

SERES Silvija

Date of birth 28 June 1970
Nationality Norwegian (originally Hungarian and Yugoslavian)
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PROFILE Successful developer of international technology companies, with focus on commercialization. Investor and board member, working with majors and startups in IT, telco, media and energy. Leader of large geographically distributed organizations in consulting, marketing and services. MSC Computer Science (Oslo), MBA (INSEAD), PhD Mathematical Sciences (Oxford University). International profile, with five languages and extensive living and working experience worldwide.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2011 – present **Independent Investor and Board Member** **Oslo, Norway**
Several technology, telco, media and energy companies in internationalization or turnaround phase
Active Investor and Advisor
- Hands-on focus: Worked on digital strategies, sales growth and operational improvement.
- 2008 – 2011 **Microsoft** **Oslo, Norway**
4 years
The worldwide leader in IT software, services, and solutions, 93000 employees, USD 60B revenues
Director, Business Management (*joined through Microsoft's acquisition of Fast*)
- Operations: Managed integration, business operations and strategy for Fast services team.
 - Management: Supervised introduction of all new Microsoft processes and systems for a global Fast team of 350 people. Planned Fast services co-delivery with the worldwide Microsoft subsidiaries.
- 2004 – 2008 **Fast Search & Transfer** **Boston, US and Oslo, Norway**
4 years
International enterprise software company, 850 employees, USD 220M revenues
Vice President, Strategic Development (*started as Director, then Senior Director*)
- Management: Built one of the most widely recognized international teams in the company. Managed delivery of strategic consulting, more than 300 projects for Fortune 1000 companies worldwide.
 - Sales: Supported sales with focused strategic proposals at an average sales license of USD350K.
- Vice President, Product Marketing**
- PR and Marketing: Developed and executed product strategy and messaging for Fast, during a period of aggressive market growth. Co-managed Fast global conferences with 1000+ attendees.
 - Management: Built a new global team that delivered Fast positioning materials, and spoke at press and analyst briefings and major conferences. Published "Book of Search" and 20 whitepapers.
- Vice President, Services Strategic Development**
- Services delivery: Managed operations, with focus on efficiency and profitability for services team with 300 members. Coordinated new services development. Managed IP at Fast.
- 1997 - 2003 **Oxford University** **Oxford, UK**
6 years
Faculty of Mathematical Sciences and Magdalen College, one of the oldest Oxford colleges
Prize Fellow, Tutor and Lecturer
- Research: Wrote a PhD on Algorithm Optimization with applications in finance and bio-sciences. Published 15 papers at top scientific conferences. Worked on projects with world's leading scientists.
 - Teaching: Taught at undergraduate and graduate level, supervised master and PhD students.
- 2003 **Chinese Academy of Sciences** **Beijing, China**
3 months
The leading research centre in China
Visiting Researcher
- Mentoring and development: Helped set up an educational project with Oxford, supervised students.
- 2002 **Dar Al Hekma University** **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**
5 months
The first private university for women in Saudi Arabia
Assistant Professor and Programme Manager
- Mentoring and development: Helped set up a new department in Business Information Systems.
- 1999 **DEC/Compaq Systems Research Centre (DEC SRC)** **Palo Alto, USA**
3 months
DEC's research laboratory, at the time one of the leading computer science labs in the world
Visiting Researcher
- Research and development: Worked with teams behind AltaVista and other early Web technologies
- 1994 – 1996 **Skrivervik Data** **Oslo, Norway**
3 years
Scandinavian IT consortium
IT Consultant
- Software consulting: Created customer solutions with advanced software networks and IT security.

1996 - 1997
1 year
Norwegian Computing Centre **Oslo, Norway**
Norwegian industrial research laboratory
Scientific Researcher
• Software development: Developed software solutions for distributed systems and mobile agents.

EDUCATION

2003 **INSEAD, *MBA Program*** **France and Singapore**
Focus: Strategy and Innovation
1997 – 2001 **Oxford University, *PhD and MA in Mathematical Sciences* (Prize Fellow)** **Oxford, UK**
PhD thesis topic: Algebra of logic programming; supervisors Sir Tony Hoare and Prof Edsger Dijkstra
1989 – 1996 **University of Oslo, *MSc and BSc in Computer Science*** **Oslo, Norway**
MSc thesis topic: Verification techniques for large software systems
1977 – 1988 Primary school and secondary school in Yugoslavia **Novi Sad, Serbia**

LANGUAGES

Fluent Hungarian, English, Norwegian, Serbian
Functional French, Russian

BOARD EXPERIENCE

Current companies: Board member, member of audit committee **Nordea AB** (2015-present)
Board member **Academedia AB** (2015-present)
Board member **The North Alliance AS** (2014-present)
Board member **Enoro Holding AS** (2010-present)
Board member **Syncron AB** (2008-present)
Board member **Oslo Business Region AS** (2014-present)
Corporate assembly member, member of board nomination committee **Telenor ASA** (2011-present)

Past companies: Vice chairman, member of audit committee **Norsk Tipping AS** (2007-2015), Board member, member of compensation committee **Statkraft** (2010-2014), Board member in **Aschehoug** (2008-2014), **Opera Software** (2007-2009), **ProfDoc** (2007-2008), **Data Respons** (2010-2011), **Dagbladet Medialab** (2010-2012), **Integrasco** (2009-2011), **GeoKnowledge** (2008-2012), **Sonitor** (2011-2013), **FasterImaging** (2004-2013), **The Performance Group** (2011-2013), **MakingWaves** (2012-2014), **Norman ASA** (2010-2014), **Camo** (2010-2015), **Kezzler** (2011-2015), **Eidsiva Vekst** (2013-2015), **Buypass** (2013-2015), **ECC** (2010-2015).

Scientific boards: President **Norwegian Polytechnic Society**. Council member **The Norwegian Board of Technology** (2007-present), advising the Norwegian Parliament and Government on the digital transformation of law enforcement, education and health services. Expert evaluator for Energy and IT research projects at the **Norwegian Research Council**. Member of advisory council at **Sintef IKT**, board member at **Simula Research Laboratory AS**. Past: Board member Norwegian Research Council's Major Programs Verdikt and Høykom.

Other: Industrial advisor for private equity and venture capital on digital technology and energy areas (FSN Capital, Herkules Capital, CapMan, EQT, Clickstream Ventures, StartupLab). Executive investor at Alliance Venture Spring Funds, and investment committee at NoA. Mentor at StartupLab and other incubators, board member at StartupWeekend Norway. President Insead Alumni Norway. Board member Transparency International. Advisory council member Alarga. Advisory board member of the Talent Immigration group by Abelia and Oslo Chamber of Commerce. Advisor to the Serbian Government on gender equality at work. Advisor to the Norwegian Ministry of Culture focusing on new gaming opportunities in digital media. Member of committee for diversity in research at the Norwegian Ministry of Education. Selection committee member at Bloomberg Major Challenge, Oslo Innovation Prize and others.

OTHER EXPERIENCE Listed as one of 100 most inspiring international women in Norway (Utrop, 2013)
Voted one of top ten most influential women in technology in Norway (100-year Anniversary, 2013)
Voted one of ten best leadership talents in Norway (newspaper e24 2009)
Voted among 25 most promising young leaders (Økonomisk Rapport 2006)
Awarded Annual Innovation Prize by the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU, 2006)
Voted one of eight most influential international women in Norway (Top10 2004)
Won a Prize Fellowship at Magdalen College in competition with 200 PhDs from all fields (2001)
Presented at more than 50 conferences and seminars on strategy, innovation and technology

OTHER INTERESTS

Family: Married, with four children
Sports: Scuba diving (PADI Dive Master), rowing (Oxford blades, first place in Boston Marathon, coach), swimming (international level)
General: People, travel and photography (www.silvija.net)