



Ilina Neshikj

With over 10 years of professional experience in civil society, including most recently the management of the Balkan Civil Society Development Network (BCSDN) - a network of 14 CSOs in the Western Balkans and Turkey, I have gained valuable knowledge and expertise on civil society development and strategic communications. During my work at BCSDN, I have led multi-annual international projects aimed at improving civil society, enabling environment, CSOs' capacities and accountability, combating shrinking civic space and fostering bigger involvement of civil society in policymaking. Before joining BCSDN, I have worked in associations in France and Germany, and had a professional traineeship at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Macedonia to the Council of Europe. I received my education from the Centre Universitaire Européen - Nancy, France, where I obtained my BA in Culture and Communication and MA in European Studies with a focus on Strategic communication and public relations in Europe.

In the past four years, I have been involved in different CIVICUS programmes and initiatives as BCSDN and CIVICUS have worked closely together on research, advocacy and networking aimed to strengthen civil society, as well as to gather, analyse and share reliable, up-to-date data on the state of civil society freedoms in all countries. The experience of leading a regional network such as BCSDN, and my familiarity of global networks and membership organizations, makes me confident that I would be an asset to the CIVICUS Board. Becoming a CIVICUS Board member will allow me to contribute more strongly to our joint efforts on local, regional and global level, and to the impact that CSOs and activists have in promoting and supporting human rights and democracy.