

Iva Beharaj

Director of Youth Policy, Tirana Municipality

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Profile

Forward-thinking professional blending leadership, design, and social innovation. Committed to building projects that inspire participation, growth, and change among people.

Education

MSC in Gender and Equal Rights, *University of Tirana* 2015

Bachelor in Administration and Social Work, *University of Tirana* 2012

Languages

- Albanian
- English
- Italian

Professional Experience

Assistant to the Deputy Mayor, *Municipality of Tirana* 2015

Provided strategic and administrative support to the Deputy Mayor on policy planning, interdepartmental coordination. Assisted in preparing reports and project briefs to ensure effective communication and implementation of municipal priorities.

Municipal Councilor, *Socialist Party of Tirana* 2019

Elected representative of Administrative Unit No. 1, contributing to local policy discussions and decision-making within the Tirana Municipal Council. Focused on youth engagement, community development, and advancing inclusive local governance initiatives.

Project Coordinator, *Friedrich Ebert Stiftung* 2022

Coordinated the Winter School training program by managing participant selection, training agenda, and event logistics. Facilitated communication between institutional partners and mentors, and ensured the implementation of sessions focused on civic participation, youth development, and social policy.

Director of Youth, *Municipality of Tirana* 2021

Leads the city's youth policies and programs, overseeing strategic initiatives that promote education, participation, and innovation among young people. Develops and implements projects in collaboration with local and international partners, manages youth spaces and networks, and supports creative, social, and volunteer-driven initiatives that empower the next generation of Tirana.

Skills

Project Management & Coordination

skilled in planning, executing, and monitoring complex and multi-partner initiatives.

Public Administration & Governance

deep understanding of municipal structures, youth law, and coordination across public institutions.

Budgeting & Grant Management

experience with public fund oversight, project budgeting, and sponsorship development.

Public Speaking & Moderation

leading teams of staff, volunteers, and youth councils toward shared objectives.

Partnership Building

creating lasting collaborations with institutions like Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Raiffeisen Bank, EU4Youth, and more.

Social Media & Brand Storytelling

crafting engaging narratives for youth and civic audiences.

Strategic Planning & Policy Development

experienced in designing and implementing youth policies aligned with local and national strategies.

Stakeholder Engagement

effective collaboration with ministries, NGOs, donors, and private sector partners.

Team Leadership & Mentoring

leading teams of staff, volunteers, and youth councils toward shared objectives.

Advocacy & Political Communication

strong background in shaping youth narratives, civic participation, and awareness campaigns.

Event Design & Experience Building

designing creative, meaningful youth experiences (festivals, summits, camps, expos).

UX & Design Thinking

applying human-centered design to digital and social innovation projects.

Organisations

Socialist Party of Tirana, Youth Secretary & Advisor

2015

Coordinated youth structures and organized political and educational activities aimed at increasing youth participation and representation. Led national initiatives engaging students and strengthening their role in civic and political decision-making.

Certificates

Academy of Young Women in Politics

Engaged in training sessions focused on leadership, gender equality, and political participation.