



INVEST IN  
GRENOBLEALPES



# MODERATOR

## VERONIQUE PEQUIGNAT

Véronique currently holds the position of Head of international actions in the Inward investment team “Invest in Grenoble Alpes” at Greater Grenoble. Her expertise is especially focused on supporting companies in the field of Micro-Nanoelectronics, IoT or Artificial Intelligence and their application domains. She collaborates on a regular basis with French national Digital Cluster Minalogic and was highly instrumental in the implementation of the Silicon Europe transnational cluster collaboration from 2012 & cooperation with non-European digital clusters (Taiwan, US).

She has been coordinating the launch of the FAISE (French Alps International Soft-landing Exchange) program supporting soft-landing actions for the internationalization of startups from British Columbia, Taiwan and the French Alps, along with other local and international stakeholders, thus re-enforcing the efficiency of collaboration between innovative Ecosystems.



# ESSEN, GERMANY

## TABEA LERSMACHER



Since May 2018, Tabea Lersmacher has been working in the EWG Start-up Unit on the development and expansion of the local startup ecosystem.

The EWG Start-up Team ensures transparency in the ecosystem and connects startups with each other as well as with institutions, companies and initiatives from the Essen network. Among other things, it is the point of contact for funding and subsidies, takes care of matchmaking with business angels and VCs, and provides support in choosing a location and finding real estate.





# NEW YORK STATE, USA

## BRUCE TOYAMA



Bruce Toyama is an entrepreneurial business leader, most recently working in and with a variety of startups on both coasts including cofounding the IgniteU NY startup accelerator program in Troy NY. Bruce has a broad-based corporate background with experience in business development, general management, and national/international sales management mostly in establishing advanced materials/specialty chemicals in emerging markets.

Bruce currently serves as Business Development Director at SUNY Polytechnic Institute in Albany NY focusing on artificial intelligence applications for new semiconductor development programs.





## SFAX, TUNISIA

### RANIA KHELIL



A devoted high school English teacher , who turned her 15 years of experience into a New E Learning project for all Tunisians .

A « philanthropist » who believes in equal opportunities of success at any time and any age ,a dynamic person who expanded her professional mission outside the classroom walls to actively contribute to the education of the future generations.

Being a teacher and a teacher trainer with Cambridge certifications (TKT /TDC) and accurately knowing the needs of learners in a country where disparity between regions is made obvious in the educational results ,it was the motivating reason behind the creation of a new and innovative E Learning project with great social impact : boosting individual careers and improving education any time anywhere .



# SWANSEA, WALES, GREAT BRITAIN

## CHRIS MEADOWS



Chris' career in electronics and semiconductors started at British Telecom Research Laboratories before joining a new joint venture between BT and US based DuPont in 1986. Chris was part of the founding team at Epitaxial Products International Ltd (EPI) in Cardiff in 1988 which became IQE plc in 1999 following the merger with a US competitor and a successful IPO. Cardiff headquartered IQE is listed on the London Stock Exchange's AiM (IQE.L) and comprises multiple operations in the UK, Asia and the USA.

A science and engineering graduate, Chris also holds an MBA and has held a number of senior management positions within the IQE Group. He is a Director of CSconnected Ltd, representing the world's first compound semiconductor cluster that is rapidly evolving across South Wales and the West of England.



**EMPOWERED  
STARTUPS** LTD.  
THE INNOVATIVE INCUBATOR



## VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

### LAURA BLUMES

Laura takes responsibility for Empowered Startups' key operational initiatives, at global and local levels, through her role as VP – Strategic Initiatives. As Managing Director – Europe, Laura looks after the first ES incubators in France and Portugal respectively. She has the honour and privilege of forming and nurturing important partnerships in the dynamic start-up ecosystems in Europe.

Laura is a systems strategist, with over 15 years experience designing and implementing organizational development systems, particularly in support of distributed operations. Her specialty is in creating robust, scaleable and practical systems that allow for ad hoc adaptations within a variety of socio-economic contexts. Laura holds an MBA in the Management of Technology and an M.A. in Educational Technology; she served as an immigrant settlement assistance volunteer for 3 years.





# **GRENOBLE, FRANCE**

## VALERIE SABATIER VALLEJO



Valerie is a biochemist, which means she has a much useful sciences background and knows her way around cosmetics. After completing a Business School curriculum she creates a biotech startup and completes as well her PhD in Business Strategy.

She is a professor of Business Strategy at Grenoble Ecole de Management and is a co-founder at [Benu Blanc](#).



# GRENOBLE, FRANCE

## GABRIEL VOISIN-FRADIN

Gabriel Voisin-Fradin is project manager for international economic relations within the innovation Department of Grenoble Alpes Métropole. In this position, he participates in the design and implementation of international and European policies, programs and projects for the Metropole, mainly in the economic and innovation fields, with the involvement of local stakeholders.

Graduate in political science, international economic law, and international & European relations with 1 French and 1 Spanish master, he has previously held various positions in the field of European & international action in France (Alsace) and abroad (Zambia, Peru, Colombia), and in the field of economic development in the Grenoble metropolitan area over 10 years. In this last position, he has contributed in particular to the foundation of various competitive clusters.

