as an opportunity for sharing values between schools, associations and institutions. As part of the project, monuments in participating municipalities are open for one weekend a year and shown to the public through free guided tours carried out by school students and volunteers. The yearly adoption of hundreds of monuments by thousands of volunteers in the six Italian regions involved and their 186 communities is a real gift to visitors. It is also a commitment to the education of future generations, capable of generating major positive economic, social and environmental impact. Monumenti Aperti aims to improve the educational opportunities of children and young people, especially those who cannot afford, for socio-cultural reasons, to visit the heritage of their city. Through an educational pact between institutions, the project aims to empower children, young people and other individuals, focusing on the exchange and acquisition of free-from-traditional-teaching skills in order to use cultural heritage as a bridge between the past, the present, the future and the European values of freedom, inclusion and sustainability, cultural and linguistic diversity, and European identity. Numerous awards have been received: the medal from the Presidency of the Italian Republic, the Patronage of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate of the Republic, the European Union Award for Cultural Heritage 2018, and the Europa Nostra Award.

www.monumentiaperti.com

didattica@monumentiaperti.com

[fondazione-imagomundi](https://www.linkedin.com/company/fondazione-imagomundi)



Marco Cabitza

Education Officer

An expert in Heritage Interpretation and non-formal education, Marco has been the Education Manager of Imago Mundi OdV since 2013. He designs and coordinates educational projects, educational paths and training courses for teachers, educators and volunteers of the Monumenti Aperti network. He previously worked in the Municipal Art Centers of Cagliari (Italy) as Head of Educational Services, planning and implementing more than 250 activities for schools, children and adults and educational services for the exhibitions of the most important contemporary artists on the national and international scene held in the city's museums. He was also project manager in the Erasmus+ DELPHI and BADGES projects, and project officer in the Erasmus+ Game On and Cities of Learning projects. He studied Cultural Heritage at the University of Cagliari and holds a master's degree in European Planning. He is also a journalist and professional tour guide.



Fabrizio Frongia

Associated

Fabrizio is a professional with many years of experience gained in carrying out teaching assignments. He has engaged in e-laboratory activity since 2004, is a consultant and trainer in the field of tourism and cultural promotion, and is a creator, inspirer and founder of a voluntary organisation, and of a consortium of cultural enterprises. He was a project manager at the Eurocontact EU consultancy company from 1996 to 2010. He is a project manager and expert in management control and strategic planning in public administration. He is a public officer in civil protection since 2020.

FINALISTS

MUNEVO

COUNTRY: GERMANY

#HEALTH

Munevo is an innovative and unique assistive technology company that uses smart glasses and allows users to control their wheelchair or other devices by simply moving their head.

Many people worldwide depend on a wheelchair. A large proportion of them are unable to move their wheelchair with their own hands.

Munevo DRIVE is a smart glass application that uses the built-in sensors to translate head movements into control signals. These signals are then transmitted to the wheelchair control unit via our adapter. This enables hands-free control of the wheelchair by munevo DRIVE. You can navigate through the menu with head movements. In addition to steering a wheelchair, munevo DRIVE can be extended using add-ons to control smartphones, computers, robot arms or smart-home devices to not only allow the users more mobility but also more freedom and self-determination.

The product is distributed through authorised dealers and reimbursed by health insurance companies.

www.munevo.com jakob@munevo.com [in munevo GmbH](https://www.linkedin.com/company/munevo)



Konstantin Madaus Managing Director and Founder

Managing Director responsible for sales and product support, production and purchasing as well as regulatory and quality management systems (QMS), Konstantin holds an MSc in Mechanical Engineering received in 2017 from TUM. Directly after his degree, he joined a university project that became munevo. He developed the hardware component of munevo DRIVE, then worked in sales, travelling all over Germany, Austria and Switzerland, and regulatory, making sure munevo DRIVE is compliant with the regulations as a medical product in the European Union. He is now more focused on managing the sales team and working in production planning and purchasing as well as some regulatory and quality management work.



Jakob Lechner Operations and Business Development

Jakob is studying for an MSc in Management and Technology (TUM, to be finished 2023). He started working at munevo as a project student in 2020 and has been working as a working student ever since the end of the project in August 2020. He was responsible for implementing a new enterprise resource planning (ERP) system and is now managing and developing processes for it, and is in charge of managing the consultancy the company works with. Besides the ERP project he provides support on controlling and reporting, gaining a very good overview of all company processes.

FINALISTS

SMART FIBER BY FIBSEN

COUNTRY: SPAIN

#WATER

Water scarcity is expected to escalate worldwide in the coming years. Europe is very likely to face severe water shortages by 2040. Current network monitoring solutions are expensive, unreliable, and prone to generating false alarms. This project targets a novel smart water management solution, combining disruptive technologies that are non-invasive, drinking-water-compatible and environmentally friendly: fibreoptic sensing, artificial intelligence and cloud computing. Both the monitoring technique and installation method have been designed to be compatible with any infrastructure, including old and new networks. The result is a cost-effective solution capable of providing water managers with precise information about the state of their networks and the water they transport in real time and with high accuracy, without the hurdles of maintaining and servicing the monitoring system. This solution directly impacts public access to water, irrigation and agriculture communities, as well as the fostering of green spaces in cities. Startup Fibsen was created to implement this project. It focuses on the European Mediterranean Basin, with active operations in Spain and Greece, and also targets critical areas in Africa and South America.

www.fibsen.com Info@fibsen.com  [Fibsen](#)



Javier Sanz Latorre
CEO and Founder

Javier Sanz Latorre (Fibsen's CEO and founder), holds BSc and MSc degrees in Civil Engineering from Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (Spain). He specialised in hydraulics, and became interested by fibreoptic sensing technologies applied to the water sector after an internship at a water management company. Javier has worked on this for the last seven years, founding Fibsen. Javier has worked in the development and application of fibreoptic sensors to water monitoring, including leak detection systems, preventive detection and analysis of concrete pipeline fracturing, pressure monitoring in water pipelines, and analysis of fibreoptic sensors for monitoring water quality parameters (resulting in the filing of patent ES2919086A1). Since the founding of Fibsen, Javier has combined his technical and research work with training in entrepreneurial skills, including business administration and leadership, through mentoring programmes from the Col-lab and Cajamar Innova startup accelerators. Furthermore, he was selected for the emerging leaders training programme by Conexus Foundation and Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca (Spain).



Luis Romero Cortés
CTO and Co-Founder

Luis Romero Cortés (Fibsen's Chief Technical Officer and co-founder), holds BSc and MSc degrees in Telecommunications Engineering from Universidad de Sevilla (Spain). He received his PhD from the Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique (INRS), Université du Québec (Canada), in 2018, receiving the best PhD thesis award. He was a postdoctoral fellow researcher at INRS (Canada) and at the Universidad Politécnica de Valencia (Spain), where he was a recipient of the Juan de la Cierva Fellowship (Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation). He specialised in fibreoptic systems and photonics signal processing, conducting research on the fields of ultrafast energy-efficient classical and quantum optical signal generation, processing and characterisation, fibreoptic sensing, optical frequency combs and microwave photonics. Luis has worked closely with international industrial and academic partners, participating in over ten research projects in Canada and Europe, with the publication of over 40 works in international peer-reviewed journals, contributions to over 80 international conferences, and five patents.

FINALISTS

SOCIALCARD

COUNTRY: AUSTRIA

#INCLUSION

SocialCard is a transformative service that aims to address the challenges faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty by providing a seamless and inclusive way to provide direct financial aid. The project focuses on leveraging the power of technology and the abundance of loyalty programmes to enable individuals to make a tangible, yet “free” impact on the lives of those in need and including the unbanked in our cashless society.

Through the use of “rechargeable” QR codes, donors can help directly and without cash, and without the receiver needing to have a bank account, credit card or even a smartphone. Donations can be redeemed for essential services such as food, shelter, and more, but stay purpose bound.

SocialCard goes beyond traditional cash donations by also allowing users to contribute their unused loyalty points and airline miles. By harnessing the untapped potential of loyalty programmes, the project enables individuals to maximise their impact and contribute to positive social change. It envisions a future where CashBack becomes CashForward to help lift people back onto their own feet.

One of the key strengths of SocialCard is its commitment to transparency. Donors can track the impact of their contributions, fostering trust and accountability. The project also aims to build a sense of community and empathy by connecting donors with recipients, encouraging meaningful interactions and fostering a more compassionate society.

It is revolutionising the way we care about the less fortunate in our communities by turning pocket-change into real change.

www.socialcard.at info@socialcard.at [in](#) SocialCard



Arne Nostitz-Rieneck
Founder

Arne Nostitz-Rieneck, who worked 20 years in film and TV directing, has been redirecting his focus towards (social) entrepreneurship since early 2020 through the creation of SocialCard. Combining his storytelling, pitching, programming, and networking expertise with his enduring interest in personal growth and passion for embracing new challenges, Arne has expanded upon his previous education in computer science and film directing by engaging in several incubator and accelerator programmes. Presently, he is an active member of the Social Entrepreneurship Network Austria and the Austrian Startups Leadership Program.



Julian Petermaier
Digital Product Designer

Julian started his working life at the age of 15 as an automotive apprentice at Ford, where he worked for eight years building his logical thinking and hands-on skills. Julian also worked for various firms as a project manager for events and web and e-commerce. After completing an apprenticeship at Talentgarden Innovation School, he earned the title of UX designer. When Julian became a part of SocialCard, he was tasked with ensuring an aesthetically pleasing product and a user-friendly service.

FINALISTS

SOPHIA CHATBOT BY SPRINGACT

COUNTRY: SWITZERLAND

#INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY/ E-ECONOMY

Globally, a third of women and three-quarters of children are affected by domestic violence in their lifetime. The translation of these figures to the EU area is shocking, as 50 women die every week from domestic violence and this increased considerably during the pandemic. According to the FRA Director Michael O'Flaherty, "Women and girls across Europe continue to face violence. The pandemic has made this flagrant human rights abuse even worse, as lockdowns and economic uncertainty leave many women living in continuous fear." Yet 60% never seek help and 90% never go to the police. The threshold for reaching out for help is extremely high. Our solution, "Sophia," is a 24/7 digital companion helping survivors of domestic violence to be as confident and aware as they take action to save their lives.

www.sophia.chat spring@springact.org [in SpringAct](https://www.linkedin.com/company/springact)



Rhiana Spring

Founder and Executive Director

Rhiana Spring, the organisation's founder, is an award-winning international human rights expert and entrepreneur. Rhiana has spearheaded multinational human rights projects in 18 countries across Africa, Asia, South America and Europe with the United Nations, the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and diverse legal teams. She founded her first IT company at the age of 17 after teaching herself to code multiple programming languages.



Ndeye Diodio Calloga

Deputy Director

Diodio is a children's rights expert who has led several projects, particularly in West Africa, in partnership with the European Union, the United Nations and a number of other embassies and partners. Passionate about positive impact, Diodio believes in and promotes working in synergy and the participatory approach.

FINALISTS

STUTTER STARS BY SAY IT LABS

COUNTRY: BELGIUM

#INCLUSION

Over 80 million people worldwide stutter. Most people who stutter (PWS) stay stuttering for the majority of their lives. This is because of: 1) frequency of speech therapy — speech therapists have very high caseloads; 2) cost of therapy; and 3) motivation to practise independently without external feedback is very challenging.

Stutter Stars (formerly known as Fluency Friends) is the world's first smart video game for PWS. The game uses proprietary speech recognition technology and artificial intelligence, and integrates the latest speech science of stuttering and therapy techniques used during stuttering therapy. Players must use their voice to play. They get immediate feedback as they battle through the game. This is an incredibly motivating solution offering anytime practice at a fraction of the cost of speech therapy.

www.sayitlabs.com

erich@sayitlabs.com

[in](#) SAYITLabs



Erich Reiter

CEO and Co-Founder

Erich Reiter, originally from Canada, earned his master's degree in Computational Linguistics in 2005 from the University of Buffalo. After graduating, he worked in the field of speech recognition for the makers of the now popular SIRI (Nuance Communications) for nearly ten years and developed a profound understanding of speech recognition technology. In 2014, he returned to school where he earned a master's degree in speech and language pathology from Harvard's prestigious programme at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions. He is the visionary for transitioning speech therapy into the hands of people with speech disorders.



Lukas Latacz

CTO and CO-Founder

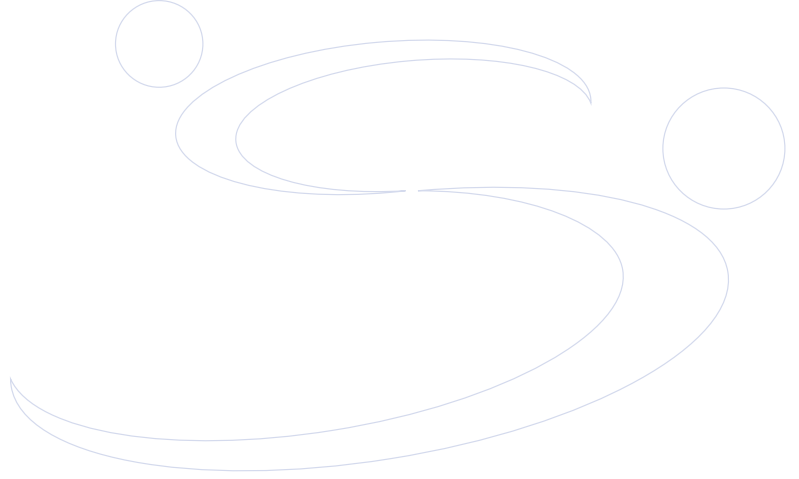
Dr Lukas Latacz has a Ph.D. in Computer Engineering from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel and a master's degree in Computer Science Engineering from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven. For more than 15 years, he has been researching and developing speech technology in conjunction with speech and language pathologists. He is one of the co-founders of SAY IT Labs, a spin-off from Vrije Universiteit Brussel and the interuniversity Microelectronics Centre (imec).

FINALISTS

SUMM AI

COUNTRY: GERMANY

#INCLUSION



More than 10 million people in Germany are overwhelmed by complicated texts and need easy-to-read language (in short, easy language) to navigate their daily lives and access critical information. That's why we at SUMM AI have developed the Google Translate for easy language: the very first artificial intelligence-powered tool that automatically translates any complicated text into easy language. Easy language is a defined language style from the accessibility space that uses short sentences, a simple choice of words, and additional explanations to make text easy to understand for everyone — particularly for people who are excluded from our complicated everyday language due to learning difficulties, educational disadvantages, or because they are non-native speakers.

www.summ-ai.com team@summ-ai.com  **SUMM AI**



Flora Geske

CEO and Co-Founder

Flora Geske founded her company in the accessibility space right after graduating from the Technical University of Munich: tech startup SUMM AI, where she works with her team on the mission to make the world understandable for everyone. After completing a bachelor's degree in Economics at the University of Passau, she earned a master's degree in Information Systems at the Technical University of Munich, where she conducted research in the field of AI in cooperation with the University of Toronto. In a joint research project with her later co-founder she learned about the potential of AI and the very recent technical advances in AI-powered natural language processing. With the desire to use this technology with positive impact for society, she found out about information barriers and easy language in her own family and has since been working tirelessly to tear down barriers to information with her company SUMM AI.



Nicholas Wolf

CTO and Co-Founder

Nicholas Wolf is Chief Technical Officer and Co-Founder of SUMM AI, and has responsibility for tech development and IT infrastructure at the startup. He has a background in computer science from the University of Augsburg and has worked in several companies in software development and project management.

FINALISTS

VEMOTION BY REACTIVE ROBOTICS

COUNTRY: GERMANY

#HEALTH

Reactive Robotics has developed VEMOTION, the world's first artificial intelligence-driven robotic assistance system for intensive care.

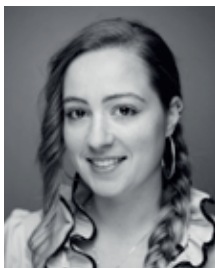
An increasing shortage of nurses and a globally ageing society are putting more and more pressure on our healthcare systems. The impact of COVID-19 and a resulting critical shortage of nursing staff have pushed intensive care units (ICUs) in Europe to the brink of collapse. To combat these trends and be prepared for extraordinary events, new interventions are required to help patients recover faster, reduce the burden on nursing staff and reduce costs to relieve the pressure on our healthcare systems. Very early mobilisation (VEM) therapy is an attractive solution, as it was shown to accelerate recovery of ICU patients by more than 20% and reduces treatment costs. Manual VEM is prohibitively resource intensive, as a single session requires a team of three or four nurses, so around 75% of ICU patients do not currently receive VEM due to staffing shortages.

VEMOTION enables one nurse and one robot to do what three or four nurses would otherwise do. Furthermore, the integrated AI algorithm tailors each therapy to the individual needs of patients to maximise its benefit. It digitises the patient's recovery journey, and therefore allows healthcare professionals to create personalised intervention plans using digital biomarkers.

www.reactive-robotics.com

Mona.schlaefer@reactive-robotics.com

[in](#) **Reactive Robotics**



Ramona Schläfer

Engineer and Sales Representative

Ramona is a multi-talented professional who joined Reactive Robotics in 2016 as a hardware engineer. She has expanded her role and made significant contributions to both the Sales and Medical Product Consulting departments, regularly representing the company at medical fairs, showcasing its innovative robotic assistance system. With six years of experience as a project and supply chain manager for medical products, Ramona possesses an in-depth understanding of the industry.

Her technical expertise has been pivotal in the invention of several patents for patient adapters and body weight support systems, demonstrating her innovative mindset and problem-solving abilities. Ramona's extensive knowledge in both technical and biomedical fields allows her to comprehend the unique needs of users and customers, positioning her as an invaluable expert for our system.

Ramona holds a master's degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Lübeck.



Maximilian Bohrer

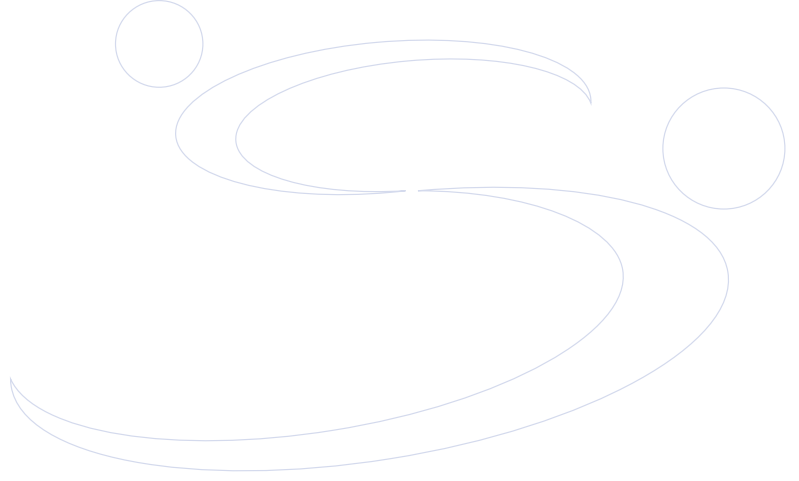
Business Development and Finance

Max is a dynamic professional with over eight years of experience in business development and finance. At Reactive Robotics, he oversees operational financial matters and handles administrative management for research projects. He provides direct support to the management team and sales team, contributing to the company's success.

Before his role at Reactive, Max worked in an agency specialising in communication training and personal development. Here, he played a vital role in establishing a partnership with an international company and successfully introducing them to the German market.

Max holds a master's degree in Innovation and Entrepreneurship from ESADE Business School. He also obtained a bachelor's degree in General Management from EBS University of Business and Law.

FINALISTS



WE DO SOLAR

COUNTRY: GERMANY

#ENERGY

We Do Solar is dedicated to providing access to renewable energy for everyone with their new approach of self-installable solar for apartments. The company is committed to not only helping people reduce their energy bills but also making a positive impact on our planet by reducing CO₂ in the cities where most emissions take place.

Our inspiration centres on providing affordable and accessible solar energy solutions to people living in apartments. It is unfair that only the privileged few can access renewables. The goal is to provide reliable and sustainable energy, helping to improve people's lives while reducing not only their energy bills but also greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the effects of climate change.

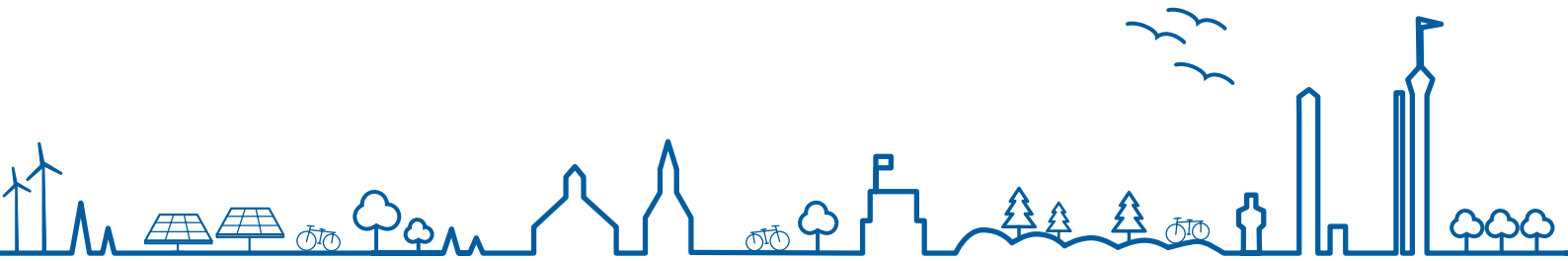
<https://we.do.solar/> karolina@we.do.solar [in We Do Solar Energy](#)



Karolina Attspodina

CEO

Karolina Attspodina is a serial entrepreneur with more than 12 years of experience in the technology industry, business management, and sales and marketing for hi-tech companies. Her background is in the simplification of tech products and expansion into new markets. Attspodina is a passionate supporter of sustainable green innovations that help fight climate change and pollution, while making energy independence accessible to all.



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