Inter Pares Partnership with the Parliament of Benin

Study Visit to Prague

Speakers' Biographies

Parliament of Benin

Fatahou Djima is an Assistant Professor at CAMES universities, a teacher-researcher, andragogue, psychopedagogue, and trained engineer. He holds a PhD in Andragogy from the University of Abomey-Calavi, as well as a Master's degree in Electoral Governance (University of Alexandria, Egypt) and a Master's degree in Educational Systems Management.

From January 2020 to April 2023, Dr Djima served as Director of the Parliamentary Institute of Benin (IPaB), a position he resumed in September 2025 and continues to hold. In this role, he organizes research and training activities for the National Assembly of Benin. He coordinates the design and execution of strategic studies on parliamentary communication, institutional protocol, hierarchy of norms, and educational governance. Under his leadership, the Institute produced several reference works, including the *Collection of Parliamentary Law, Practices and Procedures* and the *Methodological Guide for Deputies for the Fight Against Poverty in Benin*.

As a lecturer at the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) of Porto-Novo, the School for Training Educational Management Staff (EFPEEN), and the National Institute for Youth, Physical Education and Sports (INJEPS), he has trained and supervised generations of teachers and educational management staff for over a decade. He is also a consultant in educational system planning and management, a trainer of trainers, and a recognized expert in curriculum design according to the standards of the International Organization of La Francophonie (OIF).

Through his multiple scientific and institutional contributions, he works toward the modernization of the Beninese education system and the consolidation of enlightened parliamentary governance in service of development.

Christe-Fourier Donkpegan has been a seasoned parliamentary official since 2013, holding a MA in Diplomacy and International Relations from the National School of Administration of Benin, a MA in Public Law and Political Science from Jean Moulin University Lyon 3 in France, a research MA in International Law and International Organizations from the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin, and a MA in Management of Democratic State Institutions from Senghor University in Alexandria, Egypt.

Within the administration, Mr Donkpegan has successively held various positions, including being Assistant to the Committee on Laws, Administration, and Human Rights; Legal Technical Advisor to the President of the National Assembly; Deputy Director of the Legal Unit

of the President of the National Assembly; and, Director of the Legal Unit of the President of the National Assembly. In his role as Legal Technical Advisor to the President of the National Assembly, and more specifically as Director of the Legal Unit, he manages all legal aspects of parliamentary life. This includes regulations such as the quality and audit of laws and acts adopted by the National Assembly and its President, as well as legal disputes involving the National Assembly or in which the National Assembly is a party.

Antonin Kpegouton has served as the Head of the Inter-Parliamentary Cooperation Department, Inter Pares focal point in Benin (IPAB) since April 2024, having previously been Deputy Head of the same service since 2020. Recognized as a skilled negotiator in cooperation initiatives, he has often been called upon as rapporteur for committees organizing international parliamentary activities. His commitment is also reflected in his role as focal point for major initiatives, including the Inter-Pares Programme and the Parliamentary Assistance and Cooperation Project (PACOP) of the European Union, implemented by Expertise France.

Mr. Kpegouton is currently a member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Beninese Women Parliamentarians Caucus, actively supporting equity and gender issues within the institution. Furthermore, his leadership was leveraged as First Secretary of the Beninese Section of the African Network of Parliamentary Staff (RAPP), a role he diligently held for six years. He also actively contributes to mentoring future leaders as rapporteur for the Steering Committee of the Youth Parliament of Benin.

He holds Master of Legal Sciences from the University of Abomey-Calavi, specializing in Business Law and Judicial Careers. He also acquired a University Diploma in Administration and Organization of Parliamentary Work from Senghor University in Alexandria; a Master's in International and European Law of Fundamental Rights from the University of Nantes, France; and a Master's in African Cyberspace Law from Gaston Berger University in Senegal.

Currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Abomey-Calavi, Mr Kpegouton focuses his research on humans in the digital age in Benin, drawing on recognized scientific work on cybercrime, the impact of digital technologies on human rights, and video surveillance.



Cyprien Orobiyi is the Head of the Development Policy Research Unit at the Parliamentary Institute of Benin (IPaB). He is responsible for conducting studies and research in his field of expertise to support Beninese deputies in their threefold mission of lawmaking, oversight of government action, and representation. MR Orobiyi pursued higher education in Benin at the University of Abomey-Calavi (UAC) and the African University for Cooperative Development (UADC). He earned a BA and MA degrees in Sociology-Anthropology, followed by a Master's degree in Local Development and Decentralization, and a Certificate in Public Policy Analysis and Evaluation in 2022.

A socio-anthropologist and seasoned administrator in planning and local development, he is an expert in public policy analysis and evaluation with twenty-five years of professional experience in designing, implementing, and evaluating development strategies. He has held several key positions, including Departmental Director in charge of Relations with Institutions

and Civil Society Organizations and in Youth and sports in Zou and Collines; Macroeconomics Specialist at the Unit for Analysis, Control, and Evaluation of the State Budget (National Assembly of Benin); Head of the Development Policy Research Unit at the Parliamentary Institute of Benin (National Assembly of Benin) (2020–2025).

Throughout his career, he has actively contributed to several studies, including Strategic development plans for IPaB and the African Parliamentarians Network Against Corruption (APNAC); Diagnostic study on the efficiency and performance of the system for recording, transcribing, reviewing, and archiving parliamentary debates at the National Assembly of Benin; Study on the strengths and weaknesses of parliamentary research in Benin, with a focus on IPaB.



Imelda Yetongnon is a specialist in nutrition and food security with several years of experience in national and international projects, spanning research, training, and operational management of social and economic programs.

In 2024, she joined the Parliamentary Institute of Benin, where she has successively served as staff member and then Head of the Sustainable Development Research Unit. In this role, she coordinates studies, produces technical reports, drafts speeches and institutional documents, organizes capacity-building activities, and develops technical and financial partnerships for the benefit of the National Assembly. She has notably contributed to integrating environmental, climate, and sustainability issues into parliamentary work.

She previously served as supervisor of the Research Institute for Development project on intrauterine growth retardation (2014–2016), and later the Multisectoral Food, Health, and Nutrition Project supported by the World Bank (2017–2019), where she coordinated community-level malnutrition management. From 2022 to 2024, she led the Agricultural Development and Market Access Project team, supervising agribusiness advisors and facilitating financing access for rice, maize, and cassava value chains.

She holds a Master's degree in Nutrition and Food Security and a Bachelor's degree in Human Nutrition and Dietetics, and has over ten years of experience (2014–2024) in nutritional analysis, project planning, and community support.

Véril Siegfried Dagbémabou Takin is a Beninese parliamentary administration professional with more than two decades of experience in legislative communication, research, and institutional support. He holds a Master's degree in Legal Sciences from the Université Nationale du Bénin and a DESS in Democracy and Governance from the Université d'Abomey-Calavi.

Mr. Takin has dedicated his career to the National Assembly of Benin, where he has served in several key roles. He began as a parliamentary journalist for various publications between 1999 and 2003 before joining the Assembly as a press and accreditation officer. Over the years, he advanced to become Chief of the Press and Accreditation Division and later Secretary of the Editorial Board of Radio Hémicycle. Since 2019, he has been a leading figure at the IPaB, heading research units on communication technologies, public administration,

and most recently, digitalization and parliamentary communication, a position he has held since February 2025.

Mr. Takin's research and publications focus on parliamentary communication, media access for legislators, and freedom of the press, including studies conducted for the Assembly's Policy Analysis Unit and academic work on the communication practices of Benin's Parliament.

Camille Fassinou is a Beninese lawyer and academic, holding a PhD in Private Law obtained in 2016. His thesis, focused on corporate citizenship in the French-speaking states of West Africa, represents a major contribution to understanding the social, economic, and legal roles of companies in contemporary African societies. Through this work, he highlights the interactions between corporate governance, social responsibility, and the regional legal framework.

Mr Fassinou lectures at several private and public university law faculties, delivering courses and seminars in private law, family law, and business law. His academic commitment is also reflected in the publication of several scholarly articles.

He currently serves as the Head of the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Division in the Legal Unit of the President of the National Assembly of Benin. In this role, he plays a key part in the drafting, analysis, and compliance of legislative and regulatory texts, thereby contributing to the effective functioning of institutions and the modernization of the national legal framework.

EU Member States Parliaments

Czech Republic



Klara Ibrahim works in the Czech Chamber of Deputies since 2007. Since 2010, she has served as a researcher at the Parliamentary Institute, specializing in EU foreign policy and international relations. She also acts as the Chamber's coordinator for interparliamentary cooperation and parliamentary development activities.

From 2011 to 2015, Ms ibrahim was posted in Brussels as the Permanent Representative of the Chamber of Deputies to the EU institutions. She later implemented several EU parliamentary cooperation projects and served as a key expert in Beirut, Lebanon (2015–2017), where she contributed to developing the analytical and research services of the Lebanese Parliament. She coordinated the parliamentary dimension of both Czech Presidencies of the Council of the EU — first in 2009 and again in 2022.



Martin Kuta Martin Kuta acts as the Head of the General Analysis Department of the Parliamentary Institute (parliamentary research unit) of the Czech Chamber of Deputies. He specialises in research methodology, parliamentary studies, and international politics (mainly common foreign and security policy of the European Union).

Mr Kuta has participated in many parliamentary capacity-building programmes aimed at enhancement of parliamentary administration (research, skills, strategic planning), also related to deliberation of sectoral policies (foreign and defence, European affairs) in parliament.

Martin Kuta holds a PhD degree in Political Science (2016) at the University of Economics, Prague. In his research he focuses on parliamentary affairs and institutional development in Central and East European Countries. He also lectures parliamentary studies at Charles University in Prague, and University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem.

Germany



Anna Gottesbüren has been working as a lawyer in the administration of the Bundestag since 2024. For the past year, she has been a Research Associate in Research Section WD 3. As part of her duties, Ms Gottesbüren regularly answers questions of Members of the Bundestag and provides reports on constitutional and administrative issues.

Italy



Federico De Lucia was born in Florence in 1986. He graduated in Political Science from the University of Florence in 2011, with a thesis on the evolution of the form of government, the electoral system, and the party system in Italian regions with special status.

Before being hired by the Chamber of Deputies, he worked at the Ministry of the Interior, in the immigration/asylum law sector, and in the consulting sector, dealing in particular with parliamentary monitoring and political scenario analysis. Since 2021, he has been working as a parliamentary advisor at the Chamber of Deputies, where he first served in the Standing Committees Service (at the VI Finance Committee and the XII Social Affairs Committee) and then, since February 2024, in the Research Service. Within the Chamber's Research Service, Mr Lucia is responsible for the Culture Department, which deals with documentation relating to the areas of competence of the VII Permanent Committee (culture, education, universities and research, information and publishing, sport). He also coordinates the special unit within the Service that deals with the analysis of electoral legislation.

Slovak Republic

Kristína Rankovová is a state advisor and analyst at the Department of the Parliamentary Institute of the Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. She has been working for the Parliamentary Institute since 2025, focusing on topics related to education, culture, and broader areas within the field of political science. She is also co-responsible for

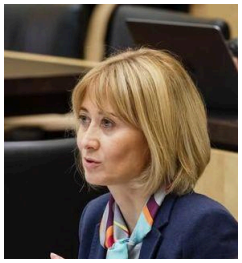
the short- and long-term internship program for university students, which is organized by the Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic. In addition, she assists with development cooperation projects in which the Chancellery of the National Council of the Slovak Republic participates. Outside of her work, Ms Rankovová is interested in global citizenship education, which was also the topic of her PhD thesis.

Inter Pares/International IDEA



Andrea Wolfe has thirty years of experience in parliamentary development, focusing on projects designed to enhance legislative effectiveness, transparency, and accountability. She has worked in over a dozen countries – including Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Chile, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Nepal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, and Vietnam. At the State University of New York Center for International Development, she served as the technical lead for a long-term partnership with the Kenya National Assembly and later managed support to 22 sub-national assemblies during the country's devolution. Her work as Chief of Party in post-conflict Mozambique and Morocco involved establishing non-partisan research services, new committee procedures, and systems for citizen consultation.

Currently, as a Senior Partnership and M&E Expert at Inter Pares, she manages several peer-to-peer partnerships and also develops M&E systems and parliamentary capacity assessment tools to support institutional learning.



Sophie Guruli is the Senior Programme Officer at Inter Pares, where she leads the implementation of several peer-to-peer partnerships between parliaments from Inter Pares partner countries and EU Member State. She also coordinates project strategy, actions and initiatives in selected thematic focus areas, including citizen engagement and human rights. She additionally contributes to the production of the project's knowledge resources and tools.

Before joining Inter Pares, Ms Guruli managed UNDP's parliamentary projects in Georgia with a primary focus on institutional reforms and capacity development. She is also an experienced project manager, having designed and implemented EU-funded projects at UNDP and UNOPS. Sophie holds an LLM in Comparative Constitutional Law from the Central European University in Budapest, Hungary and a Law Degree from Tbilisi State University.