



OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

U.S. Agency for International Development

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 13, 2021

TO: USAID/Albania Country Representative, Mikaela Meredith

FROM: USAID OIG Middle East and Eastern Europe (ME/EE) Regional Office, Audit Director, David Thomanek /s/

SUBJECT: Closeout Audit of the Fund Accountability Statement of Creative Business Solutions Under Multiple Awards in Albania, January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021 (8-182-22-011-R)

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

Award Name (Type)	Award Number	Period	Sub- implementer
Smart Capital (cooperative agreement)	AID-182-A-16-00003	January 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021	n/a
Innovative Tourism in Albania (IntoAlbania) (cooperative agreement)	AID-182-A-17-000011	January 1 – March 12, 2020	n/a

The auditee contracted with the independent certified public accounting firm Grant Thornton, sh.p.k. to conduct the audit. The audit firm stated that it performed its audit in accordance with Generally Accepted Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. However, it did not 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 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 awards, laws, and regulations.¹

The audit objectives were mainly 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. To answer the audit objectives, the audit firm performed the subject audit that covered \$1,279,027 for the period from January 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021.

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.

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").

¹ 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.