

Tobi Gessler

**Professional in International
Cooperation & Development
and Social Work**



Current location:
Mail
Mobile Albania

Tirana, Albania, **available in the Balkans**
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Key overview

Master Degree in **International Cooperation & Development**
Expertise on **youth employment** and **social entrepreneurship**
(Social business / enterprises)
International experience, currently living and working (various
development projects) in Albania. Switzerland: **Several years
of work experience with NGOs and public institutions**
Multilingual, flexible, and available within short time

Professional experience

February 14 - current

Involvement as an **independent consultant in various
development projects** in Albania:
- Contributed to the drafting of a long-term development
program for a rural area with 4000 inhabitants near Tirana
(Komune Shengjergj)
- Connected various actors in cycling (Ecovolis, Go2 Albania,
Mountainbike Albania, Downhill Albania, Critical Mass Tirana) in
a working group, resulting in a demonstration with 200
participants calling for an improved situation for cyclists in
Tirana & Albania ("Critical Mass Tirana", 14.3.2014)
- Production of a feasibility study for a social business in the
capital city (bicycle messenger), including market & competitor
analysis, financial calculations, possible partners etc.
- Development of a volunteer project for free bicycle
maintenances („Ciclofficina“) in Tirana (including writing of
concept and fundraising (for tools/parts/consumables etc.))

September –
December 13

Swisscontact, Albania: Intern (as part of Master studies) with
"C4E Coaching for Employment", a project towards the labour
market insertion of vulnerable groups in Albania, implemented
on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and
Cooperation (SDC). Familiarized with the C4E-Coaching for
Employment Project as regards philosophy, approach, and
methodology, information about NGO and public partners,
training of coaches, progress and challenges with the
implementation of the coaching cycle.
Established personal relations with partner organisations,
coaches and participants, participated in and contributed to
training of coaches blocks 9-11.
Added value to project implementation through selected
Coaching of Coaches, contributed to conceptualizing and
developing of a tool kit for coaches and a Good Practice
Manual for potential partner organisations and donors.

- July 11 – September 12 Veloblitz cycle messenger, Zurich: Regular assignments as a messenger
- June 09 – May 11 (2 years) **HEKS, Swiss interchurch aid**, Zurich: Project staff/Social worker in an employment project for long term unemployed and asylum seekers. Responsible for project organization & implementation, including counseling & coaching of employees. Responsible for an intern during 6 months
- April 07 – May 09 (2 years) **Social department, City of Zurich**: Social worker, counseling of unemployed citizens. Survey of their potential prospects and possibilities for reintegration in employment. Compiling and giving presentations in front of large groups, leading coaching meetings, writing of qualification reports
- October 06 – May 07 Foundation Netzwerk, Restaurant „Konter“, Zurich: Social worker, guidance and instruction of unemployed young people
- December 02 – July 03 Midnight Basketball Switzerland, Uster Zurich: Project staff, responsible for the realization of new Midnight Basketball youth-projects in the cities of Schaffhausen and Chur
- May 01 – May 02 Foundation „Netzwerk“, Uster Zurich: Preliminary internship (before formal education as social worker) in various branches of the foundation: employment program, youth projects, housing assistance
- October 00 – April 01 Rediffusion AG, Zurich: Sales consultant consumer electronics

Education

- October 12 – January 14 University of Pavia (IT), Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori Pavia, Master Degree in International Cooperation and Development (International Master, lessons held in English, including an internship and completed with thesis about social businesses in Albania, available under [HTTPS://WWW.ACADEMIA.EDU/6439735/NEW_SOCIAL_BUSINESS_MODELS_IN_ALBANIA_FROM_DONOR_FUNDED_DEVELOPMENT_TO_INDEPENDENT_SOCIAL_BUSINESSES](https://www.academia.edu/6439735/New_Social_Business_Models_in_Albania_From_Donor_Funded_Development_to_Independent_Social_Businesses))
- October 10 – February 11 Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work: Qualification as a supervisor of interns (students) of Social Work (Certificate)
- July – November 05 Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work: Project Planning in Social Work (35 lessons, certificate)
- August 03 – July 06 Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work: Bachelor degree/Diploma in Social Work (completed with a thesis about a youth employment program (“Job Plus Zürich”))
- August 97 – August 00 Rediffusion AG, Meilen: Apprenticeship as a consumer electronics sales consultant

Languages
German, mother tongue
English, very good
French, good
Italian, average
Turkish, beginner
Albanian, beginner

Volunteering / further interests

January 13 Cooperation in planning & implementation (as speaker) of the seminary „*Political and Humanitarian Crisis in the Congo*“, University of Pavia (IT)

2001 – 2008 Responsible leader of a scouts group for mentally and/or physically handicapped kids & youth (“*Pfadi Trotz Allem*”)

2001-2012 Extensive travel & cultural experience, from Turkey(3x), Iran, Syria(2x), Lebanon, Nepal and the Western Balkans (Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Croatia, Montenegro)

Personal & further information

Nationality Swiss & UK (double citizenship)
Date of birth 27.10.1980
Driving license Valid Swiss driving license for cars & minibuses up to 3.5 tons

References Available upon request