



SAMIR BEHARIĆ

CONTACT DETAILS

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PERSONAL PROFILE

Award-winning human rights activist, policy analyst, and a current PhD researcher who devoted his career to desegregating schools and providing global opportunities to young adults in the Western Balkans and beyond.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Research and policy analysis
- Migration
- Human rights
- Media and communications
- Mediation and conflict resolution
- Project management

EDUCATION HISTORY

UNIVERSITY OF BAMBERG

Doctoral Studies | April 2022 – current

- PhD Candidate in Human Geography

LEIPZIG UNIVERSITY

Master's Degree | Oct 2018 – Sep 2019

- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Global Studies – A European Perspective (EMGS)

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

Master's Degree | Oct 2017 – Sep 2018

- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree in Global Studies – A European Perspective (EMGS)

UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

Bachelor's Degree | Oct 2012 – Sep 2017

- Faculty of Political Science, Media and Communication Studies

SAPIENZA UNIVERSITY OF ROME

Erasmus+ Exchange Programme | Feb 2017 – Jul 2017

ONDOKUZ MAYIS UNIVERSITY OF SAMSUN

Mevlana Exchange Programme | Sep 2014 – Jan 2015

FREE UNIVERSITY OF BERLIN

Erasmus Mundus Exchange Programme | Oct 2013 – Jul 2014

WORK EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH OFFICER

The Balkan Forum | March 2021 – March 2022

- Producing high quality and varied research on social cohesion, human capital, and circular economy
- Designing and coordinating policy-relevant research on education and migration trends in the Western Balkans
- Undertaking analysis-related advocacy with key stakeholders

SCHUMAN TRAINEE

European Parliament (DG EXPO) | Mar 2020 – Aug 2020

- Provided a thorough political analysis on human rights, democratization, and the EU accession progress of the Western Balkans countries
- Monitored political developments and gave early warnings on areas of political concern and potential conflict
- Set up a 100+ participants conference on deliberative democracy

LANTOS CONGRESSIONAL FELLOW

U.S. Congress (U.S. Helsinki Commission) | Aug 2019 – Jan 2020

- Researched policies relating to military, economic, and human rights commitments throughout the 57-country OSCE region
- Provided strategic and advisory support to U.S. Helsinki Commission on organizing consultative meetings
- Drafted a new congressional resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Prepared public hearing speeches for Members of Congress

LANGUAGES

- Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian (Native)
- English (Proficient user – C2)
- German (Proficient user – C1)
- Spanish (Basic user – A2)

HONORS & AWARDS

- The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung PhD Scholarship (2022)
- OSCE Max van der Stoep Award (2018)
- City of Vienna Scholarship for Students from the SEE (2018)
- The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung MA Scholarship (2017)
- Erasmus+ Scholarship (2017)
- Mevlana Scholarship (2014)
- Erasmus Mundus Scholarship (2013)

RESEARCH INTERN

Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip) | Feb 2018 – Aug 2018

- Assisted a senior researcher on a project related to influence of foreign governments on political processes in the European Neighbourhood
- Conducted a research concerning the inter-ethnic relations, trans-border cooperation, and EU integration of the Western Balkans
- Moderated panel discussions and spearheaded the social media relations of the Institute

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS COORDINATOR

Youth Center Jajce (COD Jajce) | Jan 2012 – Jul 2014

- Coordinated international projects from the Erasmus+ Programme, European Voluntary Service (EVS), and the Weltwärts Programme
- Drafted budget proposals and reporting to international donors
- Facilitated seminars, training courses and study visit sessions related to youth activism, conflict management, and fighting segregation in schools

MULTIMEDIA JOURNALIST & CONTENT CREATOR

Senzor Magazine & JajcePress Website | Jul 2009 – Sep 2013

- Published in print and digital on politics, human rights, and security topics
- Created original content for website and social media, resulting in one of the fastest growing follower bases among news channels in Central Bosnia
- Designed infographics, researched materials, and selected reliable information from a varied range of reputable sources

PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMS

YOUNG LEADERS COHORT

GLOBSEC | Feb 2021 – present

- Working together with 30 young leaders from the Western Balkans and EU on a joint research paper within the project titled "Supporting Democratization and Reconciliation Process in the Western Balkans"

"ONE WAY TICKET NO MORE" RESEARCH GROUP

Regional Youth Cooperation Office (RYCO), Crossborder Factory | Jul 2020 – present

- Co-authored [a background paper](#) and a series of policy proposals for the German Foreign Office presented at the conference on youth and migration in the Balkans
- Exploring youth migration challenges and provided practical recommendations for depopulation and demographic decline in the Western Balkans

TRANSATLANTIC INCLUSION LEADERS NETWORK (TILN) PROGRAM

German Marshall Fund of the United States | Jun 2020 – present

- Taking part in the 2020–21 class as one of the youngest participants of the German Marshall Fund's hallmark fellowship program
- TILN provides inclusive leaders across sectors and the Atlantic with the opportunity to foster renewed commitment to the transatlantic relationship

UN WESTERN BALKANS YOUTH CO-DESIGN TEAM

United Nations | Jan 2020 – present

- Consulting UNDP and UNFPA in preparing a research exploring youth priorities and perceptions on peace and security in the Western Balkans
- Examining the results of the research, identified recommendations for policy and programmatic work, and co-lead advocacy efforts vis-à-vis peers and decision-makers in the region

ACADEMIC AND POLICY PAPERS

Beharic, S., & Grganovic, V. (forthcoming). Education and European Integration: Bosnian Students Abroad. In Dz. Karabegovic & A. Karamehitic Oates (Eds.), *Bosnian Studies – A Reader for an Emerging Field*. (Chapter 7). University of Missouri Press.

Beharic, S., Kabashi, F., Striffler, J. (2021). Circular Economy in the Western Balkans region: Waste Management as a Challenge. *The Balkan Forum*.

Beharic, S. et al. (2021). Raising Awareness about the Role of the EU in the Western Balkans and Potential Accession. *GLOBSEC*.

Beharic, S. et al. (2020). One Way Ticket No More: Seven Ideas for a Prosperous Western Balkans. *Regional Youth Cooperation Office & Crossborder Factory*.

Beharic, S. et al. (2019). Young Generations for the New Balkans. *Vision 2030: Towards Alternative Horizons*. Austrian Institute for International Affairs (oiip).

RESEARCH SOFTWARE

- MAXQDA
- Citavi
- Zotero

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND PANEL DISCUSSIONS (SPEAKER)

Economy and employability (Jul 2021) – Bled Strategic Forum

EU migration Policy (Jul 2021) – Franco-German Youth Office

Western Balkan Youth about the Future of Europe – Let’s Speak up! (May 2021) – Konrad Adenauer Foundation Belgrade

Zwischen Europäisierung und Balkanisierung – die europäische Zukunft Bosnien – Herzegowinas auf dem Prüfstand (April 2021) – Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V., Berlin

Young People, Migration and the Demographic Challenges in the Western Balkans (Oct 2020) – German Foreign Office, South-East European Association, Aspen Institute

Addressing Segregation in the Educational Systems of Europe (Nov 2019) – Howard University

Segregation in the Educational Systems in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Nov 2019) – George Mason University

8th Ministerial Meeting of the Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training (Jun 2019) – European Commission

How to Better Respond to the European Aspirations of the Young Generations in the Western Balkans? (May 2019) – European Commission

Insider Mediation training course (April 2018) – UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina

European Forum Alpbach 2018 (Aug 2018–Sep 2018) – Forum Alpbach Network

Western Balkans Summit Trieste (Jul 2017) – European Commission

Adriatic Youth Forum (Sep 2016) – Adriatic Council

Quality, Skills, and Mobility in Higher Education (May 2015) – British Council

Youth Reconciliation Ambassadors (Apr 2015) – Institute for European Affairs Belgrade

Module for Trainer Training “Respect – Responsible attitudes and behaviour in the virtual social space, Module A” (Nov 2013) – Council of Europe Pestalozzi Programme

Seminar “Youth Engaging for Regional Reconciliation and Peacebuilding in the Western Balkans” (Sep 2013) – Swiss Helsinki Committee

SELECTED CONFERENCES (PARTICIPANT)

Western Balkans Summit Berlin (Jul 2021) – German Government

Civil Society & Think Tank Forum (Jun 2021) – Südosteuropa-Gesellschaft, Aspen Institute

Western Balkans Summit Poznan (Jul 2019) – European Commission

Training of trainers on Intolerance against Muslims in the Western Balkans (Aug – Sept 2018) – OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – ODIHR

3rd Regional Youth Forum Novi Sad (Jun 2018) – European Movement in Serbia

Zagreb Youth Summit (Nov 2017) – Youth Initiative for Human Rights

OSCE Forum on Gender and Intersectional Activism (Jun 2017) – OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – ODIHR

Insider Mediators Training Course (Nov 2016–Dec 2016) – UNDP & The Netherlands Institute for International Relations Clingendael

4th Mediterranean University on Youth and Global Citizenship (May 2016) – North–South Center of the Council of Europe

Sarajevo Youth Summit (Oct 2015) – Youth Initiative for Human Rights

Young Media Makers for Human Rights (Nov 2015) – Youth Department of the Council of Europe and the European Youth Press

Training workshop on Hate Crimes for Civil Society Representatives of the UNITED For Intercultural Action Network (April 2014) – OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights – ODIHR

“Multitrack Peace Mediation” Training Course (Nov 2013–Jun 2014) – Berghof Foundation, InMedio Institute for Mediation, Consulting, Development and CSSP Mediation

Study session “reacting to extreme right hate speech online” (Feb 2014) – SCI International & Youth Department of the Council of Europe

School of Digital Media (May–June 2013) – Mediacentar Sarajevo

Youth Seminar Solothurn Switzerland (Sep 2013) – Swiss Helsinki Committee

International Youth Leadership Academy on Conflict Resolution, Negotiation and Mediation (May 2013) – Habitat Center for Development and Governance in cooperation with Sabanci University (SU) Conflict Analysis and Resolution Program

Study session “World Perspectives: Minority Voices” (Apr 2013) – European Youth Press & Youth Department of the Council of Europe

Study session “Step in! Be active Against Racist propaganda and Hate Speech Online” (Dec 2012) – Youth Department of the Council of Europe in co-operation with UNITED for Intercultural Action

Youth Seminar Kappel am Albis Switzerland (July 2012) – Swiss Helsinki Committee

Study Session “Together Against Islamophobia – Acting for Human Rights” (May 2015) – Youth Department of the Council of Europe and Forum of European Muslim Youth and Student Organisations (FEMYSO)

Summer School “Islam in Contemporary World” (August 2014) – Center for Advanced Studies Sarajevo – CNS

Global Alliance of Muslims for Equality Founding Member (Aug–Oct 2017) – The Glen Cree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation in cooperation with the University of Massachusetts Boston

DESIGN AND SOCIAL MEDIA TOOLS

- Adobe Photoshop CS6
- Adobe Audition CC
- Adobe Premiere Pro CS6
- Sony Vegas 15
- Canva
- Adobe Spark
- Hootsuite
- Later