

Speakers' Biographies

Marijan Cingula

Marijan Cingula is Professor of Strategic Management and Corporate Governance, and the Head of the MSc course in Business System Management at Zagreb University, Faculty for Organization and Informatics, Varazdin. He gained his MSc Economics and PhD at the same university.

He is President of Program Committee of International Symposium Economy and Business in Sunny Beach, Bulgaria. He is also the elected president of the Croatian Association of Certified Board Members.

More: <http://www.foi.hr/nastavnici/cingula.marijan/englcv.html>

Leonardo F. Peklar

During his studies at the Faculty of Law in Ljubljana, he participated in student exchange programmes and thereby also studied in the USA at the University of South Carolina and Babson College in Boston. After his studies, he upgraded his knowledge through the executive programmes at the London Business School, Harvard Business School, Babson College and the University of Stirling in Scotland.

He was employed as a broker and later also as an internal auditor at the Ljubljana Stock Exchange. He was an assistant for the subject of commercial law at the Faculty of Economics in Ljubljana. As an adviser and project manager he participated in more than 250 projects connected with privatisation in the region.

Leonardo F. Peklar is a partner and, since 1992, the General Manager of the company Socius. He is the author and co-author of over 140 articles, presentations, reports and books in the fields of privatisation, commercial law and corporate governance.

Mr. Peklar is the president and member of various supervisory boards. He is a member of the management board of the Association of Supervisory Board Members of Slovenia, a member of the European Institute for Corporate Governance in Brussels and a member of the US National Association of Corporate Directors. In January 2004 he became a member of the Global Advisory Council for Corporate Governance at Harvard University, Boston and a member of Club Baur au Lac in Zurich. In April 2005, the European Commission appointed him to the Advisory Group on Corporate Governance and Company Law.

Irena Prijović

Finished her studies at Faculty of Economics at University of Ljubljana in 1993 and continued her studies at Faculty of Social Science at Postgraduate study of Non-profit Management. She started her career as a consultant on privatization projects at Slovene Institute of Management. Later she worked at Technology Development Fund of Republic of Slovenia and in 1996 she joined consulting company Socius. She worked in the field of corporate governance (CG) and education as well as international projects.

Since 1997 she was closely involved in activities of national Association of Supervisory Board Members. In 2004 she joined the association as Secretary General. Her career is professionally dedicated to CG consultancy, research, drafting of standards as well as to educational and certification activities within the association. She is an author of many articles and columns on CG and supervisory boards' issues and editor of CG publications. She is a Board member of ecoDa (European Confederation of Directors Association) in Brussels and member of different committees and working groups.

Miles Templeman

Institute of Directors, Director General, Miles Templeman began his career as a marketing specialist and gained his pedigree leading such major consumer brands as Daz, Ribena, Lucozade and then Levis jeans. He then moved to general management and became Managing Director of Threshers and then the Whitbread Beer Company. He had great success in building those companies, especially with the growth of such brands as Boddingtons and Stella Artois.

He then had a series of non-executive directorships and consultancy roles including Royal Mail, Ben Sherman and Accenture before becoming Chief Executive of Bulmers, which was eventually successfully sold to Scottish & Newcastle.

A firm believer in the power of the brand and the importance of valuing your team, Miles is a passionate believer in the values of enterprise and assumed the role of Director General at the IoD at a time when its influence and relevance was at an all time peak, particularly with the growing importance of corporate governance, director standards and the importance of entrepreneurship and innovation in business.

Alongside his IoD role, Miles is non-executive Chairman of Shepherd Neame, the Kentish family brewer; non-executive Chairman of restaurant chain YO! Sushi; and a non-executive director of Melrose plc, the buy-out specialist. Mr. Templeman is the Chairman of the European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) since the 17th of April 2007.

Olli V. Virtanen

Olli V. Virtanen is CEO and owner of Virtanen Associates Oy, a management consultancy, which specialises on corporate governance issues and investor relations. Virtanen is currently member of the European Corporate Governance Institute. In his capacity as the Secretary General of the Finnish Professional Board Members Association (FPBMA), he is also a member of the Board of the European Confederation of Directors' Associations (ecoDa) and Chairman of the Sponsorship and Communication Committee of ecoDa. He is also the Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of Board News, a magazine promoting corporate governance. In his current positions, Virtanen focuses on educating clients and informing wider audiences on merits on corporate governance.

During his career as a management consultant, Virtanen has served as Member of the Board of the International Investor Relations Federation, and Chairman of the IIRF's Development and Education Committee. He was also Member of the Board of the Finnish Investor Relations Society.

Prior to his career as a management consultant, Virtanen was a business journalist at Kauppalehti, the Finnish Business Daily and the Helsinki correspondent of the Financial Times, as well as a reporter at the BBC External Services in London.

Graduated at the School of Journalism at the Tampere University (Finland), Virtanen has lectured extensively on his specialty at universities, seminars and private companies. He has co-authored three related books “Investor relations as a strategic tool” (2000), “Annual General Meeting in the Spirit of Corporate Governance” (2004) and Guide for the Chairman of the Board (2006).

Patrick Zurstrassen

Belgian citizen, born in 1945, Civil Engineer from the University of Liège, Belgium, Master of Science from the Leeds University, and Master of Business Administration from the University of California at Los Angeles, Patrick Zurstrassen has served the group of Crédit Agricole Indosuez group in different business lines, including close to fifteen years as Managing Director and President of the Executive Committee of Crédit Agricole Indosuez Luxembourg and Founding-President of Fastnet, the first European funds service network in joint venture with Fortis Group.

As Managing-Partner of Finor Luxembourg Sca, he acts as strategic consultant to large institutional groups, such as Crédit Agricole Indosuez and Clearstream. Patrick Zurstrassen sits on boards of several funds management companies, including La Bâloise and Fischer Francis Trees & Watts. He is member of the board of directors of Fortis Investments, the asset management affiliate of Fortis Group. He is member of the board of directors of Le Foyer, the leading Luxembourg insurance company. On behalf of CDC Ixis Group, he is managing-partner of Ixis Aew Luxembourg, their Luxembourg real estate management company and managing director of ICMOS Luxembourg, their multi-managers investment company. He is member of the Advisory Board of FundPartners, Netherlands.

He is a Director of the Association Luxembourgeoise des Fonds d'Investissement (A.L.F.I.) and chairs its Statistics Committee. He assumes different responsibilities at the European Federation of Investment Funds & Companies (FEFSI), including the chairmanship of its Economics Committees.

In Luxembourg, Patrick Zurstrassen is Member of the CODEPLAFI (Comité de Développement de la Place Financière) and member of the Funds Consultative Committee of the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier. He is affiliate international member of AIMR and of ISFA. He is member of the International Corporate Governance Network and of the European Corporate Governance Institute. He participates to expert groups of OECD (Organisation for Economic Coopération and Development), Paris.

Patrick Zurstrassen is Professor at the Université Catholique de Louvain where he lectures international finance.