

# DIANA KHAYYATA

Strategic Advisor · Governance Specialist · Humanitarian Advocate · Interim Manager

Noord Brabant, Netherlands | +31 6 31 78 33 09 | [diana.k@levantina-consulting.nl](mailto:diana.k@levantina-consulting.nl) | [levantina-consulting.nl](http://levantina-consulting.nl)

Arabic (native) · English (fluent) · Turkish (advanced) Dutch (B1) | [linkedin](#)

## PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Executive-level leader with 14+ years of experience in humanitarian advocacy, organisational management, governance, donor compliance, and high-stakes political coordination across the Syrian accountability landscape. Proven track record in leading teams, strengthening systems, managing multi-donor portfolios, and ensuring organisational integrity in politically sensitive and high-risk contexts. Syrian-born and Dutch-based, with deep understanding of the Syrian legal, political, and civic environment, combined with a strong commitment to feminist leadership, safeguarding, and women-led justice. Skilled in building coalitions, advising senior decision-makers, and ensuring strategic alignment across programmes, operations, and external engagement.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### Founder & Senior Advisor **Levantina Consulting**

April 2026 – Present · Netherlands · EU & MENA

Strategic advisory and interim management | Governance, conflict-sensitive programming, and stakeholder engagement

- Lead organisational strategy, governance structures, and advisory delivery for an independent consultancy serving international organisations, bilateral donors, INGOs, and government agencies.
- Oversee compliance, risk management, and operational systems ensuring transparency, accountability, and professional integrity across all client engagements.
- Design and facilitate stakeholder engagement processes, strategic workshops, and institutional development interventions in complex and fragile contexts.
- Direct external engagement, communications, and stakeholder relations, with a focus on MENA and conflict-affected environments. And building organisational policies, partnership frameworks, and safeguarding standards in line with international best practices.
- Co-Founder of Levantina Global (est. Feb 2025), a sister company focused on women-led ethical trade across the EU and MENA region.

### Senior Advocacy & Communications Officer **The White Helmets**

2022 – 2025 · The Hague

- Led high-stakes advocacy and political engagement with EU governments, foreign ministries, and international partners.
- Coordinated sensitive diplomatic missions, including the landmark visit to Sydnaia Prison and field visits to Douma chemical attack sites and detention centres.
- Ensured reputational protection and risk mitigation in politically sensitive environments.
- Developed strategic messaging, crisis communication frameworks, and evidence-based advocacy materials.
- Strengthened cross-team coordination and supervised communications workflows across multiple regions.

### Project Leader – Housing, Land & Property (HLP) Syria **PAX for Peace**

2022 – 2024 · Utrecht

- Managed a multi-partner consortium addressing HLP violations in Syria, ensuring alignment with donor commitments and organisational strategy.
- Oversaw donor compliance, reporting, audits, and financial tracking across a complex grant portfolio.
- Strengthened governance processes, internal communication flows, and risk management systems.
- Coordinated MEL processes, end-of-project evaluations, and evidence integrity standards.
- Facilitated collaboration among four consortium partners and external stakeholders.

### General Consultant **SyrProNet**

2021 – 2022 · Rotterdam

- Advised Syrian professionals and students on integration, education, and civic participation in the Netherlands.
- Led outreach, stakeholder engagement, and communication initiatives.
- Strengthened organisational visibility and partnership development.

## Public Speaker PAX

2017–2021 · Utrecht

- Delivered 55+ lectures to 11,700+ students across the Netherlands, promoting inclusion and understanding of refugee experiences.
- Represented Syrian civil society in public forums, media engagements, and educational events.

## Researcher & Lecturer Radboud University Nijmegen

2017–2018 · Nijmegen

- Conducted research on Syrian civil society and political developments.
- Delivered political science lectures based on fieldwork and academic analysis.

## Program Coordinator Creative Associates International – Syria Support Program

2014–2015 · Gaziantep

- Coordinated NGO capacity-building programmes, ensuring donor compliance and operational delivery.
- Managed logistics, cross-border operations, and partner engagement.
- Oversaw reporting, inventory tracking, and programme documentation.

## CEO Office Manager / Deputy CEO Assistance Coordination Unit (ACU)

2013–2014 · Gaziantep

- Served as Deputy CEO, supervising 160+ field staff and ensuring operational continuity.
- Managed MoUs, donor relations, and high-level coordination with local councils and international partners.
- Strengthened governance systems, reporting structures, and risk management processes.

## Call Center Representative Syriatel

2010–2012 · Aleppo

- Managed customer relations, issue resolution, and service quality reporting.

## EDUCATION

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<b>Pre-Master, International Law</b> – Utrecht University		2019 – 2021
<b>Multicultural Society Studies</b> – Utrecht University		2018
<b>Creative Business Program</b> – Knowmads Amsterdam Business Institute		2018
<b>B.A. English Literature</b> – University of Aleppo		2009 – 2012

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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<b>Peacebuilding Advocacy Training</b> – EPLO		2023
<b>SI Leader Lab – Leadership for SDG16</b> – Swedish Institute		2023

## CORE COMPETENCIES

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<b>Leadership</b>	Organisational governance · Strategic planning · Risk management · Feminist leadership
<b>Programmes</b>	Donor compliance · Multi-donor grant oversight · MEL · Evidence integrity · Programme design
<b>Advocacy</b>	High-level advocacy · EU & UN engagement · Crisis communication · Political analysis
<b>Operations</b>	Financial controls · Budgeting · HR compliance · Safeguarding · Policy development
<b>Facilitation</b>	Stakeholder engagement · Coalition-building · Multi-partner coordination
<b>Digital</b>	MS Office · SharePoint · Teams · Google Suite · CRM · ERP · SAP-style · OSIRIS