



EARTH OBSERVATIONS FOR THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Earth Observations Toolkit for
SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

Panellists' biographies

Monika Kuffer

Monika Kuffer received her PhD degree from the University of Twente in 2017 and her MSc in Human Geographer from the TU Munich (Germany) in 2001 and another MSc in Geographic Information Science from the University of London in 2010. Since 2003, she is working as Lecturer at the Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente (Enschede, NL), Department Urban and Regional Planning and Geo-information Management. Her main research foci are urban remotes sensing, in particular monitoring areas of informal development and slums as well as analyzing the urban form characteristics with remote sensing and spatial statistics.

Robert S. Chen

Dr Robert Chen is director of CIESIN, a unit of the Earth Institute at Columbia University based in New York. He manages the NASA Socioeconomic Data and Applications Center (SEDAC) and is currently a co-chair of the Thematic Research Network on Data and Statistics (TReNDS) of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). He co-leads the GEO Human Planet Initiative and helped launch the POPGRID Data Collaborative, an international network of providers and users of geospatial data on human settlements, infrastructure, and population. He is currently a member of GEO's Data Working Group and has had a lead role in previous GEO data sharing activities since 2006. Dr Chen co-manages the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Data Distribution Center and is an ex officio member of the IPCC Task Group on Data Support for Climate Change Assessments. At CIESIN, he manages diverse projects and activities dealing with geospatial data, tools, and services; sustainable development; hazards, risk, and climate change; and data stewardship. Dr. Chen received his Ph.D. in geography from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and BS and MS degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Argyro Kavvada

Argyro Kavvada is an expert on atmospheric science and climate dynamics, and is currently serving as the Executive Secretary of the Group on Earth Observations (GEO) Earth Observations in Service of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (EO4SDG) Initiative, on behalf of the United States / National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). She received her Doctorate and Masters degrees in Atmospheric and Oceanic Science from the University of Maryland, College Park, specializing in Climate Dynamics. She also received a Masters degree in Applied Mathematics and Statistics from Georgetown University, and a Bachelors degree in Physics from the Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Kavvada supports NASA's engagement with the interagency U.S. Group on Earth Observations (USGEO) and the international Group on Earth Observations (GEO) in terms of applying Earth observations for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. She also represents NASA at the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Ad-Hoc Team and serves as the GEO representative to the United Nations Working Group on Geospatial Information (WGGI).



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
JOINT RESEARCH CENTRE

Directorate E - Space, Security and Migration (Ispra)
Disaster Risk Management

PANELLISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

- **Alessandra Zampieri:** Alessandra is the Head of the Disaster Risk Management Unit at the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. The mission of this Unit is to strengthen the EU's resilience to crises and disasters and to help implement the EU's aim to promote stability and peace through its research in crisis management technologies as well as in information mining and analysis. Alessandra is also responsible for running the European Commission's Knowledge Centre on Disaster Risk Management.
- **Thomas Kemper:** Thomas Kemper, Ph.D., is leading the GHSL project at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre. He has a wide experience in remote sensing for the detection and characterization of settlements in support of EU policies. He obtained a Ph.D. degree in geosciences from the University of Trier (Germany) in 2003. From 2004 to 2007, he helped in setting up the Center for Satellite-Based Crisis Information (ZKI) of the German Aerospace Center (DLR), which provides rapid mapping information after natural disasters. Since 2007, he is working on the analysis of human settlements, in particular informal settlements such as slums and IDP/refugee dwellings.
- **Michele Melchiorri:** Michele Melchiorri has a background in territorial planning and international relations. He supports the GHSL team at the JRC with data and spatial analytics. Recently he contributed to the uptake of the Degree of Urbanisation method supporting a series of regional workshops organised by the Commission and UN Habitat. Prior to joining GHSL, Michele cooperated with International Organisations including the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, the World Bank, and other NGOs for research and projects in the field of sustainable urban development, housing, urban planning. His main research is on the linkages between international institutions and policymaking in the framework of global agreements on sustainable urban development.
- **Pietro Florio:** Pietro Florio is a GIS analyst and scientific officer at the European Commission, Joint Research Centre. He holds a PhD from the Solar Energy and Building Physics Lab at EPFL. He has been working for several years on climate resilience and renewable energies planning in cities. His areas of expertise include building energy modelling and monitoring. Energy Poverty, for which he has been part of the COST Engager Action and had an active role in research and development both in Italy and France; Parametric Architecture, for which he collaborated in a workgroup within the COST RESTORE community; Solar Energy and Urban Planning, for which he has been expert and discussion leader in several IEA Tasks.



VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEW
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS'
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS 2030 IN THE CITY OF ESPOO



PANELLISTS' BIOGRAPHIES

MARKKU MARKKULA

Markku Markkula is the President of the Helsinki Region and the Chair of the Espoo City Board. He is Vice-President of the European Committee of the Regions (CoR), having been the President in 2015-2017.

His professional experience focuses on knowledge creation, lifelong learning, societal innovations, and change management. On these, he has worked for years as the Advisor to the Aalto University Presidents and as the Director of Lifelong Learning Institute Dipoli at the Helsinki University of Technology. His global work experience includes being the Secretary-General of the International Association of Continuing Engineering Education IACEE 1989-2001. He has been a Member of Parliament of Finland 1995-2003. As an MP, his international role included the Presidency of EPTA Council, European Parliamentary Technology Assessment Network.

Mr. Markkula has many influential roles in the EU policy, including the CoR Rapporteur on important opinions such as innovation, digitalization, research policy, industrial renaissance, start-ups, and climate.

VILLE TAAJAMAA

Dr. Ville Taajamaa (D.Sc. Tech.), is working as SDG manager in the City of Espoo, Finland. He is Editor in Chief for Espoo VLR2020 (Voluntary Local Review) and in charge of a five-year project, SDG2025, that will integrate Agenda 2030 and SDGs into Espoo strategy and its implementation. He has worked as a consultant and facilitator for several ministries and industries in Finland and abroad focusing on Science, Technology and Innovation in Education and Entrepreneurship. During last ten years he has focused on using sustainable front end product development theories, practices and mindset, such as design thinking in his teaching, research and consultancy in Europe, US (Stanford University), East-Asia (Fudan University), India and East-Africa (e.g UDSM). He has used the SDGs in his teaching since Year 2016.



Panellists' biographies

Tiago de Melo Cartaxo is an Invited Professor at NOVA School of Law, where he was awarded his PhD in Public Law (European PhD Title), having received a PhD scholarship from the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. Tiago is a research member of CEDIS – Research and Development Center on Law and Society, he coordinates NOVA Law Green Lab, where he is a founding member, and he is a postdoctoral research assistant at the University of Surrey School of Law. Tiago is certified in Higher Education Teaching by Harvard University and has been an invited adjunct professor at the Polytechnic Institute of Beja. He was also Sustainability & External Affairs Officer at NOVA Cidade – Urban Analytics Lab, NOVA Information Management School.

With a five-year degree in Law and a post-graduate degree in Energy Law from the University of Lisbon, he concluded a master's degree in Planning, Urban and Environmental Law at the University of Coimbra. Moreover, he was a visiting researcher at the University of Surrey (UK) and at the University of Louisville (USA), under a Fulbright scholarship with the support of FCT, with focus on environmental rights, social-ecological resilience, and adaptive law in cities.

Tiago has worked in several law firms and in the Legal Department of the Lisbon City Council, having also served as adviser for the Portuguese Government, in the areas of economy, environment, and spatial planning. He is Secretary and Treasurer of Sociedade Portuguesa de Direito Internacional (ILA Portuguese Branch), member of the Committee on Sustainable Development and Green Economy of the International Law Association and he has authored several communications at Portuguese and international universities, as well as scientific articles in the areas of the environment, cities, and sustainable development.

Nevin Alija, PhD candidate in EU Energy Law at Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, is Co-Founder and Researcher at Nova Law Green Lab, focusing on the areas of Energy and Climate Legislation. She has been the coordinator of the JurisNova Renewable Energy Law Course and teaching assistant for the Energy Law course at the Master level. Her expertise extends to Alternative Dispute Resolution, serving as a teaching assistant for the Master's level course "Moot Courts" and volunteering her time as an Arbitrator in several international moot court competitions such as Vis East, FDI, Vis, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce, AIAC Moot etc.

She is also an FCT Researcher for the Project "LegImpact - Law making as a means of public policy implementation: quantitative and socio-economic analysis" since September 2020. As of October 2020, she has been part of the team chairing the Working Group on International Environmental Issues (WPIEI) for the Basel and Espoo Conventions under the Portuguese Presidency of the EU, within the collaboration between NOVA School of Law and the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA).

Member of the Global Shapers Lisbon Hub since June 2020, she was selected to participate in the program Future Energy Leaders Portugal - FEL.PT 2021, an initiative of the Portuguese Energy Association (APE) and the World Energy Council (WEC).

Her passion for causes such as Climate Change, Sustainable Development and the transition to Renewables have motivated her throughout her professional path and she participates in Pro-Bono projects to share her knowledge and insights."

Maíra Tito is a lawyer registered in Brazil and owns masters' degrees in International Law (2009) and Public Policies and Management (2015). She has been a public attorney at Companhia Municipal de Trânsito e Urbanização de Londrina (2011-2020) and Director of Urban Planning at Instituto de Pesquisa e Planejamento Urbano de Londrina (2014-2016), Brazil. Currently, she is a PhD Candidate

at NOVA School of Law, Lisbon, a researcher and lecturer at NOVA Law Green Lab and a research fellow at Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia de Portugal.

Cristiana Lauri After a degree in Law from the University of Macerata, Cristiana Lauri obtained her PhD in Market, Enterprises and Consumers at the University of Roma Tre and a LL.M. from the University of Macerata in “Innovation in Public Administration”.

She was awarded the Prize for the best Doctoral Thesis in Urban Law of the year issued by the Italian Urban Law Association. Her research interests include administrative law, urban law, law and technology, market regulation, environmental and energy law, and migration law. Her work has been presented at numerous conferences and published in Italian and International law journals. Cristiana is an adjunct professor of Urban Law and of Town Planning and Cultural Heritage Regulatory Framework at Sapienza University of Rome and of Administrative Law at the University of Macerata. She is one of the coordinators of the Global Pandemic Network, where she leads with Gianluca Crispi the “Covid-19, Cities and Governance” working group.