

Velina Tchakarova

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Education

PhD Candidate in Political Science and International Relations

University of Vienna, Vienna, Austria | Expected October 2025

Magistra Artium in Political Science and Political Science of South Asia

Ruprecht-Karls-University, Heidelberg, Germany | April 2003 – June 2006

Bachelor in Macroeconomics

University for National and World Economics, Sofia, Bulgaria | October 1999 – March 2003

Certifications & Advanced Training

Mastering Foresight: Scenario-Based Planning, George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Public Leadership (GW-CEPL) | 2024

Advanced Strategic Course Certificate, European Security and Defence College | September 2020 – February 2022

Certificate from Real World Risk Institute, led by Prof. Nassim Taleb | New York, September 2019

Professional Experience

Founder and Geopolitical Strategist

FACE For A Conscious Experience e.U., Vienna, Austria | Since 2023

Director & Board Member

Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), Vienna, Austria | 2018 – 2023

Instructor on International Relations

Vienna School of International Studies, Vienna, Austria | Since September 2024

Instructor on Geopolitical Systemic Risks and Global System Transformation

Real World Risk Institute, led by Prof. Nassim Taleb, New York | Between 2021-2023

Senior Research Fellow

Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy (AIES), Vienna, Austria | January 2012 – April 2018

Contributing Analyst

Wikistrat - The world's first crowdsourced consultancy, Washington D.C. | Between 2014-2018

Additional Roles & Contributions

- Member of the European Security Forum Network, Finland (since 2026)
- Scientific Advisory Board Member, European Alpbach Forum (since 2024).
- Advisory Board Member, Eastern Circles in Paris, France (since 2023).
- Visiting Fellow, Observer Research Foundation in Delhi, India (since 2023).
- Security and Strategy Board Member, Austrian Federal Ministry of Defence Science Commission (since 2022)
- Vienna Economic Forum Member (since 2022).
- Peer Board Member, Defence Horizon Journal (since 2021).

Participation as an independent expert in public commissions (Gas Diversification Commission 2024) and steering groups (Austrian Security Strategy in 2023) and various simulation games and close-door expert round tables on global affairs, security and defence.

Languages

- Bulgarian (Native)
- English (C2)
- German (C2)
- Russian (C1)
- Western Balkan languages (Croatian, Serbian, Bosnian, Slovenian - C1)
- Italian (A2)

- Spanish (A1)

Interests and Engagements

- Regular guest on international and Austrian TV, radio, and podcasts.
- Frequent speaker and academic lecturer worldwide.
- Swimming and tennis.
- Avid reader of books on international relations, diplomacy, and world history.