

**AAATE General Assembly Brussels, Belgium, co-located with EASPD Conference,
Thon EU Hotel, Rue de la Loi 75, 1040 Bruxelles, October 15, 2021, 9.30am**

Elections Package

By the AAATE Nomination Committee:
Christian Bühler, Renzo Andrich and Klaus Miesenberger

**Please note that the elections for the open Board positions will be held online on
Thursday October 14th according to the following procedure:**

- Each AAATE member of good standing (having paid the 2021 membership fee) will receive a personal link to vote with a password.
- The link will be send on Thursday morning, October 14th, between 7.30 and 8.00, just before the opening of the online polling station, to the email that you have used to register as a member. Please check you spam folder if you can't find it!
- Voting will be possible between 8.00 and 23.00 Brussels time.
- In case you have not received an invitation to vote by 9.00, please check your payment status by sending an email to office@aaate.net. It is still possible to add you on the day, in case a proof of payment is forwarded to the office.
- The results will be communicated during the General Assembly which will start on Friday October 15th at 9.30 (Brussels time).

Information about candidates

Positions for election for the term 2022 – 2023, currently held by:

President:	Katerina Mavrou (CY)
President Elect:	Georgios Kouroupetroglou (GR)
Past President:	Luc de Witte (NL)
Treasurer:	Silvio Marcello Pagliara (IT)
Secretary:	Anne Kanto-Ronkanen (FI)
Project Officer:	Dominique Archambault (FR)
External Communication and Information:	Ramon Daniels (NL)

Candidates proposed by the board in office (following the election by-law enforced in 2014):

President:	Georgios Kouroupetroglou (GR)
President Elect:	Pedro Encarnação (P)
Past President:	Katerina Mavrou (CY)

Candidates for four board positions (allocation of final role in the board will be agreed on by the new board)

Dominique Archambault (FR) (re-candidate)
Susanne Dirks (DE) (new candidate)
Anne Kanto-Ronkanen (FI) (re-candidate)
Siobhan Long (IRL) (new candidate)
Tone Øderud (NO) (new candidate)
Silvio Marcello Pagliara (I) (re-candidate)

Two positions as auditors for the term 2022 – 2023, currently held by:

Jan Engelen (BE)

Susanne Dirks (DE)

Candidates for auditorship

Jan Engelen (BE)

Susanne Dirks (DE)

Three positions in the Nomination Committee for the term 2022 – 2023, currently held by:

Christian Bühler (DE)

Renzo Andrich (IT)

Klaus Miesenberger (AT)

Candidates for the three positions in the Nomination Committee

Renzo Andrich (IT)

Luc de Witte (UK)

Klaus Miesenberger (AT)

Nomination for Past President

Katerina Mavrou

Katerina Mavrou is an Assistant Professor, in Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology, at the European University Cyprus. She holds a PhD in Technology and Disability (Inclusive Education) (University of Birmingham, UK), a MEd in Inclusive Education (University of Manchester, UK), a BEd in Educational Sciences (Primary Education) (University of Cyprus) and an Assistive Technology Specialist Certificate University of California, at Northridge, USA). She worked as a primary education and as a special education teacher in primary public schools in Cyprus. She has also served as a Special Needs Coordinator and as an Assistive Technology Coordinator at the Ministry of Education Cyprus. During 2006-2010 was a Scientific Collaborator of the European University Cyprus, and since 2011 she holds an academic position in the rank of Assistant Professor, in Inclusive Education and Assistive Technology, at the Department of Education Science (EUC), in which she is also the coordinator of the MA in Special and Inclusive Education programme. Her research interests include (assistive) technology and inclusive education in all aspects of user-centred evaluation, implementation and professionals' collaboration, issues of policy and education for inclusion and ICT-AT, accessibility and universal design (for learning). She is particularly interested in the area of the use of high-tech digital tools in learning, accessibility, evaluation and development. She is involved in research labs at the European University of Cyprus (eg OT and AT Labs, ICTEE Lab & Mobile Technology Lab) as well as in other synergies (eg UCY Psifides Gnosis) relevant to her areas of interest. She is also involve in software development and localization of inclusive education and disability. Her research record includes European commission reports, referred journal publications, book chapters in edited volumes, an edited book volume and presentations in international conferences. She has been involved in local and international collaborative projects (eg ANED national expert [disability-europe.net], ENTELIS [www.entelis.net], EASTIN [www.eastin.eu], ESIPP [www.esipp.eu], BONDS, The Living Book - Augmenting Reading For Life [http://www.thelivingbook.eu/]), and professional and academic Associations such as the Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technology in Europe and ISAAC, and has been a AAATE board member since 2016. She is also a member of the Chief Editorial Committee of the Journal Technology and Disability, and an editorial board member of the Journal of Enabling (Assistive) Technologies and the Journal of Intervention in School and Clinic.

Contact: K.Mavrou@euc.ac.cy)

Selected publications and other info at: <https://sites.google.com/site/mavrouk/>

EUC profile at: http://www.euc.ac.cy/easyconsole.cfm/id/182/lang/en/c_id/399/dep/164

Nomination for President

Dr. Georgios Kouroupetroglou



Dr. **Georgios Kouroupetroglou** is Director of the "Speech and Accessibility Laboratory" (<http://speech.di.uoa.gr>) and Director of Postgraduate (MSc & PhD) Studies at the Department of Informatics & Telecommunications, as well as founder and Head of the "Accessibility Unit for Students with Disabilities" (<http://access.uoa.gr>), National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece. His current research interests focuses on the area of Computer Accessibility and Voice User Interfaces, as a part of the major domain of Human-Computer Interaction. Professor Kouroupetroglou has actively participated in more than 58 research projects funded by the European Union or the Greek Ministry of Research. He has been reviewer/evaluator and member of working groups/technical panels of various European Union's projects/ programs. He is author of more than 160 scientific papers (<http://speech.di.uoa.gr/sppages/publications.html>) in journals / conference proceedings and numerous books and technical reports in the fields of his

interest. He teaches the following courses: "Speech and Natural Language Processing", "Real Time Digital Signal Processing Systems", "Speech-based Human Computer Interaction-Voice Technologies", "Computer and Web Accessibility", "Computer Systems for Students with Disabilities", "Computer-based Rehabilitation for persons with Disabilities" and "Advanced Computer-based Assistive Technologies for the Disabled". His is: member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal Universal Access in the Information Society, published by Springer and the Journal Technology and Disability, published by IOS Press as well as founder & vice president of the Hellenic Association of Assistive Technologies (HAAT) and founder & vice president of the Association for Visual Impairment Research (AVIR). He served as co-chairman of the IEEE Symposium on Computational Intelligence in Robotic Rehabilitation and Assistive Technologies (2014-2019), as General Chairman of the 16th ICCHP (International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs), Linz, Austria, 2018 and General Chairman of the International Conference on Enabling Access for Persons with Visual Impairment (ICEAPVI), 2015, Athens, Greece

Nomination for President Elect

Pedro Encarnação



Pedro Encarnação is a Senior Affiliate Professor at CATÓLICA-LISBON - Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP). He has received the B.Sc. degree in 1994, the M.Sc. degree in 1998, and the Ph.D. degree in 2002, all in Electrical and Computers Engineering from the Universidade de Lisboa, in Portugal. In the area of Rehabilitation Engineering, Pedro has been involved in research projects exploring the potential of robots as assistive technologies to support manipulation for children with neuromotor impairments, enabling these children to play and to participate in academic activities that require manipulation. He served as co-chair of the COST Action LUDI - Play for Children with Disabilities ([2014-2018](#)), a pan-European network of more than 100 multidisciplinary researchers and practitioners working towards enabling play for children with disabilities. Pedro co-edited the books "Guidelines for supporting

children with disabilities' play. Methodologies, tools, and contexts." (DeGruyter Open Access, 2018) and "Robotic Assistive Technologies: Principles and Practice" (CRC Press: 2017). Recently, he joined Albert Cook and Janice Polgar for the 5th edition of the seminal book "Assistive Technologies. Principles and Practice" (Elsevier, 2020). He published several articles in the main Rehabilitation Engineering journals and conference proceedings. A member of AAATE since 2009, Pedro co-chaired the AAATE 2013 Conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

Nomination for Board Positions

Pr Dominique Archambault



Pr Dominique Archambault is Full Professor in Computer Sciences at Université Paris 8-Vincennes-Saint-Denis. He is leading the team THIM (Technologies, Disabilities, Interactions, Multimodalities), part of CHArt laboratory (EA 4004, Human and Artificial Cognition), where he is conducting researches on non-visual human-computer interaction and accessibility to complex documents. The domains of application of his research works are multimodal access to mathematical expressions, allowing collaborative works between sighted and non sighted persons and accessibility to multimedia games. He has been the director

of the Master MIASHS "HANDI" (Mathematics and Computer Sciences Applied to Human and Social Sciences) since 2015, and of the speciality "Technologies and Disabilities" (<http://master-handi.fr>), where he teaches especially Computer Programming, Assistive Technologies and Software Accessibility. From 2011 to 2019 Pr Archambault has been the General secretary of IFRATH (<http://ifrath.fr>), an Institute which regroups French research teams working on Assistive Technologies. He is an elected member of the board of AAATE (Association for the Advancement of Assistive Technologies in Europe – <http://aaate.net>) since 2013 and he is Associate Editor of the Scientific Journal "Technology and Disability" since September 2015. Pr Archambault has about a hundred publications including papers in international journals and conferences (<http://www.mendeley.com/profiles/dominique-archambault>).

He started to work with students with disabilities in 1988 and he was one of the creators of the French national association of professionals supporting handicapped students in higher education and used to be its Vice-President. He participates in several working groups from the French ministry of higher education, including the organisation of vocational training for staff of support centres for students with disabilities.

Nomination for Board Positions

Susanne Dirks



Dr Susanne Dirks is a proven expert in digital accessibility. She is a rehabilitation technologist at TU Dortmund University with a background in computational linguistics and computer science. For the past few years, her teaching and research focus has been in the field of cognitive accessibility of digital information and communication services. Susanne Dirks has worked as a researcher, developer and consultant in numerous national and international research and development projects.

In addition to numerous publications on accessible software development and participatory research and development, she has organised various workshops and external teaching events on her main topics in the past years.

Through her membership in various national and international organisations, she is well connected in the field of rehabilitation science as well as computer science.

Dr. Susanne Dirks
Emil-Figge-Str. 50
TU Dortmund
44227 Dortmund
Germany
Tel: +49 231 7557161
susanne.dirks@tu-dortmund.de



Nomination for Board Positions

Anne Kanto-Ronkanen, Occupational Therapist, MSc.

I am working at Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Wellbeing and Services as Senior Specialist in rehabilitation and assistive technology in Finland. I have been working at Kuopio University hospital as occupational therapist and later rehabilitation coordinator. I have been almost ten years senior lecture at Savonia University of Applied Sciences. I have led several AT services projects and been member or chairperson in national experts groups in AT e.g. developing digital services in AT field.

I have written articles on national and international papers and I have being part of writer's team, which has written books about rehabilitation and assistive technology. Books are in Finnish.

I have been on AAATE board since 2013, past six years a secretary. My motivation to be a candidate is mainly, because my new job. I see many new possibilities to do the networking and developing AT services, which benefits work in AAATE board.

For more information, please contact:

anne.kanto-ronkanen@stm.fi

tel. + 358 50 4720653

Nomination for Board Positions

SIOBHAN LONG NATIONAL MANAGER, ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SEATTECH SERVICES, ENABLE IRELAND

Siobhan has worked in the field of Assistive Technology since 1991. Siobhan's current role involves management of Enable Ireland's National Assistive Technology Training and SeatTech Services. Having initially worked as a speech and language therapist, she progressed to working with a multidisciplinary A.T. team, and pursued many opportunities to bridge the gap between technology advancements and their availability to end users.

Siobhan works with two teams of highly skilled individuals who strive to deliver innovative, person-centred AT and custom seating solutions to a wide range of individuals with differing abilities and needs. Technology is changing rapidly and the goal is to ensure that those who can benefit from what it has to offer, can gain access to it in a timely manner. Another goal of Enable Ireland's AT and SeatTech services is to influence the development of future technologies. Partnering with AT users to advocate for better assistive technology services, solutions and support is a key objective for our service.

In 2016, Siobhan began a partnership with the Disability Federation of Ireland, resulting in the publication of Assistive Technology for People with Disabilities and Older People: A Discussion Paper. Since then she has been working intensively on an advocacy and lobbying programme, to promote the adoption of the recommendations contained in the Discussion Paper. Chief among these are the establishment of a national AT Passport, to address the significant gaps in service provision as AT users transition through life. Her ultimate goal is to secure the development of a national Assistive Technology Ecosystem in Ireland.

Contact:

E: slong@enableireland.ie

Ph: +353876570364

Nomination for Board Positions

Tone Øderud



My name is Tone Øderud and I am a senior researcher at SINTEF Digital, Department of Health in Oslo, Norway. My background is M Sc in Cybernetics, Norwegian University of Science and Technology and M Phil in International Community Health, University of Oslo, Norway. I have been working in the field of assistive technology (AT) and disability for 30 years, mainly in Norway, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Namibia. I started as a young engineer participating in European projects in the field of robotics for persons with disabilities and European Activities in Rehabilitation Technology. For many years I have been involved in developing AT appropriate for low- and middle-income countries (LMIC). This includes development of game-based tablet audiometry for screening of children's hearing and designing hearing services for children in Tanzania and developing wheelchairs services in Zimbabwe and Namibia. I

am a Management Committee Member to EU COST Action CA19104 Advancing Social inclusion through Technology and Empowerment.

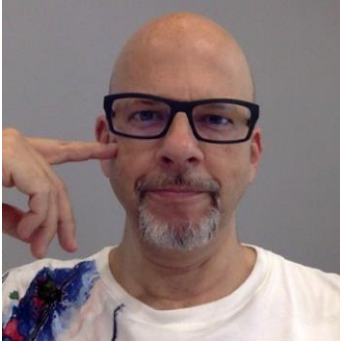
During recent years I have worked on implementing services using GPS for locating persons with dementia and exploring the use of wearable sensors measuring heart rate to detect pain in non-verbal persons with intellectual disabilities.

Innovation, user-centred design, and development of appropriate AT services for persons living in LMIC has become my main research interest. My experience is mainly within mobility, hearing and cognition.

I have been a member of AAATE since the beginning. I value and respect the work that AAATE is doing, and I am excited to experience that AAATE has taken a leading role in the advancement of AT also outside Europe in a global perspective collaborating with WHO and other international AT organisations. If I become part of the AAATE Board I will do my best to contribute to the enhancement of AT in both European and global contexts.

Nomination for Board Positions

Silvio Marcello Pagliara



Senior Research Fellow at Warwick University, president of the board of the Center for Assistive Technology, Ausilioteca Mediterranea Onlus, a not-for-profit SME, based in Naples and Bari, South Italy.

Background in electronic and biomedical engineering, PhD on the use of ICT and Assistive Technology in learning environments. Adjunct Associate Professor at the SBARRO Health Research Organization, College of Science and Technology, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

My main work, mainly as senior researcher, has been focused on technology assessment in terms of accessibility, independent life and universal design. Strong knowledge on home and building automation, automatic speech recognition and Human Computer Interaction. Continues to carry out research and study of innovative technology solutions at affordable cost and foster the autonomy and inclusion of persons with disabilities in their context with the use of technology. He is author of several publications on the use of ICT for the Inclusion in Italy and abroad. He is a consultant of various Public Entities and Institutions, national and international entities and companies operating in the field of the use of ICT for the quality of life. Keynote and invited speaker in several universities in Italy and abroad.

I've been in AAATE since 2010 and after being active in different groups (AAATE Position Paper 2012, etc) I've been elected as Board Member at AAATE 2019 - 2021 with the role of Treasure.

I strongly believe in supporting the Association playing an important role to build a fully inclusive society.

Vice President of GLIC – The Italian Network of AT Centres.

Member of the International Editorial Council of Science for Education Today, Research Electronic Journal. Founded in 2011. ISSN 2658-6762 DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15293/2658-6762>

Email: silvio.pagliara@centroausili.org – silvio.pagliara@warwick.ac.uk

Senior Research Fellow ABSPIE Lab School of Engineering, Warwick University, UK, [link](#)

President of the Board, Ausilioteca Mediterranea Onlus – Resource Centre for Assistive Technology not for profit, [link](#)

Vice President - Board Member GLIC – Italian network of resource centre for assistive technology Association, [link](#)