

Thorsten Niklas appointed as new Director of Operations at FLOCERT

Bonn, 8 January 2024. FLOCERT has named Dr. Thorsten Niklas the new Director of Operations, the company announced today.

Niklas will oversee all assurance and certification-related systems and procedures for FLOCERT, ensuring the company remains compliant with its ISO accreditation and true to the Fairtrade mission at all times. He will also provide daily operational and long-term planning support for new initiatives designed to add value to our customers and diversify FLOCERT's revenue streams. Niklas starts directly.

Niklas joins from the CSA Group, a standards organisation which develops standards in 57 areas and also provides training and advisory services. Prior to CSA, Niklas held a 5-year tenure in various leadership roles at TÜV Rheinland AG, an internationally active, independent testing service provider based in Cologne. Niklas joins FLOCERT with over 10 years of experience within the certification services sector, covering strategy, solution delivery and commercial management on an international scale.

"Thorsten has an in-depth knowledge of the global standards, testing, inspection and certification landscape," commented Katharina Wagner, Managing Director of FLOCERT. "His appointment enables us to better serve our customers who are looking to fuel their growth while trading fairly. I'm looking forward to collaborating with Thorsten to help our producer organisations and businesses adapt to a complex, fast-moving environment."

Commenting on his new role, Niklas expressed enthusiasm and readiness to lead FLOCERT's operations to success, "I am honored to step into this role and excited about the potential that lies ahead. I'm committed to growing FLOCERT by expanding our network and product offering. I'm looking forward to partnering with our customers, building end-to-end solutions and helping them navigate supply chain challenges."

About FLOCERT

FLOCERT is a leading global assurance provider. Besides providing sole certification to Fairtrade, FLOCERT also offers an array of services to support companies in sourcing on fair principles, where no Fairtrade Standard applies. With six international offices conducting business in around 120 countries, FLOCERT specialises in offering global reach with local expertise to its currently over 6,000 customers. Since FLOCERT's founding in 2003, we have

- *certified more than 4,000 producer organisations and more than 7,000 traders,*
- *issued more than 77,000 certificates,*
- *carried out over 35,000 Fairtrade audits.*

We have thus helped shape the success of the Fairtrade system which today represents 2 million farmers and workers and in 2022 generated 210 million Euro of Fairtrade Premium for them, an additional sum of money that farmers and workers invest in projects they choose.

FLOCERT remains mission-driven and dedicated to working with all types of organisations, from small producers to internationally recognised brands, in order to promote fairness in global trade. Our accreditation as a “Social Enterprise” demonstrates our commitment to social business values. For more information, visit us at www.flocert.net