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ABOUT ME

Senior professional with 15y cross-sector experience across public, NGO and private sectors, specialising in policy development, governance, and public affairs. Proven track record advising senior decision-makers on emerging technology threats, strategic risk, and institutional oversight.

Iulian-Florentin Popa

Date of birth: 27/10/1986

Place of birth: Romania

Nationality: Romanian

CONTACT

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Chamber of Deputies, Romanian Parliament Bucharest, Romania

Advisor

[23/12/2024 – Current](#)

I provide advisory mainly on critical infrastructure, military mobility and dual-use infrastructure, while liaising with government agencies, industry stakeholders, and international organisations on these matters. These responsibilities are carried out in a delegated capacity starting March 24, 2025.

Advisor to the Vice-president of the Chamber of Deputies

[21/06/2023 – 20/12/2024](#)

I provided strategic counsel on legislative and political matters, conducting policy research and legislative analysis to support decision-making. I drafted and reviewed legislative proposals, amendments, and official statements while ensuring effective communication between parliamentary leadership, government institutions, and stakeholders. Additionally, provided counsel to support decision-making on national security and international relations matters. These responsibilities were carried out in a delegated capacity within internal structures.

Advisor

[14/10/2019 – 27/11/2019](#)

Provided advisory to the Committee Chair and members on transport, infrastructure and connectivity policy, including critical infrastructure protection, military mobility, and dual-use infrastructure

Ministry of Internal Affairs Bucharest, Romania

Ministerial Advisor

[04/01/2021 – 15/06/2023](#)

Provided advice, guidance, and support in specific areas of internal affairs and national security.

Babeş-Bolyai University Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Associate Lecturer

[25/10/2016 – 30/06/2026](#)

- Conducted courses and seminars on Cybersecurity Fundamentals and Cyberspace Governance
- Developed course materials, syllabi, and educational resources to enhance student learning
- Provided academic guidance and support to students to ensure their success
- Assessed students' performance through grading assignments and exams

Telekom Romania Mobile Communications Bucharest, Romania

Member of the Board of Directors

[17/12/2019 – 08/09/2021](#)

As a non-executive member of the Board of Directors (BoD), I oversaw the strategic planning process and supervised the decision-making of the

respective C-suite executives, aiding the company in establishing its long-term direction.

Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Communications Bucharest, Romania

Hon. Adviser to the Minister

25/11/2019 – 20/12/2020

Appointed by the ministerial order OMTIC 120/2019.

In this role, I delivered policy analysis and assisted senior management in the development of a 'security-first' approach prior to the rollout of a critical infrastructure (5G).

According to ministerial order OMTIC no. 3 from January 7, 2020, Annex 1, I was designated as a member of the institutional task-force at the time that was in charge to prepare Romania's bid to host the European Cybersecurity Competence Centre.

Blue Cyber Team Bucharest, Romania

Chief executive officer

26/10/2018 – 17/12/2019

Appointed as CEO with full management and representation powers upon the company's incorporation. Exercised executive management and legal representation responsibilities.

New Strategy Center Bucharest, Romania

Expert

01/09/2018 – 30/11/2019

- Identified and assessed emerging cybersecurity threats to provide analysis for policy decisions
- Drafted regular reports on national security threats within cyberspace
- Supported various policy decisions with in-depth analysis and recommendations
- Worked as a liaison for PatriotFest, the first national security innovation competition in Romania, facilitating collaboration between organizers, partner institutions, and participants to promote emerging technologies and strengthen civil-military cooperation in defense innovation.

Expert

01/03/2016 – 30/06/2017

As an associate expert I identified and assessed emerging technology (cybersecurity) threats and provided analysis for a better understanding of their impact on security. Drafted regular reports on these threats to support various policy decisions.

SIVCO Romania Bucharest, Romania

Business analyst

03/07/2017 – 03/01/2018

In this role, I contributed to the development and testing of a comprehensive Big Data solution designed to collect, process, and analyse various data sets. The solution aimed to uncover patterns, generate insights, and aid in decision-making processes through the use of data mining, big data, behavior analytics, and other advanced analytics and applied intelligence techniques.

Romanian Academy Research Institute for Artificial Intelligence “Mihai Drăgănescu” Bucharest, Romania

Intelligence analyst

19/04/2016 – 31/12/2016

As an intelligence analyst, I analysed and proposed policies related to cybersecurity and digital governance, identified gaps, assessed potential impact, and developed recommendations for improvements.

As a subject-matter expert, I conducted in-depth analysis of cybersecurity, AI, and digital governance policies to identify regulatory gaps. Also developed actionable recommendations for policy improvements to enhance digital governance frameworks.

I have acted as a Project 4 (P4) expert team member ("Information Safety – Cyber Protection, Intellectual Property Protection") within the Romanian Academy's flagship initiative *The Development Strategy of Romania for the Next 20 Years* (2016), contributing to the national cybersecurity component of the strategy.

“Mihai Viteazul” National Intelligence Academy, Romanian Intelligence Service (SRI) Bucharest, Romania

Associate Staff

02/2016 – 09/2016

Taught courses on competitive and strategic intelligence analysis, focusing on basic methodologies, tools, and case studies.

Provided academic guidance and support to students, helping them understand and apply the principles of intelligence analysis.

Co-administered final assessments to evaluate the students.

Babeş-Bolyai University, International Relations and Security Studies Doctoral School

Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Doctoral researcher

01/10/2012 – 30/10/2015

I publicly defended my thesis on October 30, 2015.

My thesis explores the complex interplay between the security and the governance of the contemporary cyberspace, adding several new interpretations to the cybersecurity dilemma and the "good governance of cyberspace" concepts.

Awarded „Summa cum laude”.

Current conceptual reflections of my PhD dissertation (chapter III) within the current EU Cyber Policy Frameworks:

- NIS2 Art. 21(1), "appropriate and proportionate" measures, all-hazards approach;
- Cyber Resilience Act 2024/2847, essential requirements proportionate to product risk; security-by-design;
- Cyber Solidarity Act 2025/38, ECAS, National Cyber Hub, Cross-Border Cyber Hubs, the EU Cybersecurity Reserve; common situational awareness; cybersecurity mutual assistance; building public-private cybersecurity synergies;
- NIS2, Art. 12, EU Vulnerability Database (EUVD), coordinated vulnerability disclosure and publication;
- Cyber Diplomacy Toolbox, sanction proliferation of hostile cyber capabilities;
- NIS2, Art. 21(2)(g) basic cyber hygiene practices and cybersecurity training; support the general uptake of cybersecurity training/ education;
- Advancing an open cyberspace through increased cooperation;

POPA IULIAN-FLORENTIN Individual Enterprise (Self-employed) Romania

Consultant (self-employed)

31/01/2011 – 05/12/2023

Delivered self-employed ICT consultancy services and related support activities, performed activities related to the basic security hardening and protection of endpoints, as well as preliminary vulnerability and attack surface Assessment (OpenVAS, HackerTarget).

CMI DRPF Romania

Database administrator

01/11/2011 – 31/01/2012

Managed and maintained the medical practice's patient database systems (SIUI), ensuring data integrity, availability, and secure processing of sensitive health records.

Database administrator

01/07/2010 – 31/07/2011

Managed and maintained the medical practice's patient database systems (SIUI), ensuring data integrity, availability, and secure processing of sensitive health records.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

20/11/2025 – 19/05/2026

IBM Cybersecurity Analyst IBM Skills Network

Technical curriculum covering: cybersecurity essentials, tools and attack vectors; operating systems and network security; database vulnerabilities; cybersecurity architecture; compliance frameworks, standards and regulations; penetration testing, threat hunting and cryptography; incident response and digital forensics; capstone project with real-world breach case studies; preparation aligned with CompTIA Security+ and CySA+; applications of generative AI in cybersecurity operations.

Credential verification: <https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/professional-cert/S1C1AR18BA40>

01/02/2022 – 18/02/2022

Operational Cyber Threat Intelligence NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (CCDCOE)

Certified e-learning module of the CCDCOE designed to bridge the technical and operational levels responsible for planning cyber activities. Curriculum: the cyber threat intelligence cycle; CTI sources and tools; actionable

intelligence and threat hunting; operational security (OPSEC); threat information sharing; and the design of a cyber threat intelligence programme. Target audience: J2/J3/J5/J6 staff, CERT/RRT members and cyber threat analysts. Completion certified by examination.

10/2020 – 10/2020

A Transatlantic Approach to Safe, Secure, and Innovative 5G Technology A Regional Project U.S. Department of State, International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP)

04/10/2010 – 30/10/2015 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Doctor of Philosophy Intl. Relations and Security Studies Doctoral School, Babeş-Bolyai University

The security and governance of contemporary cyberspace (*Summa cum laude*).

Level in EQF EQF level 8

2014 – 2014

Certificate of Completion NATO JADL- Allied Command Transformation (ACT)

Field of study Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

02/2014 – 03/2014 Bucharest, Romania

Certificate of Successful Completion Carol I National Defense University

Field covered: European Security and Defense Policy.

Skills covered: european security.

21/07/2012 – 05/08/2012

Certificate of Successful Completion International Institute for Political and Economic Studies

Field of study Conflict management, Political Philosophy, Political Economy | **National classification** Short Term

2010 – 2012 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Master of Arts Babeş-Bolyai University

Fields covered: National and International Security, Classified Information Management, European Security and Defense Policy.

Skills covered: open source intelligence analysis and reporting, security management, government.

Level in EQF EQF level 7

02/10/2006 – 30/06/2010 Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Bachelor of Science Technical University of Cluj-Napoca

Field of Study: Engineering.

Level in EQF EQF level 6

LANGUAGE SKILLS

MOTHER TONGUE(S): Română

Other language(s):

English

Listening C1

Reading C1

Writing C1

Spoken production C1

Spoken interaction C1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user; B1 and B2: Independent user; C1 and C2: Proficient user