

MILICA TRPEVSKA

Current position “IOM Project Assistant seconded to MARRI RC”

Professional Profile

Accomplished professional with extensive experience in fundraising, grant writing, as well as project cycle and financial management of complex, multi-partner and multi-stakeholder projects. Proven skills in developing log frames, proposals, budgets and reporting. Demonstrable experience of collaboration, including forging and maintaining effective new relationships and partnerships across organizational boundaries. Dynamic, inspirational, and strategic leader committed to rights-based approach to development cooperation.

Relevant Professional Experience

11/2017 – Present **“International Organisation for Migration”, EU-funded IPA II project ‘Regional Support to Protection Sensitive Migration Management in the Western Balkans and Turkey’, Skopje, North Macedonia**

Project Assistant: IOM support to the Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative (MARRI)

- Coordinating regional IPA II programme activities with MARRI Secretariat and Western Balkans migration management authorities.
- Securing political and administrative commitment to maintain a regional remote interpretation service with an aim to support MARRI Participants in furthering rights-based, protection-sensitive migration management approach in line with EU migration policy framework.
- Compiling project documents and reports in line with MARRI procedures and IOM/EU requirements.
- Preparing progress reports and analyses on migration management and international protection issues, focused on regional cooperation and alignment of WB national legislations to the EU Acquis.

11/2016 – 10/2017 **Self-employed, Freelance Project Proposal Writer, Trainer and Researcher**

Researcher:

- Co-author of a Gender and Social Inclusion study commissioned by HELVETAS Swiss Inter-cooperation. Conducted gender analysis of the Macedonian vocational education system and labour market, with a focus on barriers to participation for women from multiple marginalized groups and minority communities (Roma, youth and women with disabilities).

Researcher:

- Mapping available local-level services for children and youth with disabilities in Berovo, Ohrid and Bogovinje municipality within the SDC-funded project: ‘Connecting, Strengthening, Advocating’. Conducted desk research, interviews and focus group discussions with different local stakeholders (municipality administrations, centers for social work, health institutions, schools, NGOs, and families of children with disabilities).
- Prepared research findings report and database for available services for each of the three municipalities.

Project Proposal Writer:

- Developed and submitted two high quality project applications on inclusive education and public-private engagement for the Foundation for Educational and Cultural Initiatives ‘Step by Step North Macedonia’.

- Managed a multidisciplinary team; coordinated the development of a winning EIDHR project 'Community-Led Inclusive Partnerships'.
- Built strategic partnerships with universities, government ministries, disability and women's NGOs and the business community for a four-million-dollar grant on inclusive education (shortlisted by USAID North Macedonia).

10/2013 - 6/2016

"Education Development Center, INC.", USAID Youth Employability Skills (YES) Network project, Skopje, North Macedonia

Disability Inclusion Program Coordinator:

- Managed a project team tasked to mainstream gender and disability inclusion within USAID YES Network project. Led a cross-cutting project component, organized and monitored program activities with all project partners (Government ministries, agencies, municipalities, schools, businesses, youth-serving, women's and disability NGOs).
- Launched and led policy dialog on gender mainstreaming and disability inclusion in the areas of education and labour market participation with national and local decision-makers, international donors, and other relevant stakeholders. Provided capacity building and technical support to the Vocational Education and Training Centre and to the Employment Service Agency.
- Designed and coordinated grant-funded programs and activities for women's, disability and youth-serving NGOs. Solicited and evaluated grant proposals, performed pre-award surveys and grantees' organizational assessment.

9/2012 - 9/2013

"Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator" Skopje, North Macedonia

UN Communications Officer:

- Provided technical and communications support to the UN Resident Coordinator, the UN country Team, and the resident UN agencies in North Macedonia. Chaired the UN Inter-Agency Communications Group; was responsible for the internal communication within the UN system.
- Drafted press releases, fact-sheets, brochures, and other knowledge products representing the work of the UN system.
- Produced a daily 'UN in the News' digest for UN agencies and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Developed communications guidelines for media professionals for portraying and reporting on children, women, refugees, persons with disabilities and people living with HIV.

12/2010- 9/2012

"National Union of the Blind", regional EU-funded project 'Blind People Network for Representation in the Western Balkans' Skopje, North Macedonia

National Expert/Coordinator:

- Initiated the establishment of a multinational and multicultural regional network of disability activists, bringing together women and youth leaders from North Macedonia, Albania and Montenegro.
- Led a fundraising effort for more than 50 local disability NGOs in the Western Balkans. Supported young disability activists in project proposal development and securing institutional grants/permanent funding from their municipality budgets.

Education

Institution & Degree(s) or Diploma(s) obtained	Date (month/year)
American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria – Bachelor of Arts;	05/2010
American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria - BA in Journalism and	05/2010

Publications

- **Trpevska, M., Blazeva, A., Lazovski, V. and Aleksova L. (2018) “Local-Level Services for Persons with Disabilities: from Laws to Reality”, ‘Connecting, Strengthening, Advocating’ SDC-funded project;**
- **Trpevska, M., Cvetanoska, M. (2017), on behalf of the Research, Education and Development Center, “Gender and Social Inclusion Study”, Prepared for The Vocational Skills Development program in North Macedonia implemented by HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and supported by SDC;**
- **Tafaj, S; Mucic, F; Trpevska, M (2012) “Comparative Report on the Status of Blind Persons in the Western Balkans”, ‘Blind People Network for Representation in the Western Balkans’ EU-funded project.**