



HATIXHE BILIBASHI

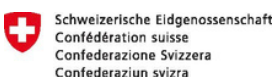
***Started as a startup founder,
now an experienced
entrepreneur!***

***The first ICT center in Albania for
children***

Hatixhe Bilibashi was a 32-year-old from Tirana when she indulged in her passion for technology 10 years ago with some modest initiatives for the time. She is the initiator of Albanian ICT Academy, the first ICT center established in Albania for children. Hatixhe recalls how everything began as a startup, through a close collaboration with RisiAlbania, and how each year that followed, she managed to take bigger steps in the further development of her venture.



A project by Swiss Agency
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In 2018, "Business Strategy" was the project that received maximum support to be consolidated in the future. Albanian ICT Academy showed sustainable development in the Albanian market. The project was finalized with the development of the Marketing Strategy, the Labor Market Research in the field of ICT and as a result of this study, new vocational curricula were developed in the "Ready to Work" category, where everything was perfectly implemented in line with the labor market needs.

The 2019 project is "Girls in ICT", which aimed to train girls from marginalized groups by offering ICT courses and supporting them towards employment. Through this project, girls from the SOS Village and other vulnerable groups were trained, in collaboration with the Municipality of Tirana, where almost 85% of them were placed in jobs.

Another accomplishment of this project is the consolidation of the Non-Profit Organization "STEM Hub" with the aim of supporting the employment of girls and women in the field of ICT and STEM. The 2024 project was implemented within the framework of the International Day of Girls in ICT and, for this purpose, the "Leadership" Hackathon was held on April 26, 2024 with the participation of 50 girls from all over Albania followed with the support provided to the winning groups with training in the "Ready to Work" category.

The projects in which Hatixhe participated continuously for several years helped increase the capacities of the Albanian ICT Academy, develop innovative curricula to match the labor market demand, and ensure the sustainability of the venture in a shorter time. But the fact that Albanian ICT Academy implemented several projects with RisiAlbania is proof of continued successful cooperation, and Hatixhe still today states:

"I am open to any new projects and partnerships with RisiAlbania. My expectations were met and exceeded by these collaborations."

Today, Albanian ICT Academy is a high-potential training provider in ICT, and in collaboration with RisiAlbania has introduced new in-demand courses, aiming to train and employ more students in close cooperation with employers.

Albanian ICT Academy has become an inspiration for other training providers to improve and tailor their training offer to the needs of marginalized groups. As the first center of its kind in Albania, it offers quality, professionalism and advanced training in the field of ICT for children, designed to serve school-age students with opportunities to develop their talent in software development and robotics, as well as for professionals following the "Ready to Work" model.

Albanian ICT Academy, in collaboration with RisiAlbania, strengthened employment intermediation, in addition to providing opportunities for all enthusiasts to increase their knowledge by making laboratories with innovative technologies available to them today.



How did Hatixhe find out about these projects that transformed her into an experienced entrepreneur?

"I found out from social media contacts and attended the interviews conducted by experts commissioned by RisiAlbania for the project. Since a few years ago the ICT field was not very well known, my goal was to support the development and consolidation of my venture", says Hatixhe. According to her, it all led to her business growth, an increased number of young people trained and the establishment of an NGO called "STEM Hub".

