



## Leah Vanderveer

**ENLIGHT Interim Secretary General. Ghent University. Belgium.**

**Leah Vanderveer** is currently the Interim Executive Secretary for the ENLIGHT Alliance. Prior to this role, she was the Coordinator and Project Manager for the ENLIGHT RISE project, focusing on the research and innovation initiatives within the alliance. Leah also served as Project Manager for the ASSETs+ project at the University of Bordeaux, a European project uniting over 30 partners from both the public and private sectors across 8 countries to innovate training in defense-oriented technologies such as AI.

Leah holds both a Master's Degree and a PhD in Linguistics, specializing in Phonological Typology, which examines patterns in the sound systems of the world's languages. Her research focuses on rare and unusual sounds, and her PhD work aimed to identify patterns that explain the scarcity of these sounds, based on a study of over 200 languages. In 2019, her presentation of her PhD research was awarded second place at the National Final of the French 3-Minute Thesis competition. Leah continues to lecture for the Linguistics department at the Université Bordeaux Montaigne and frequently gives talks to the public on language diversity and sounds of the world's languages. Be careful if you see her listening intently at the conference, she may be looking for rare sounds in your languages!

