






## PERSONAL INFORMATION



## MIRLINDA RUSI-GAJO

 Rr.Sami Frasheri, Tirana, Albania 1000  
 003554 2230445  00355 674067630  
 [rusilinda@hotmail.com](mailto:rusilinda@hotmail.com)  
 [www.qkzh.al](http://www.qkzh.al)

Female | 12/07/1965 | Albanian

Mirlinda Rusi, is an experienced Project Coordinator and Urban Economist with more than 30 years of experience in managing different projects and conducting surveys with social/economic impact on the society. Moreover, she is an Environment Expert with a 8-year experience conducting environment impact assessments and audit, certified from the Ministry of Environment on 2014 and licenced since 2020.

## POSITION

**Project Manager / Urban Economist / Licensed Environment Expert**  
**Member of the Board of Directors and Co-Founder of the NCDC (NGO) (since 2001)**  
**Administrator and Co-Founder of TECHNICAL PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT Sh.pk (2013 - 2016) (2016 - ongoing)**

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Extensive experience and skills in many aspects in areas related to project coordination and implementation. Working on projects with a focus on different and interrelated sectors such as territory analysis, formulation of strategies and programming, environmental impact assessments in a given territory or in a particular project focusing on the phased financial aspects of projects is a experience created over 30 years. Regional planning experiences and technical assistance programs at various levels (international, national, local), as well as recent social developments for a sustainable economy and environment are the innovations of the last 10 years gained from participating in regional project management (IPA) has given the consultant a broader perspective and training.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

March 2023 - present

**Environmental Expert / Project Manager / Urban Economist**  
 Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.  
 "Vlora Coastal Zone requalification project - Radhimë - Orikum, Lot 2+3"  
 Part of the EIA drafting group. Delivered and in implementation stage.

July 2019 - December 2022

**Environmental Expert / Project Manager / Urban Economist**  
 Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.  
 "Vlora Coastal Zone requalification project - Radhimë - Orikum, Lot 2+3"  
 Part of the EIA drafting group.

2020 - continuing

**Project Manager for the design of Manastir Resort**  
 Managing the design process and deliverables for a resort comprising of a five-star hotel and thematic villas inspired by the Italian vernacular town architectural theme (Positano).

October 2018 - March 2019

**Environmental Expert / Project Manager / Urban Economist**  
 Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.  
 "Vlora Coastal Zone requalification project - Radhime - Orikum, Lot I"  
 Part of the EIA drafting group.

May 2016 – October 2017

**Urban Economist / Project Coordinator**  
 Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.  
 Part of the working group in the project: Drafting of General Local Plans for 26 Municipalities - Project undertaken in May 2016 in cooperation with the company Dea studio sh.p.k for drafting General Local Plans for the Municipalities of Vlora, Himara, Saranda, Konispol. Part of the working group for drafting SEAs for each municipality.

April 2015 – November 2016

### Local experts for OSCE, Environmental Crime Protocol Establishment of Task Force for environmental crime in Albania

The purpose of this inter-institutional protocol with central institutions related to environmental damage monitoring (National Environment Agency, General Directorate of Customs, Agency for Protected Areas, Ministry of Public Health, Ministry of Justice, etc) is to facilitate cooperation permanent members of the task force that will lay the organizational legal basis for the fight against Environmental Crime in Albania (IGEC) and optimize the use of resources in the identification, investigation and prosecution of Environmental Crime in Albania.

This protocol covers two issues, firstly the need for joint operations between the permanent members of IGEC and secondly the dissemination of information and intelligence

November 2013 – 2014

### External Advisor of the EU Delegation, Tirana

One year service contract.

Policy Reporting on Territorial Administrative Reform of Local Government and Urban Planning.

Consulting. A one-year contract which included ongoing monitoring and reporting of the territorial administration reform process in Albania

September 2012 –  
December 2016

### Adriatic IPA Cross Border Cooperation Program 2007 - 2013 IPA Project 'SPEEDY'

Project Manager for Research and Development Centers

IPA CBC Program 2007-2013 (Project value 2.5 million euros)

Regional project with 9 Croatian, Greek partners, 4 Italian partners Regione Marche, Abruzzo etc, Qkzh represented Albania in the Joint Project for Strategic Environmental Assessment legal aspects and institutional development required by both EU and aspiring countries. Project (SPEEDY) in order to promote transnational cooperation and dissemination of best practices in the strategic environmental assessment procedure throughout the Adriatic. Through partner countries.

EU-funded program for territorial cooperation.

2012 - 2013

### Environmental Expert / Project Manager

Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.

Consulting support to the Municipality of Durrës in the preparation of the General Local Plan. Prepared by SEA co-authors Mirlinda Rusi, Paris Kokorotsikos, Emil Xhuvani.

July 2013 – 2014

### Environmental Expert / Project Manager

Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.

Preparation of the study of the General Local Plan of the Municipality of Centar (Vlora) with a special emphasis and orientation for the sustainable development of the area. SEA preparation.

October 2012

### Environmental Expert / Project Manager / Urban Economist

Technical Planning & Development Sh.p.k.

General Plan Municipality of Lushnje. SEA preparation

2011 – 2012

### Tourism and Economic Development Expert, NCDG

"Study of the Urban Plan of Himara and Priorities for Tourism Development"

Municipality of Himara

This is a joint project between a company specializing in City Planning and Architecture, TPA and a local NGO with experience in local government collaboration and CRD project management experiences. This consortium implemented the project with three goals, which consists of:

- 1- Implementation of local development plans in the Municipality of Himara by preparing a detailed technical and socio-economic study
- 2- Preparation of a detailed urban plan for the city of Himara
- 3- Modern development tourism. 8 experts worked in this project as key experts for Architecture and Urban Planner.

March 2011 - August 2012

### Consultant in the IPA funded project and in the project development UNDP / Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs

Adviser to the Minister on the VET training program, preparation of project summaries and funding schemes.

Consultation on EU funded programs

One year Service Contract

Policy Reporting and evaluator of Local Government Territorial Administrative Reform of 2014 where from 44 municipalities and 313 communes the territory of Albania redidived in 61 new Municipalities. Urban Planning Reform.

One year contract which involved continuous follow up and reporting on main problems and challenges which Territorial Reform passed until was approved July 2014 in Parliament. Following up first steps on implementations of planning and territorial cohesion main pillars.

### External Expert for drafting the Italy-Albania-Montenegro IPA II Cross-border Cooperation Program 2014-2020.

The assignement involved drafting of the Territorial Analysis of the eligible area for the CBC Programme referring to the thematic expertise on Environmental issues and Maritime Transport & Connectivity. As national expert I supported international experts on preparations and submission of presentations of the relevant sections of the CBC programme. Revision, updates and resubmission of the relevant sections until final approval of the deliverable by the Managing Authority.

### Contractor / Partner institution of IPA Project 'SPEEDY'

IPA CBC Program 2007-2013 ( Project value 2.5 mil Euro)

Project Manager for CRD / Country Coordinator for Albania in Shared Project for Environmental Evaluation with DYNAMIC governance (SPEEDY) aiming to promote transnational cooperation in environmental assessment across Adriatic space. EU financed program of territorial cooperation.

October 2012 - present

### Co-Founder of TP & Development Group / Project Manager / Urban Economist

Licensed consultancy firm in technical planning and development, environment and project design.

Project Manager and Urban Economist in a variety of successfully implemented projects including the "Review of Durres Municipality General Local Plan", "Preparation of the General Local Planning Instrument of Center Commune", "Preparation of draft General Local Plan of Ishem Commune (Gjiri i Lalzit)", "Preparation of the Detailed Urban Plan of Jala" in Himara Municipality and "Adjustment of the General Local Plan of Korca".

2011-2012

### Tourism and Economic Development Expert of TP & Development Group for project: "Study of the Urban Plan of Himara and Priorities for Tourism Development"

#### Municipality of Himara

It is a joint project between a Greek specialized Town Planner company and Architecture, TPA and a local NGO reached in experiences in local governance cooperation and project managements CRD. This consortium implemented the project with three goals, which consists in:

- 1- To carry out the Local Development Plans in Himara Municipality by preparing a detailed technical and socio economic study
- 2- To prepare a detailed Regulatory Urban Plan for the Himara City
- 3- Modern development tourism. In this project have worked 8 experts as key expert for Architecture and Urban Planner.

March 2011 - August 2012

### Advisor on IPA program financing and project development

UNDP / Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs

Advisor to Minister on VET training program, preparation of project fiches and financing schemes Consulting on EU financed programs

2008 – 2009

### Tourism and Economic Development Expert of CRD for project: "Tourism

## Development Plan for Commune of Petran"

### Municipality of Permet

This tourism development plan for the Petran commune was drafted under the project "Community Works III" funded by the Bank for Development of the Council of Europe (CEB) and implemented by the Albanian Development Fund. The strategy was prepared by the Center for Research and Development (CRD), the agency contracted for the preparation of this Tourism Development Plan by the Albanian Development Fund.

March 2001 - present

## Executive Director / Member of the Board of Trustees / Economist

Centre for Research and Development, Tirana / Social and Economic Research, NGO

Responsible for development of a large number of projects (more than 60) in the fields of social and economic research, regional / spatial planning and development, environment and local governance over the last 15 years. Many projects have been developed with support by several donor institutions such as World Bank, EU, UNDP, USAID, CoE, SOROS, UNICEF, US Embassy, ADA, Albanian Development Fund and others. Spectrum of projects encompass the following:

Social and economic development and research: studies of tourism in remote areas (such as Vjosa valley, Permet and Himara), survey of primary schools all over Albania (Reads program/UNICEF), opening of five regional youth employment offices (YES program/Unicef), analyzing obstacles for integration of youth in labour market, organizing student debate on EU affairs and integration, producing statistics of human development indexes for UNDP Human Development report, analysis of labour costs in South East Europe, market research for economic sectors and analysis of business climate for investments in Albania, preparation of business surveys, annual reports for SMEs.

Regional and spatial planning / environment: preparation of spatial and urban plans for five medium and big sized cities (Durrës, Korça, Lushnjë, Berat, Gjirokastër) funded by World Bank - project value 2.5 mil usd and coastal areas in Adriatic and Ionian sea (Himara, Qender/Vlora) and Ishëm (Durrës district), preparation of strategic environmental assessments for respective areas, strengthening capacities of Agency of Territorial Planning, programming of activities and organization of trainings.

Local governance / finance: comparative analysis of local budget revenues of selected municipalities at regional level, widen stakeholder participation in budget formulation at local level, tracking the decentralization process in education and increasing role of NPOs, analysis of donor presence in Albania, assessment of public opinion on corruption in universities, conduction of pre-election polling survey.

Main detailed tasks in above projects include project management and coordination, programming and working plan implementation, directing survey and data analysis, taking responsibilities for project communication and stakeholder engagement, public consultation, institutional capacity building.

2000 - 2002

### Research Assistant

Institute for European Studies, Research Directorate Central and Eastern Europe, Catholics University of Leuven, Belgium

Topic Research: Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe, from an Institutional and Economic Perspective

Social and Economic Research / EU Financed Programs

2000 - 2001

### Research Assistant

Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei, Milan, Italy

Topic research: Privatisation and Capital Market Development in Central and East European Countries

Social and Economic Research / EU Financed Programs

1995 - 1997

## Chief of Foreign Relations and Statistical Officer

National Commercial Bank of Albania

Developing and cooperating relations with foreign banks, developing new areas inside banks and products in line with contemporary developments. Monthly statistics and evidences for central bank.

1992 - 1995

### Statistical Officer

National Commercial Bank of Albania

Preparation of monthly statistics and evidences for the Central Bank.

Banking

1987 - 1991

## Chief of Control and Management Department

State Trade Company / Food and Beverage  
Control company performance in trade and other services activities  
Trade

## EDUCATION & TRAINING (main)

- 2009 **IOTA Program for senior experts on training issues for tax authorities in EU – Held in HQ**  
Budapest - Hungary
- 2008 **Training program on statistical indicators that measure poverty line in developing economies.**  
World Bank
- 2005 **Training program on the statistical methodology and analysis of Business and Consumer Survey in KOF**  
Institute of Researches and the Business Cycle, Zurich – Switzerland
- 1998-1999 **Master of Arts in European Studies (cum laude)**  
Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium  
Major fields of studies: Economics of European Integration, Constitution Law of the European Union, Financial Markets Integration, History of European Integration, and Integration and Disintegration in the European Economy during 1790-1990.  
Participation in the General Bank Chair on “Financial Markets in Europe – Changes and adjustments
- 1996 (6 months) **Postgraduate Studies course**  
University of Bologna, Italy  
Research project on Macroeconomics Effects in Economies in Transitions, Banking System during privatisation of State Owned Banks
- 1995 **Seminar in Enterprise restructuring and preparation of privatization**  
CEEPN Academy, Slovenia
- 1994 **Monetary International Operations, Guarantees, New Products**  
Training job at Dresdner Bank Frankfurt
- 1994 **Monetary Policy for Transition Countries (Macro-Indicators)**  
Training organized by IMF at JVI – Vienna
- 1983 - 1987 **B.A. Economics**  
University of Tirana

## PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s) Albanian

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Dutch	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Italian	C1	B1	C1	C1	B1

Communication skills	Excellent communication skills developed through my experience in collaborating with vast institutional actors and stakeholders and staging numerous trainings, seminars and public consultation sessions.
Organisational / managerial skills	Exceptional organizational and managerial skills and experience acquired through the development of large number of complex projects with international donor institutions involving coordination of multiple expert teams.
Job-related skills	Extensive experience and multifaceted skills in fields related with project coordination and workplan implementation, territorial analysis, strategy formulation and programming, capital investment planning developed through yearlong involvement with management of spatial / regional planning projects and programs of technical assistance at different levels (transnational, national, local) as well as social and economic research. Good knowledge of project geographical area as part of territorial cohesion policies and solid understanding of challenges of territorial administrative reform followed by a numerous implementation in Urban Planning level.
Computer skills	Good proficiency of Microsoft Office™ tools

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications	<p>Macroeconomics of Privatisation and the Response of Banking System, 1996. University of Bologna, Italy Research work financed by Phare ACE Programme 1994.</p> <p>The Impact of Financial Market Liberalisation in Albania Economy, 1999. Research work at K.U.Leuven Belgium</p> <p>Deregulation of Banking in Southern Europe, 1999. Research work at K.U. Leuven Belgium</p> <p>Money in the Process of Transformation: Lessons from Simmel Applied to the Case of Albania, (co-author with A. Gajo) in: "George Simmel's Philosophy of Money: a Centenary Appraisal, Jurgen G. Backhaus and Hand-Joachim Stadermann eds, Metropolis-Verlag, Marburg, 2000.</p> <p>SME Annual Report printed 2004 (co-author)</p> <p>The Analysis of Budget Revenues over the Years in Albania, 2006.</p> <p>Observatory of SME 2006 (co-author).</p> <p>"Promoting best practices experience on business and investment policies" translation in Albanian 2007.</p> <p>"Statistical Data on Women Entrepreneurs in Europe" (co-author), September 2014.</p>
Memberships	Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Committee of INSTAT Albania (2006-2009)