🚀 Deployment Guide - Maria Sarbu Portfolio

Complete step-by-step guide to deploy your portfolio website.

✅ Pre-Deployment Checklist

1. Prepare Required Files

Create the following folder structure:

```
maria-sarbu-portfolio/
├── index.html
├── robots.txt
├── sitemap.xml
├── README.md
├── css/
│    ├── variables.css
│    ├── reset.css
│    ├── layout.css
│    ├── navigation.css
│    ├── sections.css
│    ├── theme.css
│    └── responsive.css
├── js/
│    └── main.js
└── assets/
     ├── maria-sarbu-portrait.jpg
     ├── maria-sarbu-cv.pdf
     ├── favicon-32x32.png
     ├── favicon-16x16.png
     └── apple-touch-icon.png
```

2. Create Assets

Portrait Photo:

- Recommended size: 400x400px minimum

- Format: JPG (optimized, under 200KB)

- Ensure good lighting and professional appearance

- Square crop works best for circular mask

CV PDF:

- File name: `maria-sarbu-cv.pdf`

- Keep file size under 2MB

- Ensure it's the most recent version

Favicons:

- Use <u>favicon.io</u> or <u>realfavicongenerator.net</u>
- Upload your portrait or a simple "MS" logo
- Download the generated files:
  - favicon-32x32.png
  - favicon-16x16.png
  - apple-touch-icon.png

3. Configure Formspree

1. Go to <u>formspree.io</u>
2. Sign up for a free account
3. Create a new form with:
   - Name: "Maria Sarbu Contact Form"
   - Email: <u>maria_sarbu67@yahoo.com</u>
4. Copy the form endpoint (looks like: `https://formspree.io/f/xyzabc123`)
5. Open `index.html` and find line ~249:

```html
  <form class="contact-form" id="contactForm" action="https://formspree.io/f/YOUR_FORM_ID"
```

6. Replace `YOUR_FORM_ID` with your actual form ID

4. Update Domain References

In index.html: Replace all instances of `https://mariasarbu.com/` with your actual domain:

- Line 16: `<link rel="canonical" href="YOUR_DOMAIN">`
- Line 19-22: Open Graph URL tags
- Line 26-28: Twitter card tags
- Line 76-98: JSON-LD structured data

In sitemap.xml: Replace `https://mariasarbu.com/` with your domain in all `<loc>` tags.

5. Test Locally

Using Python:

```bash
```

```bash
# Navigate to your project folder
cd path/to/maria-sarbu-portfolio

# Python 3
python -m http.server 8000

# Visit: http:///localhost:8000
```

Using Node.js:

```bash
bash

# Install http-server globally
npm install -g http-server

# Run server
http-server

# Visit: http:///localhost:8080
```

Test Checklist:

- ☐ All sections load correctly
- ☐ Navigation works and highlights active section
- ☐ Mobile menu opens/closes
- ☐ Theme toggle works
- ☐ Contact form validates input
- ☐ Download CV button works
- ☐ All images load
- ☐ Smooth scrolling works
- ☐ Back-to-top button appears

📤 Deployment Options

Option 1: GitHub Pages (Recommended - Free)

Setup

1. **Create GitHub Account**
   - Go to github.com
   - Sign up or log in

2. **Create Repository**

- Click "New repository"

- Name it: maria-sarbu-portfolio or mariasarbu.github.io

- Make it public

- Don't initialize with README (you already have one)

3. **Upload Files Via GitHub Web Interface:**

- Open your repository

- Click "Add file" > "Upload files"

- Drag and drop your entire folder structure

- Commit changes

Via Git Command Line:

```bash
# Navigate to your project folder
cd path/to/maria-sarbu-portfolio

# Initialize git
git init

# Add all files
git add .

# Commit
git commit -m "Initial commit - Maria Sarbu portfolio"

# Add remote
git remote add origin https://github.com/YOUR_USERNAME/YOUR_REPO_NAME.git

# Push to GitHub
git branch -M main
git push -u origin main
```

4. **Enable GitHub Pages**

- Go to repository Settings

- Scroll to "Pages" section (left sidebar)

- Under "Source", select branch: main

- Select folder: / (root)

- Click "Save"

- Wait 2-5 minutes for deployment

5. **Access Your Site**

- Your site will be available at:
  - `https://YOUR_USERNAME.github.io/REPO_NAME/`
  - Or `https://YOUR_USERNAME.github.io/` (if repo named `YOUR_USERNAME.github.io`)

Custom Domain (Optional)

1. Purchase domain (Namecheap, Google Domains, etc.)

2. In repository Settings > Pages:
   - Enter your custom domain (e.g., `mariasarbu.com`)
   - Save

3. Configure DNS at your domain provider:

```
Type: A Record
Host: @
Value: 185.199.108.153

Type: A Record
Host: @
Value: 185.199.109.153

Type: A Record
Host: @
Value: 185.199.110.153

Type: A Record
Host: @
Value: 185.199.111.153

Type: CNAME
Host: www
Value: YOUR_USERNAME.github.io
```

4. Wait 24-48 hours for DNS propagation

Option 2: Netlify (Easy & Fast - Free)

Setup

1. **Sign Up**
   - Go to netlify.com
   - Sign up with GitHub, GitLab, or email

2. **Deploy via Drag & Drop**

- Click "Add new site" > "Deploy manually"

- Drag your entire project folder

- Wait for deployment (usually 1-2 minutes)

- Your site is live!

3. **Deploy via Git (Recommended)**

   - Push your code to GitHub (see GitHub Pages steps 1-3)

   - In Netlify, click "Add new site" > "Import an existing project"

   - Connect to GitHub

   - Select your repository

   - Deploy settings:

     - Branch: `main`

     - Build command: (leave empty)

     - Publish directory: (leave empty or `/`)

   - Click "Deploy site"

4. **Custom Domain**

   - Click "Domain settings"

   - Click "Add custom domain"

   - Enter your domain (e.g., `mariasarbu.com`)

   - Follow DNS configuration instructions

   - Enable HTTPS (automatic with Let's Encrypt)

Netlify Advantages:

- Automatic HTTPS

- Continuous deployment (auto-updates on git push)

- Form handling built-in (can replace Formspree)
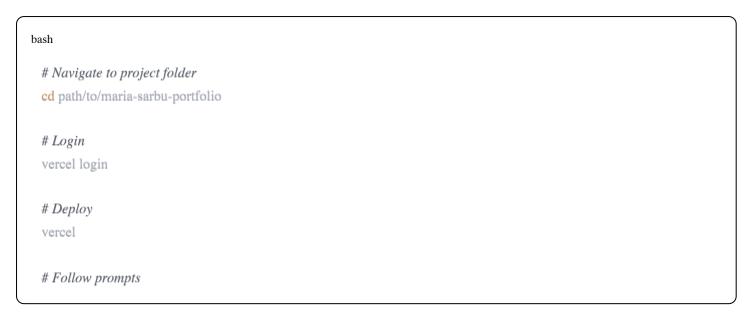
- Preview deployments for testing

Option 3: Vercel (Developer-Friendly - Free)

Setup

1. **Install Vercel CLI**

```bash
```

```
npm install -g vercel
```

2. Deploy

```bash
bash

# Navigate to project folder
cd path/to/maria-sarbu-portfolio

# Login
vercel login

# Deploy
vercel

# Follow prompts
```

3. **Or Deploy via Web**
   - Go to vercel.com
   - Sign up with GitHub
   - Import your repository
   - Deploy automatically

4. **Custom Domain**
   - In Vercel dashboard, go to your project
   - Click "Domains"
   - Add your custom domain
   - Configure DNS as instructed

🔍 Post-Deployment Tasks

1. Test Your Live Site

Visit your deployed URL and verify:

- [ ] All pages load correctly
- [ ] Navigation works
- [ ] Forms submit properly
- [ ] Images load
- [ ] Theme toggle persists
- [ ] Mobile responsiveness

☐ SSL certificate is active (https://)

2. Submit to Search Engines

Google Search Console:

1. Go to search.google.com/search-console

2. Add your property (website URL)

3. Verify ownership (HTML file method or meta tag)

4. Submit your sitemap: `https://your-domain.com/sitemap.xml`

Bing Webmaster Tools:

1. Go to bing.com/webmasters

2. Add your site

3. Verify ownership

4. Submit sitemap

3. Optimize for Search

Verify Structured Data:

- Use Google Rich Results Test

- Enter your URL

- Ensure "Person" schema is detected

Check Meta Tags:

- Use Facebook Sharing Debugger

- Use Twitter Card Validator

4. Performance Audit

Run Lighthouse:

1. Open your site in Chrome

2. Press F12 (DevTools)

3. Click "Lighthouse" tab

4. Run audit for Mobile and Desktop

5. Aim for 90+ scores in all categories

Common Issues & Fixes:

- **Slow images**: Compress with tinypng.com

- **Unused CSS**: Already modular, but can minify for production

- **Font loading**: Already preconnected in HTML

- **Large PDF**: Compress with ilovepdf.com

5. Analytics (Optional)

Google Analytics:

1. Create account at analytics.google.com

2. Get tracking code

3. Add before closing `</head>` tag in index.html:

```html
<!-- Google Analytics -->
<script async src="https://www.googletagmanager.com/gtag/js?id=G-XXXXXXXXXX"></script>
<script>
  window.dataLayer = window.dataLayer || [];
  function gtag(){dataLayer.push(arguments);}
  gtag('js', new Date());
  gtag('config', 'G-XXXXXXXXXX');
</script>
```

Privacy-Friendly Alternative:

- Plausible Analytics - Simple, privacy-friendly

- Fathom Analytics - No cookies needed

🔐 Security Best Practices

1. **Never commit sensitive data**
   - Formspree form IDs are safe to expose

   - Don't include passwords or API keys

2. **Keep dependencies updated**
   - No npm dependencies to update (vanilla HTML/CSS/JS)

   - Update Google Fonts URL if needed

3. **Use HTTPS**
   - GitHub Pages: Enable in settings

   - Netlify/Vercel: Automatic

4. **Set security headers** (Netlify/Vercel) Create `netlify.toml`:

```toml
[[headers]]
  for = "/*"
  [headers.values]
    X-Frame-Options = "DENY"
    X-Content-Type-Options = "nosniff"
    X-XSS-Protection = "1; mode=block"
    Referrer-Policy = "strict-origin-when-cross-origin"
```

📝 Maintenance & Updates

Regular Updates

Monthly:

- Check contact form is working
- Verify all links work
- Update experience section if needed

Quarterly:

- Review and update CV
- Update meta descriptions if content changes
- Check Lighthouse scores

Annually:

- Update copyright year in footer
- Review and refresh content
- Update profile photo if desired

Making Changes

1. Edit files locally
2. Test changes with local server
3. Commit and push to GitHub:

```bash
git add .
git commit -m "Update: description of changes"
git push origin main
```

4. Changes deploy automatically (if using Netlify/Vercel)

5. For GitHub Pages, wait 2-5 minutes for rebuild

🐛 Troubleshooting

Site Not Loading

GitHub Pages:

- Check Settings > Pages shows "Your site is live"
- Verify branch and folder are correct
- Check repository is public
- Wait up to 10 minutes after first push

Netlify/Vercel:

- Check deployment logs for errors
- Verify all files uploaded correctly
- Ensure no file path case sensitivity issues

Form Not Submitting

- Verify Formspree form ID is correct
- Check form action URL in HTML
- Ensure Formspree account is active
- Test with a different email

Images Not Loading

- Check file paths are correct (case-sensitive)
- Verify images are in `assets/` folder
- Compress large images (under 500KB recommended)
- Check file extensions match (`.jpg` vs `.jpeg`)

Mobile Menu Not Working

- Check JavaScript file is loading (DevTools > Network tab)
- Verify no JavaScript errors (DevTools > Console tab)
- Clear browser cache and reload

Theme Not Persisting

- Check localStorage is enabled in browser

- Test in different browser

- Verify JavaScript is not blocked

📞 Support Resources

- **HTML/CSS Issues**: MDN Web Docs

- **GitHub Pages**: GitHub Pages Documentation

- **Netlify**: Netlify Documentation

- **Formspree**: Formspree Documentation

- **SEO**: Google Search Central

✅ Final Checklist

Before going live:

- [ ] All personal information is correct
- [ ] Contact form configured and tested
- [ ] Portrait image uploaded and displays correctly
- [ ] CV PDF is current and downloadable
- [ ] All favicons in place
- [ ] Domain configured (if using custom domain)
- [ ] HTTPS enabled
- [ ] Sitemap submitted to search engines
- [ ] Social media preview tags working
- [ ] Mobile responsive on all devices
- [ ] Lighthouse scores 90+ across the board
- [ ] Tested in multiple browsers
- [ ] Forms validated
- [ ] All links work

Congratulations! Your portfolio is now live! 🎉

Share your site:

- LinkedIn profile

- Email signature

- Job applications

- Professional networks

- Business cards with QR code

Monitor your site's performance and make updates as your career grows!