



MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 15, 2020

TO: USAID/Albania Country Representative, Mikaela Meredith

FROM: USAID OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe (ME/EE) Regional Office, USDH NFA Coordinator, Abdoulaye Gueye /s/

SUBJECT: Audit of the Fund Accountability Statement of Creative Business Solutions, Under Multiple Awards in Albania, January 1 to December 31, 2018 (8-182-20-034-R)

This memorandum transmits the final audit report on the fund accountability statement of Creative Business Solutions under the following awards:

Award Name (Type)	Award Number	Period	Subimplementer
Smart Capital (cooperative agreement)	AID-182-A-16-00003	September 27, 2016- September 26, 2019	N/A
Innovative Tourism in Albania (IntoAlbania) (cooperative agreement)	AID-182-A-17-00001	March 13, 2017- March 12, 2020	N/A

The auditee contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Grant Thornton, sh.p.k., Albania to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with the Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the USAID Office of the Inspector General Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients¹. However, it did not

¹ On June 30, 2017, USAID OIG rescinded its “Guidelines for Financial Audits Contracted by Foreign Recipients,” recognizing the Agency’s role to impose requirements on its implementing partners and contractors as a management function. This contracted audit, however, was initiated before that date and follows the guidelines.

participate in an external quality control review program and did not have a continuing education program that fully satisfies the standards' requirements. The audit firm explained that Albania does not offer such a review program. The audit firm is responsible for the enclosed report and the conclusions expressed in it. We do not express an opinion on the auditee's fund accountability statement; the effectiveness of its internal control; or its compliance with the award, laws, and regulations.²

The audit objectives were to (1) express an opinion on whether the fund accountability statement for the period audited was presented fairly, in all material respects; (2) evaluate the auditee's internal controls; and (3) determine whether the auditee complied with award terms and applicable laws and regulations. (4) review cost-sharing/counterpart contributions schedule. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject audit that covered \$783,979 for the period from January 1 to December 31, 2018.

The auditors expressed an unmodified opinion on the fund accountability statement and did not identify any questioned costs. The audit firm did not identify any material internal control weaknesses, or any material instances of noncompliance with the agreements' terms, conditions and applicable laws and regulations. Further, the audit firm issued a management letter.

The report does not include any recommendations for your action.

We appreciate the assistance extended during the engagement.

OIG does not routinely distribute independent public accounting reports beyond the immediate addressees because a high percentage of these reports contain information restricted from release under the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. 1905 and Freedom of Information Act Exemption Four, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(4) ("commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential").

² We reviewed the audit firm's report for conformity with professional reporting standards. Our desk reviews are typically performed to identify any items needing clarification or issues requiring management attention. Desk reviews are limited to review of the audit report itself and excludes review of the auditor's supporting working papers; they are not designed to enable us to directly evaluate the quality of the audit performed.