



Alumni Network Assembly

profile book

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Armela Maxhelaku

Armela Maxhelaku attended the EFB Fellowship Programme for Government Officials from the Western Balkans in 2018 and conducted the fellowship at the Austrian Ministry of Transport, Innovation and Technology. She is a Lecturer at the Faculty of Law, University of Tirana. Prior to joining academia, she was engaged in monitoring EU Funded projects at the Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy in Albania. Currently, Armela is pursuing her doctorate studies at the Faculty of Law, University of Freiburg. Her main fields of expertise include project management, EU integration and international law.

Armela considers the EFB Alumni Network as a dynamic cooperation framework of outstanding individuals in terms of creating a common approach for addressing common challenges. In her view, EFB Alumni Network is a prosperous place of ideas, dialogue, experience and know-how of people sharing the same values, which will significantly contribute in promoting and advancing regional cooperation.



Blerta Derhemi

Blerta Derhemi attended the 3d generation of the Fellowship Program for Government Officials (20010/11). She did her internship in the Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs in Austria.

Blerta is a career diplomat from 2006 and a PHD candidate for International Relations in the Tirana University. She is an Adjunct Lecturer at Faculty of Social Sciences, Tirana University.

For almost 5 years Blerta was posted in Albanian Mission in European Union, where her main fields of expertise were migration, home affairs, common security and defense policies. After finishing her mandate in Brussels, she went back to her country holding the position of Head of Human Dimension Unit, at the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship Task Force.

Blerta is an enthusiast considering EFB Network as a very valuable platform for boosting the cooperation of the new generations in our region. She strongly believes that EFB fellows with their diversity of backgrounds, experiences and insights can play a role in bringing positive change for the generation to come.



Bojana Bulatović

Bojana Bulatović is currently employed as Program Manager in the Regional Youth Cooperation Office based in Tirana. She holds MSc in Intercultural Mediation Migration, Identities, Conflicts from KU Leuven, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and Université Lille 3.

Bojana graduated from the Faculty of French Language and Literature, University of Montenegro. Her career path was significantly shaped by a two years long Jonköping School for Education and Communication course on Leadership and Development Community Youth Work. From 2009 until 2014, she has been working as Advisor for International Cooperation in Directorate for Youth and Sports of the Ministry of Education of Montenegro. She contributed to the implementation of core strategic and legislative processes in Montenegro and took part in CoE co-management structure Joint Steering Committee on Youth. From 2010 until 2014, she acted as president of Initiative Group Alpbach Podgorica, member of European Forum Alpbach network.

In 2012/2013 she participated in the EFB Fellowship Program for Young Government Officials.



Bojana Laković

Bojana Lakovic is part of the 4th generation of LDP programme. She is currently working as Senior Project Manager in International Consulting Expertise (ICE EEIG) . She has more than 10 years of experience in design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation of youth policy and youth programs and projects fostering youth information, participation and mobility, development of communication strategies for educational programmes and more than 14 years of experience in project management, community work and events management.

Through her work in CSOs in Montenegro, Greece and Spain Bojana was leading preparation and implementation of projects under IPA (HRD), ERASMUS+ Programmes, labour market, career guidance of youth, community youth work, employment, education, VET etc. including cooperation with LSGs, SMEs and Governmental institutions.

She sees the EFB network as a driving force for better development of the region. Also she thinks that EFB expertise hub should be created for better utilization of the potential and knowledge of the network members.



Dejan Bursać

Dejan Bursać (1987) is a research associate at the Belgrade-based Institute for Political Studies. Mainly researching elections and political parties in Central and Eastern Europe, he has published more than 40 papers in academic journals and edited books, both in Serbia and abroad. He is also a lecturer at the Faculty of Law and Business Studies in Novi Sad, and a political consultant, working with candidates, political parties and CSOs at national and local level.

He holds a PhD from the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Political Sciences, with the thesis „The Impact of Party Ideology on Public Spending in Former Socialist Countries“. Dejan is a member of alumni networks of the Association of Schools of Political Studies of the Council of Europe, the European Movement in Serbia, and the Robert Bosch Foundation.

Also an avid football fan and a history buff.

He attended the last generation of the Leadership Development Programme.



Dejan Tonic

Dejan Tonic is a proud member of the second, all-star, generation of Leadership Development Programme (2007/2008). Dejan considers himself as a professional and devotee engaged in the fields of international development, innovation, public and youth policy, social activism and environment. Following different engagements within many international organizations, on various development projects funded by the EU, the World Bank, USAID and other donors, civil society, international consulting businesses, trade/lobby association, and relevant institutions, Dejan is since 2013 engaged as the Associate in the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), at the SME Finance & Development Group. Dejan holds BA in International Relations and MA in International Law, he has been working on his PhD in International and European Studies (all at the University of Belgrade), while also holding Georgetown University's certificate in Public Policy. Dejan is a member of many alumni organizations. He is happily married, with two daughters.



Filip Tosevski

Filip Tosevski is a diplomat in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Macedonia, currently posted in the Embassy of North Macedonia in Berlin as counselor in the political section. He was part of the 2014 EFB Fellowship Programme for Young Government Officials from the Western Balkans (Traineeship host institution: German Foreign office - Europe Division) as well as of EFB ToT Program in Negotiations. Graduated Law and holds a Master of European Studies degree from the Center for European Integration Studies of University of Bonn in Germany. Attended many diplomatic academies, schools and professional trainings in EU affairs, international relations, diplomacy, negotiations, law and public administration. Additionally, is a Member of the Executive Board and Certified EU Trainer in the Center for European Strategies – Eurothink. Former Member (2016-2019) of Council of Europe CDDH Drafting Group on Civil Society and National Human Rights Institutions. Wants EFB network as a human capital and best thing ever created and invested into in the Western Balkans to survive, develop and contribute to further impact and development of the region.



Georgi Michev

Georgi Michev is an alumnus of the 5th generation of the SEE and the EU Leadership Development Programme (2010/2011). Currently he is the Chairman of the Executive Board of Global Organization for Development /Sofia, Bulgaria/ and a member of the Community Advisory Board to the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Youth and Sports of the Republic of Bulgaria and an External Expert to the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Bulgaria. He has acquired useful experience working in European Parliament, NATO Crisis Management and Disaster Response Centre of Excellence, Ministries of Education and Science, of Foreign Affairs, of Youth and Sports and Defence in Republic of Bulgaria and in two Permanent Committees within the Sofia Municipal Council, National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency within the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria and Open Society Institute. His main fields of expertise are project management, diplomacy, national and international security, geopolitics, political election campaigns and youth. As a citizen of Bulgaria- a country on the Balkan peninsula, he believes in the great potential of the EFB community to make the Balkans a better and prosperous region in the world.



Helena Hiršenberger

Helena Hiršenberger attended the 3rd edition of the Leadership Development Programme and still finds it one of the finest programmes she had a pleasure to join. She is an experienced project manager with a background mainly in higher education, R&D and cultural heritage. She enjoys exploring, knowledge sharing and supporting teams in bringing bright ideas to life. Just recently she joined the World Bank project Serbia Accelerating Innovation and Growth Entrepreneurship as the Monitoring & Evaluation Officer. She holds a PhD in Engineering Management from the University of Novi Sad and currently teaches Project Management course at the FEFA faculty in Belgrade. Helena believes people are the greatest asset and finds this fresh (re)start of the EFB Alumni Network comes at the perfect time to (re)connect, share visions and ideas, give new momentum and work together in reshaping our WB region towards a vibrant, credible and sustainable European society.



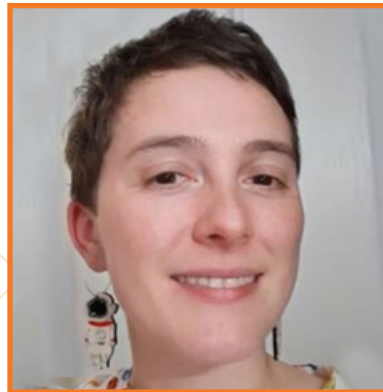
Jelena Jevtović

Jelena Jevtović was part of the 4th generation of the Fellowship Programme for Young Government Officials in 2012. She is currently a PhD student at the Faculty of Political Sciences, the University of Belgrade and the Head of EU Affairs Coordination Division in the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Serbia. Jelena has vast experience in EU integrations affairs taking into account her public sector background of 17 years. She actively participated in two important milestones for Serbia: negotiating and signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement as well as the accession negotiations of the Republic of Serbia to the EU. Jelena is providing expert guidance for her team, managing a number of people that has expanded gradually. As a person who is constantly coordinating the most diverse sectors, she believes that the EFB network is the best way to achieve common and higher regional goals.



Kalterina Shulla

Kalterina Shulla attended the 2th generation of the Fellowship Programme for Government Officials (2009/10). She did her internship in the Ministry of Housing, Spatial Planning and the Environment in the Netherlands. Kalterina has a background in architecture/urban planning and has worked for several years in the Ministry of Urban Development in Albania. She has established and chairs the network of RCE middle Albania, acknowledged by the United Nations University in Japan as part of the global RCEs network, aiming to translate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the local level. She has a Ph.D from University of Bonn in Germany, where she is currently associated as a researcher, a Master in Public Administration from Hertie School of Governance in Berlin and a Master in Urban Environmental Management from Wageningen University, in the Netherlands. She thinks that the EFB network contains a great potential to foster collaboration and innovation and to contribute to sustainable development of the Western Balkans.



Mila Stankovikj

Mila Stankovikj attended the 1st generation of the Fellowship Programme for Government Officials (2008/10). During her traineeship she was posted at the Ministry for Regional Development of the Czech Republic in Prague.

She has 13 years of experience in international development. While doing her EFB fellowship she worked at the Ministry of Finance of MKD, at the Department for management of national EU-funded programmes. She continued her career at the Joint Technical Secretariat of the Cross-border Program of Greece and North Macedonia, based in Thessaloniki, Greece. There she worked as a project officer of projects implemented jointly by Macedonian and Greek municipalities, NGOs and public institutions. As of 2015 onwards, she works for the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), where currently she is engaged as national Adviser to a project for countering organized crime in the Western Balkan.

She enjoys taking part in EFB programs and initiatives because of its ability to create relevant professional networks while fostering an enjoyable work environment.



Milica Saračević

Milica Saracevic attended the 2017/2018 Fellowship Programme for Government Officials from the Western Balkans as a political desk for the rule of law negotiating chapters in the Ministry of European Integration, Republic of Serbia. She has more than ten years of experience in policy making and coordination of the European integration process. Currently working in the European Commission on strategic communication, she is developing strategies and activities for promoting the EU in the enlargement and neighbourhood regions. She holds an MA degree from the College of Europe, Bruges in European Political and Administrative Studies. Milica believes that EFB alumni have an unprecedented possibility to create an impetus for societal change, tapping into the WB regional potentials and making it a hub for creative ideas and constructive projects.



Natasha Metodijeva

Natasha Metodijeva was part of the 1st generation of the Fellowship Programme in the Austrian Parliament, 2019/2020.

She currently works as an Associate in the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. She holds a Master degree in Social Policy. Recently graduated from Riga School of Law, Intensive Programme for European Law and Economy, also completed The Matra Rule of Law Training Programme by the Netherlands Helsinki Committee, Leiden Law School, The Hague Academy for Local Governance, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands.

She worked as Special Advisor for economic, legal and political issues in the Macedonian Parliament in Skopje. Her main field of expertise are Social Policy Issues, Policy Advising, policy making processes, also certified for e-Government and Regulatory Impact Assessment.

She considers that the network full of skilled, experienced professionals, enthusiast will impose together new activities and initiatives, consequently that the network will become an important factor in the region.



Rudina Nallbani

Rudina Nallbani is an EFB Fellow from the 2019 Fellowship Program for Government Officials. She is an economic analyst with cross-functional experience in both the private and government sector; several years of experience in the government and public policies sector and business development in international companies. Rudina holds a double undergraduate in Political Science and Economics, upon which she was awarded a scholarship and received a Master of Science in Specialized Economic Analysis from Barcelona Graduate School of Economics. Currently, she works as a Senior Economic Policies Officer at the Ministry of Economy in Kosovo. She has volunteered in community youth programs and is fluent in English, Albanian, and Croatian. For Rudina, the EFB Alumni Network provides a potential for increasing cooperation at the regional level, possibility to develop projects of mutual importance and benefit. EFB platform involves professionals of different backgrounds and experiences which enables flexibility and adaptability to current developments and areas of impact.



Saranda Stublla

Saranda Stublla attended the sixth edition of the 'Southeast Europe and the EU – Leadership Development Programme' (2011 -2012). She is recipient of Italian MFA scholarship and holds a master degree in Advanced European Affairs from the Luiss School of Government in Rome as well as Management and Public Policy from Rochester Institute of Technology. Ms. Stublla among many, was also recipient of few OSF grants and completed a one year of training in International Relations in New York and Bard College. She is currently working as a political advisor the Ministry of Local Government Administration in Kosovo mostly in charge for the European Integration field. Previously, she worked for Ministry of Education, Office of the President of Kosovo and East West Institute in New York.

Her expertise spans across international development, foreign affairs but also human rights portfolio.

She sees EFB as a getaway for regional network of bright people who champion the EFB mission, support each other, but also work together in finding new solutions for the overall regional development.



Selma Hodžić

Selma Hodžić is an EFB Fellow Programme for Government Officials 2015/2016. Lawyer and aviation manager. Hold the Master degree in Law, PhD candidate in International Business and Diplomacy. Experienced in work within governmental and non - governmental sectors. Working for the Directorate for Civil Aviation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Worked on different positions, as the senior expert for aviation law, assistant director general for international relations, harmonization and legal affairs and acting deputy director general for aviation safety and security. Have experience in work with asylum seekers under the umbrella of humanitarian law. Passionate hiker, biker and archer. Member of Assembly of the Hockey Association of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as Assembly of the Association for the promotion of Aviation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Member of the Association of mountain bikers. Passed theoretical exam for private pilot.



Uroš Živković

LDP 1 (2006/7)

Uros works for the International Organization for Migration as the social component coordinator in the Serbian Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the project „EU Support to Serbia in Migration Management“, one of the largest EU funded projects in the field of migration management in the Western Balkans.

For last two and a half years his work was concentrated on the overall coordination of work of Serbian authorities, as well as the EU assistance to Serbia, in migration management with special focus on protection of vulnerable groups. Uros's previous experience includes research in Centre for International Studies at Sciences Po in Paris, in Belgrade Centre for Security Policy, in the Strategic Research Institute of Serbian Ministry of Defence and assistant in Serbian Prime Minister's Office.

Uros has a BA in IR and European integrations and MA in International and European security from the Faculty of Political Sciences (University of Belgrade). His field of expertise is international and national refugee/migrant protection and integration, as well as international and European security with special focus on CSDP.



Marija Maraš

Marija Maraš attended the 7th generation of the Fellowship Programme for Government Officials (2014/2015), conducting her internship in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Spain. She holds BSc degrees in Economics and Political Science, as well as MSc degree in Public Policy from the University College London (UCL).

She has long experience working in public administration. Her career started in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration of Montenegro, in the department for coordination of IPA funds. Currently she works in the Parliament of Montenegro, as the Secretary of the European Integration Committee. Her main fields of expertise are public policy, European integration, EU funds, and project management.

For Marija, EFB community is a valuable pool of diverse expertise, knowledge, and talents, and as such it has a huge potential. If animated, networked and channeled towards new initiatives, and spiced up with enthusiasm and the right tools, this potential can help brighten up the future of the region.