

Curriculum Vitae

Position	: Water and Governance Specialist
Name of firm	: Skat, Vadianstrasse 42, CH-9000 St. Gallen, Switzerland, Tel: +41 71 228 54 54
Name of staff	: Julie Smolnitchi
Email	: Julie.smolnitchi@skat.ch
Date of birth	: 12.11.1982
Nationality	: Swiss and Italian

KEY COMPETENCIES

Julie Smolnitchi has a master's in International Relations and 17 years of rich and varied working experience with various organisations in water first, and gradually in local governance. She has strong technical expertise in decentralized rural water supply and sanitation, decentralization, local development, citizen's participation, public services delivery, and political economy.

Julie is one of Skat's most experienced project coordinators and backstoppers, with strong competencies in coordinating large backstopping teams in complex settings with multiple stakeholders, project design, implementation, strategic planning, monitoring and evaluation. Her expertise gives her an excellent awareness of the needs and constraints of SDC staff and implementing partners.

She is fascinated about how people learn and engage. She has been supporting the SDC's knowledge networks (RésEAU; Climate, DRR and Environment; Peace, Governance and Equality) in strategy planning, network communication, and innovative learning processes (learning journeys, f2f events, regional events, e-discussions).

Her areas of expertise are on:

- Designing, steering and facilitation of learning processes
- Knowledge Networks
- Project design, planning, monitoring and evaluation, particularly in water and local governance
- Policy dialogue, policy influencing, thinking and working politically
- Sustainability of rural water supply systems

EDUCATION

2003 - 2007	GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (IHEID), Geneva, Switzerland Master of Arts (MA) in International Relations Specialisation: human rights, development economics, environment
1998 - 2002	COLLEGE DE CALVIN (High school), Geneva, Switzerland Maturité fédérale, Section Moderne langues (Italian, English and German)

TRAININGS

2023-2024	Liberating Structures Immersion workshop, Online course, facilitated by Nadia von Holzen and Ewen Le Borgne
2022	Political Economy Analysis in Action, from the Policy Practice and the Overseas Development Institute (ODI), February-June
2021	Bringing your Meetings & Workshops Online: Confident, Creative & Convincing, organized by Nadia von Holzen & Corinne Sprecher, online

- 2018** **UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA**
CAS in Water Governance: Frameworks and Negotiations (*attendance certificate*)
- 2016** **THE WATER INSTITUTE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA – CHAPTER HILL**
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learnings (MEL) for WaSH. Session 1: Introduction to Monitoring and Evaluation; Session 2: MEL Sampling; Session 3: Qualitative Methods and Surveys
Online course
- 2014** **ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FEDERALE DE LAUSANNE and SANDEC/EAWAG**
Planning & Design of Sanitation Systems and Technologies
Online course
- 2014** **SKAT CONSULTING Ltd.**
Facilitation course (4 days)
- 2013** **INSTITUTE OF TRAINING AND RESEARCH (UNITAR), UNIVERSITY OF GENEVA AND THE SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION**
International Water Law
Online course

LANGUAGES	Speaking	Reading	Writing
French	Mother tongue	Mother tongue	Mother tongue
Italian	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
English	Fluent	Fluent	Fluent
German	Good	Good	Fair
Romanian	Good	Good	Fair

EMPLOYMENT RECORD AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

SKAT CONSULTING Ltd., St-Gallen, Switzerland (and Moldova: 2013-2019) *Since 2013*
Various functions

- **Backstopper Governance / Political Economy** (planned, May 2024), Integrated water resources management in Kosovo (IWRM-K), Phase 2 (SDC funded) – Thematic lead and advise to the Program and its Program Facilitation Unit in governance and political economy aspects, responsible for PEA processes.
- **Backstopper Governance / Political Economy** (2023-present), Groundwater Management Programme North Macedonia, inception Phase and Phase 1 – Integration of political economy and conflict sensitivity aspects into the Project Document (for the inception Phase: stakeholder analysis focusing on power dimensions, assessment and analysis of selected conflicts, Water Integrity Scan, identifying entry points to address integrity issues).
- **Backstopper** (2024-present), Backstopping services to the Cooperation Office (both SDC and SECO) in Tajikistan and to implementing partners – backstopping support on policy dialogue strategy, formulation of position papers, collaboration exchange between partners.
- **Team Leader / Backstopper (2022-present)**, Backstopping support for facilitation and collective learning to the thematic section Peace Governance Equality (PGE) within SDC – Coordination of the backstopping team, and provision of backstopping services such as moderation and facilitation services, support with collective learning approaches. Strong emphasize on innovative facilitation and collective learning methods in intercultural settings.
- **Main network facilitator / Deputy SPOC** (2020-present), Backstopping Mandate to the Climate, DRR & Environment knowledge Network within SDC – Coordination of Network facilitation, support in overall planning, running, managing, facilitating and maintaining the Network. Methodological support for Knowledge Management including capitalization, knowledge transfer, peer learning.
- **Project Manager** (2019-present), Ma Implic – Project on civic engagement in local governance in Moldova (SDC funded): Project cycle management and quality control, strategic lead including policy influencing, management, supervision and quality control of the backstopping team to the facilitation unit, Monitoring & Evaluation.
- **Team Leader / Backstopper** (2017-present), Backstopping mandate for the SDC water knowledge Network RésEAU – Team Leader (2017-2020) and backstopper (since 2017). Services include support on knowledge

management and capitalisation of experiences, facilitation of knowledge exchange and networking, provision of technical and conceptual expertise as well as events management (e.g Learning journey on Political Economy Analysis in Water in Central Asia, 2021-2022, Sub-RésEAU Eastern Europe and Central Asia F2F Bosnia 2019, Learning journey Sub-RésEAU Africa, F2F Moldova 2014). Co-author of the RésEAU Brief on Political Economy Analysis (April 2023).

- **Backstopper** (2017-present), Backstopper to the “SDC Backstopping Mandate for Water” – provision of advisory and support services to the SDC section Water across its sector portfolio of actions at (multi-) bilateral level targeted at policy influencing, leveraging partnerships, innovation and knowledge management at global level. Support included for example: organisation and moderation of annual retreat and annual reporting, monitoring of SDC’s water-related interventions.
- **Deputy Project Director** (2019-2021), DESPRO – Decentralisation Support Project in Ukraine (SDC funded): Project cycle management and quality control, providing expertise in Water & Sanitation, Knowledge Management, Monitoring & Evaluation.
- **Planning and Monitoring Manager** (2013-2019), Swiss Water and Sanitation Project (ApaSan) in Moldova (SDC funded): Project cycle management and quality control, Knowledge Management (documentation, website content), Monitoring & Evaluation, Technical expertise in the field of decentralized water supply and sanitation and sectoral strategic planning.

EAUSERVICE, Water utility of Lausanne, Switzerland **2009 - 2013**
Assistant International Solidarity, 80 % (May 2012 to April 2013), 20%

- Responsible for the public-public partnership between Lausanne and Nouakchott, Mauritania
- Setting up, follow-up and coordination of activities including field visits to Nouakchott
- Promotion of Solidarit’eau initiative among Swiss municipalities (Cooperation of Swiss municipalities/water utilities with communities in developing countries on water and sanitation)
- In charge of developing project-related communication materials
- Contributing to the analysis of infrastructure accounting

Foundation ANTENNA TECHNOLOGIES, Geneva, Switzerland **2009 - 2012**
Water project coordinator, 80%

- Developed, planned, implemented and evaluated the dissemination strategy of WATA devices (electro-chlorinator producing chlorine)
- Set up and coordinated projects in Africa and Asia (Kenya, Pakistan, Nepal, India and Bangladesh)
- Developed monitoring and training tools
- Promoted WATA devices through relevant communication channels including website, articles and brochures
- Publication (co-author): The Safe Water School Manual (first edition), school lessons in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) with scientific experiments, games and art activities

FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (FDFA) – SWISS AGENCY FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SDC), Bern, Switzerland **2008 - 2009**
Project assistant, section Water Initiatives, 80%

- Coordinated the Swiss campaign for sanitation on behalf of four Federal Offices: coordinated and implemented the campaign’s activities, developed adequate information and sensitization materials
- Coordinated the Swiss presence at the 5th World Water Forum in Istanbul: managed the Swiss stand; organised and coordinated the contributions of 30 partners; supported and followed up the Swiss participation at the political level; implemented a communication strategy and developed relevant communication materials
- Supported and followed up the political and strategic lines of the section, contributed to the planning, contributed to and presented the annual programme of the section

FOODFIRST INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK (FIAN), International organization for the Right to Food, Heidelberg, Germany **2007**

- Supported FIAN's work at the International Secretariat in Heidelberg as well as to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) in Geneva
- Prepared international advocacy events aiming at promoting the Right to Food and Water and the monitoring of their implementation at national level
- Contributed in writing to annual reports on the implementation of the Right to Food and Water and analyses of State sectorial politics

EAUSERVICE, Water utility of Lausanne, Switzerland

2006

Research assistant

Analyzed the structure and the price of water in Switzerland. This research was praised by professionals in the water field. It is the only base data for 2006 and it was used by water distributors in Switzerland to revise their tariff structure. The research was also quoted in "L'eau des villes", Géraldine Pflieger, 2009.

NOUVELLE PLANETE, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

2001

Volunteer in a Swiss NGO

Participated in fundraising efforts over one year to finance the construction of a primary school in Burkina Faso. Five weeks of construction work in Burkina Faso.