

# JURY DETAILS

Female Founder Challenge's jury members details

## **Rania Belkahia, Deal Partner, EQT Ventures (France)**

Rania joined the EQT Ventures team straight off her own entrepreneurial journey, having co-founded and led Afrimarket – an e-commerce platform for French-speaking West Africa. Rania scaled the company to more than 250 employees, five subsidiaries and raised €20 million in funding. A graduate of Telecom ParisTech and HEC Paris, Rania is passionate about entrepreneurship and the opportunity to back the next generation of founders coming out of France. As a Deal Partner at EQT Ventures, Rania is responsible for driving all deals in France and works closely with our portfolio companies. Rania brings her first-hand experience in B2C e-commerce marketplaces, international scaling and operational strategy to help fellow entrepreneurs getting started on their own journeys. Outside of work, Rania likes to travel and stay active. In fact, she has run three marathons over the last few years in Paris, St Petersburg and Barcelona.

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## **Ezechi Britton, Founding member, Principal & CTO, Impact X Capital (UK)**

A tech founder with over 15 years experience in FinTech. Ezechi's journey has taken him from Software Developer to Co-Founder and CTO to Venture Capital. He is currently a Founding Member, Principal and CTO in Residence at Impact X Capital Partners LLP a venture fund focused on supporting underrepresented entrepreneurs. He is the Co-Founder of Code Untapped, a digital skills accelerator that helps companies find innovative product solutions by giving them access to diverse and underrepresented technologists through their innovation labs events. He is a former Co-Founder of Neyber a multi-award-winning Fintech firm focused on financial wellbeing, where he was the founding CTO and held numerous roles during his tenure including brand ambassador and NED. Ezechi also advises a number of boards. He is currently advisor to the board of UKITL (UK IT Leaders Network) and Albany Group. Ezechi is also a NED for Findexable the real-time Fintech Index.

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## **Benoist Grossmann, Managing partner, Idinvest Partners and Eurazeo Growth - Member of the Eurazeo Executive Committee (France)**

Benoist joined Idinvest in 2002, was appointed a board member in 2003 and manages the Growth Capital and Eurazeo Growth activities.

Before joining Idinvest, he worked for several VC funds for 10 years. He had previously spent over 10 years working as a laser systems specialist, notably at the NASA.

Since 2019, Benoist has been President of France Digitale. He has also been a member of the Board of Directors of Bpifrance since 2016 and a director of France Invest since 2018. He sits on the boards of Ogury, Molotov and Frichti, and previously on the boards of Criteo, Deezer and Meetic.

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## **Melanie Hayes, Managing Partner, Bethnal Green Ventures (UK)**

Melanie is a Managing Partner at Bethnal Green Ventures, responsible for their portfolio of early-stage investments in scalable tech for good businesses. Her extensive investment experience has included roles in specialist finance at Octopus Investments and corporate venturing for Channel 4. Melanie began her career as a Technology, Media and Telecoms specialist at Deloitte and is a Fellow of the ICAEW.

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## **Cayetana Hurtado, Principal, Balderton Capital (France)**

Caye joined Balderton's investment team in 2018. Before that, she was an associate in the Technology, Media and Telecommunications group (M&A division) of Goldman Sachs in London, where she worked on several tech IPOs, private placements, and M&A deals. In that role, she spent a lot of her time advising tech companies on fundraising and evaluating key growth levers and paths to profitability. Some of the companies she worked with include Rocket Internet, HelloFresh, Global Fashion Group, Scout24, Xero, and Truecaller, among many others. Caye completed her MBA with Honors at Columbia Business School, in New York City, where she focused on venture capital and entrepreneurship. She led the 'Venture Fellows' program and was on the board of the Columbia Entrepreneurs Organisation. She is a Fulbright Scholar, and has an MS in Law and Business Administration & Management from the Universidad Pontificia Comillas (ICADE) in Madrid. Caye has lived in 5 different countries and is a fluent English, French, and Spanish speaker. She now focuses on investment activity in France, Spain, and

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Portugal, and is particularly interested in consumer internet, healthtech, and 'consumerisation of B2B SaaS'.

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## **Alex Kayyal, Partner, Head of International at Salesforce Ventures (UK)**

Alex joined Salesforce in 2015. He is currently a VP on the Corporate Development team where he runs Salesforce Ventures International across EMEA, APAC and LATAM as a partner.

He has led investments in many leading software companies, including NewVoiceMedia (sold to Vonage), RedKix (sold to Facebook), SessionM (sold to Mastercard), Algolia, Bringg, Contentful, GoCardless, Gong, Hopin, NSI, Onfido, PerimeterX, Privitar, Snyk, Unbabel, WeFox, WhiteHat and Zoomin. Salesforce invests from Series A to pre-IPO growth rounds and are looking to back the best enterprise entrepreneurs. Alex's path to VC followed a short stint as the founder of TableZest, a Boston-based company in the data analytics and customer loyalty space. Prior to Salesforce, he helped launch Hermes Growth Partners, a venture growth firm investing in enterprise SaaS and fintech companies across the US and Europe. While there he led their Series B investment and served on the Board of TheTradeDesk (Nasdaq: TTD), which is now valued at over \$10 billion. He was also fortunate to support our investments in RingCentral (NYSE: RNG) and Fuze (acquired by ThinkingPhones). Previously, he worked at Merrill Lynch in the CFO's office and within investment banking leading IPOs and M&A deals. HBS and Boston University graduate. Born in Switzerland, he speak 5 languages.

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## **Didier Lallemand, Managing director, Societe Generale Ventures (France)**

Didier Lallemand has over two decades of experience in Financial Services starting in trading functions then moving on to consulting and joining Societe Generale in 2003. He covered several executive positions in Societe Generale's Finance Division both in France and in the US, the last one being CFO of Global Banking and Investment Services. He took over the role of Managing Director of Societe Generale Ventures in 2018.

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## **Sébastien Loubry, Partner, Business Development, AXA Venture Partners (France)**

Sébastien is the Partner in charge of strategy and development at AXA Venture Partners (AVP), a tech investment fund with €1 billion in assets under management. Sébastien has been a partner in the fund since its launch in 2016 and is responsible for supporting AVP startups in their growth strategy and for marketing issues. Sébastien has previously held various management positions at AXA in the Finance and Strategy Department and in the Group Marketing and Communications Department. He also held positions at Marsh McLennan as a key account manager and at Allianz in the development department in France and in a subsidiary in Egypt. Sébastien is a graduate of Sciences Po Paris, the University of Paris Dauphine and LUISS in Rome.

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## **Sarah Nöckel, SEED INVESTMENT MANAGER, Northzone (UK)**

Sarah is responsible for Northzone's Seed investments and is based in London. She focuses on data and developer led companies, social & commerce and the future of work. She is also the founder of Femstreet, the leading newsletter and curated community knowledge network for women in tech. Previously, Sarah was a B2B SaaS investor at Dawn Capital. Prior to this, she spent 3 years at the French startup Early Metrics, where she joined as employee #5 and led the firm's launch in the UK and Germany. Sarah grew up in Germany and graduated with a degree in Business & Finance from the University of Vienna and CASS Business School London.

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## **Laura Roguet, Startup Investor, Korelya Capital (France)**

Laura joined Korelya in 2017 as Principal. She was previously at 360 Capital Partners and part as the Seed and Series A investment team where she invested in Exotec Solutions, Quitoque, Cubyn and Tediber). She regularly runs mentoring sessions for business and engineering schools and incubators. Laura is a graduate of ESCP Europe.

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## **Jean de La Rochebrochard, Managing partner, Kima Ventures (France)**

With a Master's degree in Corporate Finance from the University of Paris Panthéon Sorbonne, he first did a brief tour at Avenir Finance as a fundraiser, an adventure he then continued for two years in his own company, Canny Cap. However, his aspirations soon turned elsewhere.

Decidedly focused on seed fundraising, he joined The Family in 2013 and provided close support to entrepreneurs. In 2015, he met Xavier Niel and became Managing Director of Kima Ventures where he now invests in the most promising start-ups.

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## **Laura Salesse, VC Investor, Eight Roads (UK)**

Laura is a VC investor at Eight Roads Ventures, which is a \$6bn AUM global VC platform with offices in Europe, Asia and the US. Eight Roads backs scale-up entrepreneurs in sectors including consumer tech, software, healthcare tech and fintech. Its portfolio companies include Spendesk, MADE.com, Red Points, Cazoo, Appsflyer, HiBob, Packlink, Owkin. Laura is a French native and spends much time in France, DACH and the Baltics. She is looking in depth at remote work enablers and next-gen FinTech companies. She joined Eight Roads in 2021 from Eurazeo Growth and Alven Capital.

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## **Henrik Wetter Sanchez, Associate, Playfair Capital (UK)**

Henrik Wetter Sanchez is an associate at Playfair Capital. After graduating from Cambridge in French and Spanish, he spent two years working on UK M&A and IPO deals as an analyst at Bank of America. While at university, he founded a meet-up & discovery app and an access-led tutoring platform. Henrik has also built a portfolio of c.40 small equity crowdfunding investments over the past five years, including Monzo, Revolut and Camden Town Brewery. He speaks fluent French and Spanish, and is learning Portuguese and Python.

At Playfair, he enjoys the variety of looking at software companies in any sector and with any business model. He is particularly interested in deep technologies, technology as infrastructure and fintech. He sits on the boards of Recycleye, Koala and Learnerbly.

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