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Minerilor 85, office 307,
Cluj-Napoca, Romania

linkedin.com/in/melania-lese/

Skills

Leadership

Regulatory and legislative research

Project management

Research skills

Policy analysis and evaluation

Financial Management

Team spirit

Coordination

Grant Writing

Curiosity

Cross-sectoral policy coordination

Autonomy

Initiative

Languages

ROMANIAN (native speaker)

ENGLISH (fluent)

FRENCH (intermediate)

ITALIAN (beginner)

SPANISH (fluent)

Melania Lese

Executive Director

Dynamic and results-driven professional with a solid foundation in political science, law, and research. Proven track record in managing complex projects, delivering data-driven and institutional analyses, and contributing to academic publications & applied research. Specialized expertise in **energy policy, civil society, education, and human rights.** Passionate about driving meaningful change through rigorous research and strategic insight. Ready to contribute to initiatives that create real societal impact.

Work history

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 2021

Current

THE CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF DEMOCRACY NGO

The Center for the Study of Democracy

www.democracycenter.ro

ASSOCIATE LECTURER

October 2019

Current

College of Political, Administrative and

Communication Sciences, Babes-Bolyai University,

Cluj-Napoca

<http://stiintepolitice.fspac.ubbcluj.ro>

RESEARCH PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE FELLOW

October 2019

Current

Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies of

Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

PHD STUDENT, ASSOC. RESEARCH FELLOW

October 2019

Current

BBU, IN THE FIELD OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

AND COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE COLLEGE

OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, ADMINISTRATIVE

AND COMMUNICATION (FSPAC), BABES-BOLYAI

UNIVERSITY OF CLUJ (BBU), Cluj-Napoca

Doctoral dissertation approaches the Holocaust in Romania (1938-1945) from the perspective of the legislative acts & public policy.

<https://ishg.fspac.ubbcluj.ro/en>

RESEARCHER

January 2023

Current

Civil Society Research Center/Centru de Cercetare

pentru Societatea Civila, Cluj-Napoca

www.civicrosearch.center

PROJECT MANAGER	April 2023
	April 2024
Center for The Study of Democracy, Cluj-Napoca	
· IN ENERTOWN - ENERGY EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE URBAN LOCALITIES	
RESEARCHER	October 2021
	March 2023
EUKI _ Just Carbon Pricing Policies in Central and Eastern Europe	
DATA COLLECTION & RESEACHER TRAINER	April 2023
	April 2024
Fundatia pentru Dezvoltarea Societatii Civile (FDSQ), Cluj-Napoca	
· IN „ BUILDING CAPACITY FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT AND KNOWLEDGE ON CSOS ECOSYSTEM” PROJECT	
FINANCIAL OFFICER & ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER	June 2022
	Current
ROMANIAN ENERGY POVERTY OBSERVATORY	
Center for The Study of Democracy & European Climate Foundation	
RESEACHER (ENERGY POVERTY)	May 2022
	April 2023
Center for The Study of Democracy	
· IN DO IT SMARTER - AN AI-BASED MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL SYSTEM FOR ENERGY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN ROMANIA AND NORWAY	
RESEARCHER (ENERGY EFFICIENCY)	October 2020
	Current
ENCHANT - Horizon 2020	
· IN ENCHANT: ENERGY EFFICIENCY THROUGH BEHAVIOUR CHANGE TRANSITION STRATEGIES	
EUROPEAN COURT OF JUSTICE & THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT INTERNSHIP	October 2015
	October 2015
European Court of Justice & The European Parliament, Luxembourg	
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF ROMANIA INTERNSHIP	October 2014
	October 2016
Constitutional Court of Romania, Bucuresti	

● Education

MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE BUSINESS LAW

October 2016
September 2017

Faculty of Law, Babes-Bolyai University-
, Cluj-Napoca

MASTER'S DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

October 2015
July 2017

Faculty of Economics and Business Administration,
Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj-Napoca

LAW SCHOOL BACHELOR'S DEGREE

October 2012
July 2016

Faculty of Law, Babes-Bolyai University-
, Cluj-Napoca

DEGREE IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

October 2012
July 2015

Political Science, Administrative and Communication
(FSPAC), Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj (BBU)-
, Cluj-Napoca

● Publications

Fejes, Z.L, Radu, B.M, Angi, D, Leşe, M.A, Bartok, Sz., Bădescu, G. (2024) Civic Engagement Landscape Romania 2024, Research Center for Civil Society The study explored the relationship between the size and robustness of Romanian civil society, civic engagement and financial support from individual donors. The analysis looked at the regional disparities in civil society (8 developmental regions) and shows a close link between the level of civic engagement and the number of civic organizations in the country, indicating a mutually reinforcing relationship. It also showed that volunteering and small donations (e.g. 2-4 euro SMS donations) can be seen as a low-barrier gateway to greater civic engagement overall.

2024

Fejes, Z.L., Angi, D., Lese, M, Salaoru, A. & Badescu, G. (2023). Data, Research and Professionalization Needs of the Non-Governmental Sector in Romania, Center for the Study of Democracy Findings from the mixed-method evaluation of data, research, and professionalization needs of civil society organizations in Romania.	2023
Journal: Energy Research & Social Science, Public perception of energy policy in crisis. A netnographic study of social media platforms in Norway, Italy, and Romania – 2024 Write here the description...Anca Sinea, PhD, Maria Henriete Pozsar, PhD candidate; Stina M. H. Andreassen, M.A.; Giuseppe Carrus, Prof. Dr.; Melania Lese, PhD candidate; Lucia Liste, Dr.; Chiara-Massullo, Dr.; Maria Olariu, M.A.; Berit T. Nilsen, Dr.; Lorenza Tiberio, Dr. Manuscript Number: ERSS- D-24-00347	2024
Leşe Melania, Dodoşi Andreea, An Overview of the Antonescu Regime and the Holocaust Matter, Thought the Lens of Legislation and Press, Entrepreneurship and Research Conference: Digital Transformation, din 28-30 March 2022, Presa Universitară Clujeană, Cluj-Napoca, 2023, ISBN 978-606-37-1703-1	2024
Dodoşi, Andrea–Leşe, Melania, The contextualization of the Holocaust in Romania. Legislation, press, rule of law, and public policies. ME.DOK (MEDIA-ISTORIA PRESEI-COMUNICARE) [Cluj-Napoca], vol. XIV, no. 4, 2019, pp. 101-107. ISSN: 1842-2438. With abstracts in English and Romanian and bibliography. Indexed in the following international databases: CEEOL, Index Copernicus, ERIH+	2023
Leşe, M., Radu, B.M., Bădescu G., – Raport general cu privire la cadrul instituțional pentru învățarea pe tot parcursul vieții din România (Adult Learning ROSK) https://www.adultlearningproject.eu	2024

● CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

Beyond crisis/Beyond normal Conference; NTNU Norway Conference The conference acknowledged the necessity of looking past just technological solutions to explore living in fair and sustainable societies. It addressed challenging topics like societal organization, the challenge of moving away from fossil-fueled capitalism, handling controversies and trade-offs, and the meaning of justice	2023
Alter Europa Conference, by FSPub, Universitatea București International Conference on Alternative Models for European Integration “Interregnum Europe: Crisis, War and Alternative Futures”	2023
Entrepreneurship and Research Conference: Digital Transformation, Core FSPAC, UBB Entrepreneurship and Research Conference: Digital Transformation conference, organised by Centrul de Cercetare în Comunicare și Inovare Socială (CoRe – https://fspac.ubbcluj.ro/core/) and Centrul de Cercetări în Informatică economică, FSEGA, UBB.	2022