



## Europass Curriculum Vitae

### Personal information

First name(s) / Surname(s)

**Sofiya  
Zahova**

Address

67, Odrin street, app. 18, 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Sofia 1303 Bulgaria

Telephone

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E-mail

[szahova@yahoo.com](mailto:szahova@yahoo.com)

Nationality

Bulgarian

Date of birth

07.08.1978

Gender

Female

### Occupational field

**Social Anthropology, Romani Studies**

### Work experience

Dates

Feb 2011 – at present

Occupation or position held

Post-doctoral researcher

Main activities and responsibilities

Scientific research, individual research, experts' evaluations

Name and address of employer

Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum – Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 6a Moskovska street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Type of business or sector

Research and science, Social Anthropology

Dates

Jan 2008 – Dec 2010

Occupation or position held

PhD student

Main activities and responsibilities

Research on PhD topic *Dynamics of Identity in Montenegro*, field research, participation in scientific events for presentation of the research, participation in research projects

Name and address of employer

Institute of Ethnography with Ethnographic Museum (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum) Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 6a Moskovska street, Sofia 1000, Bulgaria

Type of business or sector

Research and science, Ethnology

Dates

2002 – Dec 2007

Occupation or position held

Administrator/Research coordinator

Main activities and responsibilities

Management of programmes for funding publishing projects for Romani literature, monitoring of projects, organization of seminars and conference, preparation of narrative and financial reports

Name and address of employer

Next Page Foundation, 35 Ljuben Karavelov street, Sofia 1142, Bulgaria

Type of business or sector

Research and publishing, Romani culture and literature

Dates

2002 – 2003

Occupation or position held

Technical and Research coordinator

Main activities and responsibilities

Research team management, methodology development, field research

Name and address of employer

Technology park Culture

Type of business or sector

Cultural policies, cultural organizations and institutions

### Education and training

Dates	Jan 2008 – Dec 2010
Title of qualification awarded	
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	PhD thesis <i>Dynamics of Identity in Montenegro. The Variety of Roma/Gypsy Groups after 1992.</i>
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Institute of Ethnography with Ethnographic Museum (Institute of Ethnology and Folklore Studies with Ethnographic Museum) at the Bulgarian Academy of Science
Dates	1 <sup>st</sup> April 2010 – 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2010
Title of qualification awarded	ERASMUS programme PhD student specialization
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Research within the PhD thesis <i>Dynamics of Identity in Montenegro</i>
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Ljubljana – Slovenia
Dates	2004-2005
Title of qualification awarded	Certificate on Cultural Policies on the Balkans
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	Post-graduate course on Cultural Management
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Arts – Belgrade & University Lyon 2 – France & University Pierre Mendes – France
Dates	1997 – 2007
Title of qualification awarded	MA in Cultural Studies
Principal subjects/occupational skills covered	MA thesis <i>Cultural Policies towards the Roma in Bulgaria within the period 1989 – 2006</i> ; Cultural Anthropology, History and Theory of Culture
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Sofia University <i>St. Kliment Ochridski</i> , Culture and Theory of Culture Department

**Personal skills and competences**

Mother tongue(s) Bulgarian

Other language(s)

Self-assessment

English  
Serbian / Croatian / Bosnian / Montenegrin  
Romani language  
Russian  
Italian  
German

Understanding				Speaking				Writing	
Listening		Reading		Spoken interaction		Listening		Reading	
C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient
C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	C1	Proficient
C1	Proficient	C1	Proficient	C1	Proficient	C1	Proficient	C1	Proficient
C2	Proficient	C2	Proficient	A2	Basic	B2	Independent	C2	Proficient
B1	Basic	B1	Basic	A2	Basic	B2	Basic	B1	Basic
B1	Basic	B1	Basic	A2	Basic	B2	Basic	B1	Basic

(\*) [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](http://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/files/questdocument/2008/08/11/20080811_01_en.pdf)

Social skills and competences

Good communication and team work abilities;  
Work in inter-cultural environment, with different ethnic communities and countries within Europe as result of my participation in number of international projects and initiatives;  
I can facilitate discussions and articulate positions and statements.

Organisational skills and competences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More than 8 years experience on evaluation of projects related to practical issues among Roma communities;</li> <li>- More than 8 years experience on projects related to practical and research issues among Roma communities;</li> <li>- More than 10 years in coordination and activities on working with institutions at both national and international level, coordination activities, NGOs and other stakeholders;</li> <li>- More than 5 years in EU funded project in specific social fields.</li> </ul>
Computer skills and competences	Microsoft Office™ (Word™, Excel™ and PowerPoint™) и Open Office; Basic knowledge of graphic design (Adobe Illustrator™, PhotoShop™).
<b>Additional information</b>	

#### Membership in international scientific organizations

Organization	Position	Period
National Civil Forum <i>Culture</i>	Member, coordinator	2002-2006
Minority Studies Society <i>Studii Romani</i>	Member	2008 – at present
URBA-Rom, Observatory of Policies for Roma/Gypsies in European Towns	Member	2010 – at present
Gypsy Lore Society	Member	Jan 2011 – at present

#### Research activities

Country	Period	Short description of project and leading institution
Bulgaria	2002–2003	<i>Research on cultural organizations with national-wide activities and networks and their influence on cultural policies in Bulgaria.</i> Technology Park <i>Culture</i> and History and Theory of Culture Department of Sofia University <i>St. Kliment Ohridski</i>
Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia	2005–2006	<i>Young Roma Literature Talents. Research on Romani literature in three Balkan countries.</i> Next Page Foundation with support of Open Society Institute – Budapest
Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Hungary	2006-2007	<i>Literature of Roma Authors: research on poetry, novels and short stories.</i> Romani Library project
Montenegro, Serbia	2008-2010	<i>Dynamics of Identities in Montenegro. Ethnographic research on Roma/Gypsy Groups.</i> PhD research under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Elena Marushiakova and Assoc. Prof. Veselin Popov
Montenegro, Macedonia, Serbia, Albania	May 2009 -at present	<i>Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in the Public Life of Western Balkans</i> Union of Balkan's Egyptians with the support of European Commission
Bulgaria, Italy	May 2009-at present	Research on contemporary Roma migrations in Italy Project <i>Cultural heritage and national identity in terms of pan-European labor mobility</i> funded by National Science Fund – Bulgaria
Bulgaria	July 2011 – at present	<i>Documenting Varna Bugurdzi Romani Dialect through Oral Folklore and Life Stories</i> Supported by Endangered Language Fund (USA)

#### Activities in the field of publishing, archives and digitalization

Country	Period	Short description of the project
Europe	2003–2007	<i>Romani Publications Project</i> for support of print and electronic publications <i>in Romani in over 10 countries in Europe</i>
Europe	2006-2007	<i>Romani Digital Collection – digitalization of books in small online library.</i> VORBA project of Next Page Foundation
Bulgaria, Romania, Macedonia	2006-2008	<i>Multi-cultural books for children: publication and promotion of books for Roma youth</i> Supported by the European Cultural Foundation

Europe	2007-2008	<i>Romani Digital Collection at TEL (the European Library): digitalization and access to catalogs and metadata of Romani publications in 44 libraries in Europe.</i> National Library of Serbia, Next Page Foundation and the European Library
Bulgaria	June 2011 – Jan 2012	<i>Documentation of the Pre-industrial Elements in Bulgarian Minorities' Culture during 20 century</i> Supported by Endangered Archive Programme (UK)

### Analysis and Evaluations

Country	Period	Short description of activity
Bulgaria	2002–2003	Evaluation of <i>Translation Project</i> of Open Society Foundation in Bulgaria
Serbia, Bulgaria	2003-2005	Consultancy for <i>BalkanKult</i> . Survey and assessment of the legislation and fiscal framework for development of cultural foundations in Bulgaria and Serbia. Funded by ERICarts
Albania	May – June 2005	Preparation of assessment report <i>Cultural institutions and cultural policies in Albania</i>
Bulgaria	2003 – 2007	Monitoring projects of Romani Baht Foundation <i>Desegregation of Roma schools in Sofia; Securing Equality in Education – access to Roma in kindergarten and school; Enhancing Institutional Capacity of Central and Eastern European Roma Organizations to Provide Services to Roma Communities</i>
Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia	2004-2007	Internal evaluation of over 20 projects for publishing and promotion of books in Romani, including assessment of the project management and implementation, monitoring of the books distribution and impact on the audience and readers
Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia	April 2009-May 2009	Assistant of the evaluator Lilyana Kovatcheva in external evaluation of three projects in Bulgaria supported by Roma Education Fund: development of the methodology and writing the report
Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Kosovo	May 2009 – Jan 2011	Evaluator in selection, training and supervising of local mediators working with vulnerable ethnic groups within the project <i>Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in the Public Life of Western Balkans</i> , supported by EU

### Civil Society activities

Country	Period	Short description of the activity
Bulgaria	2002–2003	<i>Cooperation between the National Civil Forum Culture and the public authorities.</i> Observations of the Commission on Culture meetings at the Bulgarian Parliament
Europe	2004	<i>Training and consultations of organizations dealing with publishing of Romani books</i>
Bulgaria, Macedonia, Rumania	2006-2007	<i>Our Stories project: books and reading promotion among Romani children</i> With the support of the European Cultural Foundation

### Participation in international events (congresses, seminars, conferences)

Sept 2011- Annual meeting of Gypsy Lore Society *Gypsies/Roma in the XXI-st century* (Graz, Austria)  
 August 2011 – International conference *Adjusting to Europe: Institutional Legacies of Communism and Ethnocultural Diversity* (Kaunas, Lithuania)  
 June 2011 - International Conference *Social Sciences, Humanities and Higher Education in Eastern Europe after 1991* (Vilnius, Lithuania)  
 May 2011 - 3rd Annual RRPP Conference *Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans*, organized by University of Fribourg, Sveti Stefan (Montenegro)  
 April 2011 – 6<sup>th</sup> InASEA Conference *Southeast European Post (Modernities)* (Regensburg, Germany)  
 Sept 2010 – 2010 Annual meeting of Gypsy Lore Society *Gypsies/Roma in the XXI-st century* (Lisbon, Portugal)  
 June 2010 - International Scientific Conference *Social, Political and Economic Change in the Western Balkans*, organized by University of Fribourg, Durres (Albania)

June 2010 - International Conference *Rethinking Late Socialism. Socio-Cultural Change and Political Legitimacy in Eastern Europe since the 1960s*. Institute of History (Sarajevo, BiH)

Jan 2010 – International Conference *Romani mobilities in Europe. Multidisciplinary perspective*, Refugee Studies Center, University of Oxford (Oxford, UK)

Dec 2009 – International Conference *Effective Participation of Ethnic Communities Vulnerable to Racial Discrimination in the Public Life of Western Balkans* (Podgorica, Montenegro)

Nov 2009 – International research scientific conference *Alignment with the regime of communism – 20 years later* (Sofia, Bulgaria)

Nov 2008 – International Conference *The Literature of Roma (Gypsies)*, University of Limoges – France

Oct 2007 – Conference *Diversity of Minorities Literature in Romania*, International Book Fair at Sibiu - European Capital of Culture 2007 (Sibiu, Romania).

Oct 2006 - Seminar *Romani Language in the teaching, book creation and promotion of children books in schools and communities* (Skopje, Macedonia)

Sept 2006 – Seminar *Access to Romani language and the Possibilities of the IT Development*, Linux Center and IP program of OSI – Serbia (Belgrade, Serbia)

May 2005 – Second Romani Studies Conference *The Other Side of Europe*, International Romani Studies Network (Istanbul, Turkey).

2005 - 17<sup>th</sup> Congress of International Reading Association (Zagreb, Croatia)

Oct 2004 – 6<sup>th</sup> Congress of the International Romani Union (Lanciano, Italy)

April 2004 – Seminar & Study Visit *Cultural Policies in Albania* (Tirana, Albania)

May 2004 – Conference: *Eurovisionen: From Cultural Networks to Politics*, on the occasion of the EU Enlargement (Berlin, Germany)

June 2003 - *ENCATC Academy 2003 on Cultural Management* (Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria)

Dec 2002 – Conference *Funding the Future – the role of cultural foundations in the Balkans*, (Belgrade, Serbia).

June 2002 – International Seminar *Cultural Policy and Modern Media Arts* (Sofia, Bulgaria)

#### Publications:

##### In Bulgarian:

Zahova, Sofiya. 2011. Два възгледа за черногорската официална носия като национален символ [Two options on Montenegrin Official Costume as National Symbol], *Българска етнология*, ISSN 1310-5213. (under publication)

Zahova, Sofiya. 2011. „Ние всички сме югосталгици“. Спомени и разкази за Югославия сред черногорци и сърби в Черна гора [“We are all Yugonostalgics. Memories and Narratives about Yugoslavia among Montenegrins and Serbs in Montenegro”], *Списание „Наука“*, ISSN0861 3362. (under publication)

##### In other languages:

Zahova, Sofiya. 2010. “Refugee Migrations of Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptians to Montenegro and their Impact on the Communities’ Social and Cultural Development.” – In: Sigona, Nando. (Ed.) *Proceedings of International Conference “Romani Mobilities in Europe: Multidisciplinary Perspectives”*. 2010, pp. 251-256.  
<http://romanimobilities.wordpress.com/2010/01/29/romani-mobilities-in-europe-conference-proceedings-final-version/>

Zahova, Sofiya. 2011. “Influences de la tradition folklorique dans la littérature par des Roms sur les Balkans.” – In: *Études Tsiganes*. (forthcoming)

Zahova, Sofiya. 2011. ‘Ethnographic Studies on the Montenegrin Festive Costume as National Symbol’, in: *Folklore. Electronic Journal of Folklore*. ISSN 1406-0949 (forthcoming)