

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal information	
Family name(s)	Kostadinova
First name(s)	Lyubka
Nationality(ies)	Bulgarian
Sex	Male ☐ Female ☒
Relevant qualifications summary ¹	Anti-trafficking expert with nearly 14 years of professional experience in combating trafficking in human beings at local and regional level. My expertise includes multidisciplinary and inter-institutional coordination, victim identification, referral and protection, analysis of trafficking-related risks and vulnerabilities, policy-oriented work, specialised training of professionals and prevention. I hold a PhD in Sociology, with doctoral research on human trafficking in Bulgaria and anti-trafficking measures and policies, as well as a Master's degree in National Security and a Bachelor's degree in Public Administration. My experience combines practical anti-trafficking work, research, institutional cooperation and policy analysis.
Current professional activity	
Start date	17/10/2012
Name and address of employer	Municipality of Blagoevgrad, 1 Georgi Izmirliiev Square 2700 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
Sector of activity	Public administration – combating trafficking in human beings
Occupation or position held	Secretary, Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings – Blagoevgrad
Main activities and responsibilities ²	Coordinate the work of the Local Commission for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings and cooperation between relevant institutions and organisations. Coordinate cases involving potential or identified victims of trafficking, including identification, direct contact with victims, referral to specialised services and support during relevant proceedings. Prepare regional analyses, reports and other expert materials. Organise, deliver specialised training for professionals, and coordinate prevention and awareness-raising activities. As a Secretary of the Local Commission, I am directly involved in implementing national anti-trafficking policies and priorities at local and regional level, but I am not responsible for defining national anti-trafficking policy.
Relevant previous professional activity/activities ³	
Dates	N/A
Name and address of employer	N/A

¹ Please provide a summary (100 words maximum) of your qualifications relevant for membership of GRETA.

² In particular, specify whether you hold a decision-making position as regards defining and/or implementing policies in the field of action against trafficking in human beings in government or in any other organisation or entity which may give rise to a conflict of interest with the responsibilities inherent to membership of GRETA.

³ Add separate entries for the most relevant professional activities, starting from the most recent.

Sector of activity	N/A
Occupation or position held	N/A
Main activities and responsibilities	N/A
Relevant previous professional activity/activities	
Dates	N/A
Name and address of employer	N/A
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Occupation or position held	N/A
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Relevant previous professional activity/activities	
Dates	N/A
Name and address of employer	N/A
Sector of activity	N/A
Occupation or position held	N/A
Main activities and responsibilities	N/A
Relevant additional responsibilities⁴	
Dates	03/02/2026 - Current
Name and address of organisation/body	South-West University "Neofit Rilski", 66 Ivan Mihaylov Street 2700 Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
Sector of activity	Higher education and research
Position held	Student Mentor
Main activities and responsibilities	Mentor university students in Sociology and National Security under the project "From Higher Education to Employment". Guide students in practical, analytical and research activities related to human trafficking. Current work includes a student research project on trafficking for the purpose of organ, tissue, cell and bodily fluid removal. The project includes a survey in Bulgaria on public awareness, perceptions and attitudes, with particular attention to risks related to the illegal sale of blood, as well as a comparative review of the relevant legislation and publicly available information on cases in Moldova and Ukraine.
Relevant additional responsibilities	
Dates	31/01/2026
Name and address of organisation/body	Bilitis Resource Center Foundation Rainbow Hub, 45 Knyagina Maria Luisa Blvd Sofia, Bulgaria
Sector of activity	Human rights and civil society
Position held	Independent Expert and Trainer
Main activities and responsibilities	Developed and delivered specialised training for professionals working with young people at risk of violence and exploitation. The training focused on human trafficking, identification and protection of potential victims, risk assessment, referral mechanisms and coordinated institutional response, with particular attention to vulnerable young people.
Relevant additional responsibilities	
Dates	N/A
Name and address of organisation/body	N/A
Sector of activity	N/A
Position held	N/A
Main activities and responsibilities	N/A
Education / training⁵	
Dates	26/09/2021 – 15/09/2025
Title of qualification awarded	PhD in Sociology
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Doctoral research on trafficking in human beings as a complex social, economic, institutional and security-related phenomenon, with a focus on anti-trafficking measures and policies in Bulgaria in relation to European and international standards. The research combined sociological, legal, economic and security perspectives

⁴ Add separate entries for the most relevant responsibilities outside your principal professional activity, starting from the most recent.

⁵ Add separate entries for the most relevant courses you have completed, starting from the most recent.

	and used quantitative and qualitative research methods. Dissertation: "Trafficking in Human Beings in Bulgaria: Measures and Policies for Counteracting the Phenomenon"
Name and type of organisation	South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Sociology, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria – Higher education institution
Education / training	
Dates	17/09/2013 - 23/06/2014
Title of qualification awarded	Master's Degree in National Security
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	National security, risk and threat assessment, security policies, crisis management and institutional responses to security challenges. Thesis: "Trafficking in Human Beings as a Contemporary Form of Slavery"
Name and type of organisation	South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria – Higher education institution
Education/training	
Dates	16/09/2001 - 17/05/2005
Title of qualification awarded	Bachelor's Degree in Public Administration
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Public administration and management, administrative and constitutional law, local government, European Union law, social policy, human rights protection and international public law.
Name and type of organisation	South-West University "Neofit Rilski", Faculty of History and Law, Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria – Higher education institution
Dates	29 November 2024
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of completion – Training on the use of electronic evidence for more effective combating of trafficking in children for the purpose of sexual exploitation (DISRUPT project)
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Use of electronic evidence in combating trafficking in children for the purpose of sexual exploitation; identification and investigation of technology-facilitated trafficking; multidisciplinary approaches to combating child trafficking and exploitation.
Name and type of organisation	Law and Internet Foundation in partnership with Victim Support Europe, CESIE, VICESSE and the University of Malta – EU co-funded DISRUPT project
Dates	21–22 February 2024
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of completion – Training of professionals working with children involved in criminal proceedings as witnesses or children at risk of violence.
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Child-sensitive approaches to working with children involved in criminal proceedings; protection of child witnesses and children at risk of violence; multidisciplinary case management and safeguarding.
Name and type of organisation	Association of Prosecutors in Bulgaria – training under the "Children's Path" project, Justice Programme, funded by the EEA/Norway Grants
Dates	9–11 November 2015
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate of completion – Multidisciplinary approach to combating trafficking in human beings through transfer of knowledge and good practices from Schengen Member States, with particular focus on the Norwegian experience
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Multidisciplinary approaches to combating trafficking in human beings; international exchange of knowledge and good practices; inter-institutional co-operation; Norwegian approaches and practices in counter-trafficking.
Name and type of organisation	European Institute – project supported by the Norway Grants
Publications⁶	
Kostadinova, L.(2024) "Current Trends and Challenges in Human Trafficking." Doctoral Students in Science, Vol. 7, Faculty of Philosophy, South-West University "Neofit Rilski", pp. 476–488. ISSN 2738-8328.	

⁶ Please list recent relevant publications, starting from the most recent, but not more than 10.

Kostadinova, L.(2024) “Global Models for Combating Human Trafficking.” Obshtestveno Vazpitanie, 59(1). ISSN 0204-8515 (print); ISSN 2738-8778 (online).					
Vasilev, V., & Kostadinova, L.(2023) “From Theoretical Foundations of the Relationship ‘Crisis Situations – Trafficking in Human Beings’ to Models for Sustainable Practical Solutions for Vulnerable Groups.” Conference paper, Annual University Science Conference 2023, Vasil Levski National Military University, Veliko Tarnovo, Bulgaria. ISSN 2367-7481.					
Kostadinova, L. (2022)“Human Trafficking as Part of Human History.” Doctoral Students in Science, Vol. 5, South-West University “Neofit Rilski”, pp. 128–137. ISSN 2738-8328.					
Computer skills					
Software packages ⁷			Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook); IBM SPSS Statistics; Google Forms.		
Other IT skills and competences ⁸			Online survey design and data collection; data coding and basic statistical analysis; preparation of presentations and digital training materials; online research and information gathering.		
Language skills ⁹					
Mother tongue		Bulgarian			
	Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Language	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	Writing skills
English	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
French	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1

Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Listening Skill:

A1 I can recognise familiar words and very basic phrases concerning myself, my family and immediate concrete surroundings when people speak slowly and clearly.

A2 I can understand phrases and the highest frequency vocabulary related to areas of most immediate personal relevance (e.g. very basic personal and family information, shopping, local area, employment). I can catch the main point in short, clear, simple messages and announcements.

B1 I can understand the main points of clear standard speech on familiar matters regularly encountered in work, school, leisure, etc. I can understand the main point of many radio or TV programmes on current affairs or topics of personal or professional interest when the delivery is relatively slow and clear.

B2 I can understand extended speech and lectures and follow even complex lines of argument provided the topic is reasonably familiar. I can understand most TV news and current affairs programmes. I can understand the majority of films in standard dialect.

C1 I can understand extended speech even when it is not clearly structured and when relationships are only implied and not signalled explicitly. I can understand television programmes and films without too much effort.

C2 I have no difficulty in understanding any kind of spoken language, whether live or broadcast, even when delivered at fast native speed, provided I have some time to get familiar with the accent.

Reading Skill:

⁷ Please indicate the software packages you are familiar with.

⁸ Please specify any other IT skills and competences.

⁹ Please provide a self-assessment of your level in languages other than your mother tongue using the following Common European Framework of Reference for Languages.

A1 I can understand familiar names, words and very simple sentences, for example on notices and posters or in catalogues.

A2 I can read very short, simple texts. I can find specific, predictable information in simple everyday material such as advertisements, prospectuses, menus and timetables and I can understand short simple personal letters.

B1 I can understand texts that consist mainly of high frequency every-day or job-related language. I can understand the description of events, feelings and wishes in personal letters.

B2 I can read articles and reports concerned with contemporary problems in which the writers adopt particular attitudes or viewpoints. I can understand contemporary literary prose.

C1 I can understand long and complex factual and literary texts, appreciating distinctions of style. I can understand specialised articles and longer technical instructions, even when they do not relate to my field.

C2 I can read with ease virtually all forms of the written language, including abstract, structurally or linguistically complex texts such as manuals, specialised articles and literary works.

Spoken Interaction Skill:

A1 I can interact in a simple way provided the other person is prepared to repeat or rephrase things at a slower rate of speech and help me formulate what I'm trying to say. I can ask and answer simple questions in areas of immediate need or on very familiar topics.

A2 I can communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring a simple and direct exchange of information on familiar topics and activities. I can handle very short social exchanges, even though I can't usually understand enough to keep the conversation going myself.

B1 I can deal with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken. I can enter unprepared into conversation on topics that are familiar, of personal interest or pertinent to everyday life (e.g. family, hobbies, work, travel and current events).

B2 I can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible. I can take an active part in discussion in familiar contexts, accounting for and sustaining my views.

C1 I can express myself fluently and spontaneously without much obvious searching for expressions. I can use language flexibly and effectively for social and professional purposes. I can formulate ideas and opinions with precision and relate my contribution skilfully to those of other speakers.

C2 I can take part effortlessly in any conversation or discussion and have a good familiarity with idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms. I can express myself fluently and convey finer shades of meaning precisely. If I do have a problem, I can backtrack and restructure around the difficulty so smoothly that other people are hardly aware of it.

Spoken Production Skill:

A1 I can use simple phrases and sentences to describe where I live and people I know.

A2 I can use a series of phrases and sentences to describe in simple terms my family and other people, living conditions, my educational background and my present or most recent job.

B1 I can connect phrases in a simple way in order to describe experiences and events, my dreams, hopes and ambitions. I can briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. I can narrate a story or relate the plot of a book or film and describe my reactions.

B2 I can present clear, detailed descriptions on a wide range of subjects related to my field of interest. I can explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

C1 I can present clear, detailed descriptions of complex subjects integrating sub-themes, developing particular points and rounding off with an appropriate conclusion.

C2 I can present a clear, smoothly-flowing description or argument in a style appropriate to the context and with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points.

Writing Skill:

A1 I can write a short, simple postcard, for example sending holiday greetings. I can fill in forms with personal details, for example entering my name, nationality and address on a hotel registration form.

A2 I can write short, simple notes and messages relating to matters in areas of immediate needs. I can write a very simple personal letter, for example thanking someone for something.

B1 I can write simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest. I can write personal letters describing experiences and impressions.

B2 I can write clear, detailed texts on a wide range of subjects related to my interests. I can write an essay or report, passing on information or giving reasons in support of or against a particular point of view. I can write letters highlighting the personal significance of events and experiences.

C1 I can express myself in clear, well-structured text, expressing points of view at some length. I can write about complex subjects in a letter, an essay or a report, underlining what I consider to be the salient issues. I can select a style appropriate to the reader in mind.

C2 I can write clear, smoothly-flowing text in an appropriate style. I can write complex letters, reports or articles which present a case with an effective logical structure which helps the recipient to notice and remember significant points. I can write summaries and reviews of professional or literary works.