

Speaker Profiles

People of the North
Annual Conference 2018



Carroll Buxton is HIE's Director of Regional Development. Among her key areas of responsibility are: managing HIE's strategic property and business infrastructure including the Inverness Campus, the rollout of next generation broadband across the region and delivering benefit from enhanced connectivity, developing the Highlands and Islands as a region for young people, HIE's engagement with Universities in the region and oversight of the delivery of HIE's services in Shetland and Moray. She has worked in economic development in the Highlands and Islands for over 20 years at a local and regional level.

Pierre-Emmanuel Leclerc is programme manager for the Arctic and Northern Periphery Transnational Cooperation Programme in Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and coordinates issues related to Outermost Regions and Maritime Cooperation issues.



Kirsti Mijnhijmer is the Head of Secretariat for the NPA Programme. She has been with the NPA programme since 2008, where she previously held the position of communication manager. Besides this, she has led several major projects over the years, such as writing the NPA 2014-2020 Cooperation Programme document and implementing the electronic monitoring system, eMS. Before this, she worked for the Interreg North Sea Region Programme Secretariat.

John Maxwell has been Head of State Aid and Territorial Programmes since August 2015. He has worked in Scottish Government (SG) since 1986 working on rural issues including CAP, rail transport policy, State aid and European Territorial Cooperation Programmes. He currently represents SG on NPA, North Sea and Ireland/Northern Ireland/Scotland Interreg VA cross border programmes and is Chair of NPA for 2018. He spent his first 17 years in SG in their rural offices and has lived and worked throughout the Scottish regions of the NPA, based in Dumfries, Orkney, Oban and the Western Isles. John was brought up on farms in Argyll and Stirlingshire and he studied Agriculture at the University of Newcastle.



Ivan McKee was appointed Minister for Trade, Investment and Innovation in June 2018. His career has involved a number of senior roles in manufacturing and business, managing companies in the UK as well as Poland, Finland, Croatia and Bosnia. Early in his career, Ivan spent two years with VSO in Bangladesh. He is currently a trustee of the charity CEI, which supports education and health projects in Bangladesh. Ivan has been MSP for Glasgow Provan since May 2016. Brought up in Glasgow, he studied at the University of Strathclyde and the University of Newcastle.



Elin Breivik, Senior Adviser, Norwegian Centre for E-Health Research. Elin is an economist. She works as a health economist and project manager at the Norwegian Centre for E-health Research. She has many years of experience of development, implementation and evaluation of e-health services.

Phil Wilson, professor, Centre for Rural Health at the University of Aberdeen. In addition he holds visiting professorships at Gothenburg, Copenhagen and Glasgow Universities

Phil Wilson has worked as a family doctor for 30 years as well as being involved in health services research. His research interests are wide-ranging but broadly lie in the development and evaluation of population-based complex interventions to improve health. Particular areas of interest are early childhood mental health and the challenges of making the interface between primary and secondary care work properly



Gerry Ford is Director of Advantage and initiated the NPA RYE Project.

He is a senior enterprise sector professional with more than 20 years' practice experience specialising in youth enterprise and employability. Gerry has substantial project design and delivery experience both nationally and internationally, having designed and delivered a range of projects for private and public sector clients in more than 25 countries, often in the world's most geographically or politically hostile environments, including Iraq, Uganda, Siberia, South Africa & the Arctic and has worked with young people under the most personally testing circumstances including war zones, prisons and squatter camps.

Gerry is Holder of The Queen's Award for Enterprise Promotion, a Fellow of The Royal Society of the Arts and an Alumnus of the Windsor Leadership Trust.

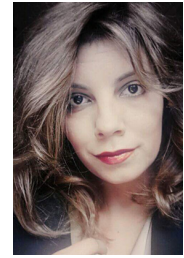
Brian Whittington is responsible for corporate strategy and special projects including all European activities at Tighean Innse Gall, Scotland. He has 20 years experience of delivering energy related projects, across the UK and increasingly Europe, and holds a post graduate certificate in adult education with a subject specialism in energy and sustainability, unique in the UK. He holds a masters in public administration from University of London.





Alan Murdoch, After qualifying as a Registered Mental Nurse in Glasgow in 1983 I initially worked in acute inpatient wards before securing a post as a Community Psychiatric Nurse (CPN) in 1985. I worked in Glasgow as a CPN until 1990 when I moved to NHS Shetland as a Senior CPN and gradually developed a Community Mental Health Team, taking over as manager of this team in 1999. In September 2009 I was invited to take on a new challenge to develop a local Dementia Assessment Service and moved to my current post and currently manage this nurse led service. I also represent NHS Shetland on the National Alzheimer Scotland Dementia Nurse Consultant group.

Desislava Todorova is a Renewable Energy Researcher at the Environmental Research Institute (ERI) based in Thurso. At present, Desislava is working on the NPA funded GREBE Project. GREBE focus is on providing support to RE enterprises tackling the common challenges of peripheral and arctic regions as places for doing business, by developing RE business opportunities provided by extreme conditions. Desislava is also the Program Leader for the "Developing Low Carbon Communities" MSc at University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI), and leads and teaches three modules - Renewable Energy Technologies, Transition to Low Carbon Societies and Developing a Community Energy Project.



Ianire Renobales has a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism from the University of the Basque Country and a Postgraduate Diploma in Communication and Online Marketing from the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She is experienced in corporate communications and social media strategy, management and marketing. Previously, she worked in a European Agency and various communication companies in Spain and UK. She has recently completed a number of specialist digital media training courses.

Mikko Rintala has a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering from the Kemi-Tornio University of Applied Sciences. He is expertise in the field of renewable energies and energy efficiency in buildings. He has been working in various international projects for the past 9 years in the RDI department of Lapland University of Applied Sciences as a project manager.



A Bjørn R Sørensen has a M.Sc. and Ph.D degree from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Sørensen has published more than 100 scientific works, and he has been a project manager for several international R&D projects. He has also been working in the building industry as a consultant for nearly 20 years.



Robert Livingston has been the Director of Regional Screen Scotland, which owns and operates the Screen Machine mobile cinema, since 2015. For 20 years he was Director of Highlands and Islands Arts, the cultural development agency for the region, and before that worked for the Scottish Arts Council, and a range of arts venues. He comes from Glasgow originally but has lived in the Highlands since 1994.

Shona Thomson is an award-winning independent curator and creative producer working across Scotland and the UK. As founder of A Kind of Seeing, Shona engages audiences with rare live cinema events connecting archives with communities, places and artists.



Geir Are Johansen is Director of Museum Nord. He is based in Lofoten, Northern Norway. With an MA in archaeology from University of Tromsø and a museum management degree from Denmark, he has 20 year's experience in leading and developing museums in Northern Norway. Museum Nord aims to balance making an income for our museums as part of the tourism/experience industry, whilst providing a public service to the local community and schools. Geir Are has been involved in several EU projects such as Interregs, Culture 2000 and Creative Europe.

Irene McMaster is a senior research fellow at the European Policies Research Centre of the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. She has been involved in working on territorial cooperation in the Northern Periphery and Arctic since 2000. She has undertaken several major evaluation and research studies of EU territorial and spatial development policies, including the impact evaluation of the 2014-2020 NPA programme, ex ante evaluations of the 2014-2020 Northern Periphery and Arctic and North Sea Region Programmes, and studies on the Northern Periphery Programme and Ireland, Northern Ireland and Western Scotland Cross Border Territorial Cooperation Programme.



She has also been involved in wider studies on regional policy and structural funds for the European Commission, European Parliament, EU Member State national and regional governments, and the OECD. She participated in the 2010 OECD territorial review of the NORA region (2011) and has been appointed as a specialist advisor to a House of Lords Regional Marine Co-operation Inquiry



Arthur Cormack OBE, was born and brought up in the Isle of Skye and is a Gaelic singer having won the National Mòd Gold Medal - the premier award for Gaelic singing - at the age of just 18. He has several albums to his credit, as a solo singer and with Mac-talla and Ciar, and makes regular appearances on television and radio.

He is Chief Executive of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, an organisation which supports tuition in traditional arts for around 13,000 young people every year and is responsible for running the Blas Festival.

He is one of the founders of Macmeanmna, a Gaelic music production company and currently a Trustee of Sabhal Mòr Ostaig and a director of Aros (Isle of Skye) Ltd.