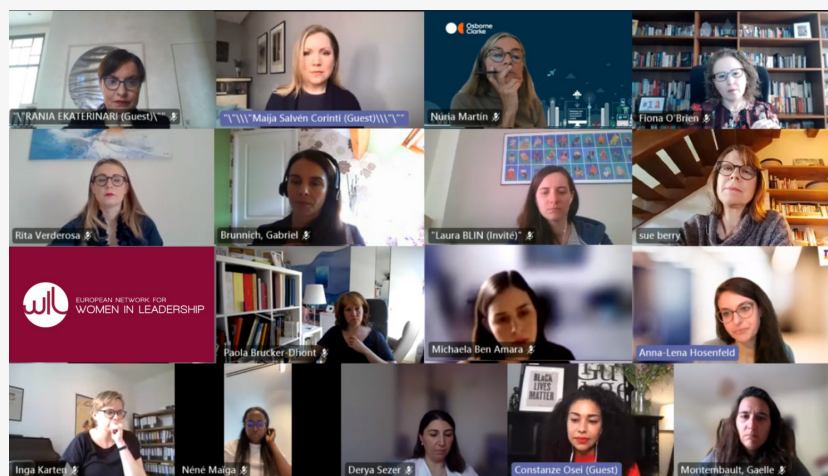


WIL Europe Event Report

Technology: Obstacle or Enabler for Inclusion and Participation? + Networking session

14TH APRIL 2021

10:30-12:00 CET



On 14 April 2021, WIL Europe held an interactive panel debate to discuss what can be done to ensure that technology addresses rather than perpetuates racial, gender, socioeconomic and other inequalities, and contributes to building a more just society for all. We welcomed a panel of inspiring female speakers from four European countries: Sue Berry, International Diversity Project Manager at Orange; Constanze Osei, Head of Society and Innovation Policy, DACH, at Facebook, Fiona O'Brien, EMEA Chief Channel Officer & Head of Operations at Lenovo, and Anna-Lena Hosenfeld, Managing Director at Digital für Alle ("Digital for All"). The session was moderated by Maija Corinti Salvén, Head of Government Affairs Nordic/Baltic/CH & Wallet at Apple, with a wrap up by Michaela Ben Amara, Business Development & Marketing Manager at Osborne Clarke Belgium. It was followed by a 30-minute networking session.



Panel Debate



Q&A



Networking
Session



55 participants

Silver Partner



WTP Partners



In-Kind Partners



Opening Remarks by Thaima Samman, WIL President and Partner at SAMMAN Law & Corporate Affairs

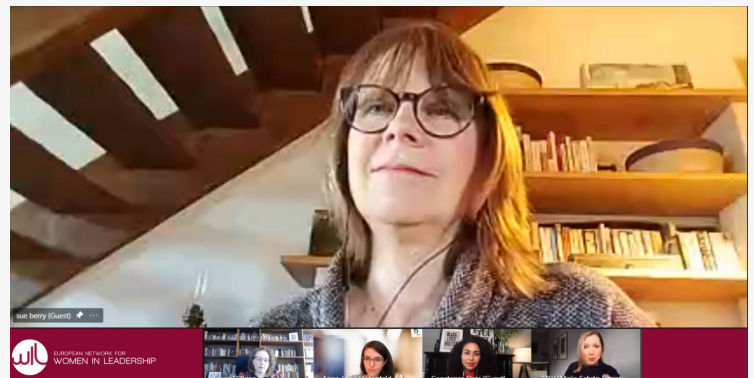
Panel moderation by Maija Corinti Salvén, WIL Member and Head of Government Affairs Nordic/Baltic/CH & Wallet



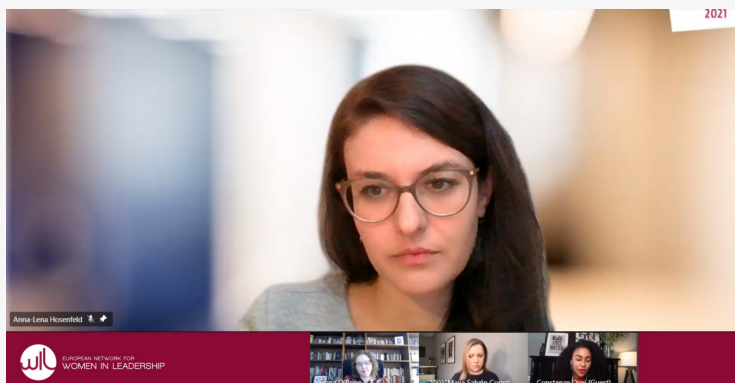
Thaima Samman kicked off the session to welcome the speakers and participants to what she noted was a very relevant discussion given the current climate. Her opening was followed by a brief introduction by the moderator, Maija Corinti Salvén, who presented the speakers and the topic for discussion.

Guest speaker: Sue Berry, International Diversity Project Manager at WIL Premium Partner, Orange

Sue Berry argued that the risks of potential discriminatory biases in artificial intelligence (AI) could be mitigated by having a strong governance framework. She highlighted two initiatives by Orange to promote inclusive AI: an International Charter and a GEEIS-AI label certification set up by the Arborus Endowment Fund, which Orange had been awarded.



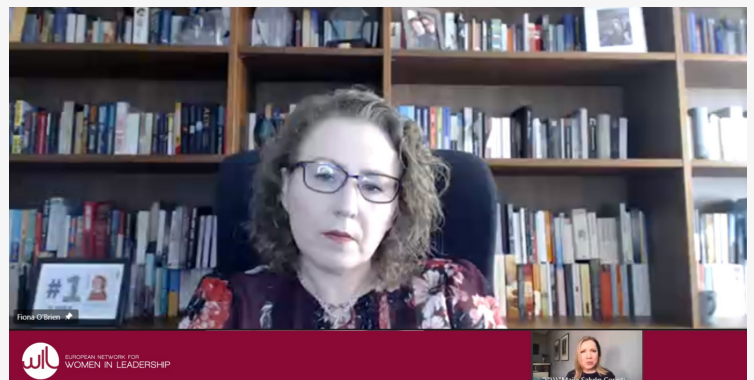
Guest speaker: Anna-Lena Hosenfeld, Managing Director at Digital für Alle ("Digital for All")



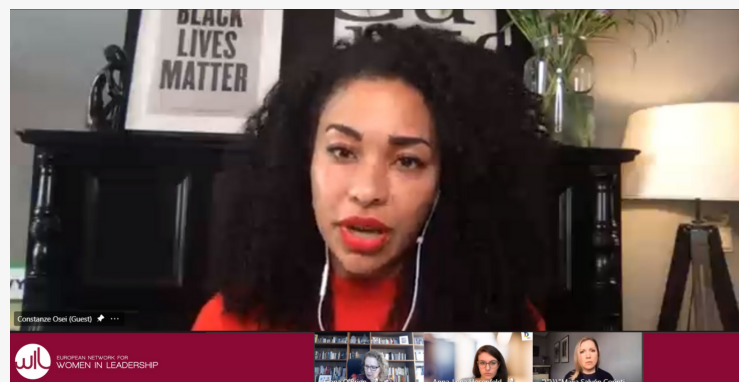
With her background leading, Digital für Alle, which brings together organisations seeking to shape digital change, Anna-Lena Hosenfeld emphasised the need to ensure that technology's benefits are accessible for all and that no citizens are left behind. She highlighted Annual Digital Day as one important initiative which brought people together through technology.

Guest speaker: Fiona O'Brien, WIL Member and EMEA Chief Channel Officer & Head of Operations at WIL WTP Partner, Lenovo

Drawing on her experience in tech and digital transformation, Fiona O'Brien talked about technology's potential to be an enabler: to elevate marginalised voices, bridge accessibility gaps and be a platform for change. She emphasised the responsibility not only of tech companies, but also governments, in ensuring that technology is developed in an inclusive manner and with digital equity in mind.



Guest speaker: Constanze Osei, Head of Society and Innovation Policy, DACH, at Facebook



Constanze Osei highlighted the importance for tech companies to have a clear strategy and the right mindset in order to ensure that the conversation around diversity and inclusion did not become the new 'greenwash'. Since diversity and inclusion was not only good for business but also the right thing to do, company leaders had to take a clear stand and actively engage in uncomfortable discussions.

Wrap up: Michaela Ben Amara, Participant in WIL's Women Talent Pool Programme, and Business Development & Marketing Manager at WIL Silver Partner, Osborne Clarke (Belgium)

Wrapping up the discussion, Michaela Ben Amara eloquently highlighted the speakers' main points, emphasising the need for all actors to take responsibility for enacting change. Her intervention was followed by a 30-minute networking session between the speakers and participants, to discuss the take aways from the debate.

