

Summary of Experience and Qualifications

Dr. Gerhard ZECHNER

Gerhard Zechner is in the last year serving in Afghanistan as Chief of Party with Roots of Peace for USAID, USDA, EC, WORLD BANK and ASIAN BANK projects in the agriculture and forestry value chain section.



Before he was as Senior Consultant with the Deloitte Consulting LLP in Cyprus operating as Senior Technical Advisor/Agri-business Team Leader for the Economic Development and Growth for Enterprises (EDGE) project, which was funded by USAID. In his role as team leader, Mr. Zechner was responsible for developing EU harmonization strategies and supporting other sectors, including manufacturing, alternative energy development, forestry and tourism. He managed more than 60 Agribusiness companies under Firm Level Assistance contracts and was preparing them for trading in international markets. In addition, Mr. Zechner and his team established an agriculture and forestry extension service office which deals with all Agri-business related topics and provides fee-based services to clients and entrepreneurs to enhance the forestry and agriculture sector in Cyprus. He also assisted the office in becoming a sustainable business service provider. He also worked with the agriculture authorities, agriculture related chambers, business associations and NGOs as part of the capacity building initiatives. Mr. Zechner has also implemented GLOBALGAP standards with 32 export-oriented Agri-business partners and has initiated the implementation of all other international standards for production and export.

Prior to his current engagement, Mr. Zechner served as Technical Advisor and Project Manager for the Agriculture, Environment, Forestry, Veterinary, Public Health and Animal Health Projects of the UNDP/UNOPS Program in Cyprus. In that capacity, Mr. Zechner established a bi-communal Advisory Group for the improvement of the dairy industry in Cyprus and transformed the Advisory Group into an autonomous and sustainable working group, responsible for the design and implementation of program related projects. He also established a Veterinary and Environmental Training Facility for Cyprus, in combination with a Strategic Action Program.

In the Public and Animal Health Section he led the bi-communal projects and achieved the first cooperation on technical issues between the Greek – and Turkish Cypriot authorities since 1972. He designed, implemented and monitored the bi-communal Malaria program and cooperated on this issue with WHO.

Based on his expertise as a Disaster Relieve Expert and Security Manager in international missions he was selected to work as liaison officer in several peace keeping missions and was responsible for food safety and food security in several UN missions he served.