

Europass Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

First name / Surname **ELVINA MERKAJ**

Work experience

Dates	September 2015-September 2021
Occupation or position held	Post-Doctoral Researcher
Main activities and responsibilities	Conducting research on impact evaluation of public policies, the allocation of regional funds, the impact of local government performance on business demography and unemployment and the implementation of wellbeing indexes in the strategic planning of Italian local government units. Teaching courses "Public economics" at the Master level, Microeconomics (Exercises) at PhD level
Name and address of employer	Faculty of Economics, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy
Type of business or sector	Post-doc fellowship
Dates	February 2007– July 2015
Occupation or position held	Lecturer
Main activities and responsibilities	Responsible of various courses at the bachelor and master level.
Name and address of employer	Department of Economics and Agribusiness, Agricultural University of Tirana
Type of business or sector	State University, Albania
Dates	January 2010- Ongoing
Occupation or position held	Consultant / Affiliated researcher <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in various consultancy projects in coordination with national and international experts financed by USAID, UNWOMAN, Ministry of Agricultural, GIZ, SDC, Cerge-IE, RRPP ect, - Key Researcher of 5 research projects, doing research on the impact evaluation of regional funds in Albania, evaluation of local government performance, their budgeting, financial capabilities and lobbying in the assessment of regional funds, participating/coordinating desk research, interviews, data collection, database design, data analysis, methodological work, reporting
Name and address of employer	Development Solution Associates, Tirana, Albania
Type of business or sector	Non-Governmental Organization, Think tank

Education and training

Dates	January 2012 – February 2015
Title of qualification awarded	PhD in Economics
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Faculty of Economics, Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy
Level in national or international classification	Doctoral Program
Dates	January 2011-December 2011
Title of qualification awarded	Master in Economics
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Polytechnic University of Marche, Ancona, Italy
Level in national or international classification	Master of Science

Dates September 2009- January 2011
 Title of qualification awarded Master in Economics and Agribusiness, with honors
 Name and type of organisation providing education and training Agricultural University of Tirana & University of Hawaii, USA
 Level in national or international classification Master of Science

Dates 2000-2005
 Title of qualification awarded Graduated with honors in "Economics" (*Vecchio ordinamento*)
 Name and type of organisation providing education and training Economic Faculty, University of Perugia, Italy
 Level in national or international classification 4 years university degree

Publications and working papers (selected)

Merkaj, E., & Santolini, R. (2021). National Policies in Response to the Covid-19 pandemic: the case of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia and Umbria (No. 456). Working paper, Università Politecnica delle Marche (I), Dipartimento di Scienze Economiche e Sociali.

Zhllima, E and Pojani, D and Merkaj, E and Imami, D, "Gender gaps and policy implications in land ownership and inheritance", working paper Available at SSRN: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3773427>

Merkaj, E and Fiorillo, F and Zhllima, E and Imami, D, "An Analyses of Formula-Based Intergovernmental Transfer Using a Comprehensive Model", working paper Available at SSRN: <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3698163>

Fiorillo, F., Merkaj, E. (2021) A comprehensive approach to intergovernmental grants' tactical allocation. Theory and estimation guidelines. *Int Tax Public Finance* 28, 995–1013. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10797-020-09635-0>

Merkaj E, Lucchetti R, Fiorillo F. (2020) "The role of local leaders in regional development funding: Evidence from an elite survey." *Journal of Regional Science*; <https://doi.org/10.1111/jors.12482>

Zhllima, E., Merkaj, E., Imami, D., Rama, K. (2020) "Local Government Access to Funds—It Is about Who Your Friends and Party Are." *Communist and Post-communist Studies*, 53(1), 135-151

Merkaj, E., Zhllima, E. Imami, D., (2017) "Fiscal Decentralization in Albania – Trends and Challenges at the Dawn of Territorial Reform" *Journal of Balkans and Near Eastern Studies*, 19(6), 684-699

Zhllima, E., Imami, D., Merkaj, E., Kächelein, H. (2013) "Impact of Fiscal Policies on Inputs and Production Costs in Greenhouse in Albania" *Journal of Central European Agriculture*, 14 (2), 587-603

- Projects (selected)** "Consumer behavior and preferences in Western Balkans" project financed by University of Hawaii and Agricultural University of Tirana, 2009-2012
- "Analyzing factors influencing intergovernmental grants distribution in Western Balkans—the case of Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia" project financed by SDC, 2012-2015
- "Regional Development Fund transfers to local government and state clientelism in Albania" project financed by Cerge-EI, 2014-2015
- "National study on Economic Diversification for Women Living in Albanian Rural Areas" project financed by UnWoman Albania, 2014-2015
- "Structural reforms in Italy: 2014-2017" study financed by EU, 2018
- "Integrare gli indicatori Benessere Equo Sostenibile (BES) nel Documento Unico di Programmazione (DUP) dei comuni: Una sperimentazione" project financed by IFEL, 2018-2019

Awards/ Scholarships 20 achievements, scholarships, fellowship and/or awards granted by University of Perugia (Italy), Ministry of Education (Albania), Open Society Foundations (UK), CERGE-IE (Czech Republic), Polytechnic University of Marche (Italy).

Computer

Operating systems	Microsoft windows
Editor	Latex, Microsoft Office
Data analyses software	STATA, Gretl, SPSS, Latent Gold, Sawtooth software

Languages

Albanian	Native speaker
Italian	Excellent
English	Advanced
French	Intermediate (B1 level)
German	Elementary (A2 level)

Autorizzo la pubblicazione online