



Kristina Zimaj

Date of birth: 24/05/1992 | **Phone number:** (+383) 49367431 (Mobile) | **Email address:** kristinazimaj@gmail.com | **Address:** Peja, Kosovo (Home)

WORK EXPERIENCE

06/2024 – 09/2024 Ljubljana (remote), Slovenia

JUNIOR TRAINER AND RAPPORTEUR SALTO SEE

Junior trainer for the TEC Training and Evaluation Circle Meeting for ESC Coordinators from Western Balkan and Slovenia

Designed and delivered some of the training sessions

Drafted the activity report for the entire 2.5 days meeting

12/2024 – CURRENT remote, France

MEMBER OF THE POOL OF TRAINERS COUNCIL OF EUROPE

Providing consultancy services on educational activities focused on international non-formal intercultural and human rights work.

09/2024 – 10/2024 Peja, Kosovo

TRAINER BUILDING THE BALKANS

Developing and delivering training sessions on leadership, project management and decision making.

05/2024 – 09/2024 Kosovo

FACILITATOR / LOCAL CONSULTANT ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION

Designed and facilitated workshop sessions on intercultural dialogue and team building for 14 young participants from Kosovo and Serbia as part of the Academy of Culture and Language.

01/2023 – CURRENT Kosovo

CO-TRAINER COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY - CLA

Co-facilitated modules on Community Development, Caucusing the Issue, Defining Problem Statements, and SMART Goals as part of the Citizen Engagement Activity program, following the CLA curriculum.

Attended the Training of Trainers onboarding program to study the curriculum and practice training methodologies.

07/2023 – 09/2023 Brussels, Belgium

TRAINER YOUNG FEDERALIST EUROPE (JEF)

- Designed session outlines ensuring alignment with project goals and utilizing non formal education methodology.
- Facilitated and delivered training sessions on democratic activism, building safe civic spaces, and enhancing youth participation in political processes.

05/2021 – CURRENT Kosovo

QUALITY LABEL ASSESSOR FOR THE ESC VOLUNTEERING PROGRAM SALTO SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Assessing Quality Label applications for European Solidarity Corps project, conducting site visits and advising organizations for qualitative ESC Volunteering Projects.

15/04/2024 – CURRENT Tallinn (remote), Estonia

MEMBER OF THE POOL OF EXPERTS AND TRAINERS ON YOUTH PARTICIPATION NEW POWER IN YOUTH STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP - ESTONIAN NATIONAL AGENCY FOR ERASMUS+ AND ESC

Contributing with research and consultancy aiming at promotion and implementation of Youth Participation Strategy in the Erasmus+ and ESC programs.

01/03/2023 – CURRENT Ljubljana (remote), Slovenia

RESEARCH CONSULTANT (FREELANCE) SALTO SOUTH EAST EUROPE

- Co-designed stakeholder analysis and mapping project process for the Erasmus+ Program (youth field) and European Solidarity Corps in the Western Balkan region;
- Extracted key beneficiaries and engaged parties from project data, identifying their level of engagement and their profiles;
- Prepared visual presentations summarizing mapping and analysis findings.

05/2023 – CURRENT Ljubljana (remote), Slovenia

ADVISOR FOR EUROPE GOES LOCAL PROGRAM (FREELANCE) SALTO SOUTH EAST EUROPE

- Collaborated with municipalities in the Western Balkan to develop local youth work in alignment with the Europe Goes Local initiative's objectives.
- Provided mentorship to the staff in adherence to the European Charter of Local Youth Work.
- Attended Europe Goes Local event in Sweden as part of the Western Balkan Representation

05/2024 – 09/2024 Kosovo

RESEARCH CONSULTANT (FREELANCE) GAIA KOSOVO

Designed and conducted a survey to assess the accessibility, engagement and motivation of Kosovo youth in international volunteering and non-formal education programs.

Analyzed survey data and drafted a final report to inform GAIA Kosovo's outreach and communication strategy, enhancing the inclusion of young people and youth workers in ESC and Erasmus+ Youth Program activities.

06/2024 – CURRENT Brussels (remote), Belgium

DATA ANALYST EXPERT (FREELANCE) YOUTH FOR EXCHANGE AND UNDERSTANDING

Serving as a Data Analyst Expert for the WE ARE HER project, a capacity-building funded project under Erasmus+, focused on gender equality and women's empowerment across six Mediterranean countries.

Contributing to the development of an Impact Research Strategy and data collection tools to assess the project's impact on youth work and gender equality.

09/2023 – CURRENT Dublin (remote), Ireland

MEMBER OF THE RESEARCH PANEL (FREELANCE) LEARGAS - IRISH NATIONAL AGENCY FOR EU YOUTH PROGRAMS

Drafted the report about the impact of Erasmus+ youth in Ireland for the period 2021-2023, as part of the research initiatives within the Research-based Analysis of European youth programs (RAY) Network.

14/11/2022 – 28/02/2023 London , United Kingdom

PROJECT AND RESEARCH CONSULTANT UNIVERSITY OF WESTMINSTER

Project with London Green Wood CIC:

- Mapped over 45 potential partner women organizations.
- Identified more than 25 fundraising opportunities.
- Conducted competitors' analysis research and authored a comprehensive 21-page report.
- Conducted market research analysis and produced a detailed 5-page report.
- Conducted a Literature Review on the importance of crafts in community development and women empowerment.

Project with Getting on Board charity:

- Conducted bespoke research to assess the suitability of university departments for promoting inclusive and diverse trusteeships.
- Delivered a 10-page research report encompassing desk research, interviews, and recommendations.

03/04/2018 – 30/09/2021 Peja, Kosovo

PROJECT AND DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR / CAPACITY BUILDING AND ERASMUS+ COORDINATOR ANIBAR

Project Development, Fundraising, Project Management:

- Headed fundraising for three consecutive Anibar International Animation Festival editions, securing a total of €265,000.00 in funds. Achieved a 30% increase in festival funds within the first year to finances the artistic program promoting gender equality, human rights, environment protections, ethnic minority inclusion.

- Drafted and managed festival budgets and delivered narrative reports.
- Fundraised from, and liaise with, 30 donors and embassies over each year including: UNDP, UN Women, UN Volunteers, International Visegrad Fund, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Goethe Institute, Friedrich Ebert Foundation; cultural diplomacy and development funds from Embassy of France, Canada, Netherlands, Germany, Luxembourg, Italy, Austria; local municipalities and national ministries, etc.

Co-conceptualized, developed and fundraised for new medium value (under EUR 30K) projects:

- "Cultural Heritage as an Artform - Promoting Cultural Heritage and Diversity"
- "Resilient Community through Arts and Culture"
- "Promotion of inter-ethnic inclusion and diversity through cultural heritage"
- "Advocating for inclusive Cultural Policies in the Municipality of Peja" for the Network of Cultural Organizations.

International Collaboration and Youth Development:

- Managed the accreditation process and wrote the Accreditation Application for the European Solidarity Corps - EU program.
- Led and facilitated the Erasmus+ Youth Exchange "Peace Begins with Tolerance" in Ruse, Bulgaria.
- Coordinated and mentored European Solidarity Corps hosting volunteers project
- Acted as the local coordinator for the Erasmus+ funded project "ReTour: Youth Employment and Intercultural Learning through Entrepreneurship in Tourism" in Athens, Greece.
- Established partnerships with ten European organizations specializing in international youth, diversity and inclusion.
- Coordinated three sending European Solidarity Corps volunteering projects by sending three young people to EU countries.

Capacity Building and Organizational Development:

- Developed, secured funding for, and managed an Organizational Development project amounting to €15K.
- Managing the Twinning Program for Capacity Building of Cultural Workers in Balkan, part of a Regional project, funded by Creative Europe.
- Conceptualized and developed a 28-page Fundraising Manual for the International Animation Festival, contributing to knowledge and experience transfer within the organization.

03/2020 – 03/2021 Kosovo

MEMBER OF THE YOUTH RESEARCH ADVISORY GROUP RESEARCH PROJECT: "YOUTH PERCEPTIONS ON PEACE IN THE WESTERN BALKAN" UNDP

- Co-designed the research methodology to explore youth priorities and perceptions on peace and security in the Western Balkans.
- Validated and analyzed research results to derive meaningful insights into youth perspectives on peace.

10/2020 – 11/2020 Kosovo

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT DAMASTION CONSULTING LLC

Developing and writing business plans for start-up companies and preparing grant applications for businesses.

01/07/2014 – 30/10/2016 Peja, Kosovo

PROJECT COORDINATOR AND FACILITATOR YOUTH CENTER ATE LORENC MAZRREKU

- Coordinated social animation and non formal educational program attended by 200 children.
- Facilitated and trained 40 newcomer volunteers/ youth workers in event planning and delivery.
- Co-coordinated the implementation of three international youth exchanges in Kosovo.
- Co-coordinated sport animation projects in partnership with Sport without Borders.
- Event assistant for one-year environmental education project in partnership with Caritas.

01/10/2012 – 30/09/2013 Peja, Kosovo

TUTOR IN THE PSYCHO-SOCIAL PROGRAM NGO HANDS FULL OF MERCY

Supported the educational advancement and social inclusion of pupils facing social and economic challenges through classes, group work, and social animation activities.

10/2010 – 10/2012 Peja, Kosovo

OUTREACH COORDINATOR NGO RESOURCE CENTER & INTERSOS MISSION IN KOSOVO

Coordinated the outreach process of young people in inter-ethnic activities assuring the diversity and inclusion in the events, including cultural heritage study visits and traditional craft courses.

● EDUCATION AND TRAINING

05/2024 – CURRENT New York (remote), United States

RESEARCH FELLOW Academics Stand Against Poverty

Carrying out a research about the non formal education in poverty reduction. The project is in conceptual phase.

Website <https://academicsstand.org/fellowship-international/>

20/09/2021 – 20/09/2022 London, United Kingdom

MSC INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT University of Westminster

Modules: Managing Development Interventions; Managing International Projects; Research Methods; International Development Finance; Managing Data; Development Economics and Policy; Current Issues in International Development, Sustainable Energy Policies

Address 309 Regent Street , Marylebone Road 35, W1B 2HW, London, United Kingdom | **Final grade** Merit |

Thesis "The impact of non-formal education on employability of young people" (Grade: Distinction)

10/2011 – 07/2014 Peja, Kosovo

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCES IN BUSINESS University Haxhi Zeka

Management, Accounting, Financial Analysis, Macroeconomics, Public Finances.

Level in EQF EQF level 6

10/2014 – CURRENT Peja, Kosovo

MSC (CANDIDATE) ACCOUNTING AND FINANCES University Haxhi Zeka

● HONOURS AND AWARDS

20/09/2021

Chevening Scholarship – Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

Chevening Scholarship receipt for 2021/22 cohort with a **global acceptance rate 2.5%**. Chevening is the UK government's international awards programme aimed at developing global leaders.

Link <https://www.chevening.org/>

12/2020

Humans of SALTO – SALTO - Youth

Nominated for the tribute 'Humans of SALTO' alongside 20 other contributors to European youth work on the occasion of the network's 20th anniversary. 'Humans of SALTO' is a recognition of all individuals who have played a vital role in the development of youth work through EU programs across Europe.

Link <https://humans-of-salto.net/kristina-zimaj/>

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2016 – 2023 Europe

Training Courses about Nonformal Education and Youth Work

1. **"Non-Formal Education - An Opportunity for Inclusion and Acceptance of Immigrants and Asylum Seekers"** – Ferfillo (2017, Italy);
2. **Training for Trainers for Inclusion and Acceptance of Diversity in Our Communities** - Association "Centre for modern living competences", (2017, Serbia);
3. **Dialogue Academy for Young Women** - OSCE (2018, Austria);
4. **Partnership Building Activity "Key to inclusion: European Solidarity Corps"**, Slovenian National Agency (2018, Slovenia);
5. **"EUtopia? Diversity in a Changing Europe: Creative Youth Work Lab for Rethinking Diversity Solutions"** - Latvian National Agency (2019, Latvia).
6. **"Digital Youth Work - State of Play - Moving Forward"** - Irish National Agency (2023, Ireland)
7. **"Europe Goes Local event"** - Swedish National Agency (2023, Sweden)

● **VOLUNTEERING**

10/2023 – CURRENT Ljubljana, Slovenia
Signal Spotter - Futures of Youth Work Research Project

Contributed as a Signal Spotter for the Futures of Youth Work Project, conducted by the European Academy on Youth Work (EAYW). Engaged in horizon scanning activities to identify emerging trends and potential disruptions shaping the future landscape of youth work. Provided valuable insights and observations to inform strategic decision-making and proactive planning for the well-being and success of young people in Europe.

08/2022 – CURRENT online
Program and Fundraising Consultant - Careers in the Common Good organization

Contributing in program and event content curation to the programs aiming to empower aspiring community development workers. Also, contributing in project development and fundraising.

15/08/2022 – CURRENT London
Core team member - London International Development Network

Contributing at the Mentoring International Leaders Exchange (MILE) program design and implementation aiming to empower emerging development workers.

05/2023 – CURRENT remote
Professional Mentor - University of East London

Guiding students of community development studies for their career path, professional development and networking.

02/2024 – CURRENT Remote (Thailand)
Mentor - Wedu Global Mentorship Programme

Mentoring young Asian women through Wedu's Global Mentorship Programme, with a focus on reducing the gender gap in leadership, to help them achieve their personal and professional goals while enhancing their leadership skills.

11/2017 – 05/2018 Italy
Story Explorer (Volunteer) - ROUTE60+ Stories that shaped a better Europe project

Member of international team, contributed with drafting the program, defining themes and creating action plan, collecting stories. The project aimed to collect experienced-based stories showing the impact of European youth mobility programs in inclusion, active participation and empowerment of young people.

10/2022 – 12/2023 London (remote)
Member - Common Future Conversation Program, Chatham House

Attended monthly online discussions about global challenges in international development and affairs.

● **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Mother tongue(s): **ALBANIAN**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C1	C1	C2
SPANISH	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
SERBIAN	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user