

Ayfar Shakirli

Project Manager / Trainer / Community Leader

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SUMMARY

Experienced project manager and certified youth work trainer with a proven record of leading multi-year educational initiatives funded by local and international donors. Strong expertise in youth engagement, child protection, women's empowerment, and inclusive education. Adept at fostering cross-sector partnerships to implement women's empowerment initiatives and promote equal participation in community development.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Institute of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan / *Leading specialist* 12 /2023 – Ongoing

- Led development of education cooperation proposals for 20+ local and international partners to expand cross-sector initiatives;
- Coordinated gender-sensitive and inclusive education activities across general schools;
- Preparing project proposals, activity plans, budgets, and inter-agency documentation for collaborations with UNDP, UNICEF, and RASIT;
- Overseeing monitoring and compliance to ensure timely and effective implementation of national education policies;

Azəri Youth Alliance NGO / *Board Member* 09 /2019 – Ongoing

- Strengthening cooperation with local authorities to keep at-risk girls in school and reduce dropouts;
- Coordinating awareness programs on early marriage for 1,500 schoolgirls across partner schools;
- Providing confidential guidance and mentorship to early-marriage survivors, informing them of their rights and available protection mechanisms;
- Establishing school networks to reinforce early-marriage prevention and community support;

Lerik Branch of the Youth Development and Career Center / *Director* 10 /2020 – 12 /2023

- Led branch operations and managed team workflows to ensure effective youth development programs delivery;
- Enabled 500+ young people to access training, mentoring, and internship opportunities for personal and career development;
- Built partnerships with local institutions and prepared monthly activity and performance reports;
- Promoted youth awareness of state programs, supported interns and volunteers in participating in national and international events, and facilitated local employment pathways.

LEADERSHIP

Gender Talks Platform / Director 04/ 2024 – Ongoing

Through the “**Gender Talks**” platform, which I lead, I direct activities aimed at promoting education local youth under conditions of gender equality, encouraging equal participation in career choices and public life, and empowering girls.

EDUCATION

Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University

Master of Arts (MA), Methods and Methodology of History Teaching 09/2017 - 07/2019 **Modules:**

Methods of Working With Text in History Teaching; Methods of Teaching Social

and Economic Materials; Scientific-Research Internship; Use of New Technologies in History Teaching;

Achievements: Earned 93/100 in Scientific-Pedagogical Practice (top performance); Defended Master's thesis with 82/100;

Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University

Bachelor of Arts (BA), History teaching 09/2013 - 07/2017

Modules: International Relations of Azerbaijan; Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Law Basics; Principles of the General Education Curriculum; Psychology; Philosophy; Pedagogy;

Achievements: Received excellent evaluations in school-based pedagogical practice; Achieved 100/100 in Archive Internship, reflecting strong research and analytical skills; Active participant in the university debate club;

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Certification: Graduate of the 1-year **ToT** (Training of Trainers) program of the Youth Department of the Council of Europe - a comprehensive professional programme that strengthened my capacity to design, deliver, and evaluate high-quality non-formal education training.

Professional Development: Selected for inclusion in the Trainer Information Bank of the Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, acknowledging my demonstrated competence and consistent Contribution as a qualified youth trainer.

Authorship / Publication: Development the book “**Brave Steps**”, an educational resource that supports local teenagers in making informed career choices and promotes equal access to personal development opportunities.

Soft Skills: Project management, Fundraising and Event Planning, Policy implementation, Critical thinking, Analytical & Research, Strong interpersonal communications, Expertise in specific topics, Community Leadership

Languages: English (Professional Proficiency), Azerbaijani (Native)

Trainer activity: Summary of my human rights and youth training activities is available via the [link](#) below.

Follow the link to learn more about my training activities in the field of human rights promotion.