

Josefina Sotomayor Jaramillo

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Chilean & Italian nationalities · Available to travel

PROFILE

Project and programme management professional with over 15 years of experience across international cooperation, culture, education and community-based initiatives, including large-scale global projects for UNESCO's Culture Sector and Higher Education Section. Experienced in planning, implementing and monitoring complex multi-stakeholder initiatives, coordinating institutional partners, and developing practical systems for project management, knowledge organisation and data-informed decision-making. Combines strong analytical capacity with a structured, detail-oriented and practical approach to coordination, bringing order to complex projects and ensuring that activities are implemented, partners remain coordinated and outputs are delivered carefully and efficiently. Extensive experience working remotely across countries and time zones in multicultural environments.

Key expertise: Project planning, implementation & monitoring · International & multi-stakeholder coordination · Conference & event management · Knowledge management & reporting · Policy research & analysis · Community engagement.

Areas of expertise: Cultural policy · Sustainable development · Social inclusion & equity · Community development · Education policy · Higher education · Vocational education & training · Social gerontology & active ageing · Intergenerational dialogue.

Languages: Spanish (native) · English C1 (IELTS) · French B2 (DELF) · Portuguese B2 · Italian B2 (Istituto Bertrand Russell di Padova).

Digital skills: Microsoft 365 · Excel (advanced) · Google Workspace · SharePoint · MS Project · Jira · Asana · Trello · Notion · Slack · Miro · Power BI · Tableau · Stata · SPSS · NVivo · ATLAS.ti · WordPress · Canva · Adobe Photoshop.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Consultant · [UNESCO Headquarters, Executive Office of the Culture Sector](#)

November 2024 – December 2025 · Remote, with on-site support in Paris, France; Madrid & Barcelona, Spain

- Designed and managed information and coordination systems to support the planning, implementation and monitoring of the third edition of the World Conference on Cultural Policies and Sustainable Development (MONDIACULT 2025), facilitating workflows across UNESCO, the Ministry of Culture of Spain, Member States, and venue and production partners.
- Led the end-to-end participant registration process for MONDIACULT 2025, managing over 2,500 participants from 163 countries, including ministers and representatives of intergovernmental organisations and civil society.
- Coordinated the design and implementation of the three-day MONDIACULT 2025 programme, including 20 ministerial sessions across six priority areas and two focus areas, and an extended programme of 195 side events.
- Co-designed UNESCO's youth engagement strategy for MONDIACULT 2025, contributing to the establishment of MondiaYouth and bringing together youth representatives from 34 countries to foster intergenerational dialogue on cultural policies.
- Supported regional consultations with Member States and the collection, review and systematisation of inputs for knowledge management processes, including over 300 contributions to MONDIACULT Digital Library.

Co-founder · [AgoraZul](#)

April 2024 – Present · Remote, organisation registered in Toronto, Canada

- Co-founded a consultancy and knowledge-sharing platform focused on social gerontology, social inclusion and community development, combining research and evidence generation with project management and consultancy services.
- Conduct comparative policy research and thematic mapping on active ageing, social inclusion and intergenerational dialogue, including a policy analysis currently under review for a Cedefop conference.
- Designed and developed the AgoraZul website and digital knowledge platform, which I currently manage alongside workflows, databases and internal systems for structuring research, resources, organisations and events.
- Complemented this work with relevant volunteer field experience supporting older and retired householders with sustainable gardening, land stewardship and household maintenance where age-related limitations had made independent upkeep more difficult: Sardinia & Piedmont, Italy (April 2026) · London & Somerset, United Kingdom (May & June 2026) · County Kerry, Ireland (July 2026).

Project Consultant · [UNESCO Headquarters, Section for Higher Education](#)

December 2021 – January 2024 · Remote, with on-site support in Paris, France & Barcelona, Spain

- Designed and managed information and coordination systems supporting the implementation and monitoring of the third edition of the World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022), facilitating collaboration across UNESCO, Member States, partner institutions and global stakeholders.
- Led the end-to-end participant registration process for WHEC2022, managing more than 14,000 registrations worldwide, with over 4,000 participants attending on-site and around 10,000 connecting online.
- Coordinated the development of the three-day WHEC2022 programme, comprising 115 on-site roundtables, HED Talks and workshops, 48 Speaker Corners and 66 official side events across 10 key themes, culminating in the adoption of the roadmap *Beyond Limits: New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education*.
- Co-led the WHEC2022 knowledge production strategy, coordinating evidence collection, expert contributions and analytical outputs supporting international dialogue on higher education policy.

Research Analyst · [UTEM – Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana](#)

December 2020 – September 2021 & May 2015 – August 2017 · Santiago, Chile

- Conducted institutional research during two periods at this Chilean public university with more than 8,000 students and 36,000 graduates, supporting management, strategic planning and institutional development.
- Co-designed and led SMET-UTEM, the University's Student and Graduate Monitoring System, and coordinated the IT team to develop its digital platform, overseeing data collection and analysis on employment outcomes and graduates' transitions into the labour market.
- Undertook research to support resource allocation and budgetary decision-making, including an institution-wide cost study by degree programme that integrated enrolment, teaching-space utilisation and financial data.
- Prepared and systematised evidence supporting UTEM's successful accreditation processes in 2016 and 2021, and contributed to the Institutional Management Modernisation Programme within the framework of the 2021–2025 Strategic Development Plan and the State Universities Strengthening Plan of Chile's Ministry of Education.

Trainee · Cedefop – European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training

October 2019 – October 2020 · Thessaloniki, Greece

- Contributed to the development and dissemination of evidence-based VET resources through the VET Toolkit for Tackling Early Leaving and the VET Knowledge Centre, supporting policymakers and practitioners in EU Member States.
- Supported the coordination of Cedefop's European network of Ambassadors tackling early leaving from VET and initiatives on teachers' and trainers' professional development, facilitating cross-country knowledge exchange and capacity building.
- Conducted policy research on early leaving from education and training during the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to a co-authored publication and institutional outputs on digital exclusion among VET learners at risk of early leaving across Europe.

Co-founder and Volunteer Director · NGO El Ayllu

October 2009 – March 2018 · Santiago, Chile

- Co-founded and directed the organisation for nearly a decade, reaching more than 100 students facing socioeconomic disadvantage through initiatives addressing educational inequalities, while overseeing programme design and delivery, community engagement and financial sustainability.
- Designed and coordinated tutoring, workshops, cultural activities, vocational guidance and higher education access support in collaboration with schools and community organisations, mobilising a network of more than 50 volunteers and developing internal processes for volunteer recruitment and management, programme planning and monitoring.
- Secured and managed public funding from Chile's Ministry of Social Development, overseeing implementation, monitoring, financial accountability and reporting, and developed partnerships with universities, municipalities and schools.

EDUCATION

Master in Education Policies for Global Development · GLOBED

September 2017 – September 2019 · Barcelona, Spain; Oslo, Norway; Gozo, Malta; Porto, Portugal

- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degree within the GLOBED consortium, coordinated by Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and including Universitetet i Oslo, Universiteit van Amsterdam and L-Università ta' Malta; study mobility at Universidade do Porto. Full scholarship recipient. Final average: 8.35/10.
- Thesis: *Higher Vocational Education and Training in Portugal: Perceptions of the TeSP*, supervised by Prof. António Magalhães and Prof. Amélia Veiga (CIPES, Universidade do Porto).
- Staff coordinator of the 46th Congress of the Nordic Educational Research Association (NERA), Universitetet i Oslo.
- Summer school: *Problematising Research in/for the Global-South: The Power/Knowledge Nexus*, L-Università ta' Malta.

Master in Public Policy · School of Economics and Business (FEN), Universidad de Chile

March 2014 – March 2016 · Santiago, Chile

- Final average: 6.2/7, graduating with highest distinction. Master's thesis grade: 7/7, the highest possible grade.
- Thesis: *Profitability of Higher Technical Education in Chile offered by the Technical Training Centres*, supervised by Prof. Juan Pablo Valenzuela (CIAE, Universidad de Chile), subsequently published as a co-authored, peer-reviewed article.
- Thesis awarded the 2016 Premio Tesis en Políticas Públicas Eugenio Lahera by Universidad de Chile, with sponsorship from ECLAC and the IDB, as the best thesis among public policy master's programmes across Latin America.

Bachelor of Science in Economics · School of Economics and Business (FEN), Universidad de Chile

March 2009 – December 2013 · Santiago, Chile

- Final average: 5.6/7, graduating with distinction; received FEN's Círculo de Excelencia Académica award, granted to students in the top 5% of their cohort, for four consecutive years (2009–2012).
- Teaching Assistant in five undergraduate economics courses, with repeated appointments in several courses.
- Research Assistant intern at CIAE – Centre for Advanced Research in Education, Universidad de Chile.

SELECTED RESEARCH & POLICY OUTPUTS

- **Conference abstract under review:** Kirkup, P. & Sotomayor, J. (2026). *Inclusion for all ages? Older learners and the future of inclusive VET in Europe – A comparative policy analysis with spotlights on migration and gender*. Abstract submitted to Cedefop's 2026 conference [The future of VET: A driver for excellence, competitiveness and inclusion](#); decision pending.
- **Institutional policy output (contributor):** UNESCO. (2022). [Beyond Limits: New Ways to Reinvent Higher Education](#). Roadmap for the 3rd World Higher Education Conference (WHEC2022). Contributed to the knowledge production process, including evidence collection, expert inputs and analytical coordination; UNESCO is the corporate author.
- **Published article:** Psifidou, I. & Sotomayor, J. (2020). [Brecha digital durante COVID-19 para estudiantes de FP en riesgo en Europa](#). *Boletín de la Sociedad Española de Educación Comparada*, 2020(2), 26–27.
- **Peer-reviewed article:** Sotomayor, J. & Valenzuela, J. P. (2018). *Rentabilidad de la educación superior técnica entregada por los Centros de Formación Técnica*. *Revista Estudios de Políticas Públicas*, 4(1), 120–133. [DOI: 10.5354/0719-6296.2018.50426](#).