

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Krasimir Simonski



📍 6 Gurko St., 1000 Sofia (Bulgaria)

☎ +359 877 096 969

✉ ksimonski@gmail.com

💬 Skype krassi_simonski

Nationality Bulgarian

WORK EXPERIENCE

24/06/2021–Present

Chairman

State e-Government Agency (Bulgaria)

Assuming overall responsibility for the Agency mission, management and operations.

01/01/2017–23/06/2021

Deputy Chairman

State e-Government Agency (Bulgaria)

The Agency has overall responsibility for the e-Government national ecosystem – development, management and coordination of key projects, system and data interoperability, network and information security, shared infrastructure and information resources, and legal environment.

- Assuming responsibility for the development and operations of the shared information resources of the e-Government in Bulgaria including:
 - e-Government Cloud;
 - State Administration Network;
 - National Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT);
- Developing national strategic documents and priorities in the area of cybersecurity, broadband, cloud computing, electronic government;
- Leading legislative and strategic development in network information security;
- Chairing the national cybersecurity situation room to coordinate response to cyber incidents with significant impact;
- Supervising the implementation of Next Generation Broadband Access projects;
- Managing a team of 400+ employees;
- Developing and operating communication infrastructure for the national security;
- Assuming overall responsibilities for the Cybersecurity during the Bulgarian Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January to July 2018, including:
 - Chairing the Horizontal Working Party on Cyber Issues in the Council of the European Union;
 - Chairing the EU Cybersecurity Cooperation Group established under the Directive on Network and Information Security during the BG Presidency;
 - Chairing the European Network of CSIRTs (NCIRTs);
 - Chairing the NAPAC Committee of the European Cybersecurity Organization (ECSO);
- Supervising the development and operation of a network of communication facilities for national security;

01/2013–31/12/2016

Executive Director

Executive Agency for ICT (a.k.a.ESMIS) (Bulgaria)

The Executive Agency for Electronic Communication Networks and Information Systems (ECNIS, a.k.a. ESMIS) develops, maintains, operates and manages the Common Electronic Communications Network of the State Administration and National Security. The Agency develops and manages Data Centers, Management Information Systems, built in implementation of ITC Projects.

- Assuming overall responsibility for the development and operations of the Agency;
- Managing a team of 536 staff members and annual budget of 10 mln. euro;
- Developing national strategic documents and priorities in the area of computer networks, cybersecurity, cloud computing, electronic government;
- Developing and maintaining the state administration network;
- Developing and implementing strategic projects on electronic government and broadband access;
- Developing and maintaining communication infrastructure for the national security;
- Establishing and supervising the national Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT);
- Supervising the Bulgarian Supercomputer Center;
- Developing and managing secured government data centers;

05/09/2007–09/10/2009

Deputy Chairman

State Agency for ICT (Bulgaria)

The State Agency for Information Technologies and Communications (SAITC) was established to support and develop the information society in Bulgaria.

The structure was split between communications and information technologies. As Deputy Chair for Information Technologies, the duties included:

- Developing and implementing the strategy and government policy on information technologies in Bulgaria including National IT Strategy, National Broadband Strategy, and others;
- Developing, coordinating and supervising nation-wide projects in IT including Internet Infrastructure, IT in research and education, e-Inclusion, e-Skills, IT business support;
- Representing Bulgaria in High-Level Groups of the European Commission on i2010, Internet, ENISA as well as chairing Bulgaria delegations in international meetings on IT development.

12/04/2012–02/2013

Project Manager

Operational Program for Regional Development of Bulgaria - 2007-2014, Sofia (Bulgaria)

Next Generation Access Broadband (NGA BB) project in rural areas of Bulgaria, funded by the Regional Fund for Bulgaria, aiming to connect NGA BB white and gray areas and demonstrate the power of connectivity for rural development.

- Developing the project proposal;
- Developing and negotiating a state-aid scheme with DG COMP for broadband investment;
- Managing a multidisciplinary team of 26 professionals;
- Managing a project budget of 20 mln. Euro;
- Developing and laying out 960 km optical infrastructure and connecting it to the State Administration Network;
- Fostering favorable environment for eGovernment services in rural areas by connecting the public

institutions in rural areas to state administration services;

- Supporting NGA BB services market;
- Introducing international standards in Cybersecurity;
- Building sustainability of the project through a life-cycle of 15 years;

05/2010–01/2013 **Chairman**

Bulgarian Research and Education Network (Bulgaria)

BREN is an NGO which deploys, develops, and operates the Bulgarian research and education network, providing access of the Bulgarian universities and research institutes to the pan-European and global research and education network GEANT through high performance information infrastructure.

- Assuming overall responsibility for the functioning of the organization;
- Assuming responsibility for the development and functioning of the academic Internet connectivity for Bulgarian universities, research institutions and schools;
- Introducing the latest Internet technologies to education including IPv6, access to supercomputers, student roaming services, cross-border dark-fiber connectivity, and others;
- Ensuring cybersecurity of the network operations and users;
- Representing BREN to the European projects and institutions including GEANT, DANTE, TERENA and others.

11/2011–01/2013 **Chairman**

Central and Eastern Europe Network - CEENET, Vienna (Austria)

Since its inception, Central and Eastern European Networking Association (CEENet) has played an essential and significant role in the creation, incubation and development of National Research and Education Networks (NRENs) in Central, Eastern, Southern Europe and Central Asia.

- Assuming responsibility for the management of the association;
- Chairing the meeting of the Management Committee and General Assembly;
- Managing the assets of the organization;
- Representing CEENet to other parties;
- Developing a database of NREN users in Central and Eastern Europe including Russia and CIS – 35 countries (Vietnam, Uganda, Afganistan too);
- Organizing cybersecurity training for research user communities in CIS countries;
- Leading a work-package for the CEENGINE Project

01/04/2004–07/09/2007 **Project Manager**

United Nations Development Program (Bulgaria)

This was a strategic project for Bulgaria, facilitating ICT and helping engender a positive attitude towards the benefits of information technology and its application to every-day activities

- Establishing and managing a network of 120 telecentres in the country plus one mobile telecentre bus;
- Building and managing a project team of 150 professionals and 400 instructors;

- Organizing training and tests of 65,000 civil servants in e-Skills;
- Organizing online testing for 50,000 state administration officers in anti-corruption;
- Developing a state-of-the-art web-based secure learning platform, online training content and distance learning methodology with more than 100,000 accounts in partnership with Microsoft;
- Providing secure tecentre services to over 1,000,000 users of telecentres;
- Managing an operational budget of over 6 mil. USD and other satellite project budgets totaling 10 mil. USD;
- Designing and implementing a project exit strategy for a smooth transition of the project to sustainability by a business plan and merge into a next project - "Chitalishta" funded by "Bill&Melinda Gates Foundation".

12/11/1991–30/11/2003

Chief Information Officer

American University in Bulgaria, Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria)

The first American-style, English language, liberal-art educational institution in Eastern Europe, the American University in Bulgaria (AUBG) is a unique cooperative venture established with the support of the U.S. and Bulgarian governments, the Open Society Institute, and the University of Maine. Faculty, administration and students come from 40 countries.

- Developing a fully integrated university IT system recognized as a model to other Bulgarian and foreign universities;
- Developing and enforcing the university ICT policies and procedures;
- Managing a multidisciplinary IT technology team – network, servers, user access, administrative computing, faculty computing, library, learning systems;
- Organizing and supervising cybersecurity system for the IT assets of the university;
- Advising the President and Board of Directors on the IT policy and projects;
- Teaching a Computer Networks course to senior Computer Science students;
- Achieving IT vocational training program break-even in 12 months;
- Establishing and managing Regional Cisco networking Academies, Microsoft IT Academy, CIO track curriculum, multimedia language courses;
- Developing a unique e-Reading Fundamentals course for English;
- Organizing and implementing training projects for unemployed, released military officers, minority leaders;
- Providing IT training for Kosovo students after the war in 2000 awarded by Cisco EMEA for best international project.

05/2010–01/2013

Lead Analyst - Europe

Phocuswright Inc. (United States)

Phocuswright is the travel industry research authority on how travelers, suppliers and intermediaries connect.

- Conducting a comprehensive study on the UK online travel market – 2016 actuals and forecast to 2020;
- Conducting a comprehensive study on the Russian and key Eastern European travel marketplaces, with a focus on online distribution and marketing;
- Delivering an in-depth understanding of Russia/Ukraine and Poland online travel markets with an overview of Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Greece and the Baltic Region (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania);

- Sizing the market and provide forecasts for the region and main markets (2010-2013): airline, hotel, car rental, package/tour, rail;
- Evaluating online strategies of suppliers, tour operators, online and offline intermediaries;
- Assessing travel planning and marketing of referral sites, metasearch, social media, travel guides, user-generated reviews;
- Reviewing enabling technologies, innovative companies and start-ups.

01/04/2011–01/2013

Chief Technology Officer

Prosveta Libri Publishing House, Sofia (Bulgaria)

Prosveta Libri is the largest publishing house for education leading in digitizing student textbooks and materials enriching them with interactive multimedia content.

- Managing the digitization technology processes of the company;
- Developing multimedia technology potential and resources;
- Managing the technical and design team of 8 professionals;
- Developing multimedia educational content and methodology;
- Supporting creative integration of educational content with multimedia technologies;
- Coordinating multimedia textbook content with authors;
- Monitoring the project deadlines and implementation processes;

01/04/2003–01/2013

Head of Project Management Office and Chief Operations Officer

TravelStoreMaker.com, Sofia (Bulgaria)

The company produced the first Internet booking engine outside the US for online travel reservations.

- Introducing project management processes in the company;
- Recognizing, developing, and spinning-off potential business lines – WebDesign, Search Engine Optimization, Social Media Optimization, Email Marketing; Business Processes Outsourcing;
- Chairing the Boards of new established spin-offs – assuming overall management to reach sustainability and growth;
- Recognizing Internet challenges and disturbers to the online travel industry;
- Introducing new business models such as home-based agents, sharing economy and others;
- Developing Business Plans and EU funded projects;

01/2011–01/2013

Managing Director

eCommerceAcademy.net, Sofia (Bulgaria)

The company organized conferences and seminars on travel trends.

- Organizing a creative team of speakers and innovative companies for conferences and webinars on online travel technologies;
- Assuming the overall organization and promotion of the first of its type conference in the region: “Trend&Innovations Travel Distribution Summit” – Nov. 3-5, 2010, March 15-17 2011, Sofia including “Space Travel Summit”;
- Establishing the first Skal Club in Bulgaria and becoming its first Executive Director;

- Organizing and moderating webinars on online travel technologies for travel companies.

10/2009–01/2013 **Freelance Consultant**

IT businesses in the following sectors:

- Information Security – Stochastic Cryptography Nano-technology – international projects: Russia, Macedonia, Albania (Keit Technologies);
- Telecommunications – Fiber-Optic technology projects in Macedonia and Albania (ITV-Net, FYR of Macedonia);
- Education – Introducing Learning Centric Environment in Bulgaria (Ministry of Education, Bulgaria);
- European Projects – B3 Regions: Board Member (iCentres Association, Bulgaria).

1984–1988 **IT Systems Developer**

Central Institute for Computer Technologies, Sofia (Bulgaria)

Leading National Research and Development Institute of Bulgaria.

- Developing printed circuit boards for IBM PC – XT/AT;
- Developing prototypes of embedded systems based on Motorola 6800 processor using wire-wrapped turret boards;
- Localizing drivers for mouse devices;
- Developing voice-generating adapters for IBM PC;
- Upgrading telephone PBX using EDA tools (Electronic Design Automation);
- Programming drivers in Assembler and C.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/02/1988–11/11/1991 **Ph.D. in Computer Networks**

EQF level 8

Bulgarian Academy of Sciences (Bulgaria)

Thesis Title: “Adaptive Voice Protocol for LANs”

The work included a research on the available models for voice communications over local area networks (LAN), such Ethernet, Token Ring, FDDI, and others. It presented an adaptive protocol for transmission of multiple voice channels in competitive LAN environment with mixed voice and data traffic. Empiric methods and simulation models were developed to prove the concept. Advanced recent solutions for Voice over IP currently deploy currently most of the techniques simulated and explored in the thesis.

09/1982–06/1987 **M.Sc. in Computer Sciences**

EQF level 7

Technical University of Sofia, Sofia (Bulgaria)

The courses followed the standard curricula of computer sciences with focus on software development and computer engineering.

09/1976–06/1980 **High School**

EQF level 4

Mathematical High School, Blagoevgrad (Bulgaria)

Standard high-school education with a focus on mathematics and programming in Fortran for mainframe IBM 360.

Completed with excellence in Mathematics with awards from school mathematical contests and Olympiads

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Bulgarian

Foreign language(s)

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Russian	C1	C2	B2	B2	A2
German	A1	A1	A1	A1	A1
Macedonian	C2	C1	B2	B1	A2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills

- Mature emotional intelligence built while in different roles of the professional cycle as manager, supervisor, leader, team member, technology expert, teacher, tutor, moderator, presenter and others;
- Ability to communicate clear and consistent messages to varied audiences and people in different stages of communication and relationships;
- Excellent presentation skills developed as teaching assistant and professor as well as lecturer to many events, conferences and seminars;
- Advanced negotiation skills trained in complex deals in the areas of main jobs - government, NGOs and business, demonstrated during the discussions in the Council Horizontal Working Party on cyber issues;
- Writing project proposals and requests for grants to secure funding and attract investments for IT projects of national and international scope;
- Language skills excelled during designing and teaching an innovative English language course for comprehending technical texts while shortening five times the time to reach intermediate level for reading skills only.

Organisational / managerial skills

- Developing a sustainable multi-stakeholder telecentre project ecosystem involving government, public institutions and private business;
- Designing, developing and integrating university computer and campus system;
- Managing multi-million project and agency capital and operational budgets;
- Writing and implementing different corporate policy manuals including user, new employee orientation, and company codes;
- Introducing project management and business process optimization discipline in academic, public and private organizations;
- Directing recruitment and retention of varied teams of different sizes - up to 600 supervisors and staff;
- Developing and implementing multi-layer professional development programs;
- Designing and operating management information system including project management modules;
- Developing and managing goal-oriented project teams of up to 400 full and part-time staff;
- Organizing a procurement system and supply chains for IT operations including outsourcing and

relations with suppliers.

Job-related skills *Agency Management*

- 8 years experience in Agency management, 4 of which as Executive Director with overall personal responsibility for the day-to-day operations and strategic leadership;
- Understanding the environment in which the Agency operates by writing and managing projects funded and monitored by the Agency such as the Project Telecenters and Next Generation Broadband Access;
- Working for a government NGO - Chair of Bulgarian Research and Education Network governed by a Board of three ministries and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

Business management

- Professional market analytical skills while researching the online travel business of Europe as lead market analyst for the world leader Phocuswright.com;
- Marketing skills with a focus on online marketing approaches developed through my management of spin-off companies in social marketing but overall in online travel business;
- Leadership skills demonstrated in project management when team members have to be motivated and turn positive to deployment of innovative and creative tools such as online training and management systems like the MS SharePoint portal or e-Reading Essentials course for Technical English.

Cybersecurity

- understanding the motivation behind joining efforts of different teams to react collectively against cyber attacks gained through the experience of organizing and chairing the national cybersecurity situational room;
- working and motivating cybersecurity experts with excellent technical but limited communication skills;
- working effectively under stress in case of escalating scales of cybersecurity reaction and needs to involve stakeholders demonstrated during attack against the Bulgarian elections in 2014.

Pioneering and Innovative Thinking

- Developing Internet programming course for Computer Science students in 1994;
- Using web technologies in class – 1994;
- Designed and managed Multimedia lab for research and development in 1995;
- Internet (since 1991) and Information Society (since 1997) Evangelist;
- Developed a course in e-Reading skills for non-English speakers - 2002
- First implementation in the country of: Digital PBX (1993), Structured Cabling (1992), Windows 2000 Server platform (2001), Windows and Java Terminal solutions (1999), Student Integrated System (1996), Library Automation System (1997).

Digital skills

SELF-ASSESSMENT				
Information processing	Communication	Content creation	Safety	Problem solving
Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user	Proficient user

Digital skills - Self-assessment grid

Cisco Networking Academy – CCNA and CCAI Certificates
 Microsoft MOUS Expert in Word, Excel and Power Point
 ECDL

IT Card certificates
CMMI Fundamentals
Project Management – PMI courses – Preparation for Certification

Driving licence B