

SEBASTIAN SCHWEITZER

Facilitator, trainer & capacity development expert in the youth field

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Nationality: German | Date of birth: 31 January 1980 | Driving licence: B



PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Facilitator, trainer & capacity development expert with over 20 years of international experience in the youth sector, with a proven track record in peace education, human rights and youth participation, policy-oriented analysis, institutional fundraising, and the design and delivery of training programmes and educational resources

KEY COMPETENCES

- **Training design & delivery:** Proven track record in designing and delivering more than 150 blended, residential and online educational programmes on peace education (competence frameworks, leadership, youth), training of trainers (youth work, community organising), peacebuilding (confidence building, reconciliation, intercultural dialogue, community empowerment, intervention design, youth in peace), organisational development (strategic planning, project management, fundraising), youth empowerment and participation, and strategic change-making and community development (civic activism, participation, human rights and advocacy)
- **Capacity development across educational sectors:** Ideation, institutional fundraising and project management of international projects across youth, adult education and VET sectors in the EU, Western Balkans, Eastern Partnership region and sub-Saharan Africa
- **Authoring, editing and knowledge production:** Extensive experience as author and editor of international publications and educational materials in the fields of youth work, peace education, project management and organisational development, including youth practitioner handbooks, training manuals, competence frameworks and policy-oriented resources
- **Research design and implementation:** Coordination, design and delivery of applied mixed-methods research and analysis in the youth sector and beyond including desk research and stakeholder consultations; experience in translating research findings into practical frameworks, capacity-building measures and policy recommendations

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Apr 2013 – present | Freelance Consultant (based in France, with missions abroad)

Civil Society Capacity Development Expert/ Consultant

- Designed and facilitated educational capacity-building programmes (online, hybrid, blended and face-to-face) and developed educational materials (training manuals, online courses, MOOC) in the youth sector on youth-led peacebuilding (United Network of Young Peacebuilders; Fundacja Rozwoju Systemu Edukacji, Habitat Association, UNICEF), Training of Trainers on non-formal education and peace education (MeOut, United Network of Young Peacebuilders, Academy for Peace and Development), human rights (United Nations Association of Georgia), institutional fundraising (World Vision Georgia, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, Azerbaijani Youth Foundation), leadership & confidence-building (Europe Foundation), and community organising & strategic nonviolence (Centre for Training and Consultancy, Volunteer Activists Institute) in the EU, Euro-Med, the Western Balkan, and Eastern Europe and the Caucasus
- Supported strategic planning and organisational development for Iranian civil society and the student movement (Volunteer Activists Institute), for OC-Media and for the Peace Education Programme of the First Children's Embassy in the World – Megjashi (North Macedonia)
- Led proposal development and institutional fundraising for donor-funded projects (including Erasmus+, EuropeAid, EU4Youth, USAID, National Endowment for Democracy and various embassies) securing small- and medium-scale grants ranging from EUR 50,000 to EUR 1.5 million for international civil society organisations and educational institutions including on youth employability (World Vision South Caucasus) environmental protection & activism (SABUKO - Society for Nature Conservation), countering extremism (Civic Education Teachers Forum Georgia), entrepreneurship education and VET (MeOut Group), and trauma (Corridors - Dialogue through Cooperation)

Jul 2024 – Jan 2026 | European Commission & Council of Europe – Youth Partnership (Strasbourg, France)

Co-Editor & Author – T-Kit on Project Management; to be published in 2026 (freelance expert)

- As one of two editors, defined the conceptual structure and content architecture of the T-Kit handbook on project management in the youth sector
- Co-edited and coordinated contributions from multiple international authors, and co-authored key chapters on project cycle management and project ideation
- Provided joint editorial oversight of the publication process, including coordination of content development, design and final production

April 2013 – May 2025 | European Intercultural Forum e. V. (Berlin, Germany)

Project Manager, Team Leader & Trainer (part-time)

- Developed, secured funding for and managed more than 30 international EU-funded cooperation projects (Erasmus+, Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA), Grundtvig and Europe for Citizens) focused on youth participation, peacebuilding and civic engagement in the Western Balkans and Eastern Partnership region
- Supported the implementation of more than 10 editions of the “Discover the Caucasus” European Solidarity Corps series, coordinating the placement, preparation, mentoring, and follow-up of German volunteers in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia
- Designed and delivered more than 50 multicultural training courses, study visits, seminars and training of trainers on youth-led peace building, peace education, intercultural learning and youth participation in the context of EU-Western Balkans and EU-Eastern Partnership cooperation in the youth sector
- Developed educational resources and methodological tools on peace education, civic activism, environmental sustainability in youth work, and planning, monitoring and evaluation for youth organisations
- Established and coordinated a transnational network of civil society partners active in the youth sector operating in the EU, the Eastern Partnership and the Western Balkans

Jun 2022 – May 2024 | AESA Hungary Ltd (Tbilisi, Georgia)

Capacity-Building Expert for the Feasibility Study to assess Georgia’s Participation in the Erasmus+ Programme and for relevant Capacity Building commissioned by the EU Delegation to Georgia in cooperation with the Georgian Ministry of Education (part-time)

- Conducted a comprehensive feasibility study on Georgia’s participation in the EU Erasmus+ Programme across adult education, youth, school education and VET sectors, including sector analysis, institutional capacity assessment and formulation of system-level recommendations
- Designed and delivered a multi-stakeholder unified national capacity-building programme on Erasmus+ funding acquisition implementing more than 40 training sessions for schools, CSOs, VET providers, youth organisations and public authorities
- Provided coaching and advisory support to the Georgian National Erasmus+ Office to strengthen institutional capacities

Dec 2010 – Mar 2013 | KURVE Wustrow – Centre for Training and Networking in Nonviolent Action (Skopje, North Macedonia)

International Project Manager and educational expert on peace education embedded at the First Children’s Embassy in the World – Megjashi (full-time assignment under the Civil Peace Service Programme of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ)

- Co-led the Peace Education Department, supervising a team of four staff members, and managed the implementation of the Peace Education Programme, including financial management, monitoring, evaluation, donor compliance and reporting
- Coordinated and piloted a multicultural peace education programme across ethnic Macedonian and Albanian communities in secondary schools, training more than 150 teachers and students
- Facilitated cooperation among civil society organisations, the Ministry of Education and international partners to support the institutionalisation and scaling-up of peace education within the formal education system
- Contributed to the strategic development of the organisation’s peace education work and advised the preparation of its 2012–2014 strategic plan

Apr 2006 – Oct 2010 | Academy for Peace and Development (Tbilisi, Georgia)

Volunteer under the European Voluntary Service (Apr 2006-Mar 2007), from Apr 2007 onwards Programme Manager – International Cooperation & Peacebuilding (full-time)

- Conceptualised, secured funding for and managed more than 20 EU-funded cooperation projects on youth-led peacebuilding, confidence building, intercultural dialogue and youth participation in the EU–Eastern Partnership context education
- Coordinated multilateral European Voluntary Service projects in the South Caucasus specifically supporting hosting organisations in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan with project realisation and supervising European volunteers at the Academy for Peace and Development
- Designed and delivered more than 30 international training courses, study visits and youth exchanges on youth participation, peacebuilding, and intercultural learning in the EU-EECA context
- Supported humanitarian assistance and recovery interventions in Western Georgia following the August 2008 war, in close cooperation with local authorities, civil society organisations and international partners

Feb 2003 – Mar 2006 | Mostar Friedensprojekt e. V. (Potsdam, Germany)

Project Assistant and Coordinator (part-time)

- Coordinated local and regional civic-education projects in cooperation with the Agency for Civic Education and public institutions in Brandenburg
- Supported project management of international youth programmes on youth participation and reconciliation in the Western Balkans (Bosnia, Serbia)
- Contributed to development cooperation projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, securing medical support and prosthetic aid for child mine victims

OTHERS

EDUCATION

University of Potsdam, Germany – Master in Political Science (Diplom Politikwissenschaftler), 1999–2006

LANGUAGES (according to CEFR self-assessment)

German (mother tongue) | English (C1) | French (B1-B2)

EXPERT POOLS/ ROSTERS

- Member of the Teachers' Community of Practice on Education for Democratic Citizenship commissioned by the European Commission (DG EAC) (since May 2026)
- Member of the HELVETAS Eastern Europe Expert Roster on peacebuilding, HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation (since Feb 2026)
- Member of the International Trainer & Facilitator Panel; Léargas (National Agency for Erasmus+ in Adult Education, School Education, Vocational Education and Training, Youth and Sport in Ireland) (since Dec 2025)
- Member of the Civil Society Hub for actors addressing populist movements; European Citizen Action Service (Jul 2021-Dec 2022)
- Adviser to the trainer pool on peace education and youth-led peacebuilding of the United Network of Young Peacebuilders (Dec 2019 – April 2021)

PUBLICATIONS

- [T-Kit 3: Project Management](#) (2026) – Co-editor & Co-author
- [Green Your Youth Project!](#) (2024) – Editor
- [UNSCR 2250 and Beyond: A Youth Toolkit](#) (2021) – Co-author
- [Designing Learning for Peace – Peace Education Competence Framework](#) (2016) – Co-author & Editor
- [The Learning Curve – A Guide to Evaluation for Youth Peace Organisations](#) (2016) – Co-author
- [Manual on Mainstreaming Peace Education in adult education](#) (2014) - Co-author
- [Handbook “Volunteering in Georgia – A handbook”](#) (2008, re-published in 2014) - Co-author