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**Relevant professional activities and past achievements:** Recipient of the Austrian Chamber of Commerce's Health Research Award and the University of Innsbruck's Kanada Preis for Master Thesis, "Vaccination of Healthcare Workers: A comparison between Alberta, Canada and Tyrol, Austria". Co-founder of "Health Literacy Explorers" a platform for newcomers to the field of health literacy.

**Key words:** Medical communication, sociolinguistics, health policy, health professionals, vulnerable groups

**Pen portrait:** I am specialised in the fields of medical communication, applied sociolinguistics, health management and health policy. By working in various roles in public health-related projects I have developed strong project management skills. My research aims to contribute toward bridging the gap between science, politics and practice in order to improve the health literacy training and communication competencies for health professionals in Austria and Canada. The objective of my dissertation is to explore the recognition and acceptance of the concept of health literacy among health professionals in training in Austria and Canada in order to gain a clearer understanding of their sensitivity to the needs of vulnerable groups. By shedding light on the current challenges and shortcomings in communication training, my supervisors and I are hoping that our efforts will improve the quality of the co-production of health services, patient-centred care, interprofessional education and health outcomes.

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