**Environmental Expert (National)**

**Role Description**

The Environmental Expert will ensure that all project interventions, business models, and pilot solutions are environmentally sound, aligned with sustainability standards, and contribute effectively to the systemic reduction of single-use plastics (SUPs). The expert will provide technical advice on environmental risks and benefits, integrate eco-criteria, including material sustainability, waste, and ecosystem protection, into the evaluation of proposals, and ensure ding material sustainability, waste and ecosystem protection into the evaluation of proposals, and provide measurable positive impacts on ecosystems, waste reduction, and resource efficiency.

**Responsibilities**

The Expert will be required to lead and oversee the following tasks:

* Provide technical expertise on SUP pollution impacts, waste management, and mitigation measures.
* Advise SMEs, such as HoReCa businesses, plastic producers, and other SUP users on eco-friendly practices, material substitutions, and resource efficiency.
* 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.
* Participate as an evaluator during the green hackathon business case selection and Demo Day. The expert will be responsible for assessing environmental soundness and feasibility.
* **Advise sustainability standards**, helping participants understand how their solutions can meet recognized environmental criteria and deliver measurable positive impacts.

**Required qualifications, competencies, and experience**

* At least **5 years of experience** in environmental management, waste management, or interventions to reduce plastic pollution.
* Ability to help businesses develop innovative solutions and reduce SUPs.
* The applicant should have an entrepreneurial mentality and be familiar with the obstacles and possibilities that come with starting new processes within a business.
* Familiarity with EU environmental policies, including the EU Green Deal, EU PlasticsStrategy, and Waste Framework Directive.
* Strong teamwork and communication skills
* Ability to communicate effectively with different stakeholders
* Fluency in Albanian and excellent written and spoken English.