# Safety Futures Initiative Introducing … Laure Buysse




**The Safety Futures Initiative (SFI) has been established to provide support and guidance for those in the earlier stages of their career in systems safety. The initiative aims to help develop the next generation of safety engineers so that club members can continue to make systems safer well into the future.**

**The SFI has now had several events such as "Get To Know You" meetings, podcasts and there are plans for a lecture competition this year. But what is it actually like being a member of the SFI? What has the SFI journey been like and how is SFI making a difference?**

**Laure Buysse, a member of the SFI, kindly agreed to introduce herself and provide her thoughts on her career, the SFI and the future!**

I began my journey into system safety when I started my studies in engineering technology at KU Leuven. I quickly discovered my interest was much broader than just software development and longed to know more. This urge to learn, led me to simultaneously complete a Master of Engineering Technology in ICT engineering and a Master of Engineering Technology in Electronics Engineering.

My passion for research resulted in two internships centred around deep learning. It is no surprise that during this time, the topics of "Safe AI" and "System Dependability" kept surfacing as major issues and research pillars. Especially within the domain of autonomous systems, such as self-driving cars and unmanned aerial vehicles, where safety remains a heavily discussed topic. My interest was piqued and I started to delve deeper into the world of safety.

In September 2021, I became a researcher at KU Leuven under the guidance of Prof. Pissoort on the TETRA Project Safety Assurance 4.0. This gave me the chance to fully focus on safety and delve deeper into topics such as safety cases, safety standards, Systems Theoretic Process Analysis (STPA) and more. I have since guided several projects around these topics and was able to disseminate some of the knowledge among the local industry and some of my peers. The picture shows me presenting my work during the International Electronics-ET2021 conference in Sozopol, Bulgaria (September 2021).

More recently, I travelled to the UK for five weeks as a visiting researcher of the Assuring Autonomy International Programme (AAIP) at the University of York. Currently, I am pursuing my PhD at KU Leuven as a FWO fellow thus continuing my research on the safety of autonomous systems with a focus on (executable) safety cases and digital twins.

I hope for the SFI to be part of this journey to learn and grow and build a community of young like-minded individuals.

Although my journey has been limited so far (with just a get-to-know-you event), my hopes for the initiative are big. This past year it has become abundantly clear to me that safety is a team sport, where the right information, discussion and community is vital.

Moreover, while young technologist such as me are highly trained in technical engineering topics, information about general system safety is rather limited. I hope for SFI to provide the space and opportunity to discuss all things safety and share ideas and experiences across industries, creating a real community of inspired and enthusiastic people.

**"It has become abundantly clear to me that safety is a team sport, where the right information, discussion and community is vital".**

As part of the bigger SCSC, the SFI is probably the perfect starting point to bring young professionals from both academia and industry together. While many of us may have a different background, ranging from pure safety to software engineering and more, I don't believe this to be disadvantage. On the contrary, though initially it might be difficult, there is undoubtably immense value in bringing all these backgrounds and expertise together.

**Laure Buysse is a FWO fellow at KU Leuven studying for a doctorate researching the safety of autonomous systems with a focus on (executable) safety cases and digital twins.**




## Membership

Membership for the SFI is free for the first year, so please sign-up if you would like to get involved (please see www.scsc.uk/membership).

SFI members get access to all SFI events and activities, as well as discounted fees at SCSC Events.

## Further Information

If you would like further information about any aspect of the SFI, please do get in touch with Zoe Garstang (zoe.garstang@scsc.uk) or
Nikita Johnson (nikita.johnson@scsc.uk).