

Curriculum vitae

Name: BUHĂESCU-CIUCA

Surname: Ștefana

Nationality: Romanian

Educational level: PhD Candidate



Diploma/ Certificate	Institution	Specialization	Date
ECADOC Summer School 8th Edition	Edinburgh Napier University	European Doctoral Programme in Career Guidance and Counseling	June 2021
Postgraduate Degree	University of Oxford	Public Policy Economics	January – April 2020
Postgraduate Degree	Babeș Bolyai University	Applied methods in Social Research	June – July 2018
Professional Development Certification	Center for Credentials & Education – National Board of Certified Counselors Romania	Global Career Development Facilitator	January 2017 – June 2018
Postgraduate Degree	Pro Youth Association	Project Manager	September 2015
Postgraduate Degree	Pro Youth Association	Trainer	September 2015
PhD in Educational Sciences (with scholarship)	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences	Career development - Thesis: The role of social class and learning experiences in the career development of emerging adults	October 2020 – September 2023 (The PhD thesis has been submitted and will be presented soon)
Master's Degree	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences	Psychological assessment and intervention in the field of education	October 2016 – June 2018
Bachelor of Arts	University of Bucharest, Faculty of Psychology and Educational Sciences	Psychology	October 2013 – June 2016

Foreign languages:

Language	Reading	Speaking	Writing
English	1	1	1
French	3	4	4
Romanian	Native language		

Current position: Researcher

General experience: Technical assistance, MELD, and research specialist with experience in developing and improving programmes and policies using an evidence-based approach. Main areas of interest and expertise:

- Roles: policy and programme design; monitoring and evaluation; project management;
- Specific topics: extensive experience in education, social services and career development; also involved in projects in the field regional development and large infrastructure; interested in and learning about sustainable development.

Project Title	Short description of activities	Date	Tasks
Monitoring and evaluation of AVE's educational programs	Conducting M&E activities for the following projects: Edu Networks, Academy of Leadership and School Management; Human Kind	October 2021 - Present	Impact Assessment Specialist – MELD Coordinator Creating ToCs and Logframes Creating M&E frameworks Implementing impact evaluations, using quantitative and qualitative data collection and analysis Writing evaluation and progress reports
Developing and updating standardized testing instruments in the field of education	Developing two new standardized instruments: The competency standard for school principals and the social-emotional competency evaluation tool for students; Improving Brio – Reading Literacy evaluation instrument and Teacher capacity	October 2021 - Present	Impact Assessment Specialist – MELD Coordinator Conducting research activities in order to choose the best evaluation frameworks and solutions; Providing feedback on tools; Coordinating the experts involved in the development of the tools Coordinating the piloting and application of the instruments Analysing the results of the standardized evaluations.
Adaptive Social Protection for Disaster Risk Management	Analysis of the Social Protection and Disaster Risk Management Systems in Romania	July – September 2021	Short Term Consultant - Research Analyst Desk research Data analysis
Technical Assistance for the Monitoring and Evaluation systems of EU funds	Analysis of the M&E systems of the EU structural funds	December 2020 - June 2021; December 2022 – February 2023	Short Term Consultant - Research Analyst Desk research Data analysis Reviewing online surveys Writing theories of change
PhD Thesis: The role of social class and learning experiences in the career development of emerging adults	Four academic studies, out of which three were published	October 2020 - Present	PhD Researcher Conducting academic research and writing the following research papers: Buhăescu-Ciucă, Ș., & Ioniță, G. (2022). Exploring the career Development Process in the Case of Roma Students in Romania. <i>Journal of Pedagogy - Revista de Pedagogie</i> , LXX(2), 159–180. https://doi.org/10.26755/RevPed/2022.2/159 Buhăescu-Ciucă, Ș. (2023). The role of extracurricular activities, personality and social influences in the career exploration and decision-

			<p>making of twelfth-grade students. <i>Journal of Pedagogy - Revista de Pedagogie</i>, LXXI(1), 1–22. https://doi.org/10.26755/RevPed/2023.1/1</p> <p>Buhăescu-Ciucă, Ș. (2023). Career exploratory intentions and decidedness among students: a career self-management perspective. <i>Journal of Pedagogy - Revista de Pedagogie</i>, LXXI(1), 1–25. https://doi.org/10.26755/RevPed/2023.1/1</p> <p>A desk-based review on the policy design and evaluation of career counselling in the context of the European Social Fund (chapter in the PhD thesis, not published)</p>
<p>Assessment of the Socio-Economic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Children and their Families, with a focus on the vulnerable ones RFPS/ LRPS-2020-9161652. Client: UNICEF</p>	<p>Study on the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on children and families</p>	<p>December 2020 – January 2021</p>	<p>Researcher – data collection and analysis expert</p> <p>Desk research and literature review</p> <p>Defining the research methodology</p> <p>Defining the project management approach</p>
<p>Implementation of the Evaluation Plan for the Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020 - Evaluation of the HC OP interventions in the field of social inclusion</p>	<p>Evaluation of the interventions funded through Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013 and Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020 in the field of social inclusion in three evaluation studies</p>	<p>May 2020 – January 2021</p>	<p>Non-key Expert and Technical Responsible</p> <p>Carrying out research activities and actively involve stakeholders in the evaluation process: desk research, data collection (surveys, interviews, case studies), data analysis of programme indicators, literature review.</p> <p>Reconstructing the Theory of Change.</p> <p>Responsible for the technical coordination and quality assurance of deliverables</p> <p>Evaluator within KAI 2.2 - Prevention and correction of early school leaving</p>
<p>Studies on measuring the satisfaction of POCA beneficiaries regarding the support provided by the MA, as well as the awareness of potential beneficiaries regarding POCA</p>	<p>Two research studies, one regarding the satisfaction of POCA beneficiaries regarding the support provided by the MA and one about the level of awareness of potential beneficiaries about POCA interventions</p>	<p>January 2020 - – January 2021</p>	<p>Non-key expert</p> <p>Data analysis</p> <p>Quality assurance</p>
<p>Technical assistance for writing the future Interreg Romania-Bulgaria Programme for the period 2021-2027 (including the implementation of the environmental assessment procedure)</p>	<p>Technical assistance for writing the future Interreg operational programme Romania-Bulgaria</p>	<p>October 2019 - – January 2021</p>	<p>Non-key Expert for Programming</p> <p>Support for defining the programming methodology</p> <p>Research and technical assistance in order to write the Operational Programme (focusing on the Logic of Intervention)</p>
<p>Technical assistance for identifying strategic guidelines on national</p>	<p>Technical assistance for</p>	<p>October 2019 - –</p>	<p>Analyst</p> <p>Research and data analysis for writing the strategic guidelines on health and writing the</p>

investments supported by European funds and elaborating programming documents for the period 2021-2027	writing the future operational programmes	January 2021	Regional Operational Programmes (contributing to the logic of intervention, programme strategy and indicators)
Evaluation services of the main interventions foreseen under the priority axes of the POCA: Lot 3 - Financial assistance provided under SO 1.3 and SO 2.3	Evaluation of the interventions in the field of justice	October 2019	Analyst Designing the research methodology Data analysis Answering the evaluation questions Quality assurance
Implementation of the Evaluation Plan for the Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020 - Evaluation of the HC OP interventions in the field of education - involved two evaluation studies	Evaluation of the interventions funded through Sectoral Operational Programme Human Resources Development 2007-2013 and Human Capital Operational Programme 2014-2020 in the field of education in three evaluation studies	January 2019 - – January 2021	Non-key Evaluation Expert Designing the research methodology and creating the data collection instruments Literature review Data analysis of sectoral and programme indicators Interviews, focus groups and workshops with relevant stakeholders Case studies Writing the answers to the evaluation questions Evaluator for KAI 1.1 for HRDOP and Evaluation Themes 1 and 3 for HC OP
Impact evaluation of Regional Operational Programme 2007-2013 interventions Two Evaluation Studies, on KAI 3.2 (social services infrastructure) and KAI 3.4 (educational infrastructure)	The evaluations are part of the contract "Implementation of the ROP Evaluation Plan 2014-2020 - Impact assessment of ROP interventions 2007-2013", contract including 6 evaluation studies	January 2019 – July 2019	Evaluation expert Research activities and stakeholder's involvement: desk research, data analysis, documentary analysis and literature review; focus groups, interviews and case studies. Writing the answers to the evaluation questions, conclusions and recommendations
Implementation of the Evaluation Plan for the Large Infrastructure Operational Programme 2014-2020 - Evaluation of the LIOP interventions in the field of transport	Evaluation of OP interventions in the field of transport regarding its contribution to the specific objectives (gross and net effect), as well as other effects generated, by integrating the results at project level with the perceived impact at national level.	July 2018 - January 2021	Non-key Evaluation Expert Defining research methodology and related instruments Literature review and data analysis Interviews and focus groups with relevant stakeholders
Feasibility study on creating a business hub in Constanța	Elaboration of a feasibility study for setting up a business hub in Constanta County, by analysing the local context	July 2018	Analyst Analysis of relevant data and documents regarding the socio-economic context of the South-East Region and Constanta County

<p>Support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice of Romania in the areas of social benefits and social services Client: Ministry of Labour and Social Justice. Project implemented by EY, with experts from Civitta for Component 1 (Team Leader: Dragoş Pîslaru) and funded by the European Commission - Structural Reform Support Service (SRSS)</p>	<p>Component 1 refers to the design of a social audit model for Romania, based on art. 142 of the law no. 292/2011 of the social assistance.</p>	<p>March 2018 – December 2018</p>	<p>Non-key expert Research and public consultation activities: desk research, data analysis, presentation of best practice models, focus groups, workshops, public consultations via surveys, etc. Public policy design, including budget and implementation flow.</p>
<p>Evaluation of technical assistance provided by the Task Force for Greece (TFGR) 2011-2015 (SRSS / C2017)</p>	<p>Evaluation of TFGR interventions in Greece in order to formulate lessons learned for the activity of the Structural Reform Support Service</p>	<p>January 2018 - March 2018</p>	<p>Consultant Desk research and data analysis in order to reconstruct the Theory of Change</p>
<p>Study on the Economic Detriment to Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Arising from Unfair and Unbalanced Cloud Computing Contracts". Client: DG Justice and Consumers</p>	<p>Analysis of the problems generated by the cloud system contracts for SMEs in order to identify solutions</p>	<p>December 2017 - February 2018</p>	<p>Consultant Desk research and data analysis Contribution to the study report.</p>

Professional experience:

Date	Location	Organization	Role	Tasks
October 2021 - Present	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AVE – Asociatia pentru Valori in Educatie 	Impact Assessment Specialist / MELD Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating the Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Development activities; Tasks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Designing LogFrames, ToCs and M&E strategies; • Analyzing data and writing progress and evaluation reports; • Support for improving existing standardized tests (e.g. for Literacy) and creating new instruments (e.g. for evaluating the leadership skills of school principals); • Providing research expertise for advocacy and organizational strategy.
December 2020 - September 2021; December 2022 – February 2023	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The World Bank Group 	Short Term Consultant – Research Analyst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research activities for the following projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance for the Monitoring and Evaluation systems of EU funds. • Adaptive Social Protection for Disaster Risk Management.
April 2018 – January 2021	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civitta Strategy & Consulting 	Management Consultant and Project Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Writing technical offers, including methodologies, management sections and budgets • In charge of mentoring, coordinating and helping juniors and consultants in developing their research skills • Implementation of evaluation and technical assistance projects (including methodological design and organization of experts) • Involving stakeholders by organizing consultations and ensuring communication with them • Data collection and analysis • Writing evaluation and technical assistance reports/deliverables
June 2017 - March 2018	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ernst & Young Romania 	Junior Public Sector Consultant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting desk research, literature review and data analysis in order to rebuild the context, the Logic of Intervention and the Theory of Change for the European Structural and Investment Funds and other EU initiatives. • Providing support for defining the research methodology and the study activities. • Working on over 10 technical proposals and 3 projects (European Commission: DG ECFIN and DG JUST). • Main subjects: Human Capital, with focus on Education (e.g. Access to Education, Quality Assurance, VET, Life Long Learning, NEETs, covering most of the EU initiatives and institutions regarding this subject), Employment and Social Inclusion, but also SMEs, Transport and Technical Assistance

January 2017 - June 2017	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ernst & Young Romania 	Campus Recruiter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specific recruitment responsibilities: administration of psychological testing and assessment centres, evaluation of interviews, designing and implementing the communication strategy with the people involved in the process and coordination of the entire junior recruitment campaign.
November 2016 – December 2016	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> www.brio.ro 	Content Writer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> research about Romania Educational System, using especially the PISA and Educational Science Institute's reports; writing about Standardized Testing, National Exams and efficient learning. www.brio.ro
July 2016 - November 2016	Budești, Călărași	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teach for Romania 	School counsellor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graduate of the Leadership Summer Academy; Teaching practice in Românești - Potlogi, Dâmbovița; School counsellor in Budesti, Calarasi County: individual counselling, group counselling, vocational counselling, needs analysis, teaching Personal Development.
July 2015 - September 2015	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UEFISCDI - CNFIS 	Government Intern	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data collection and analysis in the field of Higher Education; Statistical analysis of data gathered for implementation of the financing methodology ; Writing sections for reports and working papers for CNFIS; Participating in discussions with ministers and ambassadors.
November 2014 – April 2015	Bucharest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romanian Youth Forum 	Volunteer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Responsible for recruiting and onboarding volunteers Organizing events in the field of youth policies
September 2010 - June 2013	Roman, Neamț	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asociația Mușatinii, Roman 	Volunteer/Project Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am among those who laid the foundations of the association, before it become the most important in the high school. Over time, I had several tasks: Volunteer for social and ecological causes Musatinii Newspaper (one of the most important projects for citizen journalism in Roman) - Editor Musatinii.net (historical publication) - Editor The "Living book" (theatre contes; book club) - Coordinator