Ilija Jerković has more than 10 years of experience in youth work and civic engagement of children and young people in non-formal education settings. Through his volunteering work in different youth networks, Ilija took on roles as a peer educator, facilitator, trainer and evaluator with particular focus on positive feedback and development. Ilija is passionate about creating safe spaces for children and upholding their rights within educational environments.

Between 2019 and 2023, Ilija was a project manager of the European Youth Parliament (EYP) flagship events where he coached and guided youth volunteers from eight different countries engaging more than 2000 young people with EU policies and active citizenship. During that time, Ilija also managed the project „Young Opinions on the Future of Europe“ in cooperation with the European Parliament, aimed at bridging the gap between European decision-makers and young people, as well as innovating ways of communicating to a new generation of young voters and citizens.

Currently, at Schwarzkopf Foundation Young Europe, Ilija is responsible for driving fundraising processes and coordinating partnership management in effort to rally resources and support for the vision of a Europe of openness, solidarity and democracy. In that capacity, Ilija builds coalitions with different partners and organisations at a European level, aimed to innovating youth work and providing more opportunities for active citizenship from the earliest age.