

Gentian Gashi

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Work Experience

Economist (STC) at World Bank

Prishtina, Kosovo, June 2023 – Present

Tax Expenditure Analysis

- Developing a comprehensive catalogue of tax reliefs and exemptions for various revenue sources in Kosovo, and collaborating with a team from the Ministry of Finance in Kosovo and the World Bank to analyze tax policies, providing valuable insights into revenue mobilization opportunities;
- Facilitating the acquisition of taxpayer data such as data on personal income, corporate income, businesses etc., and integrating 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 short- and long-term 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, as well as supporting the Country Policy Institutional Analysis;
- Updating and supplying the World Bank's macroeconomic and fiscal model with data as a base for forecasting key macroeconomic indicators for Kosovo. Reviewing the current estimation methodology for some key variables in the model as well as relevant literature to support its update.

Economic Researcher (STC) at World Bank

Vienna, Austria, March 2023 – Present

- Collecting and analyzing cross-country data from Europe & Central Asia (ECA) to draft the motivational chapter of the ECA companion report to the 2024 World Development Report;
- Identifying growth trends and its composite drivers among developing countries including investment, human capital, productivity, institutions, social policy, energy etc.;
- 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 at UNICEF

Prishtina, Kosovo, August 2021 – February 2023

- 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 creation of more than 100 indicators compiled into a single, unified 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 at GAP Institute

Prishtina, Kosovo, August 2019 – August 2021

- 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 and governance 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.

Graduate Teaching Assistant at *University of Freiburg*

Freiburg, Germany, April 2018 – September 2018

- Taught a tutorial for the course Advanced Macroeconomics II, where I explained and demonstrated the full mathematical derivations and econometric testing of several political economy models such as the Barro-Gordon model on inflationary bias, or the Dixit-Londregan model on special interests in taxes and transfers to Master-level students.

Intern at IOS Partners Inc.

Sofia, Bulgaria, May 2016 – September 2016

- Conducted research on countries that needed consulting on economic or governance issues (e.g. sustainable development, aviation industry, public-private partnerships) and experts ready to help them;
- Monitored ongoing and upcoming Millenium Challenge Corporation (MCC) Threshold Programs and Compacts in countries such as Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Moldova to provide technical assistance to their efforts to improve their respective energy and telecommunications sectors;
- Co-wrote several expressions of interest for various MCC Threshold Programs and Compacts.

Intern at *GAP Institute*

Prishtina, Kosovo, June 2015 – August 2015

- Created and executed a city-wide survey regarding Kosovo's energy sector with the aim of conducting a cost-benefit analysis on a heating system implemented then in Prishtina. The data was econometrically analyzed;
- Worked with public and private stakeholders in the dairy sector to write a sector analysis on Kosovo's dairy industry in order to highlight its most pressing challenges, and subsequently propose several solutions;
- Designed cover pages and infographics for policy briefs.

Intern at *Ministry of Finance of Kosovo, Department of Macroeconomic Policy*

Prishtina, Kosovo, June 2014 – August 2014

- Researched various indicators for labor demand in Kosovo to improve the macroeconomic model of Kosovo;

Education

M.Sc. (Hons) in Economics at *University of Freiburg*

Freiburg, Germany, October 2016 – March 2019

- Focus: Political Economics;
- Master Thesis: "On the Heterogeneity of the Natural Disaster-Civil Conflict Nexus – A Panel Study," December, 2018. Supervised by Prof. Dr. Günther Schulze, University of Freiburg;
- GPA: 1.9/1.0 (German scale).

B.A. in Economics at *American University in Bulgaria*

Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria, August 2012 – May 2016

- Second major: Political Science and International Relations;
- Bachelor Thesis: "Income Inequality, Political Polarization, and the Economy: A Cross-Country Study," May 2016. Supervised by Prof. Dr. Jeffrey Nilsen, American University in Bulgaria;
- GPA: 3.45/4.00 (American scale).

Technical Skills, Certifications, Languages

Programming Languages and Tools: R, Stata, SQL, Power BI, MS Office, PxEEdit.

Languages: Albanian – mother tongue, English – native fluency (C2), German – professional working fluency (B2).

Awards

- DAAD Scholarship: full funding throughout graduate university study at the University of Freiburg, Germany - April 2017;
- Dean's List: for achieving a GPA of 3.8 out of 4.0 (American scale) while at the American University in Bulgaria - Fall 2015;
- Open Society Foundation partial scholarship throughout undergraduate university studies at the American University in Bulgaria – Fall 2012.

Publications

- Gashi, G., & Hyseni, B. (2021, June). *Going 50/50: Implementing the gender quota on public company boards*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3lvvpDD>
- Gashi, G., & Mehmeti, J. (2021, May). *Unemployed in the Pandemic: A brief analysis of jobseekers and their profile for the period March 2020 – February 2021*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3ul0Bk9>
- Gashi, G., & Hyseni, B. (2021, April). *How will the Covid-19 pandemic and Germany's new immigration cap affect Kosovo's labor migration?*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3qvRrQw>
- Gashi, G., & Hasaj, B. (2020, December). *Economic Recovery Program: Lack of a sectoral approach*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3uvupuy>
- Gashi, G., & Selishta, A. (2020, July). *Descriptive analysis of youth, labour and education statistics*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3iOOeaN>
- Gashi, G., & Hyseni, B. (2020, July). *The 10% dilemma: The benefits and drawbacks of the early withdrawal of pension savings*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3oeaQTy>
- Gashi, G., & Mehmeti, J. (2020, June). *The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Labor Market*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/37rFy5o>
- Gashi, G., & Hyseni, B. (2020, April). *A brief analysis on the mismatch between education and occupation in Kosovo*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3od2k70>
- Gashi, G., & Thaqi, B. (2020, March). *Kosovo – Albania Trade Potential: Trade Barriers and the Implementation of Bilateral Agreements*. GAP Institute and Riinvest Institute. <https://bit.ly/3o9NHBH>
- Gashi, G., & Hyseni, B. (2016, March). *A brief assessment of the dairy industry in Kosovo*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3tE6QQO>
- Gashi, G., & Hyseni, B. (2015, October). *The impact of cogeneration on energy consumption*. GAP Institute. <https://bit.ly/3JRAC3G>