EurACI Working Group members

Philip Shier (Society of Actuaries in Ireland)

I am male, 63 years old and spent 33 years as a pensions actuary, working in London 1982 -1994 and in Dublin 1995 - 2016 for the consulting firm which is now Aon.

I have been active in the AAE since 1999 as a member and then Chair (2015 -2011) of the Pensions Committee and in 2015/16 I was Chairperson of the AAE. I now work as Actuarial Manager with the Society of Actuaries in Ireland [we have over 1,900 members including students] and am involved with the AAE as lead in the PEPP Working Party and as a member of the Actuarial Standards Sub Committee. I have a personal interest in ESG/sustainability and am active in the Society's working group on this issue.

Francesca Kirby (Actuaries Institute, Australia)

My name is Francesca Kirby and I am from Sydney, Australia. I have worked for 4 years in General Insurance consultancy and have been a qualified actuary for almost two years. My work is varied but includes reserving, pricing, and a small amount of climate risk work. Over the course of 2018, I was involved in the project to build the Australian Actuaries Climate Index. My consulting firm (Finity Consulting) won the project and I was lucky enough to be able to help in the development and implementation process. I am about to finish up my job here in Sydney and embark on a few months of travel, after which I will head to Europe. I am hoping to find a job in Amsterdam and live there for some time. I hope that I will be able to offer some insight into the process involved with building the Index. Thank you for including me in your team.

Philip Gruber (Aktuarvereinigung Österreichs, Austria)

My name is Philip Gruber and I am from Vienna, Austria. I am 30 years old and I have a MSc in financial and actuarial mathematics. For the past 6 years I have been working at the consultant company arithmetica in the department „insurance and banking ", where my main responsibilities are the mathematical design and software implementation of simulation models. This includes a partial internal Solvency II model for Non-Life and a NatCat model.

I find that the subject of climate change concerns us all, and am very happy to participate in a working group trying to further understand and highlight the impact of these changes.

Annina Pietinalho (Suomen Aktuaariyhdistys, Finland)

I am female, 37 years old and have been working in insurance industry in Finland c. 15 years. First 3 years in pensions and afterwards in non-life in different roles (capital modeling, pricing actuary, risk manager). Recent years have been working with natcat risk and reinsurance analytics besides my role as an appointed actuary. In AAE I'm a member of the Risk Management Committee and in the Actuarial Association of Finland, I'm a board member and chair of our CERA committee. Outside of work, I am in the Scouts and like skiing and sailing.

Thierry Cohignac (Institut des Actuaires, France)

I am Thierry Cohignac from France. I am 53 years old. I have a PhD degree in mathematics and a Master degree in Actuarial Sciences. At the beginning of my carrier I worked in computer vision field for the French Ministry of Defense. After this experience, I Joined AXA Group Risk Management for 7 years. Since 2012, I work for CCR. CCR is a public-sector reinsurer that provides insurers operating in France with coverage against natural catastrophes and uninsurable risks. I am CCR technical director.

Matthias Pillaudin (Institut des Actuaires, France)

Dirk Popielas (Deutsche Aktuarvereiniging, Germany)

My name is Dirk Popielas. I'm 56 years old and a qualified actuary since 1994. I'm a founding member and today co-head of the investment committee of the German Institute of Actuaries (DAV). I do hold a MSci in Theoretical Physics and spend during the 80'ies some years in climate modelling in Berlin and Hamburg.

Lately, during 2007 – 2012 I worked at JPMorgan in the Pensions Team. I was European Co-Head together with Guy Coughlan and developed during these years the life-metrics indices to hedge biometric risk through capital market and re-insurance solutions.

Marianna Papamichail (Hellenic Actuarial Society, Greece)

I am Marianna Papamichail member of the Hellenic Actuarial Association since 2000.(OK I am 52 years' old :)) I have worked in the private sector to Insurance Companies and I am the chairperson of the National Actuarial Association of Greece. My involvement with the actuarial profession started in 1993. I have been making evaluations many for the public pension system and served as my country's expert at the European commission's Ageing Working Group from 2005 to 2016. My specialty is aging and funds' evaluations. I also love programming and computer modeling.

I am a mother of two children and I want to contribute with my expertise in order that my children inherit a not so hostile planet as weather models show for human beings.

Maria Galavan (Society of Actuaries in Ireland)

I am Maria Galavan, female, 40 years old, Irish. I worked as a life assurance actuary for 13 years (with AIB Bank, Aviva and Willis Towers Watson in Dublin) before taking a career break to spend some time at home with my children. I then went back to university and studied MSc Climate Change: Science and Impacts. For the past year I have worked for the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland, a government agency whose role is to assist businesses, communities and individuals to become more efficient and sustainable in their energy use. As part of the masters degree I studied the theory of climate modelling and completed several projects using climate data, so I am excited to hopefully use some of this knowledge for this project!

Svilena Dimitrova (Society of Actuaries in Ireland)

I am 30-years old female, originally from Bulgaria and have been living in Ireland for over 8 years. I have a Bachelor degree in Finance, Honours degree in Business and a Masters degree in Finance. I am also qualified actuary and hold the CERA qualification. In terms of professional experience, I have worked in product development & implementation for 3.5-4 years and in reporting/Solvency II for 3.5 years. In few weeks I am starting a new job in risk management. Last year I worked on a case study that was published on the IFoA website. It was a part of a proposal what actuaries can do to help achieve the sustainable development goals. In my free time I like cycling, doing dancing lessons and pilates. I am also interested in sustainable living.

Falco Valkenburg (Koninklijk Actuarieel Genootschap, The Netherlands) AAE Board member

I am male, 58. As an actuary I have been active in general insurance, life insurance and pensions. My focus during the last 20 years has been pensions. I joined the AAE as member of the Investment and Financial Risks Committee in 1999. Since then I have had the privilege of chairing the IFR Committee (2006-2011) and the Pensions Committee (2011-2017). I am serving on the Board of the AAE since 2017, currently as vice-chairperson. The climate is "hot". I mean a "hot" topic. A lot of views can be heard. I would hope that we can start contributing to the discussions by delivering factual information. That is what we are good at as actuaries. It would also show to (European) politicians, supervisors and other stakeholder that our profession is broader than "just" insurance and pensions. In our Vision statement it says … contributing to the well-being of society …". I am convinced that we do so if we could deliver on an European Actuaries Climate Index.

Loudina Erasmus (Koninklijk Actuarieel Genootschap, The Netherlands)

I am female, 37 years old. South African and currently working in the Netherlands at Aegon. I started my career in pensions (SA and UK), moved over to reinsurance (SA and Zurich), direct insurance where I got some exposure to pricing and BI/automation (SA) and currently in a group consolidation role (NL).

I've been interested in Climate change and sustainability issues for some time – to this end I did a masters in sustainable development after qualifying to improve my knowledge on the topic and I trust that this can be useful for this working group. I am also seriously considering a part time PhD in sustainable finance.

Edmond Tamba Nkongho (Koninklijk Actuarieel Genootschap, The Netherlands)

I am a male, active in the Dutch insurance industry for 9 years. I spent the first 2 years of my career in the Pension and Life actuarial disciplines, while completing my actuarial studies at the University. Thereafter, I switched to non-life where I have been active in the past 7 years in different roles (actuarial analyst, corporate actuary and group actuary). In these roles I was involved in non-life reserving, pricing, reserving and pricing risk modelling and reporting, return on risk capital calculations. Recently, I have been working on SII own fund reporting, IFRS RAT reporting, value of new business reporting. I am a member of the Dutch actuarial institute.

I am married and a father of 4 children. Out of work I do jogging, play drum in a choir, Deejay in house parties and enjoy watching educative documentaries.

Marcin Zwara (Polskie Stowarzyszenie Aktuariuszy, Poland)

David Bogataj (Slovensko Aktuarsko druśtvo, Slovenia)

I'm David Bogataj, 45 years old, member of Slovenian Actuarial Society since 2011. I have been working as consultant and computer programmer in actuarial profession for 20 years in the field of pension benefits and health insurance. Currently I'm Assistant Professor at University of Padova, Department of Management and Engineering where I'm teaching survival/reliability models and Associate Professor at Nova University where I'm teaching on Social Infrastructure to doctoral students. At Padova University I'm member of research group IND-ING/17: Industrial systems and logistics where one of the research interests is also the environmental sustainability.

Fabian Qazimi (Schweizerische Aktuarvereinigung, Switzerland)

I am male, 31 years old, working in Zurich since 6 years in different positions, ranging between building internal models, catastrophe modeling and reserving. I am active in the Swiss Actuarial Society since 2 years as a board member of the Young Actuaries working group. I now work at a Zurich Insurance developing the methodology and systems for the implementation of IFRS 17. I am currently pursuing the CERA education and I am interested in statistical learning algorithms. Outside of work, I like running, hiking and reading Michael Lewis books.

Filiz Öztaş (Actuarial Society of Turkey)

I am Filiz Oztas Halliday from Turkey. I have a bachelor degree in Mathematics and Masters degree in Actuarial Sciences. I have 17 years experience in Yapi Kredi- a local insurance company, Allianz and Generali. I worked as a non-life pricing and reserving actuary in the past. Now I am working in Generali as non-life Head of Actuarial Function

Ezgi Nevruz (Actuarial Society of Turkey)

I am female and 32 years old. I have been a research assistant in the Department of Actuarial Sciences at Hacettepe University in Turkey for 8 years. I am also the registered actuary of the Republic of Turkey Prime Ministry Undersecretariat of Treasury. As a member of the Actuarial Society of Turkey (AST), which is a full member of the IAA and the AAE, I am the academic delegate of AST's ASTIN committee. I studied loss reserving methods in my MSc thesis and prioritization of agricultural insurance risks in my PhD thesis. Recently, my research interests are decision making under uncertainty, environmental risks and geographic information systems. Since I have been studying spatial and temporal characteristics of insurance claims by using meteorological data, I got very excited about joining the EurACI working group. Apart from my profession, I can define myself as an animal lover. I have 2 cats and take responsibilities for protecting street animals. Outside of work, I also like playing billiards, travelling and reading comics.

Anna Edwards (Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK)

I'm Anna Edwards, 33. I'm Russian-born, my dad's side of the family is German, I was raised (mostly) in Canada, but I've settled in London, UK after graduating from University of Waterloo (in Canada). Since I got here just over 10 years ago, I've worked in pensions/international benefits (at Towers Watson), non-life consultancy across pricing/reserving/capital/natural disasters (PwC), but have since branched out into wider policy consulting. For the last 3.5 years I've been working at the Government Actuary's Department (GAD) providing actuarial analysis to UK government and related bodies (like World Bank).

I worked briefly on the IFOA's business case for the EurACI following the feasibility study that Philip linked below. I have a general interest in climate matters from a personal/social perspective as well as from a professional perspective – my work at GAD has touched on some climate related policies, and a lot of my work with the World Bank considers natural disasters in developing countries and the use of indices to provide (more affordable) parametric insurance products.

Outside of work, I like to do improv acting/comedy, hang out with my family (husband and 2-year old daughter), go cycling and hiking.

Matthew Modisett (Institute and Faculty of Actuaries, UK/Hungary)

I am delighted to contribute to the EurACI creation, and hope we will make an index that not only states how climate is going, but allows several dimensions of measurement to encourage actions that will improve the eventual climate impact. The insurance / pension sector could potentially fund climate change related activities, and we should aim to make a measurement system that recognizes and encourages this. Though climate may more readily impact non-life balance sheets, it is likely that the life insurers and/ pensions, with their long liabilities, will be the one to do the major funding projects.

I have life, non-life and investment experience, over a 30 career that covered many countries on 4 continents, but mostly UK, USA and Hungary. From the UK Resource and Environment board, I reviewed the USA's creation of the ACRI to extend the usefulness of their ACI. I have a strong statistical background with a lot of experience of creating models, albeit not climate ones. I earned actuarial designations in 3 countries (FIA in UK, MMA in Hungary, ASA in USA), I hold a PhD in Math and was briefly professor of actuarial science and also of finance.