Gentian Gashi

Nationality: Kosovar   **Date of birth:** 15/09/1994   **Gender:** Male   ✉ **Email address:** gashi@wiiw.ac.at

🌐 **Website:** https://wiiw.ac.at/

📍 **Home:** Vienna (Austria)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Economic Data Scientist

Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies [09/2024 – Current]

City: Vienna | **Country:** Austria

- Overseeing the regular collection of data from Montenegro, Kosovo, and Serbia.
- Collecting and transforming economic data from various sources to create the Bertelsmann Interconnectivity Index (to be published).
- Creating automated pipelines for large data download and processing via **R**, including web scraping, API utilization, etc.

Economist (STC)

The World Bank [06/2023 – Current]

City: Prishtina | **Country:** Kosovo

R Programming Course Instructor

- Designed and instructed a comprehensive R programming course on data analysis for economists from the Ministry of Finance in Kosovo, the Central Bank of Kosovo, and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics based on a wide range of materials including presentations, code files, and datasets covering essential topics such as R basics, data analysis with *dplyr* and the *tidyverse*, and data visualization with *ggplot2* over the course of 10 lectures.

Tax Expenditure Analysis

- Developed a comprehensive catalogue of tax reliefs and exemptions for various revenue sources in Kosovo and collaborated with a team from the Ministry of Finance in Kosovo and the World Bank to analyze tax policies.
- Facilitated the acquisition of taxpayer data such as data on personal income, corporate income, businesses etc., and integrated them with macroeconomic and other relevant sources to identify the total tax base as well as feed a tax microsimulation model.

Macroeconomic Monitoring

- Monitoring an exhaustive range of indicators from more than 3 key institutions related to various macroeconomic sectors in Kosovo (external, real, financial, fiscal, etc.) to analyze trends as well as establish a forecasting base.
- Establishing an automated data pipeline that involves collecting, transforming, analyzing, visualizing as well as reporting data that feeds periodical and regular reports as well as a centralized country database for macroeconomics via tools such as **R** (data processing) and **Excel** (database management and visualization).
- Drafting key sections related to recent economic developments in periodic reports such as the Western Balkans Regular Economic Report and Development Policy Financing report.

Economic Researcher (STC)

The World Bank [03/2024 – Current]

City: Vienna | **Country:** Austria

- Collected and analyzed cross-country data from Europe & Central Asia (ECA) to draft the motivational chapter of the ECA companion report to the 2024 World Development Report (to be published).
- Collected and analyzed cross-country data from the Western Balkan 6 (WB6) to draft a study on the development of the region through a Schumpeterian economic lens (to be published).
- Identifying growth trends and its composite drivers among developing countries as well as analyzing trends of countries that have transitioned from middle-income to high-income and the gaps that exist between them and other middle-income countries.

Consultant for Data & Statistics

UNICEF [08/2021 – 11/2022]

City: Prishtina | **Country:** Kosovo

- Supported the Prime Minister's Office in Kosovo in the establishment of a national working group to spearhead quality data collection and reporting on children's rights.
- Ran a comprehensive data mapping study, locating and evaluating more than 20 sources of children's rights data in Kosovo resulting in the compilation of more than 100 indicators into a database under the Kosovo Agency of Statistics.
- Processed and converted raw data into manageable statistical formats via PxEdit to be deployed on the digital database of the Kosovo Agency of Statistics.
- Drafted data collection templates in **Excel** to periodically acquire data from over 5 public institutions.
- Drafted an analysis on children's rights in Kosovo based on national administrative data from sectors such as education, justice for children, healthcare and social protection to get an overview of the state of children's rights.

Researcher

GAP Institute [08/2019 – 08/2021]

City: Prishtina | **Country:** Kosovo

- Drafted statistical analyses on topics such as economic policy, labor economics, gender inequality, and the economic impact of COVID-19 to propose recommendations to public institutions on improving the economy in Kosovo.
- Built and maintained internal databases to regularly analyze Kosovo's labor market, private economic output, and trade via tools such as **Excel** (database management), **R** and **Stata** (data processing, analysis, and visualisation).
- Built an interactive heatmap of gender distribution of board members in public institutions in **R** (*ggplot2* and *plotly*) to better understand the gender balance in Kosovo's governance.
- Oversaw two major donor projects on budget transparency and the economic environment in Kosovo, and drafted progress reports based on completed and/or ongoing project objectives to ensure effective use of donor funds.
- Consulted stakeholders and field experts regularly to ensure third-party input in economic analyses.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

M.Sc. (Hons) in Economics

University of Freiburg [10/2016 – 03/2019]

City: Freiburg | **Country:** Germany | **Website:** https://uni-freiburg.de/ | **Field(s) of study:** Economics | **Thesis:** On the Heterogeneity of the Natural Disaster-Civil Conflict Nexus – A Panel Study

B.A. in Economics

American University in Bulgaria [08/2012 – 08/2016]

City: Blagoevgrad | **Country:** Bulgaria | **Website:** https://www.aubg.edu/ | **Field(s) of study:** Economics |
Thesis: Income Inequality, Political Polarization, and the Economy: A Cross-Country Study

DIGITAL SKILLS

R Programming

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Albanian

Other language(s):

English	**German**
LISTENING C2 **READING** C2 **WRITING** C2	**LISTENING** C1 **READING** C1 **WRITING** B1
SPOKEN PRODUCTION C2 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** C2	**SPOKEN PRODUCTION** B1 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** B1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user

HONOURS AND AWARDS

[04/2017] DAAD
DAAD Scholarship Full funding throughout graduate university study at the University of Freiburg, Germany.

[09/2015] American University in Bulgaria
Dean's List For achieving a GPA of 3.8 out of 4.0 (American scale) while at the American University in Bulgaria.

[09/2012] American University in Bulgaria
Open Society Foundation Scholarship Scholarship throughout undergraduate university studies at the American University in Bulgaria.