

Support to Food Safety, Veterinary, and Phytosanitary Standards, Albania
(Contract: 2018/403-625)

Specialist Technical Advisor (Agriculture & Food)

Employer:	CBS Creative Business Solutions
Location:	Tirana
Duration:	At least 50% of time over 4-year period with possible fulltime appointment
Ref. Number:	1.1.1.2

Background

The Specialist Technical Advisor (Agriculture & Food) will work as a key member of the team implementing the 4-year European Union grant-funded project to support enhanced 'Food Safety, Veterinary and Phytosanitary' (FSVP) standards in Albania. The project is being implemented by an experienced international partnership led by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) and three Co-Applicants - the Irish Department (Ministry) of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the Finnish Food Authority and the local partner Creative Business Solutions (CBS). The Overall Objective of the project is *'To establish institutional and administrative capacities in line with the overall public administration reform agenda to ensure improved protection of human, animal and plant health, support agri-food industry competitiveness, enhance environmental protection and facilitate progress towards EU accession.'* The project will work to achieve three major results within the food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary system in Albania: (i) Organisational reform and strengthened human resource capacity; (ii) Public awareness and communication regarding food safety; (iii) EU *Acquis* adoption and strengthened policy implementation capacity.

As the national registered entity within the FSAI-led grant partnership, the successful candidate will be employed by CBS under Albanian national employment legislation.

General Scope of the Position

The Specialist Technical Advisor (Agriculture and Food) is expected to act as source of knowledge, information and background on the agri-food sector in Albania. The Advisor will provide guidance on the structure of the agri-food sector from producers, processors and distributors through to the food retail sector, trade, imports/exports and key commodities. Guidance on the geographical location of key production areas, crops, livestock, fruit and vegetable production systems, farm size, characteristics and areas will be provided, as will the level and availability of support services to primary and downstream actors in the value chain. Market, trade and distribution systems. A knowledge of key challenges in the agri-food sector, impediments to progress in areas related to food safety, veterinary and phytosanitary standards. This position requires a 'real-world' perspective on food, farming and agribusiness in Albania. Key drivers of the agri-food sector, the challenge from imported food, competitiveness and how this links to food standards, quality and safety will be required. A strong network of professional contacts across the agri-food sector and knowledge of the respective roles of the public, private sector and representative bodies in governance and development.

This action is funded by the European Union and is implemented by the Food Safety Authority of Ireland in partnership with the Irish Department of Agriculture, Food and The Marine, the Finnish Food Safety Authority and Creative Business Solutions (CBS), Albania.

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Duties & Responsibilities

- Working with the Team Leader, provides technical support in relation to all three project result areas;
- Helps gather information, data and knowledge relevant to food quality, safety and standards in Albania in support of project planning and implementation;
- Arrange and participate in site visits, project presentations and stakeholder meetings in Tirana and throughout Albania in both formal and informal settings;
- Support technical communication and coordination between the international partners, national and local agri-food stakeholders;
- Brief and orient incoming international experts on the agri-food sector in Albania, ensuring that maximum value is obtained from their mission;
- Keep the Team Leader briefed on events relevant to the project, anticipate opportunities for strengthened collaboration;
- Be receptive to feedback on project performance, stakeholder ideas and requests – providing this feedback to the Team Leader;
- Remain up-to-date on developments in the agri-food sector and ensure that the project is briefed on relevant matters at all times;
- Contribute to the preparation of project reports, technical publications and briefing notes.

Skills and Qualifications

- Degree in agriculture or food related discipline, a Masters degree is an advantage;
- At least 7 years of post-qualification experience in agriculture and food sector. Exposure to both public, private aspects of the agriculture sector;
- Proven knowledge of the agri-food sector in Albania from farmers and farming to food business operators, government administration and sector organisation/regulation;
- Strong professional networks and credibility;
- Excellent report writing, presentation and communication skills;
- Team player with professional integrity determined to get things right and able to work harmoniously with colleagues;
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills in Albanian and English language;

How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit a brief cover letter and a current resume before **22/02/2019** to info@cbs.al and include 'Technical Advisor (Agriculture and Food)' in the subject line. CBS recruits on an equal opportunities basis.

About Food Safety Authority of Ireland

The Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI) was established under the Food Safety Authority of Ireland Act, 1998. This Act was enacted in July 1998 and came into effect on 1st January 1999. The principal function of the Food Safety Authority of Ireland is to protect consumers by leading a collaborative food safety community to continuously raise food standards and create a culture of

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excellence. The Authority is a statutory, independent and science-based body, dedicated to protecting public health and consumer interests in the area of food safety and hygiene. It comes under the aegis of the Minister for Health. (www.fsai.ie)

About Finnish Food Authority

The Finnish Food Authority works for the good of humans, animals and plants, supports the vitality of the agricultural sector, and develops and maintains information systems. The Authority operates under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, and its head office is located in Seinäjoki. Authority employs almost one thousand experts and professionals in 20 locations. It promotes, monitors and studies the safety and quality of food; the health and wellbeing of animals; plant health; fertiliser products, animal feeds and plant protection products: (<https://www.ruokavirasto.fi/en/about-us/>)

About CBS

Creative Business Solutions (CBS) is a business consulting and project implementation organization. It implements development projects in Albania with a spill-over effect in the Western Balkans. CBS has established expertise in Agriculture, Access to Finance, Technology, Green Energy and Tourism etc. It employs more than 35 professionals through a head-office in Tirana and four local branches covering all geographic areas of Albania. CBS partners with international donors including USAID, Sweden, EU, and other international partners. (www.cbs.al)