Liliya Yakova

Strategic Development and International Project Consultant

Lisbon, Portugal | lyakova7@gmail.com | redefine.pt | Selected writing

Senior consultant, project manager and trainer with more than 15 years of experience in international cooperation, communications and European projects. I connect organisational strategy with funding, partnerships, learning and responsible technology, combining proposal leadership with practical delivery, editorial direction and project governance. My work serves NGOs, public bodies, education providers and international consortia.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Manager and International Cooperation Lead

Sep 2017 - Present

Association REDefine, Portugal

- Shape organisational strategy, programme development and service portfolios; build partnerships across civil society, education, research and technology. Career-wide delivery and partnership networks span 20+ countries.
- Lead proposal development, partner integration and review across Erasmus+, CERV, Horizon Europe and Creative Europe. Connect call requirements and concept design with work packages, impact, budgets and submission readiness.
- Direct dissemination strategies, stakeholder outreach and publication planning. As principal writer and editor of REDefine // Civic Intelligence, translate policy and research into articles, newsletters, explainers and video scripts.
- Design curricula, trainer manuals, workbooks and assessment tools for experiential, Moodle and immersive learning. Train educators and youth workers in civic and digital competences; support young people with fewer opportunities.
- Develop AI literacy and adoption guidance, human-review workflows, data-protection procedures and safety-validation plans. Translate GDPR and EU AI Act requirements into operational documentation with technical and subject-matter specialists.
- Coordinate multidisciplinary delivery and consortium decisions, including dependencies, quality, risks and safeguarding. Organise evidence, formal correspondence and corrective-action plans when implementation or partnership governance requires recovery.

Project Manager

Dec 2012 - Jul 2017

Association EUni Partners, Bulgaria

- Developed European youth and education projects, coordinated international cooperation and supported implementation. Designed and delivered information literacy, digital literacy and transversal-skills training, including English and drama-based learning.

Senior Public Relations Expert

Jun 2009 - Nov 2011

Municipality of Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria

- Planned public-information campaigns, wrote press materials and presentations, and handled media and public enquiries. Organised press conferences, exhibitions, visits and public events; monitored media coverage.

Public Relations Trainee

Feb 2008 - Aug 2008

Club de Presse de Strasbourg, France

- Supported media relations, press materials, public enquiries and international events.

SELECTED RESULTS

European funding. Contributed to **50+** approved EU-funded projects across my career through proposal writing, project development and coordination. Experience covers concept formation, partner integration and the translation of policy priorities into deliverable projects.

Learning design and capacity building. Designed and authored **30+** complete curricula and learning packages across civic participation, peace education, digital skills, resilience and responsible technology. Resources include facilitator guidance, learner activities, workbooks and reusable delivery structures.

Immersive civic education. Wrote the original proposal for a funded civic-learning project, then developed its learning architecture and public narrative with the technical team. The project combined democratic simulations, virtual spaces and educator resources; communication and dissemination reached **70,000+** people.

Knowledge uptake. Led strategic framing, learning architecture and dissemination for a post-disaster mental-health resource that achieved **11,000+** downloads among organisations and practitioners working in disaster management and recovery.

Responsible AI implementation planning. Designed the content-validation sequence, partner review, permissions and safety framework for a multilingual learning environment. Set out a planned six-month AI validation programme across six languages, with crisis boundaries, human escalation and incident monitoring.

Governance and project recovery. Led a formal, evidence-based challenge and escalation to funders over consortium governance and participant-safety concerns. Outcomes included replacement of the coordinating team, a one-year recovery extension and implementation of digital safety and security measures.

EDUCATION

MA in International Relations, Multiculturalism and Plurilinguism
University of Strasbourg, France | 2006 - 2008

BA in Applied Foreign Languages
Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis, France | 2002 - 2006

University Degree in Greek Language and Civilisation
Université de Nice-Sophia Antipolis, France | 2003 - 2006

LANGUAGES

Bulgarian native | English C2 | French C2
Greek B1 reading / A1 speaking | Portuguese B2 reading / A2 spoken
Russian B1 reading / A2 spoken

DIGITAL SKILLS

Websites and publishing. Working knowledge of HTML; WordPress websites and custom themes with AI-assisted development; layouts, embeds and staging tests; Substack, Medium and SEO.

Visual and video production. Canva visuals, presentations and learning resources; video production with HeyGen; interactive charts and tables with Datawrapper.

Learning and productivity. Moodle learning resources; Microsoft Office, Google Workspace and EU Funding & Tenders Portal; AI-assisted research and drafting with human review.