

# Dr. Ermelinda DURMISHI

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## PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Senior policy expert in higher education and scientific research with experience in EU integration processes, approximation of national legislation with the EU acquis, and inter-institutional coordination across higher education, science, research, and regulated professions. Demonstrated ability to operate at the interface between national policymaking and EU governance, supporting accession-related reforms, regulatory coherence, and the effective implementation of EU-driven policies. Experienced in EU programme governance, including Horizon-related monitoring structures, and in supporting strategic reforms aligned with European standards.

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

### **Policymaking in education and science:**

Extensive experience in policy development and strategic programming in higher education, science, and research, contributing to Albania's EU accession agenda. Direct involvement in reforms under Chapter 25 (Science and Research), Chapter 26 (Education and Culture), and Chapter 20 (Enterprise and Industrial Policy), with a focus on innovation, as well as Chapter 3 (Right of Establishment and Freedom to Provide Services), particularly regarding regulated professions. Demonstrated expertise in policy design, inter-institutional coordination, and implementation of EU recommendations and screening outcomes.

### **Consultancy and project-based advisory work:**

Strong background in consultancy and project management, delivering strategic and technical advice to public institutions and stakeholders on education and research reforms, institutional development, and EU programme participation. Skilled in supporting the preparation, implementation, and monitoring of national and EU-funded initiatives, including Horizon-related and IPA-linked projects, in accordance with EU governance, compliance, and performance requirements.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Lecturer**, Western Balkans University, Tirana, Albania | October 2024 – Present

- **Head of the Internal Quality Assurance Unit**, leading internal quality assurance processes in line with national and European quality standards.
- Contributing to institutional development and internationalisation through the ongoing negotiation and coordination of joint programmes with foreign higher education institutions, supporting international accreditation processes, and preparation of applications for international ranking and benchmarking initiatives.
- **Teaching subject:** *Research Methodology*, covering research design, qualitative and quantitative methods, data analysis, ethics, and academic writing.

### **Project and International relations Adviser**, Albanian Investment Corporation, Tirana, Albania | June 2025 – present

- Build and maintain strategic relationships with key stakeholders, including government institutions, EU bodies, international organisations, and private-sector partners, to support project development and investment initiatives.
- Represent AIC in meetings with investors, programme partners, and international stakeholders related to project preparation and implementation.
- Support the development and submission of project applications to EU and international programmes, contributing to project identification, partnership building, and alignment with EU funding priorities.

### **Anti-Corruption Adviser**, Albanian Investment Corporation, Tirana, Albania | October 2024 – May 2025

- Build and maintain strategic relationships with key stakeholders, including government institutions, international organisations, private-sector partners, and investors, and represent AIC in meetings and negotiations.
- Support institutional communication by contributing to the dissemination of AIC's objectives, activities, and achievements to public authorities, partners, and other stakeholders.
- Promote integrity and good governance by identifying, addressing, and reporting suspected corrupt practices or administrative violations, acting with impartiality, efficiency, and in defense of institutional interests.

**Director of Strategic Programming**, Agency of Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Tirana, Albania | February 2024 – September 2024

- Coordinate the preparation, alignment, and monitoring of national and sectoral strategic documents in line with the National Strategy for Development and Integration (NSDI), ensuring coherence with EU integration priorities and international commitments.
- Ensure consistency between sectoral strategies, action plans, and performance frameworks, contributing to evidence-based policy planning, monitoring, and evaluation across public institutions.
- Support inter-institutional coordination and strategic governance processes to strengthen policy implementation and delivery.

**External Adviser for projects**, Municipality of Elbasan, Elbasan, Albania | March 2023 – June 2024

- Advise on the design and conceptualisation of municipal development projects, ensuring alignment with the municipality's strategic vision, statutory requirements, sustainability goals, and available funding opportunities, including international grants, national programmes, and public-private partnerships.
- Coordinate the drafting process of the **Climate City Contract (CCC)**, ensuring that commitments, targets, and actions are consistent with municipal priorities and the objectives of climate neutrality and urban resilience.

**Director of Higher Education and Scientific Research Policies**, Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana, Albania | March 2022 – February 2024

- Led policy development for higher education and scientific research in line with national legislation and European frameworks (EHEA, ESG, Open science).
- Contributed to drafting the national Law on Science and developing the National Strategy for Scientific Research, supporting science reforms in line with EU recommendations.
- Provided analytical input and evidence-based recommendations to support decision-making processes in higher education reform.

**Director of Program Development in Education, Sports, and Youth**, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Tirana, Albania | January 2021 – March 2022

- Manage the design and structuring of development programmes in education, scientific research, sport, and youth, ensuring feasibility, alignment with strategic objectives, and systematic monitoring of results and impact.
- Oversee the allocation of tasks, roles, and responsibilities, and coordinate the preparation of policy documents and decision-making procedures to support the effective achievement of institutional objectives
- Direct and coordinate the work of the Directorate, setting operational priorities and ensuring implementation in line with short-, medium-, and long-term planning frameworks.

**External evaluation experts for higher education**, Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Tirana, Albania | 2019 – Present

- Conduct external evaluations for institutional and programme accreditation in accordance with national quality standards and ESG principles.
- Assessed compliance with legal, academic, and quality assurance requirements, including governance, curricula, academic staff, and learning outcomes.
- Contributed to evaluation reports and recommendations supporting continuous quality improvement.

**Adviser of the Minister of Education, Sports, and Youth**, Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth, Tirana, Albania | October 2017 – January 2021

- Provided strategic advice on education, scientific research sport, and youth policies in alignment with national priorities and international standards.

- Supported legislative reforms and monitored policy implementation across sectors.
- Prepared policy briefs, analytical reports, and strategic recommendations for senior decision-makers.

**Lecturer**, Tirana University, Faculty of Political Science, Tirana, Albania | October 2018 – Present

- Deliver teaching activities in the fields of education policy, governance, management, and evaluation, ensuring a student-centred and academically rigorous learning environment.
- Assess and evaluate student performance using continuous and final assessment methods, providing constructive and timely feedback.
- **Teaching subjects:** *Policy and Legislation in Education and Scientific Research; Supervision of student on professional practice.*

**Lecturer**, “Aleksander Moisiu” University, Faculty of Education, Durrës, Albania | October 2014 – Present

- Deliver and coordinate teaching activities using student-centred and inclusive approaches, while assessing and evaluating student performance through continuous and final assessment methods and providing structured, constructive feedback.
- Provide academic and career guidance, supporting students’ professional development and transition to the labour market.
- **Teaching subjects:** *Policy and Legislation in Education; Human and Financial Resources in Education*

**Authorized Translator of Romanian Language**, Ministry of Justice, Tirana, Albania | October 2013 – Present

- Translation of official documents.
- Simultaneous translation.

**Contract Monitoring Specialist**, Project Planning and Monitoring Directorate, Immoveable Property Registration Office (IPRO), Ministry of Justice, Tirana, Albania | May 2013 – October 2017

- Monitor contract performance to ensure compliance with agreed terms and services.
- Monitor compliance with procurement guidelines and donor regulations (WB & SIDA guidelines).
- Track progress against contract milestones, schedules and key performance indicators (KPIs).
- Prepare progress reports, risk assessments and compliance documents for stakeholders.
- Facilitate communication between project partners and ensure smooth contract execution.

**Specialist**, Immoveable Property Registration Office (IPRO), Ministry of Justice, Tirana, Albania | August 2007 – April 2013

- Ensuring the accurate collection, storage and processing of institutional records.
- Producing reports and statistical analyses to support decision making.
- Improving the accuracy and accessibility of mapping and registration data.

## MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS AND WORKING GROUPS

**Member of the Monitoring Committee of ESPON programme 2021-2027**, Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Tirana, Albania | June 2024 – September 2024.

**Member of the inter-institutional working group of Chapter 22 “Regional Policy and Coordination of Structural Instruments”**, Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Tirana, Albania | February 2024 – September 2024.

**Member of interest group “Group of coordinators for the recognition of professional qualifications”**, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium | October 2023 – February 2024.

**Member of Editorial Board**, Journal of Research In Pharmacy, Clinical and Social Pharmacy & Pharmacoeconomics & Pharmacy Education, Marmara University, Turkey, indexed: [ABC Chemistry](#); [Chemical abstract online](#) (SciFinder); [EBSCO Host](#); [Embase \(Elsevier\)](#); [Emerging Sources Citation Index](#) (ESCI) (Web of Science); [Google Scholar](#); [Index Copernicus](#); [J-Gate](#); [Scimago Journal & Country Rank](#) (SJR); [Scopus](#); [SOBIAD](#); [Turk Medline](#); [Türkiye Atf Dizini](#); [ULAKBİM TR Dizin](#) (TR Index); [Ulrichsweb](#); [ABCD Index](#), web-site: [Journal of Research in Pharmacy](#) | June 2023 - Present

**Member of the Governing Board of Education Reform Initiative of Southeastern Europe** (ERI SEE), Zagreb, Croatia | 2022 - February 2024.

**Head of the inter-institutional working group subchapter "Mutual Recognition of Regulated Professions", Chapter 3 "Right of establishment and freedom to provide services", Ministry of Finance and Economy, Tirana, Albania | 2021-February 2024.**

**Head of the inter-institutional working group subchapter "Skills and Innovation", Chapter 20 "Enterprise and industrial policy", Ministry of Finance and Economy, Tirana, Albania | 2022 - February 2024.**

**Member of Administrative Board, "Aleksander Xhuvani" University, Elbasan, Albania | February 2022 - March 2024.**

**Member of the Monitoring Committee for the International Agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the European Union on Albania's participation in the EU programme Horizon Europe – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (Law No. 47/2022), Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana, Albania | 2022 –2024.**

**Member of the inter-institutional working group of Chapter 26 "Education and Culture", Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana, Albania | 2021- February 2024.**

**Member of the inter-institutional working group of Chapter 25 "Science and Research", Ministry of Education and Sports, Tirana, Albania | 2021- February 2024.**

**National Correspondents for Qualifications Frameworks (QF-EHEA). Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France | 2022 – February 2024.**

**Member of the thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Framework (TPG A on QF), Bologna Follow-up group | 2021-February 2024.**

**Member of the Steering Committee for Education (CDEDU), Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France | 2021- February 2024.**

**Member of the Platform on Ethics, Transparency, and Integrity in Education (ETINED), Council of Europe, Strasbourg, France | 2021 – February 2024.**

**Member of Working Group on Higher Education (HE), European Commission, Strasbourg, France | 2021- February 2024.**

**Member of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) | 2021 – February 2024.**

**Member of the Scientific Board, Youth Congress on Sport & Recreation Activities, Albanian Sports Science Association in collaboration with FIEPS Albania, Tirana, Albania | November 2018.**

**Member of the Scientific Board, 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference "Teaching, Education and Learning", University "Aleksander Moisiu" University, Durres, Albania | November 2018.**

## **PROJECTS AND CONSULTANCY**

**Expert for SNKE for the alignment with EU acquis on Chapter 25 – Science and Research (Cluster 3 – Competitiveness and Inclusive Growth), EUIS (European Union Integration Support Facility in Albania) contract No. 2024/462-021) project | Tirana, Albania | March – October 2026.**

**Project Coordinator – expert, project Development of management plans for three Protected Areas: Bredhi i Hotovës–Dangëlli National Park, Zagoria Nature Park, and Bredhi i Sotirës Nature Park, within the framework of the EU4Nature project, implemented United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) | Tirana, Albania | January– October 2026.**

**Project Manager (part time), project "Elbasan Climate-Neutral Innovation in Mobility (eCIM)" funding under Horizon Europe, Grant Agreement number: HORIZON-RIA-SGA-NZC-101121530, | Elbasan, Albania |December 2025 – present.**

**Project Manager (part time), project "GreenElb: Green and Sustainable Energy in Elbasan Buildings", funding under Horizon Europe, Grant Agreement number: HORIZON-RIA-SGA-NZC-101121530, | Elbasan, Albania | April 2025 – present.**

**National Consultant – National Assistant Author in the project "Advancing Albania's planning for medium and long-term adaptation through the development of a National Adaptation Planning (NAP) process", United Nation Development Programme (UNDP) | Tirana, Albania | January– June 2025.**

**Training Expert, Project "Enhancing Flood Resilience in Shkodër through Nature-Based Solutions and Community Engagement", implemented by the Albanian Direction for Environment and Agriculture (Alb Green), supported by the project "Integrated and Sustainable Cross-Border Flood Risk Management in the Drin River Basin in the Western Balkans (Drin FRM Project)", financed by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by UNDP | Shkodër, Albania | 28 January – 30 June 2025.**

**Team Leader in the project "Screening and Identifying Accreditation Process at GCF", Contract No.: 83459527; Contracting Authority: German Development Cooperation (GIZ Office Albania), Contractor: NGO Albgreen, Tirana, Albania | April 2024 – Aprile**

2025.

**Expert-Scientific Researcher** in the project “**Study on the use of narcotic substances by minors in the Vlorë-Fier region**”, financed by the National Agency for Scientific Research, REALD University, Vlorë, *Albania* | July 2024 – July 2025.

**Head of the working group Strategic Project “SA Governance”**, Interreg South Adriatic Programme 2021-2027, Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Tirana, *Albania* | July 2024 – October 2024.

**Member of the working group Strategic Project “SA Skills”**, Interreg South Adriatic Programme 2021-2027, Agency for Strategic Programming and Aid Coordination, Tirana, *Albania* | June 2024 – October 2024.

**Head of the Project Management Unit for the project “Energy Efficient Schools Buildings in Albania (EnE4Schools)”**, Technical Assistance for Project Preparation, in the framework of Western Balkans Investment Instrument (WBIF), Ministry of Education and Sports, *Tirana, Albania* | April 2023 – February 2024.

**Researcher** in the project “**Do It Yourself! A participative approach to increase participation and engagement of high school students in Physical Education and Sport classes” (DIYPES)**, Erasmus+ Sport program, University of Sports in *Tirana, Albania* | 2017 – 2019.

**Researcher** in the project “**Research Training: Socioeconomics of Mental Health Service Delivery in South-eastern Europe**”, Nicholas C. Petri's Centre, University of California, *Berkeley, USA* | October 2013 – January 2017.

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Sociology**, University of Craiova, Faculty of Social Sciences, *Craiova, Romania* | 2013

**Msc. National and Euro-Atlantic Security**, University of Craiova, Faculty of Social Science, *Craiova, Romania* | 2010

**Msc. Public Law**, University of Craiova, Faculty of Law and Administrative Sciences, *Craiova, Romania* | 2009

**Msc. International Relation**, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Sciences, *Bucharest, Romania* | 2009

**Degree in Political Science**, University of Bucharest, Faculty of Political Sciences, *Bucharest, Romania* | 2005

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING & CERTIFICATES

“**Chapter 20: Enterprise and Industry Policy” (topics covered: General overview & negotiations, Innovation and Skills Policy)**, College of Europe (on behalf of ASPA and GIZ), *Tirana, Albania*, September – October 2022.

“**Chapter 3 “Right of establishment and freedom to provide services” (topics covered: General Framework, General Principles)**, College of Europe (on behalf of ASPA and GIZ), *Tirana, Albania*, April – May 2022.

“**Research Training: Socioeconomics of Mental Health Service Delivery in Southeastern Europe**”, Fogarty International Training, University of California Berkeley, *Berkeley, USA* | 2014.

“**Social and behavioral investigators and key personnel Course**”, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), University of Miami, *online* | April 2014.

“**Social and behavioral responsible conduct of research Course**”, Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI), University of Miami, *online* | April 2014.

“**Project Management and Contracts” and “Creation and Management of Statistical Data”**, Landell Mills, LAMP Project, World Bank, *Tirana, Albania* | May 2013.

“**Training of Trainers - General Skills**”, Landell Mills, LAMP Project, World Bank, *Tirana, Albania* | May 2013.

**Erasmus mobility scholarship**, University of Florence, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of State Studies, Doctoral School: History of Economic Thinking and International relations, *Florence, Italy* | 2011 – 2012.

**Romanian Language Certificate**, University of Craiova, Faculty of Foreign Languages and Literatures, *Craiova, Romania* | 2000 – 2001.

## LANGUAGE SKILLS

Albanian (native) | English-C1 | Romanian-C2 | Italian-B2 | Spanish-A1

## DIGITAL SKILLS

Microsoft Office | Google Drive | Outlook

## **SOFT SKILLS**

Problem solving | Creative and dynamic | Critical Thinking | Interpersonal Communication Skills | Leadership | Ability to work under pressure | Multitasking.

## **REFERENCES**

- Dr. Elira Kokona, CEO of Albanian Investment Corporation | +355676072400 | [elira.kokona@aicorporation.com](mailto:elira.kokona@aicorporation.com)
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