

Mrs. Beatriz Muñoz González

Deputy Head of the Spanish Embassy to Kazakhstan

- BA in Law and International Relations at the Universidad Pontificia Comillas in Madrid (ICADE)
- BA in French Law at the University of Paris X
- Joined the Diplomatic Career in 2019.
- She served in the Consular Emergency Division during the Covid-19 crisis, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
- In 2021, she joined the Cabinet of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
- In 2021, she was appointed Deputy Director of Diplomatic Communication, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation.
- Since August 2023 she is the Deputy Head of Mission and cultural and science attaché at the Embassy of Spain in Astana.



Mrs. Karina Anguelieva

Executive Director

International Science and Technology Center

- Head of the Political Cabinet of the Minister of Energy (2023-2024)
- Deputy Minister of Innovation and Growth (2021-2022) and Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Republic of Bulgaria (appointed 1 Sept 2018-2021)
- Head of Sector for Education and Research at the Permanent Representation of Bulgaria to the EU, Brussels, Belgium (2013-2018)
- Holds two Master's degrees: European Integration and Contemporary History (Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski")
- Founder of the Club of Young Scientists in Bulgaria
- Board member of the Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission
- Board member of the European Strategic Forum for Research Infrastructures
- Over 25 years of experience in policy-making and programme implementation in the area of research and innovation, education and training, EU integration and international collaboration. Involved in a number of initiatives led to modernizing and reforming country R&I profile such as national research strategy, research infrastructure roadmap, open science cloud, national framework and coordination of the European Union Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, number of studies on tech transfer, research intensive universities, etc.
- Design and implementation of National Recovery and Resilience Plan in the areas of R&I, education and training and energy



Dr. José Antonio Álvarez Bermejo

Professor, University of Almería – Spain

- Renowned expert in cybersecurity, digital identity, and defense technologies, with over 20 years of experience in academic research, institutional cooperation, and applied innovation.
- Active collaborator with Europol and ECTEG, contributing to advanced cybercrime training programs and digital forensic methods for European law enforcement agencies.
- Key contributor to the EU Digital Identity Wallet Architecture, focusing on the development of secure, privacy-preserving frameworks under the European Commission's digital agenda.
- Contributor to military and critical infrastructure projects, including biometric monitoring systems for the Spanish Army and cybersecurity training for Guardia Civil and Policía Nacional.
- Author of 67+ high-impact scientific publications; specialized in blockchain, IoT security, cryptographic systems, and supercomputing applications.
- Advisor to public institutions, including the Parliament of Andalusia, and representative of Spain in international cybersecurity initiatives such as the OCTOPUS Conference and collaboration with the Gendarmerie Nationale (France).



Prof. Michael Lewis

Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science, School of Engineering and Digital Sciences, Nazarbayev University

- Research Interests: Artificial intelligence, multimodal datasets, e-health systems
- Notable Publications:
 - ✓ A Vaccination Simulator for COVID-19: Effective and Sterilizing Immunization Cases
 - ✓ SpeakingFaces: A Large-Scale Multimodal Dataset of Voice Commands with Visual and Thermal Video Streams
 - ✓ A Smart E-Health Framework for Monitoring the Health of the Elderly and Disabled



Prof. Obadare Peter Adewale

Founder & Chief Visionary Officer, Digital Encode Limited - Nigeria

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- Over 61 international professional certifications in cybersecurity, IT governance, and risk management
- Master of Science in Cybersecurity, University of Liverpool, UK
- Honorary Doctorate in Cybersecurity, Trinity International University of Ambassadors, USA
- First Professor of Practice – Cybersecurity, Miva Open University, Nigeria
- Recognized as Forbes Best of Africa – Outstanding Digital Trust Leader 2023
- Cybersecurity Advisory Board Member, Lagos State Government
- Lifetime Member, Open Worldwide Application Security Project (OWASP)
- Platinum Team Member, Open-Source Security Testing Methodology Manual (OSSTMM)
- Alumnus, Harvard Business School, MIT Sloan School of Management, Oxford University – Said Business School



Dr. Leila Rzayeva

*Head of Research and Innovation Center
"CyberTech", Astana IT University*

- PhD in Intelligent Systems and Cybersecurity
- Expertise in Machine Learning, Neural Networks, and Computer Vision
- Focus on Data Encryption, Signal Processing, and Predictive Systems
- Published over 30 peer-reviewed articles
- Active contributor to international conferences and research collaborations
- Recent work includes Android SD card encryption, 5G signal processing, and digital forensics



H.E. Mr. Christopher Duggan

Ambassador of Canada to Kazakhstan

- BA (Honours) in International Development Studies & Earth Sciences, Dalhousie University (1999)
- MA in Public Policy & Administration (International Stream), Carleton University (2002)
- Senior leadership roles at Global Affairs Canada, the Privy Council Office, and the Department of National Defence
- Overseas assignments in Romania, Jamaica, Nigeria, and Ukraine
- Deputy Director, NATO Liaison Office, Ukraine (2019–2021)
- Key roles in international crisis response, including the 2010 Haiti earthquake evacuation
- Participated in high-level negotiations and security briefings with senior government leadership



Mr. Abulkhair Imanberdiev

Cybersecurity Lead / Malware Analysis Expert

- 8+ years in cybersecurity and secure software development
- Current roles:
 - CTF Trainer at Astana IT University
 - Team Lead, Malware Research Lab – National Technical Security Service (NTSS)
 - Chief Architect & Malware Analyst – NTSS
- Led 5+ CTF events (local, international, national)
- Founded student teams now ranked top 3 in Kazakhstan (ctftime.org)
- Developed internal CTF platform: ctf.astanait.edu.kz
- Introduced advanced cybersecurity courses and micro-qualifications at AITU
- Trained 40+ educators and professionals from law enforcement and financial institutions



Mr. Matteo Merialdo

Director, Cyber Security Engineering & Products Starion & Nexova - Belgium

- Manager for 65+ staff; oversees development of CITEF cyber range platform
- Director of major EU-funded projects:
 - ECHO H2020 (€16M), ACTING–EDF (€17M), BESecured–ESA (€6M)
- Former R&D Manager at RHEA Group; led ESA, EC, NATO cyber initiatives
- EU Commission Expert on AI & Cybersecurity (since 2019)
- Speaker on cyber innovation, blockchain in space, and risk dynamics
- MSc Advanced Software Engineering | Executive IT Governance
| ISO 27001

