Curriculum Vitae



Vladimir Karaj

Nationality: Albanian

Phone: (+355) 682055453

Email: vkaraj2002@gmail.com | vladimir.karaj@birn.eu.com

Address: Rruga Pjetër Budi, P. Kontakt. H.3. Ap.3605 (55), 1003

Tirana, Albania

Professional Summary

I am a Tirana-based investigative journalist and editor for the Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Albania (BIRN Albania) with over 24 years of experience, focusing on deep-dive reporting. My work centers on organized crime, public corruption, human rights, illegal migration routes, environmental degradation, radicalization, and religious affairs. While primarily publishing on BIRN's *Reporter.al* and *Balkan Insight*, I co-author cross-border investigations for international outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Follow the Money*, *Mediapart*, *Vice*, *Beobachter*, and *Wyborcza*. Additionally, I have collaborated as a local expert for global media such as the BBC, *The Guardian*, *Foreign Policy*, *Der Spiegel*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Al Jazeera*. In 2024, I was awarded First Prize in the EU Awards for Best Investigative Journalism in Albania, and Second Prize in 2025.

Work Experience

Journalist / Editor | BIRN Albania, Tirana, Albania | *06/2017 – Present*

- Report on court, crime, and corruption, conducting complex cross-border investigations.
- Collaborations: *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Follow the Money*, *Mediapart*, *Vice*, *Beobachter*, *Wyborcza*.
- Fixed and collaborated with: BBC, *The Guardian*, *The Times*, *Foreign Policy*, *Der Spiegel*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Al Jazeera*.

External Lecturer | University of Tirana, Faculty of Journalism | *09/2020 – 07/2023*

- Taught investigative research methods and digital database utilization.

Editor & Journalist | Mapo Newspaper & Magazine | *06/2012 – 06/2017*

- Covered court, crime, and feature stories; editor and contributor for *Mapo* magazine.

Editor-in-Chief / Deputy Editor | Standard Newspaper | *10/2008 – 05/2012*

- Managed editorial staff and daily operations for the national newspaper.

Journalist | Shekulli, Panorama, Koha Jonë Newspapers | *10/2002 – 10/2008*

- Specialized in crime and court reporting.

Honors and Awards

- **First Prize**, EU Awards for Best Investigative Journalism in Albania (2024).
- **Second Prize**, EU Awards for Best Investigative Journalism in Albania (2025).

Education and Training

- **M.Sc. equivalent in Journalism** | University of Tirana, Faculty of History-Philology | *2004*
- **Professional Training** | Balkan Fellowship Program for Journalism Excellence (2014); Summer School of the Center for Investigative Journalism, London (2009).

Language Skills

- **Albanian:** Native | **English:** Advanced | **Italian:** Advanced | **German:** Upper-Intermediate

Technical Skills

- **Research:** Deep-dive investigation, corporate registry tracking, FOI requests, data analysis.
- **Digital:** Microsoft Office, Google Workspace, Social Media monitoring.