

# Annual Meeting of the Initiative for Coal Regions in the Western Balkans and Ukraine

23 – 24 June 2021

14.00 – 17.00 CEST

Online event

## Programme



European  
Commission



THE WORLD BANK  
IBRD • IDA



European  
Investment  
Bank

*The EU bank*



National Fund  
for Environmental Protection  
and Water Management



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe



European Bank  
for Reconstruction and Development

**DAY 1**  
**Wednesday 23 June 2021**  
**14:00 – 17:00 CEST**

| Timing        | Agenda points  |
|---------------|--|
| 14:00 – 14:30 | <p><b>Welcome and keynote from the European Commission and the World Bank</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Paula Pinho</b>, Director for Just Transition, Consumers, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, European Commission (DG ENER)</li> <li>• <b>Katarina Mathernova</b>, Deputy Director-General in charge of Eastern Neighbourhood, Economic Transformation and Relations with IFIs, Acting Director for Support Group for Ukraine, European Commission (DG NEAR)</li> <li>• <b>Sameer Shukla</b>, Acting Infrastructure Director for Europe and Central Asia, World Bank</li> </ul>  |
| 14:30 – 15:10 | <p><b>Panel discussion 1: Voices from the coal regions on socio-economic challenges</b><br/> Moderated by <b>Selma Šehović</b>, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Climate change and Just energy transition, Dialogue Southeast Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Bego Gutić</b>, Mayor of Banovići, Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• <b>Blagoja Ralčovski</b>, President, Macedonian Confederation of Free Trade Unions</li> <li>• <b>Aleksandar Macura</b>, Co-founder, Programme Director, RES Foundation</li> <li>• <b>Victoria Shevchuk</b>, Coordinator for Just Transition in the Western Balkans, Bankwatch</li> </ul> |
| 15:10 – 15:25 | <i>Break</i>   |
| 15:25 – 16:05 | <p><b>Panel discussion 2: Voices from the coal regions on environmental/repurposing challenges</b><br/> Moderated by <b>Peter Vajda</b>, Senior Environmental Expert, Energy Community Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Oleksander Brykalov</b>, Mayor of Myrnohrad, Council member of Platform for Sustainable Development of Coal Towns (Donetsk region)</li> <li>• <b>Ildar Salieiev</b>, CEO, DTEK Energy</li> <li>• <b>Mirza Kušljugić</b>, Country expert, Bosnia and Herzegovina</li> <li>• <b>Mirosław Skibski</b>, Director, Katowice Branch of Industrial Development Agency</li> </ul>                       |
| 16:05 – 16:45 | <p><b>Panel discussion 3: Voices from the coal regions on clean energy transition</b><br/> Moderated by <b>Irina Lazzerini</b>, Sustainable Energy Expert, Energy Community Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Igor Golubović</b>, Mayor of Pljevlja, Montenegro</li> <li>• <b>Sonja Risteska</b>, Project Manager Southeast Europe, Agora</li> <li>• <b>Viktor Berishaj</b>, Energy and Climate Policy Coordinator for Southeast Europe, Climate Action Network</li> <li>• <b>Rinora Gojani</b>, Programmes and Operations Manager, Balkan Green Foundation</li> </ul>   |
| 16:45 – 17:00 | <p><b>Conclusion and closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elodie Salle</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</li> </ul>   |

**DAY 2**  
**Thursday 24 June 2021**  
**14:00 – 17:00 CEST**

| <b>Timing</b> | <b>Agenda points</b>  |
|---------------|---|
| 14:00 – 14:10 | <p><b>Welcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Elodie Salle</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</li> </ul>   |
| 14:10 – 14:25 | <p><b>Presentation from the Secretariat of the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, and lessons learned and synergies with the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the European Union</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Iryna Novak</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>Carlo Della Libera</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the European Union</li> </ul>  |
| 14:25 – 15:40 | <p><b>Presentation from international partners leading the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine – Q&amp;A</b><br/> Moderated by <b>Elodie Salle</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Brieuc Posnic</b>, Policy Coordinator, European Commission (DG ENER)</li> <li>• <b>Michael Stanley</b>, Extractives Lead, Energy &amp; Extractives, World Bank</li> <li>• <b>Andi Aranitasi</b>, Head of North Macedonia, European Bank of Reconstruction and Development</li> <li>• <b>Dirk Buschle</b>, Deputy Director and Legal Counsel, Energy Community Secretariat</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Olaf Osica</b>, College of Europe in Natolin</li> <li>• <b>Artur Lorkowski</b>, Deputy-President of the Management Board, Poland's National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management</li> <li>• <b>Matteo Rivellini</b>, Head of Division in charge of lending operations in Slovenia, Croatia and the Western Balkans, European Investment Bank and <b>Rafal Rybacki</b>, Head of Division, Public Sector Eastern Neighbourhood, European Investment Bank</li> </ul> |
| 15:40 – 15:50 | <i>Break</i>  |
| 15:50 – 16:50 | <p><b>Presentation of the Coal Regions Exchange Programme – Q&amp;A</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Carsten Rothballer</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>George Stiff</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</li> <li>• <b>Dariusz Stankiewicz</b>, Head of the Transformation Unit, Marshall Office, Municipality of Silesia, Poland</li> <li>• <b>Ruta Baltause</b>, SGUA, European Commission (DG NEAR)</li> </ul>  |
| 16:50 – 17:00 | <p><b>Conclusion and closing remarks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jerzy Buzek</b>, Member of the European Parliament</li> <li>• <b>Elodie Salle</b>, Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine</li> </ul>   |

## Presenters



**Paula Pinho**, a Portuguese national and lawyer by training, has been Head of Unit in DG ENER since 2015, and acting Director between 2019 and 2020, in charge of energy strategy and coordination of energy policy in the context of the Green Deal and Recovery. She has been monitoring the implementation of the Energy Union and the 'Clean Energy for all Europeans' legislative package. From 2008 until 2015, she was a member of various Cabinets and notably of the one in charge of energy from 2010 until 2014. Prior to that, she worked in the Directorates-General for Trade and for Internal Market. She joined the Commission in 2000.



**Katarína Mathernová** assumed her function as Deputy Director General of DG NEAR, the Directorate General for Neighbourhood & Enlargement Negotiations in 2015. She has previously served as Deputy Director General in DG Regional Policy where she was in charge of Cohesion Policy Coordination between 2007-2010. Ms Mathernová has held senior management and advisory posts at the European Commission, the World Bank (2002-2004 and 2010-2014), and in the reform government in Slovakia (1998-2002) where she was Chief Institutional and Policy Advisor to the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, key architect of the Slovak economy's transformation. She holds a Juris Doctor degree from Comenius University in Bratislava, a Master of Law degree from the University of Michigan, is a member of the New York Bar, and speaks six languages. She started her career in private practice of law in the US, with distinguished New York and Washington DC Law Firms. Her distinctions include the award Slovak Woman of the Year in 2000 and the Pro Bono Human Rights award in 1993 from the International Human Rights Law Group. She is a member of several Boards and the author of publications on Slovak and Czech economic and legal affairs.



**Sameer Shukla**, an Indian national, joined the World Bank in India in 1996. Mr. Shukla is currently the Practice Manager for Energy and Extractives in the Bank's Europe and Central Asia Region where he oversees 35 staff covering energy programs in about 25 countries. He has held several positions of progressive responsibility in the Energy sector in the South Asia Region, the Europe and Central Asia Region, the Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the Sub-Saharan Africa Region. Mr. Shukla has extended experience of managing complex energy policy reforms and lending engagements covering natural gas, renewable energy, energy efficiency and the electricity sector. From 2004 to 2011, Mr. Shukla worked in the Europe and Central Asia Region and was the task manager for a number of lending and policy advisory operations in Turkey, including power and gas sector reforms, electricity transmission and distribution, renewable energy, energy efficiency and natural gas storage. Before joining the Bank, Mr. Shukla worked for Price Waterhouse India in the Power Utilities Group. Mr. Shukla has an MBA from the Indian Institute of Management.



**Selma Sehovic** is a regulatory lawyer with over 10 years of experience including in policy development. Currently employed at the FES SOE Regional Dialogue SOE as a project manager managing the portfolio on energy transition and climate change policies in Southeast Europe and with a focus on the Western Balkan non-EU countries. Before joining the FES SOE, Selma worked on the transposition of the EU's Third Energy Package into Bosnia's legislation, and at the international law firm CMS-RRH providing advice to infrastructure investors and clients on PPA, regulatory compliance, and market opportunities. Selma holds a master's degree in energy and natural resources law from Queen Mary University London.



**Municipality Banovići Mayor Ph.d. Bego Gutić** was born on 1 May 1970, in Banovići. He holds a degree in geology and a law science. He has a doctorate in law, with a bar exam. He is married and the father of two children. Until the election and taking over the position of Mayor of Banovići, he was an employee of the Ministry of Interior of Tuzla Canton, where he held several responsible positions, and one of them is the position of Minister of the Interior of Tuzla Canton in the period 2011-2012. He served as Prime Minister of the Tuzla Canton in the period 2015-2018. From May to November 2018, he was an advisor to the Bosniak member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is the winner of the Silver Police Badge of the Tuzla Canton Ministry of the Interior. During the period of aggression on the country, he was in the Army of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



**Blagoja Ralповski** is the President of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia. He was born on April 30, 1973, in Skopje. He started his work experience in the Agency for Real Estate Cadastre - AREC in Skopje in 2007. He started his trade union activity in 2010 and later became the President of the Trade Union of Cadastral Officers - SOKS. In 2014, he became President of the Trade Union of Administration and State Administration of Macedonia, a branch trade union that is representative and operates in the public sector. In 2015, he was elected President of the Confederation of Free Trade Unions of Macedonia, a union that is representative at the national level and operates in the public and private sector. The Confederation of Free Trade Unions was founded in 2005 and is now a national union of 11 branch unions with over 50,000 members.



**Aleksandar Macura** is senior energy, climate, and air policy analyst with long term experience in policy analysis and design, project, and program management in the Western Balkans.



**Victoria Shevchuk** is working as a Just Transition Coordinator in the Western Balkans at CEE Bankwatch Network. She specialized in natural resource management, sustainable community development and policy lobbying campaigns. Previously Victoria worked in various NGOs, implementing nature conservation projects aimed to tackle climate change. She studied Environmental Management at the Dresden University of Technology.



**Peter Vajda** is a lawyer by training with a master's degree in environmental law. Peter has always been involved in issues related to environment. After three years at the national environmental agency's local office in Budapest, he worked as a seconded national expert at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Environment between 2007 and 2011 on EU law related to industrial emissions and hazards. In 2012, Peter took up duties as Environmental Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat in Vienna. In his current position, his geographical focus covers Southeast Europe, in particular the Western Balkans countries as well as Moldova, Ukraine and Georgia. The main activities involve monitoring the implementation of the Energy Community acquis on environment and supporting the energy transition in the Contracting Parties. As of January 2018, he works as Senior Environmental Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat.



**Oleksandr Brykalov** is the mayor of Myrnohrad. He was born on 18/02/1974 in Dymytrov, Donetsk region. He is married and has two daughters. He graduated as a mining engineer from the State Mining Academy of Ukraine with a specialty in Underground mining in 1997 followed by a Master of Public Administration at the Dnepropetrovsk Regional Institute of Public Administration of the National Academy of Public Administration in 2016. He started his career as apprentice miner and then served as an economist before entering public administration. He was an adviser to the mayor of Dymytrov from 2010 to 2013 and a Deputy Mayor for the activities of the executive bodies of the council until 2014. From 2014 to 2015, he served a secretary of the Dymytrov City Council. He has been mayor of Myrnohrad since 2015.



**Ildar Salieiev** is Chief Executive Officer at DTEK Energy. He graduated from Donetsk National Technical University, where in 2005 he received a master's degree in Finance. In 2013, he completed his studies at the National Mining University (Dnepr) with a degree in Mining Engineer. Ildar began his career in 2006 at DTEK as a head of investment activities in coal enterprises. In 2010, he joined Corum Group as a Director of Strategy, and in 2014 he was appointed a Director of the Underground Operation Division. Since 2015, he continued to work in the Metinvest Holding group as the head of procurement for operating activities. In August 2018, he was appointed a General Director of PJSC "DONETSKSTEEL". In 2019, he took first place in the "Effective Manager" nomination in the "TOP -100 Most Effective Managers of Ukraine" rating by Delo.ua. Since October 2020, he has joined the DTEK Energy team as the Chief Operating Officer. In January 2021, he was appointed a General director of DTEK Energy.



**Prof Mirza Kušljagić** was born on 23/06/1955 in Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is married and has one son. He received B.Sc., M.Sc. and Ph.D. from Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Sarajevo in 1978, 1986 and 1989 respectively. He was re-search fellow at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology – UMIST, UK in 1983/84. From 1978 he has been with the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of Tuzla where he currently holds a position of tenure professor.

In the period 2001-2005 he was ambassador and permanent representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the United Nations mission in New York. From 2006 until 2014 he served as a member of several parliaments in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He is author of five scientific and educational books and more than 50 scientific papers and more than 30 specializes technical studies and policy analyses.



**Mirosław Skibski** is the director of the Katowice branch of ARP. After 10 years of work at the State Agency for Mining Development, Mirosław Skibski became the manager of the Industrial Development Agency, where he previously held the position of an expert - coordinator of the team dealing with employment monitoring and restructuring projects in the mining industry. He has been involved in the coal industry for almost 25 years. Mirosław Skibski graduated from, among others Warsaw School of Economics in the field of European accounting and finance standards and WSH in Sosnowiec in the field of Public Administration. In 2015, he

participated in the development of the concept of a support system for granting and financing social protection in the mining industry.



**Irina Lazzerini** is Sustainable Energy Expert at the Energy Community Secretariat (Austria) where she is supporting Contracting Parties in developing sustainable energy policy and legislation and integrating energy and climate planning. She has over 14 years of work and research experience in the field of international climate policies, with focus on Europe (Western Balkans, Eastern Countries) and Asia. Before joining the Energy Community, she was research fellow on sustainable development at

Tsinghua University (Beijing), policy officer within the European Commission Environment Directorate General (Brussels) and senior energy analyst at Enel Foundation (Italy). She worked with UNIDO on green industry policy and co-authored several publications on energy transitions in cities with EURICUR (Rotterdam). She cooperated with the World Economic Forum on several projects evaluating the impact of renewable energy solutions on off-grid households in emerging economies and co-authored a chapter of 'Innovating Climate Governance', published by Cambridge University Press in March 2018. Ms. Lazzerini holds a Bachelor and master's degree in economics, Languages and Juridical Institutions of Eastern Asia from Ca' Foscari University, Venice, a Postgraduate master's degree in European Interdisciplinary Studies from the College of Europe, Natolin, Poland and she's finalizing her executive MBA degree on Renewables at Beuth University of Applied Sciences (Berlin). She is fluent in English, Mandarin Chinese, French, Spanish, Italian and German.



**Igor Golubovic** is an experienced and creative engineer and manager with strong analytical, managerial and administrative skills. Experienced in mining and energy industry (heat production and distribution and electricity distribution), management of construction projects and management of development projects. Strong experience in Montenegrin public administration, spatial planning, public and EU project development, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation. Efficient business management and organizational skills practiced through supervision of engineers; public administration staff engaged on development projects. Knowledgeable of standard operating procedures in international organizations, instituted to improve the management of investment projects in energy, mining, infrastructure, economic development, and environment protection.



**Sonja Risteska** is the Project Manager for South East Europe in Agora Energiewende think tank, based in Berlin. Her main focus encompasses preparation of studies, memos and policy papers on SEE energy transition issues; translation of insights from the German energy transition and energy transitions in other countries and regions for the SEE audience; as well as coordination of the South East Europe Energy Transition Network. Before joining Agora Energiewende, Sonja was the Research and Management Coordinator at Analytica think tank based in Skopje, North Macedonia. She has relevant working experience and has conducted in-depth policy research on many energy and environmental matters mainly dealing with South East Europe. She has authored, co-authored, and contributed to more than 40 policy papers, briefs, studies etc. She holds a BA in Political Science and MA in European Studies.



**Viktor Berishaj** is an economist with extensive experience in sustainable development issues. He is the Policy Coordinator at CAN Europe, focusing on the Western Balkans climate and energy transition issues.



**Rinora Gojani** is the Programmes and Operations Manager at the Balkan Green Foundation. She has an extensive working experience in research, advocacy, capacity building, civic and grassroot level engagement, fundraising, and project management focused on sustainable development, democratization, Western Balkans politics, and EU integration processes. Rinora holds a master's degree in European Politics, with a focus on energy policy, from the University College Dublin.





**Elodie Salle** is a Senior Consultant in the Policy & Research Team at Ecorys Brussels. She is currently the Project Coordinator within the Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. Her research activities focus on urban, regional and rural development policies and methodology-wise on developing and implementing stakeholder engagement tools, such as support structures including secretariats. She holds a bachelor in Law and a master degree in European and Public International Law.



**Iryna Novak** is a Communications and Member Relations Officer at ICLEI. She is the Communications Expert within the Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine. She has several years of experience in Public Relations and communication strategies. She holds a master's degree in environmental governance and a Diploma in Information and Communication.



**Carlo Della Libera** works as Global Practice Leader for Energy and Sustainability at Ecorys Brussels. He is currently the Project Coordinator within the Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the European Union. He has experience in in policy evaluation and analysis as well as technical assistance especially focusing on energy, environmental and climate measures within the framework of cohesion policy at regional national and EU level. He holds a degree in environmental sciences and a professional master in environmental strategic management.



**Briec Posnic** has been working as a Policy Coordinator for the Directorate-General for Energy of the European Commission since 2018. He is the Team Leader for just transition initiatives in unit B1: consumers, local initiatives and just transition.



**Michael Stanley** is Lead – Extractives for the World Bank Group, based in Singapore. He has worked in resource development for more than thirty years within the commercial and public sectors across Latin America, Europe & Central Asia, Africa, South Asia, and East Asia / Pacific regions. He specializes in policy and lending operations, aligned with the challenges of climate change within the energy sector. Michael is the Global Leader for the World Bank's "Support to Energy Transition in Coal Regions" assisting a diverse group of stakeholders to establish the good-governance frameworks necessary to manage social impacts to workers and communities, while ensuring environmental mine reclamation and repurposing of land and assets. Michael has degrees in Geoscience (BSc. Western University), Geoscience (MSc. McGill University), and Mineral Resource Economics / Mining (Ph.D. University of Arizona). Michael is co-editor of the Extractive Industries Source Book, both the online, open-source platform and first-edition print version (2018).



**Andi Aranitasi** is an Associate Director, Head of North Macedonia (part of the EBRD Central and South East Europe Business Group), responsible for EBRD's activities in the country since 1 September 2019. Prior to assuming his current position, Andi was an Associate Director, Senior Banker with the Energy Eurasia team (part of the EBRD Sustainable Infrastructure Group), based in Sofia responsible for origination, execution, and portfolio management of power projects in Turkey and South-Eastern Europe both on debt and equity side, as well as policy dialogue in the region. Andi has been involved in the closing of most of EBRD's transaction in the energy sector Turkey to date, as well as a number of energy transactions in South Eastern Europe for a total of EUR 2 billion financing for EBRD's own account and overall project value of more than EUR 8 billion. Andi has 23 years of banking experience focusing on the corporate (cement, pulp & paper, steel, pharmaceuticals, precious metals), telecommunications, agribusiness, property and tourism and energy sectors and project financing with EBRD focusing on South-Eastern Europe, Western Balkans and Turkey. He holds a double Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration and Applied Economics from the American University in Bulgaria.



**Dirk Buschle** is the Deputy Director of the Energy Community Secretariat since 2011 and has led its legal unit since 2007. In this position, he is in charge of ensuring implementation of European energy law in the countries of the Energy Community. He is also responsible for dispute resolution and negotiations and acts as mediator in high-profile investor-state conflicts in the energy sector. Prior to his current position, Dirk Buschle was Head of Cabinet of the President of the Court of Justice of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) in Luxembourg. He is also Professor and Chairholder of the European Energy Policy Chair at the College of Europe in Bruges. He teaches the annual course "European and International Energy Policy and Governance". Dirk Buschle graduated in law from Constance University, Germany, and earned his Ph.D. at St. Gallen University in Switzerland. He has widely published in different areas of European policy and law, has lectured at Universities of Reykjavik, Constance and St. Gallen as visiting professor.



**Dr Olaf Osica** is a former senior fellow of the Natolin European Centre (2005-2010) and chairman of the advisory board of the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW) - a Warsaw based research institute - where he served as executive director (2011-2016). He is member of the International Advisory Board of Centrum Balticum in Turku (Finland). In 2016 he worked as a Key ENP Expert at a EU sponsored project "E-Platform for Neighbourhood" in College of Europe Natolin Campus. He has over 15 years' record of working at the junction of the public/governmental and think-tanks sectors where he provided decision-makers with foreign policy analysis, and managed analytical teams. He holds a PhD in social and political science from European University Institute in Florence (Italy). Former visiting fellow of the US State Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France and of the GFPS-Polska. In 2015, he was awarded Knight's Cross Order of Polonia Restituta from President of Poland.



**Artur Lorkowski** is Deputy President of the Management Board, National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management, Poland. Artur Lorkowski was Special Envoy on climate at the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland in 2018-2019. Before that, he served as Polish Ambassador to Austria from 2013 to 2017 and Deputy Director for energy security and climate change in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 2010 to 2013. He was also Deputy-Director for EU Sectoral Policies between 2003 and 2009. Lorkowski has been engaged in the climate agenda since 2006. And more recently, he has advised the President of COP24 in Katowice and then worked for the UNSG Climate Action Summit in 2019. Artur Lorkowski graduated from the Warsaw School of Economics and the National School of Public Administration.



**Matteo Rivellini** is an experienced manager with a unique expertise in infrastructure, impact and development finance in the Central Europe, Italy, and Western Balkans. He currently heads the EIB Division in charge of operations in Slovenia, Croatia, and Western Balkans where he has developed the EIB activities in the sectors of transport, energy, environment, health, education, digital transformation, and impact finance. Matteo coordinated the Bank's operational response to the refugee crisis, the Economic Resilience Initiative in the Western Balkans and the EIB involvement in the Trans Adriatic Pipeline. Previous experience as advisor to the EIB Italian Vice-President Scannapieco and legal advisor on the EIB operations in Italy, Greece, Cyprus, and Western Balkans have nurtured and enriched his policy-oriented interdisciplinary background.



**Rafal Rybacki** is the Head of Poland and Baltic States Public Sector and Infrastructure Division at European Investment Bank, based in Luxembourg. He is a graduate of the London Business School.



**Carsten Rothballe** is the Coordinator for Sustainable Resources, Climate and Resilience at ICLEI. Within the Secretariat for the Initiative for coal regions in transition in the Western Balkans and Ukraine, he is responsible for designing the exchange programme, running the call for expressions of interest and a selection process, as well as implementing and refining the exchange programme. He has extensive project experience in training, energy planning, integrated management and infrastructure, resilience, risk assessment and international networking on climate and energy issues. Carsten holds an M.A. in International Development.



**George Stiff** is an Officer for Energy, Material & Built Infrastructures at ICLEI Europe, including on coal transitions. Before ICLEI, he worked for nearly a decade in Bosnia-Herzegovina on related issues.



**Dariusz Stankiewicz** is a project manager with over twenty years of experience in local economic development. He worked for the US Department of Labor transition projects for Polish coal industry in the years 1998 - 2000. At present he is a Head of the region transition unit at the Marshal's Office in Silesia.



**Ruta Baltause** has 14 years' work experience in the European Commission in area of energy policy and legislation. After joining the European Commission in 2007, the main areas of responsibility included international and regional energy cooperation, EU energy and renewable energy policy, markets and legislation in the EU Member States, support for the EU Presidency in the Council in energy sector. Since 2017, Ruta Baltause is a Member of the Energy team in the Support Group for Ukraine, a dedicated Task Force in the European Commission for the support of the reform process in Ukraine, the implementation of the Association Agreement and the Memorandum of Understanding on Strategic Energy Partnership between the European Union and Ukraine. Before joining the European Commission, Ruta was a civil servant and carrier diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia. Including in positions as Head of units for EU Economic Policy and Enlargement, Deputy Head of Mission in Vienna.



**Jerzy Karol Buzek** is a Polish politician and Member of the European Parliament from Poland. He has served as Prime Minister of Poland from 1997 to 2001, since being elected to the European Parliament in 2004, he served as President of the European Parliament between 2009 and 2012. In 1963 Jerzy Buzek graduated from the Mechanics-and-Energy Division of the Silesian University of Technology, specialising in chemical engineering. He became a scientist in the Chemical Engineering Institute of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Since 1997 he has been a professor of technical science. He is also an honorary doctor of the universities in Seoul and Dortmund among others. Whilst President of the European Parliament, on 30 March 2011, he was awarded an honorary fellowship of the Institution of Chemical Engineers at a meeting of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering (EFCE) in Brussels, Belgium.