

# SONJA AVLIJAS

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POB: Sarajevo, Bosnia & Herzegovina

DOB: 29<sup>th</sup> November 1982 Nationality: Serbian

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## EDUCATION

**MSc Environment and Development**, awarded Merit 2004 – 2005

**London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom**

Courses: Economic Development Policy, Global Civil Society, Complex Emergencies, Institutions of Environment and Development, Environmental Regulation

**BSc Management and Systems**, awarded 1<sup>st</sup> class 2001 – 2004

**Cass Business School, City University, London, United Kingdom**

Courses included: Economics, Accounting, Financial Mathematics and Statistics, Foreign Exchange Economics, French for Business, International Relations, European Studies etc.

**International Baccalaureate (IB)**, awarded 37 points 1999 – 2001

**Red Cross Nordic United World College, Norway**

Courses: Mathematics, Economics and Biology at higher level; English, Spanish and World Literature with Serbian language at standard level

**1<sup>st</sup> Grammar School**, Belgrade, Serbia 1997 – 1999

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## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

**Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Government of Serbia** Aug 2008 to date

**Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point**

➤ Resource Planning Coordinator

Main tasks: securing resources for social inclusion activities, mainstreaming PRS priorities into the national budget, assessing macroeconomic and fiscal policies and their impact on poverty.

**Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES)** Aug 2006 to Aug 2008

**& Foundation for the Advancement of Economics (FREN)**, University of Belgrade, Serbia

➤ Researcher leading projects relating to: municipal development, local effects of investment, fiscal decentralisation, labour market, EU accession, regional development policy, inequality.

**Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Government of Serbia** Nov 2007 to Aug 2008

**Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point**

➤ Consultant on regional development, National Investment Plan, pro-poor development and growth, labour market.

**Deputy Prime Minister's Office, Government of Serbia** Aug – Dec 2006

**Poverty Reduction Strategy Implementation Focal Point**

➤ Consultant - constructing indicators to measure municipal development. Supervisor: Dr Peter Miovic.

**Winrock International Brazil**, Salvador, Brazil Jan - Jun 2006

➤ Consultant in Leadership Development Unit, research and fundraising for sex trafficking and sexual exploitation of children and adolescents; Supervisor: Adriana Alvarez

**Center for Advanced Economic Studies (CEVES)**, Belgrade Oct-Nov 2005

➤ Researcher on Serbia's agricultural statistics.

**LIFE**, Srbac, Bosnia & Herzegovina **July 2004**

➤ EU project on environmental protection of a wetland and sustainable development for its population. My work included development of business ideas for local rural entrepreneurs.

**Enterprise Development Agency**, Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina **Jun-Aug 2003**

➤ Research on funding opportunities for development of local municipalities in B&H.

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### **SELECTED NON-DEGREE COURSES, SEMINARS**

**Performance Budgeting Seminar** **Sept 29-30, 2008**

European Institute of Public Administration, Warsaw, Poland

**15<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Economic Association** **Jun 25-29, 2008**

"The Challenge of Globalization", Istanbul, Turkey

**Poverty Reduction Strategy Conference**, Belgrade, Serbia **Nov 29, 2007**

Discussion moderator on rural and local development for the Deputy Prime Minister's Office

**Calculus III**, New York University **Jun 25 – Aug 3, 2007**

Non-degree student; awarded A-

**Poverty Analysis Training**, World Bank, Washington, D.C. **Jan 16-27, 2007**

Focus on LSMS analysis

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### **AWARDS, MEMBERSHIP IN ORGANISATIONS & PUBLICATIONS**

Full scholarship for the **Red Cross Nordic United World College** **1999 - 2001**

Member of CEVES' Council of Directors **Apr 2008 to date**

Editor of *Quarterly Monitor of Economic Trends and Policies in Serbia - QM*  
(CEVES/FREN publication) **Dec 2006 to date**

Author of the regular QM "Employment and Wages" section **Dec 2006 to date**

"Can Kyoto Protocol bring economic gains for Serbia", *Quarterly Monitor of Economic Trends and Policies in Serbia*, issue 8, January-March 2007

Contributor to "Small Rural Households in Serbia and Rural Non-Farm Economy", UNDP with Serbian Ministry of Agriculture, August 2007, <http://www.undp.org.yu/tareas/reports/details.cfm?id=88&navPage=7>

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### **IT AND LANGUAGE SKILLS**

➤ Serbian - mother tongue, English – near-native; excellent working knowledge of French, Portuguese and Spanish; Italian – intermediate; Norwegian – basic.

➤ Excellent word processing and web research skills; competent user of MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint; intermediate knowledge of SPSS and World Bank's Poverty Mapping software.

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### **INTERESTS**

Tennis, skiing, rock climbing; travel (Europe, Middle East, Americas); Spanish cinema; blogging @ sonjaavlijas.blogspot.com; existentialist fiction; behavioural psychology.