

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Contact: blerim.saqipi@uni-pr.edu

1. **Family name:** SAQIPI
2. **First name:** Blerim
3. **Date of birth:** 20 December 1977
4. **Nationality/Citizenship:** Albanian/Kosovar
5. **Education:**

Institution [ Date from - Date to ]	Degree(s) or Diploma(s) obtained:
University of Jyvaskyla, Finland 2009 – 2014	PhD in Education (Teacher Professional Identity, Professionalism and Education Reform)  Minor studies on Educational Policy
University of Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada, 2004 – 2006	Master of Education (General focus on “Education Research, Classroom Teaching and Assessment”
University of Prishtina, 1996 – 2002	Faculty of Philology/Teaching English Language and Literature

6. **Language skills:** Indicate competence on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 - excellent; 5 - basic)

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
Albanian	1	Mother tongue	1
English	1	1	1
Serbian	3	3	3

7. **Key qualifications:**

- Project management skills
- Proven record of drafting policy papers and legislative education documents
- Ability to work in complex education environment
- Skilful in program design and delivery of capacity building
- Substantial knowledge and experience in education development and reform
- Proven experience in project evaluation.

8. **Specific experience in the region:**

Country	Date from – Date to
Kosovo	1999 – Present

## 9. Professional experience

Date from - Date to	Location	Company	Position	Description
2003 – present (part time till 2007)	Kosovo	University of Prishtina/Faculty of Education	Instructor/Assistant professor (as of 2016)	<p><b>Courses taught/teaching:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research methods in education</li> <li>• Educational change</li> <li>• Teacher professional development</li> <li>• Qualitative research methods</li> <li>• Basics of educational research</li> </ul> <p><b>Projects managed:</b>            EU funded TEMPUS (544023) Project on “Modernization of Teacher Education at University of Prishtina (2013-2017)            - Capacity Building and Designing Master Programming in subject teacher education, Inclusive education and VET pedagogy.</p> <p>US Embassy funded project on the development of academic cooperation between University of Prishtina and US Universities (2013);</p> <p>Local coordinator for the Finnish foreign Ministry funded Project “Development of pedagogical skills of VET teachers and schools in Kosovo” (2011-2012);</p> <p>EU TEMPUS funded project (144667) “Development of Master Programs in Education in Kosovo” (2009-2010).</p>
July 2015 - present	Kosovo	World Bank	Education consultant	Consultant on supporting the implementation of the project "Education System Improvement Project" implemented through a loan arrangement with the Government of Kosovo.
April 2015 - present	Kosovo	IBI International (based in Washington)	Evaluation expert	Performance and impact evaluation of Transformational Leadership Program (in higher education) funded by USAID and Government of Kosovo.
September 2015 – June 2016	Kosovo	GiZ through Kosovo Education Centre	Education expert	Technical assistance in planning Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021.

2011- Until February 2014	Kosovo	EU IPA 2009 Project on Teacher Training and Capacity Building of School Directors	Senior Expert	<p>Conduct a Teacher Training Needs Assessment;</p> <p>Designing an Implementation Model for in-service teacher training program(A Module on Teaching and Learning, Assessment, Understanding Curriculum and Professional Development);</p> <p>Overseeing the implementation of teacher professional development program to 1000 teachers.</p>
October 2013 – December 2014	Kosovo	GiZ through Kosovo Education Center	Consultant	<p>Planning and delivering a Capacity Building Program to Ministry of Education middle management and Municipal Education Officers on management and communication.</p>
May 2014 – August 2014	Kosovo	Project implemented by Karl KubenStiftung fur Kind und Familie and financed by German Ministry of Cooperation and Economic Development	External evaluator	<p>Mid-term evaluation of the Project 'Prospect' on Integration of RAE community to education system in Kosovo implemented by KFOS.</p>
2008 – December 2013	Kosovo	World Bank financed education project at MEST (IDEP)	Consultant	<p>Consultant for the components on developing teacher licensing framework (teacher career path scheme and associated teacher professional development and performance appraisal system), and supporting the enhancement of external standardized assessments.</p> <p>The assignment involved designing policies (such as Administrative Instructions, Policy Papers etc), designing and delivering capacity building programs to Ministry of Education, Science and Technology relevant sectors in the field of teacher appraisal, teacher development and external standardized assessments.</p>

<p>June 2011 – September 2013</p> <p>May 2014 – September 2014</p> <p>January 2016 - May 2016</p>	Kosovo	USAID Basic Education Program	Short term consultant	<p>Consultant on teacher development and school management component.</p> <p>Teacher development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducting needs assessment for capacity building for Municipal Education Directorates on planning and administering teacher professional development;</li> <li>• Design and deliver training program for Municipal Education Directors (10 municipalities) in planning and managing teacher professional development;</li> <li>• Design the framework for School Based Teacher Professional development.</li> <li>• Provide capacity building for school based structures (selected schools) on coordination of professional development activities.</li> </ul> <p>School management:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the design and delivery of training program/s for school board members and school administrators.</li> <li>• Providing advise on the school management activities of the project including revising the legislation on school director appointment.</li> <li>• Development of a manual on training the school director appointment selection committee members.</li> </ul> <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designing an Assessment manual to support the implementation of the new competence based curriculum in Kosovo.</li> </ul>
September – November 2011	Kosovo	Association for Psychosocial Assistance to Children and Family	External evaluator	Co-evaluator of the project “Right to education for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children in Kosovo” funded by Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany.
October 2011 – October 2012	Kosovo	EU SWAp	Short term consultant	<p>Designing and implementing a training program for a group of school directors in mentoring and coaching of teachers;</p> <p>Designing policies and instruments for accreditation of in-service teacher professional development programs</p>

June 2008 – September 2008	Kosovo	World Bank financed EPIP (MEST <sup>1</sup> )	Consultant	Conducting (leading a team) the “Dropout in Kosovo schools” study, financed by World Bank in Kosovo.
May – November 2010	Kosovo	EU SWAp	Consultant	Conducting a needs analysis on the Capacity Building for Municipal Education Directorates in Kosovo ( <a href="http://www.eu.eduswap-ks.org/doc's_eng/Report%20on%20capacity%20building%20needs%20assessment%20of%20MEDs.pdf">http://www.eu.eduswap-ks.org/doc's_eng/Report%20on%20capacity%20building%20needs%20assessment%20of%20MEDs.pdf</a> )
2005-2007	Kosovo	OSCE	National Higher Education Officer	Propose, write, and manage projects on Higher Education, specifically on the University of Prishtina reform of the management and academic issues, and other support to University of Prishtina in meeting Bologna standards. Projects involved include “Technical assistance to University of Prishtina in Financial Management”, “Capacity building for University of Prishtina Student Parliament”, “Functionalizing the Quality Assurance Unit at the University of Prishtina”, “Establishing Academic Development Office at University of Prishtina”, etc.
Dec. 2006 – Feb. 2007	Prishtina	World Bank financed EPIP (MEST)	Local consultant	Consultant for World Bank Education Participation Improvement as part of the 3 member team to conduct external evaluation of the School Development Grants Project.
January 2002 – August 2004	Kosovo	Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)	Project Assistant	<b>Kosovo Educator Development Project (KEDP)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the implementation of in-service teacher professional development (Learner Centered Instruction) and the development of the pre-service programs at the University of Prishtina's Faculty of Education.</li> </ul>

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<sup>1</sup>Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

## 10. Publications

**Saqipi, B.** (2019) 'Teacher education policy discourse in the midst of system reorganisation and policy transfer: lessons for small and developing countries', *International Journal of Management in Education*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp.28–39.

**Saqipi, B., & Hoti, D.** (2018). *Teacher education in Kosovo*. In Karras, K.G., & Wolhuter, C.C. (Eds). (2018). *International handbook of teacher education worldwide* (2th ed., Vol. 2). Nicosia: HM Studies.

Zabeli, N., Anderson, J., **Saqipi, B.** (Corresponding author). (2018). Towards Development and Implementation of Learner-Centred Education in Kosovo. *Journal of Social Studies Education Research*, Vol 9 (4), pp. 49-64.

**Saqipi, B. & Vogrinc, J.** (Eds.) (2017). *The prospects of reforming teacher education*. Prishtina (Kosovo): Libri Shkollor (ISBN: 978-9951-23-085-9)

**Saqipi, B. & Vogrinc, J.** (2017). Understanding the framework of shaping pre-service teacher education policy. In **B. Saqipi** and J. Vogrinc (Eds). *The prospects of reforming teacher education*. Prishtina: Libri shkollor.

Alo, E., Slin, H., **Saqipi, B., & Vogrinc, J.** (2018). Effective teacher professional development in the context of major school reform. *International journal of management in education*. Vol 12, Nr. 2.

Vula, E., Avdyli, Rr., Berisha, V., **Saqipi, B., Elezi, Sh.** (2017). The impact of metacognitive strategies and self-regulating processes of solving math word problems. *International electronic journal of elementary education*. Volume 10, Issue 1.

**Saqipi, B. & Vogrinc, J.** (2016). Developing research competence at pre-service teacher education. *Didactica Slovenica*, Vol 31 (2).

**Saqipi, B.** (2014). *Developing teacher professionalism and identity in the midst of large-scale education reform – the case of Kosovo*” (Doctoral dissertation). *Journal of Teacher Researcher* 2/2014, Jyvaskyla (Finland): Tuope. ISSN 1238-4631; ISBN 978-952-5066-73-9.

**Saqipi, B., Asunta, T. & Korpinen, E.** (2014). Understanding the context of developing teacher professionalism in countries in transition – the case of Kosovo. *Procedia – Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Nr. 112, February 2014, pp 635 - 646.  
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1877042814012282>

**Saqipi, B.** (2013). *Changing schools for changing times – Kosovo teacher perspective*”. *Albanian Journal of Education Sciences (AJES)*, Vol 1, Issue 2.  
<http://www.cde.edu.al/sites/default/files/biblioteka/Revista%20Shqiptare%20E%20Studimeve%20Arsi%20more%20.pdf>

Vula, E., Berisha, F., & **Saqipi, B.** (2015). Introducing teacher mentoring in Kosovo schools: Potential and challenges for sustainability. *CEPS Journal*, Vol 5, Nr. 4.  
(<http://www.cepsj.si/doku.php?id=en:cepsj>)

Vula, E. & **Saqipi, B.** (2015). Developing action research for developing teachers in Kosovo. *Turkish Online Journal of Qualitative Inquiry (TOJQI)*. Volume 6, Issue 4, October 2015.

Vula, E., **Saqipi, B., Karaj, T., & Mita, N.,** (2012). Moving towards practice-oriented and research-based teacher education: Challenges of Kosovo and Albania. *Excellence in Higher Education*. Vol 3, Nr. 1. (Link: [ehe.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/ehe/article/download/42/45](http://ehe.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/ehe/article/download/42/45))

Vula, E., & **Saqipi, B.** (2009). Education in Kosova – struggling between following the modern trends and recovering from the past. *International Studies in Education*. Volume 10, Issue 1.  
<http://iise.pitt.edu/sites/default/files/newsletter/ise200905.pdf>

## 11. Other relevant information:

Member of the editorial board of CEPS Journal (SCOPUS indexed)

### **Conference presentations**

Paper presentation in annual spring 2018 conference of the Association of Teacher Education in Europe (ATEE), titled: The metaphors of developing teacher educator capacities. [http://atee2018bialystok.uwb.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ATEE\\_2018\\_Spring-Conference-Booklet-1.pdf](http://atee2018bialystok.uwb.edu.pl/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/ATEE_2018_Spring-Conference-Booklet-1.pdf)

Paper presentation at annual ECER 2018 conference (European Conference on Education Research), titled: Educational Research on Kosovo Education: A Systematic Literature Review 1970-2017. <https://eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/23/contribution/44587/>

Paper presentation at the European Conference on Educational Research (ECER) 2017: Introducing teacher research: Using activity systems theory to understand challenges of standardization (<http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/22/chair/99632/>)

Paper presentation at Association of Teacher Education in Europe Conference (ATEE) 2017: The challenges of standards raising approach in enhancing the quality of teacher education ([https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6UtG3P\\_IgorV1pIRGxVNmZ3UmM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B6UtG3P_IgorV1pIRGxVNmZ3UmM/view)).

Paper presentation at the annual ECER conference (European Conference on Educational Research) 2015 on the topic "Transitioning teacher professional development through the development of teacher research: Comparison of Slovenia and Kosovo" (<http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/20/network/486/>).

Paper presented at the conference Teacher Education Policy in Europe 2014 with the topic "The experience of abolishing fragmentation in teacher education and raising the professionalism bar – the case of Kosovo". ([http://www.ufzg.hr/wpcontent/uploads/2014/05/TEPE\\_2014\\_Conference\\_Programme.pdf](http://www.ufzg.hr/wpcontent/uploads/2014/05/TEPE_2014_Conference_Programme.pdf))

Paper presentation at the annual ECER conference (European Conference on Educational Research) 2014 on "Developing vocational education for employability – the experience of developing teacher education in Kosovo" <http://www.eera-ecer.de/ecer-programmes/conference/19/network/447/>

Paper presented in FERA 2013 conference (Finnish Educational Research Association) with the topic "Creating assessment identity of pre-service teachers"; 21-23 November 2013. Link: <https://www.jyu.fi/edu/kasvatustieteen-paivat-2013/in-english/program/sessio-3-perjantai-22.11.2013-klo-8.30-10.00>

Paper presentation at the 1<sup>st</sup> Albanian International Conference in Education with the topic "The challenges of developing school based professional development – the case of Kosovo" (co-authorship). Tirana (Albania), 7-8 December 2012.

Paper presentation at the conference Teacher Education Policy in Europe 2008 with the topic "Teacher Education in Kosovo – International influences in shaping it and obstacles in making it work in the local context" <http://www.pef.uni-lj.si/tepe2008/papers/Saqipi.pdf>

### **Certified Training**

Successful completion of a year long course "Developing research skills for young researchers in Kosovo" offered by ZSI Austria and University of Vienna (2012-2013) funded through EU IPA 2010 project.

Successful completion 10 week long on-line course "Developing critical thinking through teaching and assessment" offered by University of Oregon, funded by US Embassy Kosovo. (June-September 2013).

### ***Educational policy and change relevant experience***

Member of the Scientific Board of the Kosovo Pedagogical Institute (2015 - 2017).

Participant in the process of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (KESP 2011 – 2016) development; and Expert on the development of Kosovo education Strategic Plan 2017-2021;

Member of Ministry of Education Advisory Body “Teacher Licensing Council” as responsible body for developing teacher education policies in Kosovo (2008 – 2014);

Focal point for Kosovo Education Policy for Council of Europe Regional project on “Promoting Inclusive Education in the Balkans” (2013-2015);

Representative of the Faculty of Education in the European wide TEMPUS Project “Tuning Educational Structures in Europe” 2007-2008 resulting with a reference manual for teacher education program design to be used as a reference at European level for tuning education structures. (<http://www.unideusto.org/tuningeu/subject-areas/education.html>);

Member of the team on designing education policies for the integration of Kosovo Higher Education in the Bologna Process; a project of Ministry of Education funded by the EU ([http://www.masht-gov.net/advCms/documents/Broshura%20\\_ang\\_.pdf](http://www.masht-gov.net/advCms/documents/Broshura%20_ang_.pdf))

Participant in various study visits (Irish Universities in 2006 and 2007, Faculty of Education in University of Ljubljana in 2004 and 2008, Danish University of Education in 2008; US/Vermont schools in 2011, Iowa State University etc.);

Participated in conferences: EUA Quality Assurance Forum in Rome in 2007, Conference of European Association for International Education in Norway in 2007; Deans Conference organized by European Centre for Strategic Management of the Universities, 2008, 2008 Annual conference of the Teacher Education Policy in Europe in Ljubljana, WB conference on using assessments for improving quality of education in Eschborn, Germany, in October 2011, etc;