

Irina Schuman is a Lead Agricultural Economist at the World Bank Group. She is currently based in Vienna, Austria, and working in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. In this capacity, she is providing technical leadership on the World Bank's regional agri-food engagement with the European Union candidate countries and member states. She has previously worked in the ECA region also during 2009-2017, advising client countries on how to reframe their sectoral policies, expenditures, and administrations to best respond to the European Union (pre-)accession requirements, while also more effectively addressing their national priorities and specificities. In her over 15 years at the World Bank, Irina has equally worked in the Middle East and North Africa and in Sub-Saharan Africa, and has led projects spanning from analytical and advisory activities on climate resilience, value chain development, agri-food jobs, and public expenditures, to agri-food sector investments and emergency food security responses in countries affected by fragility, conflict and violence. Prior to joining the World Bank Group, Irina served as the Evaluation Manager for the Evaluation Helpdesk of the European Evaluation Network for Rural Development in Brussels, Belgium.