**Circular Economy Expert (National)**

**Role Description**

The Circular Economy Expert will provide specialized expertise in embedding circular economy principles across all project activities. The expert will ensure that innovative solutions proposed by SMEs, start-ups, and businesses in the HoReCa and plastic production sectors are environmentally sound, resource-efficient, and aligned with long-term sustainability goals. This role focuses on guiding businesses and stakeholders in rethinking production and consumption patterns, reducing single-use plastics (SUPs), and fostering systemic change toward circularity.

**Responsibilities**

The Expert will lead and oversee the following tasks:

* Provide strategic guidance on the development and implementation of circular economy strategies, including eco-design, prevention interventions, reuse and reduce initiatives, and resource efficiency practices.
* Advise businesses on reducing their dependence on single-use plastics (SUPs) by identifying sustainable material alternatives and promoting closed-loop solutions.
* Ensure policy alignment of proposed interventions with the EU Green Deal, the EU Plastics Strategy, namely the EU directive (EU 2019/904) and national waste reduction targets to foster regulatory compliance and long-term sustainability.
* Deliver tailored technical mentoring to Albanian SMEs to support the integration of circularity principles within their business models.
* Support companies in embedding circularity into procurement processes and business operations.

**Required qualifications, competencies, and experience**

* Minimum 5 years of professional experience in areas related to circular economy, waste management, resource efficiency, or sustainable production and consumption.
* Strong conceptual understanding of circular economy principles, life cycle assessment, sustainable value chains, and related environmental policies and frameworks.
* Proven ability to operationalize policy frameworks (such as the EU Green Deal, EU Plastics Strategy, and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) schemes) into practical, business-oriented solutions and interventions.
* Demonstrated experience in providing technical assistance or advisory services to businesses, SMEs, or public institutions on integrating circularity into operations, procurement, and value chains.
* Familiarity and knowledge of Albania’s national strategies on waste management, plastic reduction, integrated waste management law, and sustainable production would be an advantage.
* **Fluency in Albanian and excellent command of English (written and spoken).**