

Bijan Kafi, M.A., Mag.

26 April 1975

Key Expertise

Specialist Information & Communication for Civil Society

Communications, network building, and liaison management, knowledge management, ICT for development, open technologies for civil society



Profile

I provide a combination of experience in communication for NGO's, government, and private actors including project leadership responsibility. In EU affairs I have worked in industrialized and developing countries. I have been previously employed as communications and media relations officer. While working for an acclaimed social entrepreneur in Cairo, I developed global liaisons. I have spoken on social media and trained NGOs in several countries while co-operating with major international organisations.

In 2008 I co-founded „The Right Livelihood College“, an international learning network for social entrepreneurs bringing together „Alternative Nobel Prize“ winners and development professionals. I have also been invited to the Tällberg Forum's New Leader Programme and have been selected as a young leader for the British Council's Network Effect Initiative.

In academic study I graduated with the first thesis on value-driven civil society development in the Middle East. My general focus was on international cooperation and individual empowerment. I complement academic education with special training in EU inter-institutional negotiation, advocacy, and extensive experience as a freelance journalist publishing my first book on media and society in 2000. My reporting on the Russian-Georgian war in 2008 using new media technologies to empower citizens has been featured in international and local newspapers. Articles on citizen empowerment have appeared in leading publications such as Die Zeit Online, OpenDemocracy, and with the Bertelsmann Foundation. I have spoken at new media-related events for organisations such as the British Council.

My personal assets include a highly organized, strategic and creative approach, excellent negotiation skills and meticulous attention to detail. Management skills involving substantial project responsibility complement my profile.

Professional Focus

I am fascinated by how individuals co-operate globally in groups and organisations to achieve common goals particularly through free technologies. I strive to strengthen individual initiatives through technologies and networks providing expertise to scale innovative social solutions.

Education

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

MA European Studies on Integration and Diversity ('Magna Cum Laude')

Civil society development, civic empowerment, social entrepreneurship in developing countries, international development

Three times #1 course rank

1st thesis on value-driven social entrepreneurship in the Middle East

University of Heidelberg

MA Language Studies, Political Philosophy,
Cultural Anthropology, Modern History

Communication theory, new media, knowledge management, journalism, ethics,
Europe, political philosophy

Thesis on knowledge generation through new media

Professional Experience

CIWI GmbH (Ulm)

Project Coordinator North Africa & Caucasus (2.2007-today)

EU project development; consulting on communication for civil society; social entrepreneurship; liaison management

EUVENTURES Consulting (Brussels)

Consultant Public Funding & Civil Society (9.2006-1.2007)

EU project development; consulting on communication for civil society; public relations

The Right Livelihood Award Foundation (Stockholm)

Co-Founder & Coordinator „The Right Livelihood College“ (9.2005-today)

EU project development, ethical development, and social entrepreneurship;
liaison management

SEKEM Development Foundation (Cairo)

Communications and Liaison Manager (6.2003-8.2005)

Public relations, liaison management, project development, NGO-to-Government relations, fundraising, policy research, representation to UN/EU, drafting civil society contributions to political decision making

Centre for eCompetence NRW

of the Ministry of School, Science & Research NRW (Hagen)

Editor - New Media Services and Public Policy (6.2002-4.2003)

EU policy research; dossiers and speeches; public policy marketing; media publications coordination; media relations; web project development and supervision; government-level event management

Freies Geistesleben & Urachhaus Publishers (Stuttgart)

Editor - New Media Services & Marketing (9.2000-12.2001)

New media production; marketing assistance

Languages

English	French	German	Deaf-Blind	Braille
excellent	good	native	excellent	good

Organisations

3plusX - The Young Sustainability Network, British Council Young Leaders alumnae, Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, AEGEE, International Young Professionals Foundation, Alumnae Lovanienses

Awards & Achievements

New Leaders Forum, Tällberg Forum 2009, Invitee, Sweden

Tällberg Forum 2009, Presenter „Nurturing Catalysts, Multipliers, and Accelerators for Social Change“, Sweden

The Network Effect Young Leaders Forum, British Council

Co-Founder, „The Right Livelihood College“, Sweden & Malaysia

Member of the Board, „The Right Livelihood College“, Sweden & Malaysia

Memberships

The Right Livelihood College, Member of the Steering Committee, Stockholm

Leisure

Writing, travel photography, running, playing cello, hiking, acting

Major Projects

Sep 2010	<p>Project Manager „The Right Livelihood College“ at the „30th Anniversary Conference of The Right Livelihood Award („Alternative Nobel Prize“)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed and co-managed project - Attracted € 40.000 in funding 	Project Manager	Germany, Sweden
Jan 2008- Jun 2009	<p>Project Manager in GTZ-funded civil society development project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Developed training programme in knowledge management for civil society organisations - Built capacities in technology-facilitated organisational management of CSOs - Attracted € 0.38 Mio. in funding 	Expert on Civil Society Development, Capacity Building	Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan
Jan 2007	<p>Technologies for Transparency in Organisational Development (EED)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built capacities in organisational management of CSOs (ICT for development) 	Capacity Building	DR Congo
Sep 2005- today	<p>The Right Livelihood College Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built collaborative network of global „Alternative Nobel Prize“ recipients, government agencies, and private partners 	Information & Communication	Sweden
Jun 2003- Nov 2004	<p>The SEKEM University Project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built global connections in higher education project development - Developed comprehensive communication and collaboration strategy - Attracted €0.5 Mio. in start-up funding 	Information & Communication	Egypt
2004	<p>Civil Society Advocacy and Liaising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Built liaisons between Egyptian and European NGOs within the EUROMED/ENP framework. 	Advocacy	Egypt
2004	<p>The 1st Egyptian Competitiveness Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lead coordination of collaboration of 8 authors on 250 page government report (NGO-drafted). 	Project Coordinator	Egypt
2004	<p>United Nations Global Compact (2003)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Represented major Egyptian NGOs at national negotiations. 	Representative	Egypt
2004	<p>Transparency International Egyptian Chapter (Transparency International)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Personal assistant to the implementing officer. 	Representative	Egypt, Kenya
2002	<p>New Media in Higher Education Congress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-organisation of a large-scale congress for the Ministry of Higher Education and Research (NRW) with 600 participants. 	Project Coordinator	Germany
2002	<p>Information system on blended learning in Europe</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implemented national web-based e-learning platform. 	Editor	Germany

2001	New Media Communication Design (2001) - Built customer magazine for German publishing house.	Editor in Chief	Germany
2000	Online Forum on Social Development and Society - Built and managed web-based forum on societal change.	Editor in Chief	Germany

Special and Voluntary Experience

Project Dialog 09 Participatory Democracy and Civic Engagement in Europe
 AEGEE Heidelberg European intercultural dialogue
 Web portal manager channelling initiatives in social, humanities
 EU web forum manager participatory website on EU cooperation
 Tutor on public speaking, writing, moderation
 Elderly care volunteer in social care for the elderly

Special Skills

Information technologies for civil society organisations, e.g. Web 2.0 for Development, story telling, SMS-based collaboration etc.
 Financial project management software, Office applications, project management, new media publishing, groupware

Special Training

EU inter-institutional negotiation seminar in European Law
 EU-NGO project development, budgeting & reporting training
 Germany-NGO project development, budgeting & reporting training
 EU Cooperation with Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Developing Countries training
 Project Development with the German Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung training
 Budgeting and Accounting for EU Development Projects training
 Corporate communications 2 years freelance in new media
 Media relations 2 internships of 4 months
 Freelance journalist on media and society
 Presentation and group moderation certified training
 Author of a book on media and society

Speeches & Papers

„Can Communicators Protect the Global Commons?“, Tällberg Forum, Sweden (2009)	Key Contributor & Workshop Speaker
„What is Media Competency?“, Forum Pre-Press Technologies & Media, Mainz (2000)	Speaker
SANGONET 2007 - Information and Communication Technologies for Civil Society Development, Johannesburg (2007)	Exhibitor
Jean-Monnet-Conference on Pan-Mediterranean Intercultural Understanding, Brussels (2005)	Participant
„The Network Effect Young Leaders Forum“, Moscow (2008)	Laureate & Participant

Foreign Work Experience

Germany, Belgium, Egypt, Kenya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Africa, Georgia, Malaysia, Armenia, Azerbaijan

Project & Cooperation Experience

European Union

MEDA, TEMPUS, INTERREG, YOUTH, URBACTII, NON-STATE ACTORS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES (ex 21.03.02)

Other

Public Private Partnerships, PROINNO EUROPE, BLE

GTZ; UNDP Global Compact; Inwent; DAAD; BMBF, BMZ projects