

Call for Albanian Sustainable Tourism Professionals to Become GSTC Auditor

Call for Expression of Interest

Project Unit: RisiAlbania – Partner for Growth

Sector: Tourism

Location: Albania, Tirana

Estimated training duration: 20 April – 24 April 2024

Expected level of effort: ~ 5 days

1. Background of RisiAlbania project

The RisiAlbania Project (Risi) is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), in partnership with Ministry of Economy, Culture and Innovation, and implemented by a consortium consisting of HELVETAS Swiss Intercooperation and Partners Albania. The overall goal of the project is to contribute to an increase in employment opportunities for young women and men (age 15-29) in Albania. This goal will be achieved through:

- (i) Enhanced growth and job creation by the private sector in three selected subsectors agro business, tourism, and ICT,
- (ii) Improved access to job opportunities and labour market information and services (intermediation), and
- (iii) Improved skills of young people by improving the offer of private training providers in the three selected sectors (labour supply).

In the tourism sector, RisiAlbania is supporting the tourism actors to focus on sustainable tourism, following international standards and best practices, such as GSTC (Global Sustainable Tourism Council) sustainable tourism standards and certifications. One recent initiative involves providing assistance to Albanian experts interested in becoming GSTC-recognized Auditors. This support includes facilitating their participation in the GSTC Auditor Training scheduled in Stockholm from April 21 to 23, 2024 (<https://www.gstccouncil.org/auditor-training-stk-apr-2024-2/>).

2. Objective of the initiative

RISIAlbania is willing to support a limited number of Albanian experts who wish to participate in the GSTC Auditor Training in Stockholm on April 21-23, 2024, and take the exam to pass to the next phases for becoming GSTC-recognized Auditors, as outlined in the GSTC communication, in the GSTC Accreditation Manual (<https://www.gstccouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/Accreditation-Manual-for-HotelAccommodation-and-Tour-Operator-v.3.0..pdf>).

3. Expected outputs and Deliverables

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RISIAlbania expects interested experts to participate in the trainings and take the exam to complete the path outlined by GSTC. In the event of a failure on the first attempt of the exam (included in the participation cost), experts must commit to trying the second attempt at their own expense, as stipulated by GSTC.

The expert will ensure the timely provision of information to Risi about suggestions and problems regarding the organisation, issues, and any other relevant information.

4. Experts profile

The experts interested that will apply will be selected based on the following criteria:

| Selection criteria | Indicator <i>(in decreasing order, e.g. an applicant compliant with a d) level scores lower than one at a) level.</i> | Scores (100 total) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Knowledge on sustainable tourism standards and certification | a) Passed GSTC exam or any equivalent (certified in sustainable tourism standards & certification) - 25 b) Level of accomplished trainings in sustainable tourism standards (ex. GSTC trainings, or other equivalent activities) - 15 c) Current enrollment in training on sustainable tourism - 10 | 50 |
| 2. Practical experience in promotion of sustainable tourism | a) Applying principles of sustainable tourism in own company/organization - 20 b) Provision of (paid) services in sustainable tourism development – 10 c) Trainer or mentor paid by participants/ users -5 d) Proven results in promoting legislation, standards/ certifications and practices of sustainable tourism - 5 | 40 |
| 3. Readiness to cover partial costs | Readiness to partially bear training participation costs of the lodging and meals. Risi can support the training fee and the flights. | 10 |

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4. Management

For the duration of the contract, the consultant/s will report to the Risi Tourism Intervention Manager (IM).

5. Submission of the application

All interested applicants are required to provide information and/or documents related to the specified criteria mentioned above.

Additionally, applicants must clearly specify which part of the costs they intend to cover through their application. This information is crucial for the evaluation process.

The applicants will submit the information and documents, to the RisiAlbania, by email at info@risialbania.al, by March 3rd, 2024 (inclusive).

All communications must be in English and in written format.

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