

**Name:**

Emel Karaçay Gökkaya

**Country:**

Turkey

**About you.....**

I am Emel Karaçay Gökkaya. I live in Ankara, the capital of Turkey. I graduated from Ege University, Faculty of Engineering, Department of Food Engineering. I completed my master's degree in Food Packaging Technologies. During this period, I completed part of my master's degree in the food department of Escola Superior de Biotechnologia University in Portugal for approximately 6 months.

I started my career in the quality control department of a company that produces crude and refined vegetable oils. Later, I worked actively in quality management systems, food safety and accreditation in various units of the food laboratory, catering and certification sectors.

I worked for approximately 8 years on planning operations and management systems standards auditing (ISO 9001 QMS, ISO 14001 EMS, ISO 22000 GGMS, ISO 45001 OHSMS, OIC/SMIIC 1 Halal food) in the certification body which is located in Ankara. I have acquired the necessary competencies regarding international accreditation standards (ISO 17021-1, ISO 17065, ISO/TS 22003, OIC/SMIIC 2, OIC/SMIIC 34).

I am currently working freelance as a Lead Auditor, consultant and trainer on Management system standards, GFSI and Halal Certification standards.

**Why did you join the BRCGS Professional Programme?**

I am very impressed by the fact that BRCGS standards for product safety in the food industry are implemented very effectively worldwide. I wanted to participate in this program because I thought that I would learn a lot from the reliability and detailed approach of BRCGS programs and that my professional experience would increase even more.

**What value do you personally feel the BRCGS Professional certification brings to you?**

With the BRCGS Professional certificate, it gives you the chance to enter a network of professionals. In addition, it gives me the chance to network, show my professional experience and gain prestige in my professional life.

**How has the training helped improve operations at your site/company?**

The training, a clearer interpretation of the standard has been very useful in providing a better understanding of the requirements.

**What did you most enjoy about the training?**

I received the training from Evren Efe Kabagöz from Integral Bureu. The instructor was very experienced, the examples she gave and her narrative style were very inspiring and effective. The training was very interactive and fun. It was a great experience. The instructor's experience, expertise and dynamic teaching techniques kept me focused throughout the training.

**What are you most looking forward to within the professional community?**

The possibility of encountering like-minded experts from different sectors, privileged advantages such as Micro Learning, and the provision of a dynamic and supportive environment will provide significant support in my journey.

**How do you plan to keep your skills up to date?**

As someone who loves to learn and constantly improve herself, I am considering attending additional trainings, webinars and seminars to examine the developing industry trends in more depth.

**What are your career ambitions/aims?**

I want to be recognized in this field with the BRCGS professional program, develop my own business, become a qualified auditor and also work as an instructor on these subjects in the future.