

**Tobi Gessler**

**\*1980, CH / UK**

**Tirana (Albania)**

## **Professional activities in Albania**

- 2018 – current    **gutundgut gmbh, Zürich**  
Associate partner for Albania
- 2015 – current    **Ride Albania Mountain Biking**  
Creation of the sustainable tourism operator & consultancy company (legally registered in Albania).  
Up to today:
- imported 130`000 Euro from 190x European guests into rural Albania/Kosova
  - created 4x qualifying jobs for Albanian youth
  - coached & accompanied 2x start-up guesthouses in product development ("Guesthouse Hupi" & "Kulla Gjini")
  - promoted rural Albania as tourism destination in various media articles in European target markets and domestically
  - delivered various consultancies & trainings for sustainable tourism in Albania & Kosova (GIZ, Swisscontact, IUCN, VIS, CESVI & others)
- 2014 – 15        **World Vision, Albania**  
Project Manager for the EU funded grant "Strengthening the capacity of civil society to protect the rights of children with disabilities in Albania"
- 2013              **Swisscontact, Albania**  
Intern with "C4E Coaching for Employment", a project towards the labour market insertion of vulnerable groups (youth) in Albania, implemented on behalf of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)

## **Personal activities in Switzerland**

- 2009 – 11        **HEKS, Swiss interchurch aid, Zurich**  
Project coordinator/Social worker in an employment project for long term unemployed and asylum seekers ("Heks Rollt")
- 2007 – 09        **Social department, City of Zurich**  
Social worker, counselling of unemployed citizens. Survey of their potential prospects and possibilities for reintegration in employment.
- 2001 – 03        **Midnight Basketball Switzerland and Foundation Netzwerk, Uster Zurich**

Project staff responsible for the realization of new Midnight Basketball youth-projects in the cities of Schaffhausen & Chur

2000 – 01 Rediffusion AG, Zurich  
Sales consultant consumer electronics

## Education

University of Pavia (IT), Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori Pavia, Master Degree in International Cooperation & Development (completed with a thesis about social businesses in Albania) 2012 – 2014

Zurich University of Applied Sciences, School of Social Work: Bachelor degree in Social Work 2003 – 06

Rediffusion AG, Meilen: Apprenticeship as a consumer electronics sales consultant 1997 – 2000

## Participations & Involvements

Consultative board of Risi Albania / HELVETAS project 2018 – current

“Adventure Travel World Summit”, Tuscany Italy: Delegate for Albania (under the frame of the European RCC tourism project) 2018

“RIDE” international tourism congress, Chur Switzerland: Speaker/expert with the topic: “Mountain bike tourism for rural development – the example of Albania” 2017

## Publications

“New social business models in Albania: From donor funded development to independent social businesses” (Master thesis) 2013

## Languages

English second mother tongue  
German mother tongue  
Albanian intermediate  
Italian intermediate  
French intermediate

## Personal information

Nationality Swiss & UK (double citizenship)  
Residence Albanian residence permit for work & living  
Date of birth 27.10.1980