

Speaker Biographies (in order of appearance)



Bodo Richardt has been an accountant for over 30 years. He has worked in a variety of professional practices including practices of sizes ranging from the big 4 to SMPs working in his native Germany, France and the United States. He has experienced and enjoyed working on international and national standard setting boards including the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (IAASB) and the Institute of Public Auditors in Germany (IDW). He has also had the possibility to serve the auditing profession as Bavarian President and a member of the Wirtschaftsprüferkammer Advisory Board. He currently works as a self-employed practitioner (SMP) to SMEs and family owned businesses where he specialises in the provision of expert opinions on audit and accounting related questions, business valuations, mediation and arbitration.



Noël De Rudder is a member of EFAA's Digital Working Group and is digital technologies adviser at EFAA's Belgian member IEC-IAB. He is a certified tax accountant with large focus on software consultancy and compliance automation. Since 2010 he has been the co-owner of CaseWare Belgium & Luxembourg, a software company that provides integrated solutions for accountants, bookkeepers and auditors which centralizes, digitalizes, and computerizes entire work flows. Noël started his career with KPMG. He is vice-president of the BeExcellent Commission of IEC-IAB. Furthermore he loves playing around with Microsoft Excel. He is the author of the book "Excel for economic professions" and founder of the website "www.Excel-for-Accountancy.be". Noël lives near Antwerp, Belgium. He has a bachelor's degree.



Leon Katsnelson is Director & Chief Technology Officer for Strategic Partnerships at the IBM Digital Business Group. An award winning international speaker and a published author, Leon is always up on the cutting edge of technology trends. As Director and CTO of IBM Strategic Partnerships for Data Science, Leon leads a team of Data Scientists focused on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning, Big Data and other applications of Cognitive technologies in all areas of human endeavour. Leon is a strategic adviser to a number of startup helping disrupt technology laggards with new business models based on blockchain, Internet of Things and AI. Leon graduated from York University, Canada with a BSc in Computer Science.



Narayanan Vaidyanathan is head of technology insight at ACCA. He has a global remit for the topics he covers and currently leads a range of research initiatives across diverse areas. These include ACCA's work on Smart Cities, FinTech, blockchain and distributed ledgers, machine learning and the impact of technology on the future role of professional accountants in business and society. More recently Narayanan has been leading ACCA's research and policy making on initial coin offerings. He represents ACCA on various government, industry and academic forums.



Marco Lourenco is the Lead Cyber Security Analyst at the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). With more than two decades of experience in Cyber Security and Digital Transformation with various organizations including the World Bank, EU Council, United Nations, FreeBalance and Microsoft supporting 15+ governments across three different continents. He began his career in fraud and forensic analysis during the 90's and completed his Masters in Information Security from Solvey Business School in 2007.



Kurt Callewaert is a lecturer and research manager of applied computer sciences at the Howest University of Applied Sciences in Brugge, Belgium. Kurt graduated from the Universiteit Gent with a masters in Mathematics with distinction.



Maximilian Strotmann is a member of the private office of Andrus Ansip, European Commission Vice-President in charge of the Digital Single Market. Maximilian's main areas of responsibility are e-government, interoperability and startups.



Bart Van Coile is Vice-President of EFAA member IEC-IAB. Bart Van Coile started 30 years ago as an accountant and tax adviser. Bart Van Coile started then to get involved in the professional body IEC-IAB, he first became a member of the IAB commission on quality evaluation and then of the board and the executive committee. He worked primarily on office procedures. As Vice-President of the IEC-IAB, Bart Van Coile focuses especially on office digitalisation in which the high-quality service of accountants and tax advisers is maintained. Bart Van Coile has been a partner in his own accounting firm for 30 years.



CA M P Vijay Kumar is the Chief Financial Officer of SIFY Technologies Limited, a NASDAQ listed Company. He is Council Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, is presently Chairman Valuation Standards Board and Vice Chairman of Accounting Standards Board and Financial Reporting Review Board. Was founder Chairman of Digital Accounting and Assurance Board. Mr Kumar was Partner, Yoganandh & Ram Chartered Accountants between 1999 and 2007 and served as Head Investment Banking & Company Secretary at Sundaram Finance Services Ltd. (1992-1999). He presently holds directorships in Sify Singapore (Pte) Ltd, National Internet Exchange of India (NiXi) and Thejo Engineering Ltd. Mr Kumar has also authored 10 popular titles on accounting, audit and law and is a recipient of National award for contribution in financial accounting by Capital Foundation Society (2017), CFO 100 Roll of Honour (2016) from CFO India and 100 Most Influential CFOs of India (2015) from CIMA.



Martin de Bie is the Chair of EFAA's Digital Working Group. Since January 2016 been advisor New Technology & Innovation at accounting firm 216 and also head of future Labs. Starting his career in 1992 at a SMP in Rotterdam Martin got to learn much about how new technology could benefit the business and built up a strong international network within the accounting industry and connected suppliers in the supply chain. He worked for 2 years at a leading cloud accounting solution Exact in the Netherlands as an AM for the top 15 Accounting firms. Martin writes blogs and speaks about the future of the accounting industry with Fintech, API, Big Data, AI, PSD2 and Blockchain and that technology and digitalisation is an opportunity for the business to reclaim the position as trusted advisor and develop new services with real time added value to clients. 216 is probably a gamechanger in the Dutch Accounting industry with 12 offices in the Netherlands and 150 people and using a self-developed 216 Agile Code to adjust its services to rapid technology changes in business. In 2017 Martin was appointed a member of the European Multi-Stakeholder Forum on Electronic Invoicing. Martin lives in Sliedrecht, The Netherlands with his wife and 3 children. He has a bachelor's degree, is a member of EFAA's Dutch member NBA and is a certified Bitcoin trainer.



Véronique Willems is the Secretary General of UEAPME, a position she has held since December 2016. Previously, she was the Head of European affairs at UNIZO from 2009 to 2016 and was responsible for advocacy on policies affecting SMEs at the EU-level. In January 2016, she was nominated deputy to the SME-representative for Belgium at the European Economic and Social Committee. Willems started her career at UNIZO in 1999 as Policy Officer in charge of SME education and counselling and later became responsible for regional level advocacy, mentorship programs and individual counselling for entrepreneurs. She holds a Law degree from Vrije Universiteit Brussels and an MA in Commercial sciences and Business management from VLEKHO Brussels.



Michael Cerami is Vice President, Strategic Alliances & Business Development at CPA.com, where he joined in January 2001 at the company's inception. Since then, he has been a key contributor to the company's growth through the development and execution of a market-leading alliances strategy. Michael fosters a partnership philosophy at CPA.com that emphasizes business strategy alignment, creating mutual long-term value and a commitment to empowering the accounting profession for success in the digital age. Michael's background is in business development, financial planning and analysis, and his previous work history includes positions at PepsiCo, Searle (formerly the pharmaceutical division of Monsanto) and Collegiate Health Care. Michael holds a bachelor's degree in both finance and management from Fordham University.



Angelique Koopman is Partner Audit Innovation at EY and works as a lecturer at Tilburg University. She has 25 years' experience in audit practice and with IT auditing in Big 4 firms and medium-sized firms, most recently Baker Tilly Berk. Angelique has always been interested in auditing empowered by data-analytics and has become passionate about applying process mining and other more advanced data analytical tooling. Her PhD research in progress is titled: Redesigning the Audit in an Age of Digitization: A Breakthrough for Auditability?



Griffin Anderson drives ConsenSys' financial product, Balanc3. Balanc3 is a next generation accounting solution for tomorrow's blockchain based digital economy. The application streamlines and monitors your blockchain based triple-entry financial transactions and transforms that data into the traditional accounting formats needed for reporting and compliance. Griffin also started the Accounting Blockchain Coalition (ABC), an open, cross-industry initiative, focused on addressing accounting and reporting issues arising from cryptocurrencies and distributed ledger technology. Griffin comes to ConsenSys with capital markets, fintech, and entrepreneurial experience. He graduated from Indiana University with degrees in finance, accounting, economics, computer science, and mathematics.