

Aleksandra Vukovich, LL.M

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Lawyer, Analyst and Researcher, with 10 years of full-time professional experience in governmental/ international affairs and in-depth practical knowledge of the EU accession process. As a coordinator of the process of fulfilling the EU requirements in the Justice and Home Affairs area, knowledgeable in various democracy-related areas such as the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Public Administration Reform, as well as reforms in the Home Affairs sector and included in the work of relevant national working groups in the sector in charge of drafting policies / projects and monitoring the implementation of the same.

Experienced in preparing, organizing and rolling out activities in accordance with an implementation plan, proactively coordinating implicated stakeholders while ensuring good communication. Enthusiastic in contributing in durable systemic change in the Western Balkans on their EU path, given the wide context of JHA challenge in the region, regularly recognized under the EC Annual Reports and monitored as part of the accession process.

Fluent in Macedonian, Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, English and enthusiastic in learning French.

Well skilled in:

EU Affairs | International relations | Diplomacy | Law | Negotiations | Lobbying | Advocacy | Public policy | Policy Analysis | Policy monitoring | Data Analysis | Project Management | Needs assessment identification | Communications and PR |

EXPERIENCE

Justice & Home Affairs Officer to the EU Institutions

Permanent Mission of the Republic of North Macedonia to the EU

Brussels, Belgium

Nov. 2015 – May 2019

- Monitoring & analysing relevant EU policy / legislative developments, with a focus to DG NEAR, DG JUSTICE, DG EMPL and DG HOME as well as EP Committees (DROI, LIBE and EMPL) ;
- Liaising with EU Agencies under the Justice and Home Affairs area - FRA, FRONTEX, EASO, EUROJUST, EUROPOL and EMCDDA ;
- Monitoring the accession process of the EU candidate countries from WB ;
- Drafting situation & strategy reports, position papers and press releases ;
- Establishing & maintaining contacts with relevant decision-makers within EU institutions, Member State representatives & advocacy groups ;
- Presenting country achievements in fulfilment of EU membership criteria at relevant forums ;
- Organizing advocacy missions & events for relevant national senior officials
- Managing relationships with Brussels-based think tanks & civil society organisations as the Mission's liaison officer ;
- Coordinating the "screening" process as a national contact point for the European Commission.

Attaché

Permanent Mission of Austria to the OSCE, Federal Ministry for Europe, Integration & Foreign Affairs

Vienna, Austria

April - July 2015

- Attending regular weekly meetings of the OSCE Permanent Council ;
- Gaining practical experience of the OSCE work in the human dimension, where OSCE ensures respect for human rights, supports strengthening democratic institutions; media freedom, minorities rights and non-discrimination ;
- Assisted in preparing of Austria's chairmanship with the Working group with the Mediterranean partners for cooperation (2016) and the OSCE (2017).

Coordinator for preparation of the national administration for EU membership in the area of Human rights

Secretariat for European Affairs, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

Skopje, North Macedonia

July 2009 - Present

- Proactively coordinating state administration (~ 40 institutions) in preparation for EU membership in the area of Human rights & protection of minorities ;
- Preparing briefings, talking points & speeches for the Deputy Prime Minister in charge of EU Affairs ;

- Drafting reports for the European Commission on Human rights issues & progress achieved ;
- Organizing & participating in EC & CoE peer reviews & field missions ;
- Participating in the annual preparation of EU projects supported by the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), towards facilitating Rule of Law as well as necessary Human rights reforms ;
- Participating in regular meetings with donors and beneficiaries ;
- Preparing needs assessment and prioritization of areas and activities eligible for donor assistance, as well as identifying potential projects ;
- Overseeing Project / Programme implementation in accordance with the predefined program objectives ;
- Actively participating in the work of the existing national working groups covering specific Human rights issues ;
- Managing relationships with civil society organisations as liaison officer for cooperation with NGOs.

Legal Apprentice

Lawyer Office Andreevski

Skopje, North Macedonia
Oct.2008 - June 2009

EDUCATION

Passed Bar Exam

Ministry of Justice of Republic of North Macedonia

Skopje, North Macedonia
June 2014

Master's degree in European Law & the Law of the EU

University FON

Dissertation: Legal framework for equality & protection against discrimination in the Republic of North Macedonia & the EU

Skopje, North Macedonia
2008-2012

Bachelor's degree in Law Studies

University "St. Cyril & Methodius" - Faculty of Law Iustinianus Primus

Skopje, North Macedonia
2004 – 2008

FELLOWSHIPS

2015 Fellowship Programme of the European Fund for the Balkans

Joint initiative of European foundations (King Baudouin Foundation, ERSTE Foundation & the Robert Bosch Foundation) that support initiatives aimed at strengthening democracy, fostering European integration & affirming the role of the Western Balkans

LANGUAGES

Native Macedonian, fluent English, fluent Serbian/Croatian/Bosnian, basic French & basic German.

** References to be provided upon request**