Elena OCENIC



Fluent in **Romanian**, **German**, **English** & **French**, with advanced knowledge of **Spanish**

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 – 2024 **Presidential Administration of Romania** — **Bucharest** (Romania)

- Senior policy adviser in the Department of Climate and Sustainability – *managed 2 interns*
- Leading the implementation of the working group activities on an integrated approach to climate change with 40 Romanian experts, including the management of 2 expert sub-groups (energy, economy) and drafting report chapters
- Providing analytical briefs and expert views to the President of Romania on climate change and the energy transition

2020 – 2021 **IRENA Staff Provident Fund Management Board** (while working at IRENA) — **Bonn** (Germany)

- Member of the Staff Provident Fund Management Board, representing professional staff at regular meetings
- Oversaw the management of the fund (23.4 million USD) in accordance with principles, charter and administrative rules, as well as financial regulation and procedures of IRENA, including its investment strategy

2019 – 2021 **International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA),** Innovation and Technology Centre (IITC) — **Bonn**

- Associate Programme Officer – Innovation Networks – *managed 3 interns*
- Analytical work on innovations in market design, enabling technologies and system operation to integrate solar and wind power technologies into power systems, including assessment of innovative solutions for 100% renewable power systems by 2040-2050 and technological pathways to decarbonize end-use sectors (industry)
- Analytical work and contributing to intergovernmental processes for offshore & ocean energy
- Managed a 200.000 USD project funded by Sweden over 1 year by delivering on two work-streams: creating a network of like-minded countries aiming to achieve 80-100% renewable power by 2040-2050 (i.e. Costa Rica, Denmark, Germany, Paraguay, Spain, Sweden and Uruguay), and leading the analytical work published in the report "*Innovative solutions for 100% renewable power in Sweden*"

2016 – 2019 **Agency for the Cooperation of Energy Regulators (ACER)** — **Ljubljana** (Slovenia)

- Policy Officer - Market Monitoring within the Electricity Department – *managed 4 trainees*
- Drafter of the annual Market Monitoring Report about the status of EU electricity markets (Art. 11, Reg. No. 713/2009)
- Data collection, processing, modelling and analysis on retail electricity & gas markets (cost-breakdown in EU and Energy Community, competition assessments), as well as wholesale electricity markets (day-ahead & intraday markets)
- Managed the design of a pan-European web-based retail energy database application

2013 – 2016 **Générale du Solaire,** French solar photovoltaic EPC company (Engineering, Procurement & Construction) — **Paris** (France)

- International Business Development Manager (France and International) – *managed 1 intern*
- Managed the project development (i.e. administrative, legal, economic and technical aspects) of 41 projects (110 MWp)
- Contributed to the development of a project pipeline in 12 countries (over 600 MWp), responding to international requests for qualification, calls for tenders/expressions of interest (Benin, Cameroun, Chad, Comoros, Egypt, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Morocco, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, etc.) and conducted prospective studies for new markets

2012 **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA) (Internship) — **Vienna** (Austria)

- Assistant to Senior Nuclear Engineer, Division of Nuclear Power, Department of Nuclear Energy
- Supported activities in INPRO* project on national long-range nuclear energy strategies and the Dialogue Forum
- Drafted a paper on long-term nuclear strategies, which was presented at the European Nuclear Conference in 2012

**INPRO = International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles*

2011 – 2012 **SciencesPo Paris** (part-time) — Paris

- Teaching Assistant for the lecture "*Energy Markets*" and "*Decarbonisation Scenarios and Renewable Energy Sources*"
- Tutored students on oil price formation and international climate change negotiations

2009 – 2012 **Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research e.V.** (HIIK) (part-time) — **Heidelberg** (Germany)

- Research Associate, focus on intrastate tensions in Europe
- Contributed to the "*Conflict Barometer*", publication describing trends in conflict escalations, in 2009, 2010 and 2011

2011 **International Atomic Energy Agency** (IAEA) (Internship) — Vienna

- Assistant to Programme Management Officer, in the Department of Technical Cooperation, Division for Africa
- Contributed to Country Programme Frameworks for Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso & Libya

2010 **International Social Science Council** (ISSC), official NGO based at UNESCO (Internship) — Paris

- Assistant to the Secretary-General, drafted a report on international funding agencies for social science research

2009 **European Parliament** (Internship) — **Brussels** (Belgium)

- Assistant to a Romanian Member of the European Parliament, drafted briefings on major debates and decisions

2008 **City Hall of Sibiu** (Internship) — **Sibiu** (Romania)

- Supporting the Head of the Department of Economic Development and External Relations in daily activities

EDUCATION

2022 – present **Bucharest University of Economic Studies** Bucharest

- PhD student at the Faculty of Business Administration in Foreign Languages, with merit-based public funding
- Research on "green" hydrogen, i.e. produced with renewable energy sources (technologies, business models, policies)

2010 – 2012 **Paris School of International Affairs** (SciencesPo Paris) Paris

- Master in International Economic Policy (bilingual: French / English), focus on Energy & Global Economic Policy
- Merit-based ERASMUS scholarship for the Undergraduate Exchange Program, *cum laude*
- Vice President, International Affairs Society: organised study trips at international organisations – *managed 6 students*

2007 – 2010 **Institute for Political Science, Ruprecht-Karls University** Heidelberg

- Bachelor in Political Science and Economics (German), thesis on the European gas market diversification, comparing Romania's and Bulgaria's strategies for Nabucco and South Stream pipelines
- Merit-based DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) scholarship
- Vice President Finance, AIESEC: financial and strategic planning – *managed 4 students*

SELECTION OF PUBLICATIONS

Lead author

- Ocenic, E. (2024), *Trends in hydrogen production projects for energy and climate purposes – An analysis of the IEA database*
- Working Group on "*Fighting climate change: an integrated approach*" (2023), *Limiting climate change and its impact: an integrated approach for Romania,* Presidential Administration of Romania, Department of Climate and Sustainability
- Ocenic, E. (2023), *Harmonizing Hydrogen Colour Codes: Need for an Economic Policy Framework for a Global Market*
- Ocenic, E., Tanțău A. (2023), *Redefining the Hydrogen "Colours" based on Carbon Dioxide Emissions*
- IRENA (2021), *Offshore renewables: An action agenda for deployment (A contribution to the G20 Presidency)*
- IRENA (2021), *The Renewable Energy Transition in Africa - Country Studies for Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, South Africa, Morocco and Rwanda,* chapter 2.3, 3.3, 4.3, 5.3 and 6.3
- IRENA (2020), *Reaching Zero with Renewables,* chapter 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.6
- IRENA (2020), *Innovative solutions for 100% renewable power in Sweden*
- ACER (2018), *Electricity Wholesale Market volume,* chapter 2.2, 4.2, 5.1. and 5.2
- ACER (2017), *Electricity and Gas Retail Markets Volume*
- ACER (2017), *Electricity Wholesale Market volume,* chapter 2.2, 4.2 and 4.3
- ACER (2016), *Electricity and Gas Retail Markets Volume*, chapter 6-8

Co-author

- Bichler et al. (2021), *Electricity Market Design 2030-2050: Shaping Future Electricity Markets for a Climate-Neutral Europe*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation outlook: Ocean energy technologies*
- IRENA (2020), *Fostering a blue economy: Offshore renewable energy*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Cooperation between transmission and distribution system operators*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation Landscape for a renewable-powered future*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Increasing space granularity in electricity markets*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Innovative ancillary services*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Regional markets*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Market integration of distributed energy resources*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Net billing schemes*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Artificial Intelligence and big data*
- IRENA (2019), *Innovation landscape brief: Future role of distribution system operators*

Contributor/Reviewer of IRENA publications

- IRENA (2021), *The Renewable Energy Transition in Africa, Powering Access, Resilience and Prosperity*
- IRENA (2021), *World Energy Transitions Outlook: 1.5°C Pathway*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation Outlook: Thermal Energy Storage*
- IRENA (2020), *Rise of Renewables in Cities*
- IRENA (2020), *Global Renewable Outlook: Energy transformation 2050*
- IRENA (2020), *ACEC Planning Report - Potential and Prospects for Variable Renewable Energy in Southern and East Africa*
- IRENA (2020), *Analytical brief: 100% renewable power systems*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Advanced forecasting of variable renewable power generation*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Innovative operation of pumped hydropower storage*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Business models*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Peer-to-peer electricity trading*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Energy as-a-service*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Community-ownership models*
- IRENA (2020), *Innovation landscape brief: Pay-as-you-go models*