**Ilir Zherka**

**Executive Director**  
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Ilir Zherka is the Executive Director of the Alliance for International Exchange. The Alliance serves as the collective public policy voice for the exchange community. In addition to congressional advocacy, the Alliance organizes program impact reports, conducts media outreach, and hosts an annual public policy conference. Ilir has served as the head of three other organizations. He gained policy and political experience working on Capitol Hill, on presidential campaigns, and as a political appointee. He is the author of *Winning the Inside Game: The Handbook of Advocacy Strategies*. Ilir is a graduate of Cornell University and the University of Virginia School of Law.