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EMEIA Class of 2023



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Building a better
working world



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Africa





Stella Sigana

Founder and Executive Director
Alternative Waste Technologies
Kenya

Stella Sigana, located in Kenya, is the founder and executive director of Alternative Waste Technologies and co-founder of Nairobi-based the Centre for Urban Rural Youth Development Programmes.

A seasoned business development specialist, Stella is renowned for her ability to catalyze growth and sustainability. Her expertise lies in crafting strategic plans and forging partnerships to catalyze business and organizational advancement. She has empowered businesses to navigate competition, expand their market presence, and ensure lasting viability. She has also assisted non-governmental organizations to create revenue-generating ventures that support their social missions.

During her career, Stella has worked with well-known organizations such as YALI East Africa, the British Council, and the African Entrepreneurial Network. As a result, she has an extensive network of contacts across Africa, which fuels her ability to keep up with emerging trends and best practices in business development. She has mentored entrepreneurs as part of her commitment to nurturing an entrepreneurial ecosystem in Africa.

Company description

Alternative Waste Technologies supplies clean biomass briquettes to mitigate against climate change and deforestation while creating employment opportunities to help bring successful futures to young people and their families.

Lauren Anderson

CEO

Koa Academy
South Africa



Lauren Anderson, based in South Africa, is the CEO and co-founder of Koa Academy. Lauren, who has a background in healthcare, has a passion for leadership and effective systems, and has honed her skills in strategic planning, team-building, and problem-solving.

Her commitment to making a positive impact in her community has led Lauren to the education sector, where she is using technology and innovative teaching methods to create a dynamic and engaging online school. Thanks to her belief that the best

outcomes are achieved when every member of the team is invested and motivated to succeed, Lauren prioritizes building healthy relationships among staff members and fostering an open and supportive work culture.

Lauren is excited to be leading Koa Academy, using her unique perspective and expertise to build a space that empowers learners to reach their full potential and prepare them for success in an ever-changing world.

Company description

Koa Academy is an online school that is big on engagement, combining a robust academic education with an individualized approach.



Farana Boodhram

CEO
Midesk Global
South Africa

Farana Boodhram, located in South Africa, is the founder of Forever Farana Coveralls and CEO of MiDesk Global. She is the owner of the patent of a one piece overall that converts into a two piece for women underground, as well as a revolutionary wheelie school bag that converts into a desk and chair with a solar light and USB charging portal, complying to 6 of the 17 SDGs in accordance with the 2030 agenda.

Farana has 23 years of entrepreneurship leadership experience in mining. She has received numerous professional and entrepreneurship awards, including the Vital Voices GROW Fellowship 2016, Bank of America in partnership with the Global Ambassadors program in 2018 and Top100 Global Inspirational Women in Mining 2018, amongst others.

Farana graduated from the University of Cape Town Graduate School of Business with an MBA in executive management, business leadership through Harvard Business School and Women's Entrepreneurship with Cornell University. Currently, she is a PhD candidate at the University of Cape Town and vice chair of the Graduate School of Business Alumni Board.

Additionally, Farana is director of WIMBIZ SA (Women In Mining Business South Africa) and apatron of WIMSA (Women in Mining South Africa).

Company description

MiDesk is a wheelie school bag that converts into a desk, chair and solar light for children in rural areas.

Ego Iwegbu

Co-founder and CEO
MsLondon Cosmetics
South Africa



Ego Iwegbu, located in South Africa, is the co-founder and CEO of The Good Mineral, MsLondon Cosmetics and Miss Salon London. She is a salon entrepreneur, mathematician and author of two books, as well as a Londoner living in Johannesburg. Her journey began in London, in 1999, when she founded Nail Haven, a chain of six nail bars.

In 2006, Ego founded consultancy Miss Salon, a one-stop shop catering to all aspects of the salon business. After she located to South Africa in 2010, she expanded her business with the introduction of Miss Salon London nail salons, and MsLondon Cosmetics, an award-winning pure mineral makeup line. In 2022, she entered the US market with The Good Mineral, with the support of venture capital funding.

Ego's brands are not just about beauty. They represent her belief in empowering women to feel confident and inspired as they pursue their dreams. An energetic, natural communicator and inspirational leader, Ego has employed and trained over 250 women. She has also written for Professional Beauty and Scratch Magazine and twice judged the Professional Beauty Awards. She's a sought-after speaker and has featured in magazines including Cosmopolitan, Fortune and Harper's Bazaar.

Company description

MsLondon Cosmetics is an award-winning, clean makeup brand that provides easy, natural coverage and color for all skin types and skin tones. It aims to cover imperfections without covering perfection.



Tarisai Moffat

Co-founder and Managing Director
Gateway Synergy
South Africa

Tarisai Moffat, located in South Africa, is the co-founder and managing director of digital content creation agency Gateway Synergy. She is an accomplished executive with over 15 years' experience in the content creation, advertising, and marketing sectors.

As a female entrepreneur, Tarisai has overcome numerous challenges, showcasing her resilience and determination. In 2018, she co-founded Gateway Synergy with limited capital and successfully guided the company through the demanding digital transformation necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tarisai has been honored with prestigious industry accolades, including the Promax Africa and Promax Global Excellence Awards. She has also received

recognition for her contributions to the marketing field from Women in Marketing in the United Kingdom.

An in-demand speaker, Tarisai spoke at the inaugural African Marketing Confederation Conference at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. She has also undertaken engagements with the Institute of Marketing Management in South Africa and Zambia. Tarisai completed the Management Advancement Program at Wits Business School. She is a Nedbank Business Ignite finalist and an alumna of the Procter & Gamble Women Entrepreneurs Academy.

Tarisai envisions Gateway Synergy as a gateway into Africa for global entities, creating localized strategies that establish a meaningful connection between consumers and brands.

Company description

Gateway Synergy is a digital content production house that creates impactful video content and effective marketing strategies for brands entering Africa, driving growth and success in the African market.

Ngwanamatloa Mokone

CEO

ABOT Technology
South Africa



Ngwanamatloa Mokone (known as Ngwana), located in South Africa, is the co-founder and CEO of ABOT Technology, a Johannesburg-based software development company that helps companies to gain a competitive advantage by monetizing their data.

Ngwana has worked in the ICT industry for over 18 years. She started as a software development intern at Praxis Computing and worked her way up to being a software developer. Later she moved into business analyst, project manager and solutions architect roles. She honed her Big Data skills at Disney Interactive.

She has a BSc in information systems and is qualified in ITIL, Microsoft Dynamics, Strategic Information Systems Planning, data analytics and

robotic process automation. Ngwana has consulted for companies including Absa, Microsoft SA and Rand Merchant Bank.

She's a 2013 TechWomen alumna, as well as a member of WEConnect International and Lionesses of Africa. During 2021 and 2022, she was a business and technology coach for the Wits University's Tshimologong Precinct, supporting its startups and growth entrepreneurs. She is passionate about mentoring.

As well as being a keen ultramarathon and trail runner, Ngwana enjoys reading, Latin American dancing, travelling and experimenting with data and technology.

Company description

ABOT Technology is a software development company that builds cutting-edge technology solutions for the global market. It offers data, digital transformation, process automation and full-stack engineering services.



Vanessa Raath

Head Cheerleader
The Talent Hunter
South Africa

Vanessa Raath, located in South Africa, is the founder and head cheerleader of The Talent Hunter. She has over 15 years' experience in the recruitment industry, having honed her skills in the tech space. Before embarking on a career in recruitment, she taught school children in London, operated a ski chairlift in the US, and taught scuba diving in Southeast Asia and East Africa.

In 2019, Vanessa launched her sourcing training business, and has been constantly challenged and fulfilled ever since. She is passionate about elevating

the standard of sourcing globally, with a particular focus on Africa. In 2023, she launched an online academy to train recruiters and sourcers to find talent more effectively and efficiently.

Vanessa enjoys sharing her expertise in talent sourcing, particularly sourcing diverse talent, through keynote presentations at international conferences. When she's not working, she is likely to be having a vegetarian braai with family and friends in the bush or at the beach.

Company description

The Talent Hunter provides talent sourcing training for recruiters and sourcers who want to be and do better in a demanding industry. Its online academy offers training courses and resources.

Europe





Kremena Karaulanova

Owner

Laren hotel cosmetics & textile
Bulgaria

Kremena Karaulanova, located in Bulgaria, is owner of Laren – Hotel Cosmetics & Textile. She graduated from a technical school of architecture and construction in Stara Zagora, then continued her higher education by majoring in political science

in Sofia. Subsequently, she moved to Italy, where at the age of 21, she worked as a key account manager for a large Italian company in the hotel cosmetics industry. She founded Laren in 2017.

Company description

Laren designs and produces shampoos and shower gels for use in hotel rooms around the world.

Eva Vucheva

General Manager
Contento
Bulgaria



Eva Vucheva, based in Bulgaria, is a serial entrepreneur and the founder and general manager of Contento. Contento, which was founded in 2016, empowers people through automation and decentralized working models.

In 2010, Eva launched Fashion Days in the Bulgarian market, becoming one of the pioneers of e-commerce in the Central and Eastern Europe region. Under her management, Bulgaria became the fastest-growing market in the group. In 2013, Eva became a co-CEO of Fashion Days Group, managing seven markets across the region and taking the company through a merger with eMag.

Eva continues to support the local entrepreneurial ecosystem as an active member of the Endeavor network in Bulgaria. She also serves as a board member and mentor to several scale-ups in the region. Additionally, Eva is a partner in ImpaktID, a provider of carbon emission management software, as well as in PINAR, an alcohol-free wine alternative product line.

Eva's personal goal is to develop innovative products and services that allow people to live balanced and rich lives.

Company description

Contento is a niche business process outsourcing company that builds engaged, decentralized teams in big data, finance and accounting, and sales. It combines AI automation with a human-centric approach.



Militza Zikatanova

Owner
Wine Cellar Villa Melnik
Bulgaria

Militza Zikatanova, located in Bulgaria, is the second-generation owner of Villa Melnik. She graduated from the American College of Sofia in 2008 and has a bachelor of business administration from Boston University in Massachusetts. For three years, she worked in England and Ireland for spirits company Diageo, as part of its leadership development graduate scheme.

In 2015, Militza returned to Bulgaria to join the family business. She created a tourist map called the 'Melnik Wine Routes Map', establishing herself as a brand ambassador for the Melnik region.

Militza's efforts to market both the family winery and Melnik as a tourism destination came to a pinnacle in 2020, when Villa Melnik featured on 'The World's Best Vineyards 2020 Top 50 list', a prestigious ranking of global wineries.

Militza has a master's degree in agribusiness management and development of rural areas from the New Bulgarian University. She has also graduated from the Leadership Academy of the Council of Women in Business in Bulgaria. She is a member of the executive board of the Bulgarian Association of Independent Winegrowers. In her spare time, she is an avid traveler, adventurer and scuba diver.

Company description

Wine Cellar Villa Melnik produces boutique wines from indigenous Bulgarian and international grape varieties. The family winery is open for tours and tastings every day.

Anne Karina Asbjørn

Co-founder and CEO
Copenhagen Cartel
Denmark



Anne Karina Asbjørn is the co-founder and CEO of Copenhagen Cartel, a sustainable fashion brand that preserves the ocean's beauty for future generations.

She started her career in London banking, where she spent four years writing research on fixed income and green financing. She then joined the fundraising team of Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners, a pioneer company within green project financing.

In 2020, she left her corporate job to start Copenhagen Cartel, following her passion for green entrepreneurship. She took a leap of faith and never looked back.

Copenhagen Cartel's mission is to lead the fashion industry in adopting environmentally responsible practices. The brand donates 1% of its annual revenue to approved ocean-loving NGOs through its membership of 1% for the planet.

In its first year of business, Copenhagen Cartel's top line grew by more than 2,000% and it made profit without compromising on its values. The brand takes action to contribute to a cleaner ocean through its products, collaborations, clean-ups, initiatives, and donations.

Anne Karina Asbjørn is a passionate entrepreneur who is using her business to make a positive impact on the world.

Company description

Copenhagen Cartel offers a range of high-quality, long-lasting swimwear products, supporting the compelling story of changing something from waste to wear.



Laura Figulla

CEO
Mbiomics
Germany

Laura Figulla, based in Germany, is CEO of mbiomics, a VC-backed biotech start-up developing next-generation microbiome-based therapeutics.

Prior to founding mbiomics, Laura spent over 10 years working in life science strategy consulting and transaction advice, and was a partner with EY. She brings prior entrepreneurial experience to her business, being the founder CEO of two

cardiovascular medical devices companies. Laura has a doctoral degree in health economics and studied business administration and innovation management at the Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich. Laura has four children, and loves outdoor morning workouts.

Company description

Mbiomics is focused on developing the first generation of effective live bacterial therapeutics (LBT). It is using its tailored microbiome diagnostic platform to overcome bottlenecks in LBT development.

Chanyu Xu
Founder and CEO
Her One
Germany



Chanyu Xu, located in Germany, is a German-Chinese serial entrepreneur and passionate foodie from Berlin. She graduated from the Berlin University of the Arts with a degree in strategic communications. In 2009, she co-founded her first successful software-as-a service start-up, which is used by over 3,500 hotels in 35 countries and grew to more than 100 employees.

Since 2013, Chanyu has co-founded several foodtech start-ups, including one with Europe's biggest company builder. In 2015, she received funding from one of Europe's largest venture capital funds. She also became one of the first Berlin-based start-ups to attract investment from a prominent US-based fund.

In 2017, Chanyu founded HER ONE, a direct-to-consumer company that is on a mission to break the taboos around women's health, beauty and wellbeing. HER ONE products are all-natural and science-backed. They target digestion, gut health and beauty from within.

Chanyu is a business angel, who actively supports and mentors female founders.

Company description

Her One is a leading direct-to-consumer female wellness brand, offering holistic nutritional products that empower women's health and wellness from within.



Anne Abberton

CEO
FiXX Coffee
Ireland

Anne Abberton, located in Ireland, is the founder and CEO of FiXX Coffee. A commerce graduate, Anne has 20 years' experience in the hospitality and travel industries. She spent much of her early working life overseas and many of the countries she lived in had strong coffee cultures. This led to her developing an organic love for the beverage.

When she returned to Ireland in 1997, Anne joined the sales and marketing team of an international hotel group. Then, in 2004, she set up her own coffee company, fueled by her growing passion for coffee and café culture. As she puts it: "Opportunity, ambition and a desire to be self-employed collided."

Anne's first big win was to secure the exclusive distribution rights for all export brands of Cuban coffee for the Irish and UK markets. Initially, the company was called Café de Cuba before a rebrand to FiXX. The FiXX brand now includes coffees from around the world.

In her downtime, Anne enjoys good company, good food, cinema, gardening, hiking, music, reading and traveling.

Company description

As an independent coffee brand, FiXX sources, creates and sells consistently superb coffee. With ongoing access to coffee expertise, FiXX customers enjoy and appreciate excellent products and service.

Elaine Brady

Managing Partner
Barden
Ireland



Elaine Brady, located in Ireland, is the managing partner of Barden Leinster. She holds a bachelor of business studies from Trinity College Dublin and, since graduation, has worked nationally and internationally with some of the world's leading recruitment companies. Throughout her career, Elaine has specialized in accounting and tax talent advisory and recruitment. She is an expert in qualified accounting careers across both practice and industry.

In 2014, Elaine co-founded the Barden talent advisory and recruitment practice. Since then, the practice has grown organically into a thriving team of talent advisory and recruitment experts, based in Cork, Dublin, Waterford and San Francisco.

Elaine is an active contributor to, and regular panelist on, industry discussions relating to talent advisory, recruitment, accounting and tax, and diversity and inclusion. She also advises boards on how to build world-class leadership teams.

Company description

Barden is a partner-led talent advisory and recruitment firm that supports professionals in their careers. It has expertise in accounting and tax, financial services, legal, supply chain and technology.



Loretta Dignam

Founder and CEO
The Menopause Hub
Ireland

Loretta Dignam, located in Ireland, is the founder and CEO of The Menopause Hub, Ireland's first menopause centre of excellence. The clinic was founded in 2018.

An advocate for menopausal women, Loretta has developed an award-winning program to support organizations with awareness around menopause in the workplace, as well as training and policy development. She previously had a highly successful career working as a C-Suite marketing and communications leader for multinational businesses, including Mars Inc, Diageo and Kerry Group. She has won, or been nominated for, a string of awards, and was named Marketer of the Year in 2011, by Marketing magazine.

Loretta is a graduate of University College Dublin (UCD) and Dublin City University, and has lectured on the executive MBA and MSc programs of UCD Michael Smurfit Graduate Business School. She has been twice appointed to the board of Ireland's national theatre, Abbey Theatre, where she chaired its gender equality committee, driving change in gender equality policy across Irish theatre.

Company description

The Menopause Hub is a menopause center of excellence, enhancing women's lives, personally and professionally, during their menopausal years, so they can keep living the life they love and deserve.

Sandra Healy

Founder and CEO
Inclusio
Ireland



Sandra Healy, located in Ireland, is CEO and founder of Inclusio, the scientific diversity and culture platform. Previously, Sandra's career spanned 20 years in the global telecoms industry and five years at Dublin City University (DCU), where she established the DCU Centre of Excellence for Diversity and Inclusion.

Sandra is an organizational psychologist and neuro-linguistic programming master practitioner. Over 18 years, she has championed and driven diversity

and inclusion practice across industry and is considered a leading expert in the field. In 2014, she was involved with establishing the EU Diversity Charter Ireland. In 2020, Sandra was a member of Ireland's Expert Advisory Group to the Citizens' Assembly on Gender Equality. She is on the Leadership Council for An Garda Síochána (Ireland's police force).

Company description

Inclusio delivers a scientific approach to measuring workforce diversity and culture. The platform empowers leaders with independent culture metrics and benchmarks, enabling them to build sustainable and valuable companies.



Stella Power

Founder and Managing Director
Annertech
Ireland

Stella Power, located in Ireland, is the founder of Annertech and presently serves as managing director. She graduated from Trinity College Dublin with an honors degree in computational physics. Following graduation, she worked as a software developer in the financial transactions industry, working her way up to assistant software development manager.

During this time, Stella became interested in open source and became involved in the Drupal project, an enterprise-level content management system. She became an active contributor to the Drupal ecosystem and set up Ireland's first digital agency specializing in Drupal.

Since its foundation in 2008, Stella has grown Annertech to be a distributed agency with a workforce of more than 40, who develop digital platforms for household names such as Glanbia and Médecins Sans Frontières.

Stella continues to be an open source evangelist, and has spoken at international conferences on topics including best practices for development, data migrations, service delivery and security. She remains an active contributor to Drupal and is a member of the Drupal Security Team and the DrupalCon Europe Advisory Board.

Stella is a strong advocate of the promotion of women in tech, winning a Women in Drupal Award in 2022 and a Women in Digital Award at Ireland's 2021 National Digital Awards.

Company description

Annertech is a Drupal-specialist digital agency, which focuses on creating exceptional online user experiences while ensuring they deliver the best possible outcomes for their clients.

Caroline Reidy

Managing Director
The HR Suite
Ireland



Caroline Reidy, located in Ireland, is an HR and employment law expert, and managing director of The HR Suite. The HR Suite has over 800 clients throughout Ireland and employs a team of HR advisors who provide expert HR advice, training and third-party representation, as well as other HR services. The company has offices in Dublin, Kerry and Cork, with a client base that includes both multinationals and SMEs.

Prior to setting up The HR Suite in 2009, Caroline was operations and HR director for Garvey Group and had worked in HR for over 20 years. She has a master's degree in human resource management from the University of Limerick and achieved a

diploma in company direction (with distinction) from the Institute of Directors. Caroline holds an accreditation from the Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development and is also a trained mediator.

Caroline is a former member of Ireland's Low Pay Commission and is an adjudicator for its Workplace Relations Commission. She is also a committee member of CPA Ireland. Caroline is author of *The Art of Asking the Right Questions* – a tool kit for managers looking to maximize the talent of their people. Caroline Reidy is also a TEDx speaker and taught leaders who present and contribute to national media and conferences on a regular basis.

Company description

The HR Suite provides HR consultancy and training to businesses throughout Ireland. Its principal activities are the provision of human resource outsourcing and training and provision of employment law advice.



Meg Faure

CEO
Parent Sense
Jersey

Meg Faure, based in Jersey, is the founder and CEO of Parent Sense (Sense-IT). She is an accomplished leader and creative entrepreneur, recognized for her contributions in the field of child development.

Meg started her career as an occupational therapist in New York and later ran a private practice in Cape Town, South Africa. After having her second child, Meg wrote the parenting bestseller *Baby Sense*, the book she used as the foundation for Baby Sense, a baby product company that she sold in 2014.

Meg's entrepreneurial spirit led her to establish Play Sense, an early childhood development program catering to children aged between two

and four. Through her leadership, Play Sense has grown into a successful network of over 45 franchise schools across South Africa. Notably, Meg's innovative thinking allowed Play Sense to adapt to the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic by introducing a digital home-school program.

Under Meg's guidance, Parent Sense has emerged as a leading parenting mobile application, providing comprehensive support to parents in areas such as child development, feeding, health and sleep. Her strategic direction has established Parent Sense as a trusted resource that offers personalized routines and evidence-based guidance.

Company description

Sense-IT offers comprehensive solutions for new parents and early childhood education. Its innovative approach empowers parents and educators, creating a seamless ecosystem for child development and learning worldwide.

Sophia Tienstra

Founder and Owner
LX matten
The Netherlands



Sophia Tienstra, located in the Netherlands, is a visionary leader with Moroccan heritage and the founder of LX MATTEN, a trendsetter in doormats. A University of Amsterdam alumna, Sophia's fusion of style and functionality has reshaped entrances across Europe.

Sophia has a decade of marketing experience, working with brands, artists and the government. She has also held editorial roles at Cosmopolitan and Quote magazines. Her upcoming venture focuses on sustainable outdoor mats and runners, exemplifying her innovation and cultural influence, and positioning her as an ambitious figure in the business world.

Company description

LX MATTEN specializes in crafting premium, custom-made doormats and runners that combine exquisite design with durability. Its innovative creations redefine entrance aesthetics while enhancing functionality.



Claire van Beek

Co-founder
Moodies
The Netherlands

Claire van Beek, located in the Netherlands, is co-founder of Moodies. She comes from an entrepreneurial family since her father is the founder of several businesses in the hospitality industry.

Claire studied communication at the HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht. After graduation, she worked in marketing and media positions at companies including SBS, IDTV and GroupM. She was quickly promoted to manager positions and sometimes had to build up a department. In her roles, she worked in a creative environment, delivering advertiser-funded content solutions.

While Claire has always loved how creativity and stories can help brands to achieve their communication targets, she found that she increasingly wanted to do something more worthwhile and sustainable. Then, in 2020, she and her partner discovered period underwear and decided to start their own brand. Claire enjoys sports, including running, tennis and walking.

Company description

Moodies creates high-quality period underwear that helps people to manage their menstrual and incontinence leaks, while hardly noticing any difference from normal underwear.

Irina Arsene

Founder and Chair of the Board
mindit.io
Romania



Irina Arsene is a Romanian entrepreneur that founded mindit.io, a software engineering scaleup for catalyzing digital transformation for enterprise-type companies in Switzerland, Germany, France and US.

Life-long learner, Irina graduated in 2023 OPM program from Harvard and in 2004 the Romanian-Canadian MBA program. She holds an MSc and a BSc diplomas in Computer Science from Bucharest Polytechnic University. With over 20 years of experience in the IT&C sector, her career started as a programmer that rapidly grew in a managerial role just to lead 100+ before she finished her

master's degree. She held key roles in marketing and sales, rising to the level of General Manager and Board Director for an UK software company. After the company sale, Irina started Mindit Consulting in 2013 – the first background-check business in Romania and two years later she founded mindit.io – a software product engineering company with exponential growth.

“I’m glad that now, through mindit.io, I have the opportunity to paint a picture for the whole world to enjoy,” Irina explains. “I believe in the future of mindit.io because we are building it together.”

Company description

mindit.io is a software product engineering company with exponential growth, >250 specialists in software development, business intelligence & integration services, catalyzing digital transformation for enterprise companies in retail, BSFI, healthcare and food-tech.



Majbritt Byskov-Bridges

Co-founder and COO

Alver

Switzerland

Majbritt Byskov-Bridges, based in Switzerland, is the co-founder, chief operating officer and secretary of the board of Alver.

Majbritt, who has both Danish and British ancestry, grew up in Ecuador and Switzerland. An economist, she gained a master's degree from ESCP Business School. She started her professional life at Morgan

Stanley, moving on to pursue strategy consulting and wealth management. During her career, Majbritt has worked in Argentina, Denmark, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Monaco, Spain and the UK. She supports Mine Uran's vision of getting Chlorella microalgae into the food industry as a healthy, tasty and sustainable protein ingredient.

Company description

Alver produces high-protein, vegan, tasty foods using its unique Golden and Diamond Chlorella microalgae, which are neutral in taste and color and are suitable for many food applications.

Mine Uran

Founder and CEO
Alver
Switzerland



Mine Uran, located in Switzerland, is the co-founder and CEO of Alver. She has dual German and Turkish nationality and speaks four languages. Mine has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Bosphorus University and an MBA in strategy and marketing from the Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University. She has also completed the Breakthrough Program for Senior Executives at IMD in Switzerland.

Earlier in her career, Mine held marketing roles at Rubbermaid and DuPont. While she was at DuPont, she moved into food, becoming vice president of protein solutions. Subsequently, she moved to Nestlé, where she was head of alternative proteins.

In 2016, Mine co-founded Alver. In her role as CEO, she has set the company strategy, created the company structure, sourced funding, and built up the team. Under her stewardship, Alver has won a string of awards, including the Best Natural Ingredient Award by Naturex at the FiE Start-up Innovation Challenge in 2017.

Company description

Alver produces high-protein, vegan, tasty foods using its unique Golden and Diamond Chlorella microalgae, which are neutral in taste and color and are suitable for many food applications.



Margaret Dabbs OBE

Founder and CEO
Margaret Dabbs London
United Kingdom

Margaret Dabbs, located in the United Kingdom, is the founder of spa brand Margaret Dabbs London. After qualifying in podiatry, she saw a big gap in the market for beautifying, effective and credible results – driven by luxury product formulations and treatments for feet. Existing beauty products for feet were typically ineffective as treatments for ailments while pharmaceutical formulations were often unpleasant to use. Margaret decided to fuse beauty and effectiveness by creating the first luxury range of credible, medically effective treatment formulations with health benefits for feet.

Margaret has gone on to expand the product range to include hand, nail and leg products. As well as having 13 clinics, including three overseas, the brand now sells its products in some of the most prestigious department stores globally, and performs its treatments at some of the most luxurious hotels and spas around the world.

Margaret was awarded an OBE in the 2023 New Year's Honours List in recognition of her services to business and podiatry – which is testament to her entrepreneurial ability and her success at creating a brand-new wellness category within beauty.

Company description

Margaret Dabbs London provides innovative, powerful, results-driven beauty products and treatments that combine the best of medical science with the best of beauty for feet, hands, nails and legs.

Lemon Fuller

Founder and CEO
Lemonade
United Kingdom



Lemon Fuller, located in the United Kingdom, is the founder and CEO of Lemonade Dolls, an underwear start-up that goes against the rules of a 'traditional' fashion brand. It keeps diversity and self-love at its heart, embracing positive social change and individuality.

Lemon started her career as a choreographer, singer and songwriter in London and Los Angeles. The list of artists she has worked with includes Avicii, Beyoncé and Justin Bieber. She built up Lemonade Dolls after she and her friends struggled to buy underwear they liked. Previously, the brand was sold by UK retailers New Look and Topshop. Now it is being sold by Zalando in Germany and Nordstrom in the US.

Lemonade became the highest funded business on Seedrs for the quarter that it featured on the platform. More recently, it has enjoyed an oversubscribed seed investment round to facilitate its worldwide growth. In partnership with charity Choose Love, Lemonade Dolls has donated 15,000 briefs to refugee camps across Europe.

Lemon is often asked to speak on panels to share her experiences as a female entrepreneur. She passionately believes in creating lingerie that she and her friends want to wear.

Company description

Lemonade Dolls is an ethical underwear business that champions inclusivity and diversity, believing that women deserve more. It celebrates every woman, of every shape, size and story.



Emma Macdonald

Co-founder and CEO
TBCo
United Kingdom

Emma Macdonald, based in the United Kingdom, is the CEO and co-founder of TBCo, a visionary leader in the fashion and lifestyle industry. With an MA in economics and business, Emma followed her passion for retail, earning an MSc in fashion marketing and gaining valuable experience in fashion buying and merchandising in London. When she returned to her hometown of Edinburgh, Emma founded TBCo with her husband Fergus.

In 2021, Emma became the company's sole CEO and grew the TBCo team to 50, with a fully female senior leadership team. TBCo's sustainable products are

stocked in prestigious retailers worldwide, including Anthropologie, Liberty, Nordstrom and Selfridges. Emma's commitment to positive impact is evident in TBCo's achievement of B Corp certification and the fact it has donated over £300,000 to charity through its "1% for People, 1% for Planet" pledge.

In recognition of her exceptional work, Emma received two prestigious accolades at the 2021 Great British Entrepreneur Awards, winning both the Sustainability Entrepreneur and Creative Industries Entrepreneur awards.

Company description

TBCo creates design-leading fashion and lifestyle products, which bring warmth while having a positive impact on people and the planet.

Nazanin Nankali

Director
Powertutors
United Kingdom



Nazanin Nankali, located in the United Kingdom, is the founder and director of Powertutors. She was born in Iran, but grew up in Kyiv, Ukraine, where she stayed until 2004. Nazanin struggled with school as she had dyslexia, which meant she experienced difficulties with all school subjects, but particularly with reading and writing.

After attending a school parent evening, Nazanin's mother discovered the severity of her daughter's academic problems. So, she hired a maths tutor, a decision that would change Nazanin's life. The tutor taught Nazanin patiently, taking the time to

understand her preferred learning methods. Within a few months, Nazanin went from being at the bottom of her year in maths to being at the top. As a result, she developed a genuine love for the subject and her confidence grew.

Thanks to her tutor's support, Nazanin pursued her passion for math and earned a degree in the subject. She then began tutoring math, which ultimately led her to establish a tutoring business. Through Powertutors, she aims to assist others facing challenges similar to those she once faced.

Company description

Powertutors provides an online and in-person tutoring service for all ages, subjects and special educational needs. It believes in tailored teaching methods that help to improve students' confidence and knowledge.



Emma O'Brien

CEO

Embridge Consulting
United Kingdom

Emma O'Brien, located in the United Kingdom, is the founder and CEO of fast-growing business transformation consultancy Embridge Consulting. Driven by a quest for work-life balance, she established Embridge Consulting in 2009 after she was made redundant and discovered a lack of part-time senior positions within the corporate world.

Emma has successfully built Embridge Consulting into a boutique business transformation consultancy, which is renowned for its expertise in enterprise resource planning and business change, across both the public and private sectors. Its clients range from Surrey County Council to Islamic Relief Worldwide to St James's Place.

Over the past 14 years, Emma has developed the Embridge brand from a standing start into a seven-figure turnover business. The consultancy has increased revenue by 76% over the last three years alone. It now employs a team of approximately 75 digital transformation and technology specialists.

Emma's ambition is to challenge the dynamics and status quo of customer transformation services, delving into the 'why', while establishing Embridge as an industry-leading brand with a proven track record in delivering tangible outcomes and results for its growing client base.

Company description

Embridge Consulting delivers meaningful business transformation. Respected for its expertise in supporting back-office and operational transformation, it forms long-term partnerships with its clients in support of ongoing business transformation outcomes.

Jenny Ousbey

CEO

OVID Health
United Kingdom



Jenny Ousbey, located in the United Kingdom, is a recognized leader in healthcare communications and patient advocacy.

She began her career as a journalist and has created numerous high-profile campaigns in-house and agency-side for some of the world's leading pharmaceutical companies. Her achievements for clients include securing additional investment for dementia research and development, improved access to medicines for patients suffering from rare diseases, and policy change in the field of cell and gene therapies.

Prior to launching OVID Health in 2018, Jenny successfully built up an award-winning healthcare communications practice at another agency. She is

a former political adviser to a UK government health minister, having advised on national policies relating to topics such as aging, dementia, mental health, social care, social isolation and suicide.

Jenny previously led the public affairs team at the NHS Confederation, overseeing several high-profile campaigns, including an award-winning campaign on social care. She also worked at a social affairs policy think tank. In 2020, she founded the Patient Partnership Index, a pro bono initiative that has led to a step-change in terms of how patient programs between third-sector organizations and pharmaceutical companies deliver impact across the globe.

Company description

OVID Health is an independent agency specializing in healthcare public affairs, patient advocacy and communications. It advises clients on how to tell their stories to deliver real-world change for patients.



Pauline Paterson

Founder and CEO
Dr.PAWPAW
United Kingdom

Pauline Paterson, located in the United Kingdom, is an entrepreneur and beauty expert with over 25 years' experience in the hair and beauty industry. The UK government appointed her an Export Champion in recognition of her success at exporting globally. Today, she helps other brands to build their export businesses and is a champion of women in business.

Pauline launched Dr.PAWPAW in 2013 alongside her husband Johnny, with just £20,000 of their own money. Since then, Dr.PAWPAW has become a globally regarded, multi-award-winning brand that is available in over 35 countries. It recently

entered the skincare category with a sustainable, multipurpose skincare range, known as 'YOUR gorgeous SKIN'. Pauline heads new product development and production within the business and ensures that the brand's eco and sustainable mission is ongoing.

Pauline spreads her positivity and infectious enthusiasm by combining leadership of Dr.PAWPAW with day-to-day management of the growing team. She believes in sharing her valuable expertise, so she teaches and presents to clients and partners globally.

Company description

Dr.PAWPAW creates multi-use, eco-conscious hair and beauty products that are suitable for the whole family. Its innovative products are used by families all around the world.

Julianne Ponan MBE

CEO

Creative Nature
United Kingdom



Julianne Ponan MBE, located in the United Kingdom, is the owner and CEO of innovative 'free from' brand Creative Nature. She has launched her brand into major UK supermarkets Asda, Co-op, Morrisons, Ocado, Sainsbury's and Tesco. The brand now exports to 19 countries worldwide.

Julianne is the recipient of a string of accolades and has featured on the Forbes 30 Under 30 list. She was awarded an MBE by King Charles for her service to business, exports and people with allergies.

Outside of her work with Creative Nature, Julianne is an ambassador for the Jessie May Trust, Anaphylaxis UK and MedicAlert, three charities

that are very close to her heart. She is a mentor for Virgin Start-up and a UK government Export Champion, as well as a motivational speaker and panelist who addresses events across the world. She created a free school assembly pack for primary schools in the UK, educating 150,000 children on allergy awareness.

Julianne is campaigning for safer spaces for those with food allergies and intolerances. She has launched a provocative billboard campaign that showcases the dangers posed by certain foods used by airlines and the risks associated with not handling those foods effectively.

Company description

Creative Nature is a multi-award-winning brand that creates food products that are free from the top 14 allergens. Its vegan, palm-oil-free treats are 'Delicious Without Doubt'.



Anna Richey and Alla Ouvarova

Co-founder and CEO
Two Chicks
United Kingdom

Alla Ouvarova and Anna Richey, located in the United Kingdom, are the co-founder and CEO of liquid egg white brand Two Chicks.

Alla moved to the UK with her family in 1991, when she was nine years old. She graduated from UCL with a degree in Economics, and soon after, joined forces with friend Anna to create Two Chicks.

She has always been into healthy eating and this prompted her to pursue a yearlong course at the Institute of Integrative Nutrition. She is passionate about the Future Female Entrepreneur initiative that they set up last year and completed a course on social entrepreneurship at the London School of Economics. An avid sportswoman, Alla grew up

playing tennis and golf, and running long distance. She runs, lifts weights and does yoga for a healthy life balance. (She is the mother to two children.)

Prior to co-founding Two Chicks, Anna worked in television, journalism and public relations. She was writing for the news desk at CNN when she decided to set up Two Chicks with her friend Alla. She holds a bachelor of arts in English literature from the University of York and a master's degree in broadcast journalism from City, University of London. She also has a foundation certificate in psychotherapy and counselling from Regent's University London. In her spare time, Anna writes poetry and is planning a documentary. She enjoys horse riding and current affairs.

Company description

Two Chicks brings innovative, convenient, healthier egg based products to market. They are helping to inspire the next wave of female entrepreneurs through their Future Female Entrepreneur initiative.

Helen Tupper

CEO
Amazing If
United Kingdom

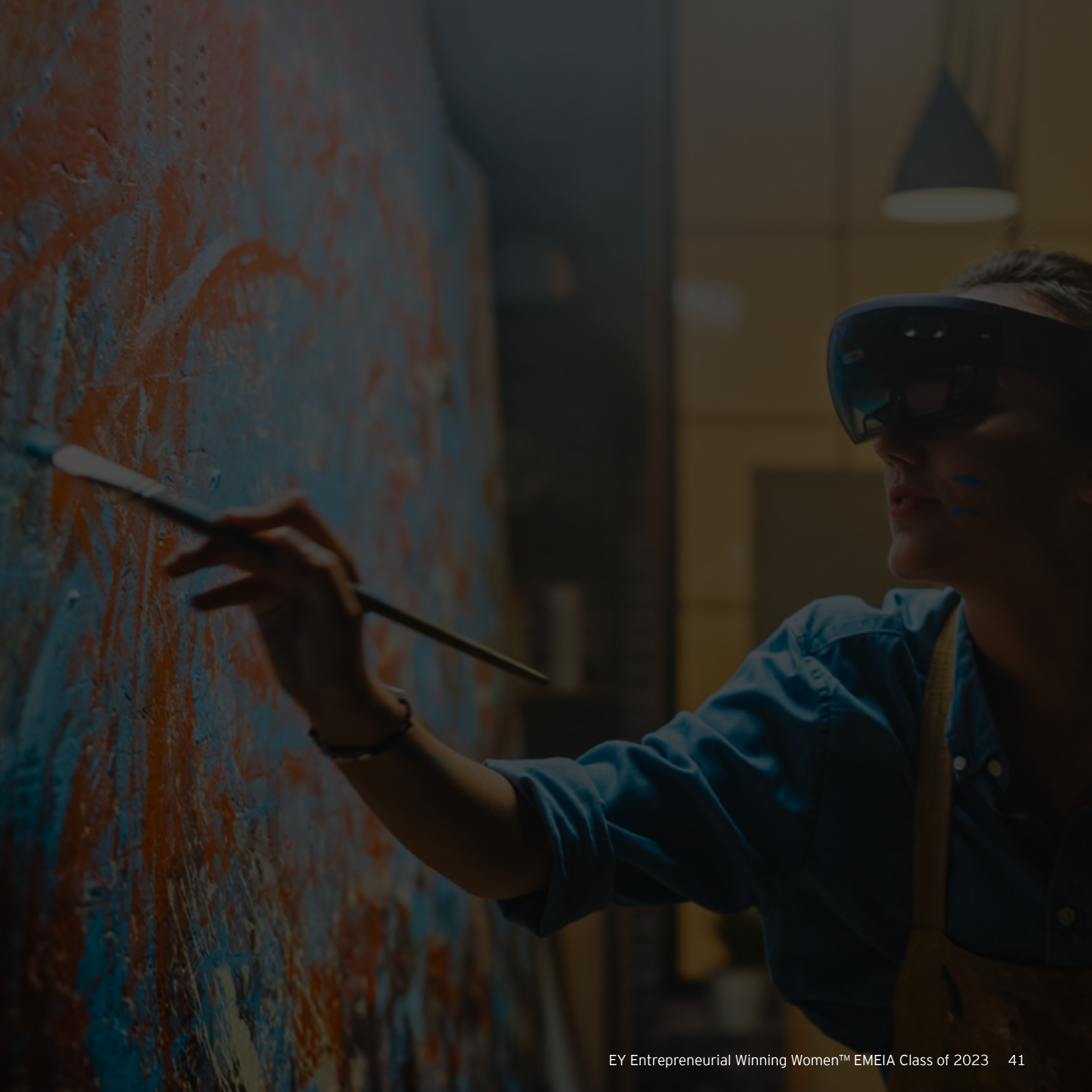


Helen Tupper, located in the United Kingdom, is the co-founder and CEO of Amazing If, a company with an ambition to make careers better for everyone. Together with her business partner Sarah Ellis, she is the author of two Sunday Times bestsellers, *The Squiggly Career* and *You Coach You*. Their Squiggly Careers Podcast is one of the UK's top careers podcasts and their TEDx talk, "The best career path isn't always a straight line", has been watched by more than 1.7 million people.

Helen also works as an ambassador for Working Families, a UK charity with a mission to support families and carers with their work and life commitments. Prior to Amazing If, she held leadership roles with BP, Microsoft and Virgin. She was awarded the Financial Times and 30% Club's Women in Leadership MBA Scholarship.

Company description

Amazing If is a provider of squiggly career training products and services to businesses that want to invest in their employees and individuals who want to invest in themselves.



India





Devidutta Dash

Founder and CEO
Lemme Be
India

Devidutta Dash, located in India, is the founder and CEO of Lemme Be. She is an established business leader with over 12 years' experience in the telecommunications, financial services and technology industries.

During her career, Devidutta has enjoyed a proven track record of success in developing and executing strategic plans, managing teams and driving revenue growth. She has expertise in the internet of things, cloud computing, and mobile connectivity, as well as strong problem-solving and analytical skills.

While working as a strategic account manager for Vodafone, Devidutta developed and executed a two-year strategic plan that resulted in a 60% year-on-year increase in revenue. When she was a business analyst at Hejaz Financial Services, she helped to launch a new Islamic financial services product that was well received by the market. In 2020, she founded Lemme Be, a start-up that is developing a new social media platform for Gen Z.

Devidutta is passionate about making a positive impact on the world.

Company description

Lemme Be is an inclusive, Gen Z period care brand, aligned to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. It focuses on innovation, sustainable products and open conversation.

Ishani Roy

CEO
Serein Inc
India



Dr. Ishani Roy, located in India, is the founder and CEO of Serein Inc. A scientist by training, she has a PhD in applied mathematics from Brown University. Her dissertation was on developing mathematical models to solve astrophysics problems.

Ishani did her post-doctoral studies at the University of Oxford and St Thomas' Hospital in London, where she collaborated with cardiac surgeons on mathematical algorithms to build virtual human hearts that would make cardiac surgeries more efficient. She was later a scientist at GE Research, working in the Aerospace Lab.

As a scientist, Ishani became aware of how conscious and unconscious biases affect an individual's career, irrespective of their skills and qualifications. So, she founded Serein to make the workplace safe and equitable for all. An equitable world means including differently abled people and LGBTQA people, as well as people of all ages, classes, castes, races and religions.

In 2023, Ishani received an award from the Cartier Women's Initiative, which recognizes impact entrepreneurs globally, for her work promoting equality and safety for minorities.

Company description

Serein Inc uses science and technology to implement diversity, equity and inclusion within companies, impacting over 500,000 people in more than 20 countries.



Middle East

A woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a blue denim shirt and a red apron, is focused on sculpting a large chocolate map of the Middle East. She is using a thin metal tool to refine the edges of the chocolate. The sculpture is mounted on a wooden board supported by a blue stand. The background shows a window with light-colored curtains, suggesting a bright, indoor setting.



Madonna Saied

Founder and CEO
V-licious
Egypt

Madonna Saied, located in Egypt, is the founder and CEO of V-licious. As a mother of two boys, she started her business in 2016 because she dreamed of providing children with the nutritious food they deserve. Her vision is to be the trusted first choice of mothers globally for their family meals.

Madonna has a master's degree in accounting and finance from Harvard University, as well as a bachelor's degree in accounting from the American University in Cairo. She also holds the Certified Public Accountant qualification and previously worked as an external auditor for Deloitte.

Company description

V-licious specializes in serving children with sustainable, nutritious finger food with hidden veggies. It provides mothers with a healthy, quick and hassle-free solution for feeding their kids.

Dina Abdul Majeed

CEO
360Moms
Jordan



Dina Abdul Majeed, located in Jordan, is the founder and CEO of 360Moms, an online bilingual platform and mobile app that aims to offer revolutionary digital support to mothers.

Dina began her career studying graphic design, which led her to working for media and advertising agencies. She also worked for Yahoo as head of creative for the Middle East and Africa. She has 20 years' experience in online digital solutions, online advertising, branding, and online and offline design. For most of her career, she has held leadership positions.

Dina is passionate about empowering women. Her vision is to support all mothers digitally in relation to their children's health and wellbeing through 360Moms, which has won several local, regional and global awards.

Company description

360Moms is an online platform and mobile app, which facilitates connections between mothers and certified experts. It offers low-cost health consultations, comprehensive online courses and an exclusive discount program.



Shadha Musallam

CEO

Agritopia for Agricultural Technology
Palestine

Shadha Musallam, located in Palestine, is an entrepreneur and co-founder and CEO of Agritopia for Agricultural Technology. She has an MSc in environmental studies from Al-Quds University.

Shadha began her career as a researcher and the subsequently moved into a public relations role with Jericho Women Charitable Society. She then moved to MUSAWA, The Palestinian Center for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession, as senior public relations and fundraising officer. Then she joined Union Aid Abroad – APHEDA as social inclusion coordinator and monitoring and evaluation officer.

In 2018, Shadha joined Cowater International as a gender and women's economic empowerment Specialist. She has over six years' experience of working in multiple development projects, which allowed her to train over 300 marginalized women in the topics of gender and the environment. She founded Agritopia for Agricultural Technology in 2022.

Company description

Agritopia for Agricultural Technology provides agri-tech solutions that enhance productivity and resource efficiency. These include automated fertigation controllers and indoor-farming control systems coupled with hydroponic technology.

Muzon Ashgar

CEO

MZN Bodycare
Saudi Arabia



Muzon Ashgar, located in Saudi Arabia, is an entrepreneur and consultant in the health and beauty sector, who has made significant contributions to the manufacturing and cosmetics industries. Her academic experience at the design college of King Faisal University laid the groundwork for her future success. In 2005, she began her career as a lecturer. A decade later, she founded MZN Body Care, a leading manufacturer of natural body care products in Saudi Arabia, which has also developed products for luxury brands in the hospitality sector.

As a trusted consultant, Muzon has guided clients across various industries, offering expertise in production optimization and operational management. She has been a member of some of Saudi Arabia's most prestigious industry bodies, reflecting her dedication to industry development. In 2022, her significant contributions were recognized when she was named 'Woman of The Year' in the start-up category at the KSA Women Excellence Awards launched by Arabian Business. Muzon's blend of academic and practical experience, paired with her innovative approach to business, positions her as a respected industry leader and advisor.

Company description

MZN Bodycare creates high-quality skin and body care products for every skin type. Its products are natural, vegan and cruelty-free, and use locally inspired raw materials.



Shereen Tawfiq

Founder and CEO
Balinca
Saudi Arabia

Shereen Tawfiq, located in Saudi Arabia, is the CEO and co-founder of award-winning training provider BALINCA. She has appeared on CNN and featured in Harvard Business Review and Fortune magazine. She was one of the first five women in Saudi Arabia to work in banking, alongside men, back in 2000. Her banking career – corporate and investment – spans more than a decade. In 2012, she became the first Saudi woman to obtain an MBA from The Wharton School in Pennsylvania. During her time at The Wharton School, she participated in a week-long leadership venture in Antarctica and a military leadership experience with the United States Marine Corps in Quantico. She also undertook a social simulation where she was homeless for two days.

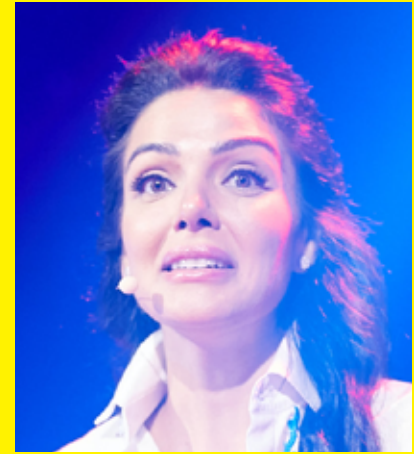
In 2015, Shereen was appointed as an advisor to Saudi Arabia’s Ministry of Economy and Planning, where she headed the private sector growth program and established the venture capital ecosystem. Shereen has worked in learning and development for over a decade and specializes in experiential learning and biohacking the brain for maximum information retention. She is dedicated to empowering women through education and aims to train five million women on business acumen over the next five years.

Company description

BALINCA provides simulation training that brings fun to finance. It empowers entrepreneurs and business professionals by using Montessori-style learning to show the intricate ties between finance and strategy.

Saana Azzam

Chief Inspiration Officer
MENA Speakers
United Arab Emirates



Saana Azzam, located in the United Arab Emirates, is the founder and CEO of MENA Speakers, a leading speaker bureau for the Middle East. She is also the chief inspiration officer for Experts Market. Saana is an award-winning economist and a Forbes contributor, as well as a public speaking expert. She provides keynote speeches to conferences and events around the world.

Saana helps businesses in the Middle East to select the right speakers for their events. Her clients trust her recommendations because of her insightful analysis, which results from her training as an economist and strategic thinker. She works closely with event planners to assist them in understanding the cost-benefit analysis associated with selecting a particular speaker.

Born to a Palestinian refugee, Saana has pushed herself far beyond her humble beginnings. She has a master's degree in economics from the Stockholm School of Economics, which named her 'Female Economist of the Year' in 2010. She has also studied leadership communication and neurolinguistic programming.

Saana is a fellow of The Vital Voices GROW, an accelerator program for female entrepreneurs. ITP Media named her one of the top 10 Middle East-based entrepreneurs to look out for in 2023.

Company description

MENA Speakers is a leading speaker bureau for the Middle East, helping businesses to select the right speakers for their events from a pool of regional and global talent.



Heba Rumhein

Owner

The H concepts and events

United Arab Emirates

Heba Rumhein, located in the United Arab Emirates, is founder of The H Concepts and Events. Her passion for events started when she was working in the hospitality industry, where she held some key positions that shaped her career journey. These included being director of events at Atlantis, The Palm, Dubai, and associate director of Madinat Jumeirah in the special VIP events wing.

In 2011, Heba embarked on her entrepreneurial journey by founding Eventique, an exclusive boutique agency, in collaboration with MBC Group. Thanks to her originality and fresh approach to events, she propelled Eventique to become a leading event management agency within a short span of time.

Six years later, in 2017, Heba launched her own company, The H Concepts and Events – an exclusive all-service agency that designs weddings and events of a luxurious caliber and caters to a sophisticated and elite clientele. In addition to staging magical weddings, she has planned and executed several successful events. These events include the International Government Communication Forum, the Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Creative Sports Award, and the Dubai International Film Festival.

Company description

The H Concepts and Events is a premier all-service agency that crafts luxury weddings and events. It delivers impeccable attention to detail and personalized experiences for an exclusive clientele.

Türkiye





Gülay Akay

Owner/Dentist
Dentakay
Türkiye

Dr. Gülay Akay is a dentist in Türkiye, and the founder of Dentakay Dental Clinic. She started her dental career after graduating from Gazi University's Dentistry Faculty. Initially, she established her dentistry practice in Istanbul and later expanded it under the name Dentakay Dental Clinic. It started in 2009 with just one branch and one dentist. Today, it has 8 branches (in Istanbul, Ankara and Antalya) and over 60 specialised dentists with more than 450 staff members.

In 2023, Dentakay expanded internationally by opening an office in London and a clinic in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia is set to be completed by the year's end.

Dr. Gülay Akay's areas of expertise encompass dental implants, aesthetic dentistry, and smile design. In addition, she also offers advanced dental implant solutions, including All-on-4 implants and bone augmentations.

In her free time, Dr. Gülay Akay enjoys reading about dentistry, as well as diving, hiking, travelling, and helping with community projects.

Company description

Dentakay specializes in offering premium dental care to patients around the world, at affordable prices without any compromise on quality.

Züleyha Albaş

Co-founder
Buckaroo Food
Türkiye



Züleyha Albaş, located in Türkiye, is the co-founder of Buckaroo Food. She attended Kartal Anatolian High School in Istanbul and later graduated from university with a degree in German language and literature. She worked as a teacher for a few years, then applied for a job in importing and exporting as she likes to communicate and do business internationally.

For seven years Züleyha worked in a meat factory, but didn't have the opportunity to become a manager in the business since it was a family-owned company. As a result, she left the meat factory and co-founded Buckaroo Food in 2018.

Buckaroo uses meat from slaughterhouses approved by Turkish authorities, in compliance with Halal standards. It produces two types of products: meat by-products for export and traditional delicatessen food. Its products are exported to the Far East, Middle East, Turkic States and Africa. Although the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic created challenges for the business, Buckaroo managed to keep producing during that time.

Company description

Buckaroo Food is a producer and exporter of beef and lamb products. It produces the goods in its own plant, in line with international standards.



Merve Çelebi Bayazıt

Board member
Element Proje
Türkiye

Merve Çelebi, located in Türkiye, is a board member of Element Proje. She graduated from Selçuk University's Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences in 2006. Merve gained knowledge and experience of accounting and financial consultancy by obtaining the title of independent accountant and financial advisor in 2016. She achieved the auditor certification ISO 9001:2015 in quality management. In 2009, Merve helped to establish the company in which she is a founding partner, by separating her family businesses – which were sole proprietorships – according to their branches of activity. Following the establishment of the company, she led its institutionalization and digitalization efforts.

Today, Merve serves as strategic planning and financial affairs manager, as well as a board member of Element Proje. She oversees improvements to the company's technology and infrastructure. She also participates in social responsibility projects and is involved with communities that are creating social impact on a regional and national basis. She is a member of Arya Investment platform and attaches great importance to supporting women entrepreneurship. She took part in the EBRD Mentoring Programme for Women Entrepreneurs and volunteers as a mentor to women entrepreneurs.

Company description

Element project, with its steam boilers and process equipment, designs and implements industrial process solutions for customers with specific business models in the biomass power, paper, textile, food and energy sectors.

Nesrin Doğan

Chairman of the Board of Directors
Doğanlar Tarım
Türkiye



Nesrin Doğan, located in Türkiye, is chair of Doğanlar Tarım. After graduating from university, she started work in the steel industry. In her first job, she was a certified accountant responsible for finance. Then she was promoted to customer sales representative and later joined the sales team as manager. In these roles, Nesrin gained lots of insights into how business works and mastered skills in accounting and finance, brand improvement, human relations, procurement and sales.

In 2017, Nesrin decided to set a new challenge for herself: starting a business. A goal-oriented and critical thinker, she increased her knowledge of the farm equipment sector before starting Doğanlar Tarım.

With her knowledge from the steel industry, she entered the agricultural machinery sector by establishing her own business and gained a good place in this sector.

Company description

Doğanlar Tarım (Doganlar Agriculture) manufactures modern and efficient agricultural machinery, including cultivators, plows and rotovators. It aims to produce innovative products that support efficient farming.



Deniz Eraydın

General Manager
Reisswolf Türkiye
Türkiye

Deniz Eraydın, located in Türkiye, is the general manager of records storage facility Reisswolf Türkiye. She attended İstanbul Erkek Lisesi, a prestigious high school in İstanbul, where she learned German. Later, she studied mathematical engineering at İstanbul Technical University, graduating in 2000.

Following graduation, Deniz went to Germany where she worked for telecommunications giant Ericsson as a systems engineer. In 2005, she returned to

Türkiye and worked for several telecommunications companies as a systems engineer before moving into data destruction.

Deniz is an experienced business manager who is skilled in business planning, negotiation and facility management, among other attributes.

Company description

Reisswolf Türkiye provides corporate solutions in archive software, document management, document scanning, physical archive storage and secure destruction, ensuring compliance on behalf of its customers.

Tülin Kalyoncu

Managing Partner
Mat Consultancy & Packaging Solutions
Türkiye



Tülin Kalyoncu, located in Türkiye, is the managing partner of Mat Consultancy & Packaging Solutions. She graduated from Istanbul University with a degree in chemical engineering and subsequently worked for companies in the packaging industry.

While she was working in a managerial position within the packaging sector, Tülin observed that local companies had a lot of knowledge about the products they produced, but lacked technical understanding of packaging. As a result, she realized that there was a huge opportunity to create more effective packaging materials at a lower cost. She therefore decided to establish her own business.

Mat Consultancy & Packaging Solutions differs from other packaging companies by offering consultancy advice, as well as verifying and implementing potential opportunities to make savings. It recognizes that companies can benefit from the consumption of environmentally friendly packaging.

Company description

Mat Ambalaj (Mat Consultancy & Packaging Solutions) produces innovation-oriented packaging solutions. It analyzes customer processes to create packaging using less material, in more efficient steps, with fewer transactions, and at a lower cost.



Elçin Özkan

Founder
Sestri Travel
Türkiye

Elçin Özkan, located in Türkiye, is the founder of Sestri. After completing her secondary and high school education in Germany, she gained a BA in tourism and business administration from Boğaziçi University. She also has a master's degree in economic law from Istanbul Bilgi University. Elçin has worked as a manager for many leading companies in the international travel and concierge sector.

Due to her passion for art, cuisine, the natural world, travel, experience and memories, Elçin decided to pursue a career in travel and lifestyle consultancy. Elçin is also an international yoga instructor and a keen sailor. She is very knowledgeable about wine at WSET level 3 and is interested in the history of wine. In addition to this, Elçin is currently pursuing MA in Psychology.

Company description

Sestri is a travel and lifestyle consultancy that enables people to minimize the amount of time they spend on hotel searches and enjoy unique experiences.

Nesrin Serin Onkardeşler

Founder and General Manager
USB Certification
Türkiye



Nesrin Serin Onkardeşler, based in Türkiye, serves as the Founder and General Manager of USB Certification. She is a distinguished alumna of Gazi University, holding both undergraduate and graduate degrees in Industrial Engineering. Her career commenced at Erciyes University's Institute of Science as a Research Assistant, followed by a role as a Quality Management Specialist at the Turkish Standards Institute.

Her entrepreneurial spirit led to the establishment of USB Certification in 1998, a venture that has garnered significant national and international accreditations in conformity assessment. As the Founding General Manager, Nesrin oversees its global operations, providing services through companies in eight different countries.

USB Certification is acclaimed for its meticulous conformity assessment activities in diverse sectors and contributing significantly to the circular economy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Under Nesrin's stewardship, the organization actively supports and implements practices that promote sustainability, resource efficiency, and responsible consumption and production, aligning with global sustainability targets.

Beyond her corporate endeavors, Nesrin is actively engaged in the non-profit sector. She holds the position of Deputy Chairman of the Habitat Association Board. She is also a member of and has previously served on the boards of various other associations sustainable development in multiple fields.

Company description

USB Certification is a recognized entity engaged in conformity assessment activities in the fields of Food, Agriculture, Textile and Recycling, Test, Inspection, Supervision, and Laboratory. It also continues its work as an Notified Body in the field of CE certification.



Altınay Tunalı

Managing Director
Tunadan Makina
Türkiye

Altınay Tunalı, located in Türkiye, is the general manager and owner of Tunadan. She has a biology degree from Karadeniz Technical University, as well as a master's degree in Biology from Ege University. Following graduation, she spent two years working as a biology teacher.

In 2007, Altınay began working at her father's metal manufacturing company Tunadan, as assistant general manager. Sadly, after one year of working

together, her father passed away. As a result, she took over management of the business. After working for several years, she decided to return to university. So, at the age of 28, she began studying mechanical engineering at Celal Bayar University, with her studies lasting for four years.

Company description

Tunadan is a metal manufacturing specialist. It offers a range of fabrication and finishing services, including laser cutting, bending, welding, assembling, powder coating and galvanizing.

Nazlı Buse Üçer

Co-founder and Creative Director
Ribbon Flowers
Türkiye



Nazlı Buse Üçer (known as Buse), located in Türkiye, is the co-founder and creative director of Ribbon Flowers. She graduated from the University of Miami with a degree in business management in 2010. For two years, Buse worked at Roomster.com as a social media specialist in New York. Then she moved back to her home city of Istanbul in 2012.

Ribbon Flowers was born after Buse's personal home flower arrangements became so popular that she started receiving flower orders for special occasions. The business started out as a weekly flower membership service. In just a few months, as demand grew, Buse opened her first shop in Reşitpaşa.

With a keen eye for beauty, Buse loves to create new products and designs. She draws her inspiration from the world around her, specifically the infinite diversity of the colors, textures and forms of the floral world.

Company description

Ribbon Flowers is a luxury floral and gifting company in Istanbul. With an emphasis on unique designs and vibrant colors, it delivers fresh floral arrangements and gifts.



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