

CURRICULUM VITAE

FAMILY NAME: **KUKO**
FIRST NAME: **VALBONA**
DATE OF BIRTH: **23.05.1971**
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EDUCATION

- **Master on Business Administration.** University of Nebraska and University of Tirana, Faculty of Economic (2001-2003)
- **Degree on Marketing;** University of Tirana, Faculty of Economic (1989-1993)

WORKING EXPERIENCE

- **Prime Minister's Office, Tirana, Albania, October 2009 - Present**
Director of the Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination, responsible for the implementation of the Integrated Planning System, with the main role to monitor the implementation of the National Strategy for Development and Integration and ensuring the strategic planning of foreign assistance in Albania. Coordination of the overall process of long, medium and short term programming of donor's assistance through concluding Framework or Cooperation Agreement based to an effective coordination and monitoring system.
- **Prime Minister's Office, Tirana, Albania, October 2006 – October 2009**
Director of Aid Coordination Unit, at the Department for Strategy and Donor Coordination. Coordination of the overall process of long, medium and short term programming of donor's assistance through concluding Framework or Cooperation Agreement. Monitoring and evaluation of the donor's assistance effectiveness in Albania through issuing periodical reports on programmes and project implementation. Organisation of the donor-Government round table on aid coordination and implementation.
- **Ministry of European Integration May-October 2006**
Director, Directory of Institutional Support and Integration process. The main responsibilities has been the coordination and programming of the European Union Assistance in Albania through CARDS and IPA Programme, as regards national programmes as well as regional/Cross-Border cooperation Programmes. Other functions of the directory has been setting up the methodology of reporting system in relation to the Stabilisation and Association process requirements and communication and information with the targets groups as regards European integration process.
- **Ministry of European Integration, Tirana-Albania, January 2004-May 2006**
Director, Directory of European Integration, with the main responsibilities to monitor and coordinate the overall process of European Integration in Albania through: preparing the negotiations rounds of the Government of Albania for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement; drafting National Action Plans for implementation of Albanian's obligation in the Stabilisation and Association process; preparing periodical progress reports on the implementation of these obligations for the Government. European Commission services and EU Member States; coordination and programming of the European Union Assistance in Albania through CARDS and IPA

Programme, as regards national programmes as well as regional/Cross-Border cooperation Programmes.

- **Prime Minister Office/ Minister of State for European Integration, Tirana-Albania, October 2001- January 2004**

Director, Department of European Integration. Responsible for monitoring and coordinating the overall process of European Integration in Albania through: preparing the negotiations rounds of the Government of Albania for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement; drafting National Action Plans for implementation of Albanian's obligation in the Stabilisation and Association process; preparing periodical progress reports on the implementation of these obligations for the Government and European Commission services; preparing meetings of EU-Albania Joint structures such as Joint Committee, Working groups and Task Force; coordination and programming of the European Union Assistance in Albania through CARDS and IPA Programme, as regards national programmes as well as regional/Cross-Border cooperation Programmes.

- **Prime Minister Office, Tirana-Albania, November 2000-October 2001**

Advisor to the Prime Minister for European Affairs; provide advice to the prime minister for issues related to the Albanian and EU relations, on the European Integration process and requirements as well as issues related to the effectiveness of EU assistance to Albania. Advising Prime Minister on the Albanian Commitments and steps to be taken for preparing the country to negotiate the Stabilisation and association Agreement with EU, preparing EU-Albanian Joint Consultative Task force meeting.

- **Ministry of Economic Cooperation & Trade, Department of Aid Programming & Coordination, Tirana-Albania, November 1998-October 2000**

EU Assistance Coordinator, specialist for all issues related to programming, coordination and monitoring the implementation of the EU assistance for Albania PHARE programme. Preparation of Financing Agreement with EU for allocation of EU financing at the national priority sectors. Monitoring and evaluation of the effective implementation of EU financed projects through organizing donors-government round table, Sector Working Groups and producing periodical reports.

- **Council of Ministers, Institution for Development & Economic Cooperation, Tirana, 1997-1998**

EU Assistance Coordinator, specialist for all issues related to programming, coordination and monitoring the implementation of the EU assistance for Albania PHARE programme. Preparation of Financing Agreement with EU for allocation of EU financing at the national priority sectors. Monitoring and evaluation of the effective implementation of EU financed projects through organizing donors-government sectoral round table and producing periodical reports.

- **Council of Ministers, Department of Economic Development and Foreign Aid Coordination, Tirana, August 1994- 1997**

EU Assistance Coordinator, specialist for all issues related to programming, coordination and monitoring the implementation of the EU assistance for Albania PHARE programme. Preparation of Financing Agreement with EU for allocation of EU financing at the national priority sectors. Monitoring and evaluation of the effective implementation of EU financed projects through organizing donors-government sectoral round table and producing periodical reports.

KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

- **European Commission, Directorate General IA, External Political Relations, Brussels, September – December, 1995, Internship**

TRAINING

- **Maastricht School of Management, March 2005, Netherlands, Training on Capacity Building for Effective Policy Formulation and Implementation in the framework of European Integration.**
- **Institute for European Studies, Spain (Madrid), February 2003 & December 2004 Course on European Integration**
- **Centre of Excellence in Finance (CEF), Ljubljana, Slovenia, October 2004, workshop on: Tapping EU Funds for Economic and Social Development.**
- **UNDP, Brussels, March 2000, Guidance on Programme/ project planning, formulation and implementation**
- **University of Bradford, Development & Project Planning Centre, February 1999, Tirana “Course on Logical Frameworks”**
- **Ministry of Economy of Greece, Athens, September-October 1998, Seminar on Public Investment Programming & Privatizations Management**
- **University of Bradford, Development & Project Planning Centre, November 1998, Macedonia, Management of the Project Cycle & Public Investment Development & Project.**
- **University of Bradford, Development & Project Planning Centre, May 1998, Macedonia, Team Building and Management Skills Development**
- **Foundation “Giordano Dell’Amore”, Italy, July-August 1996, Medium-Term Economic Programming and Project Financing**
- **BCEOM Consultant Company, Tirana, March 1996, PHARE Environmental Regional Programme**

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCES:

2004- Continuing: *Trainer; Albanian Training Institute of Public Administration; Subject:* Stabilisation and Association Process of Albania; Experiences and Lessons learned; negotiations for the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Albania and EU;

2004-2005; *Lecture; Diplomatic Academy; Albanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Subject:* Albanian Institutional Framework for Managing the European Integration Process;

LANGUAGES

- Albanian (Native), English (Fluent), Italian (Good), French (basic)