

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT



Sustainable Development



Democratic Governance



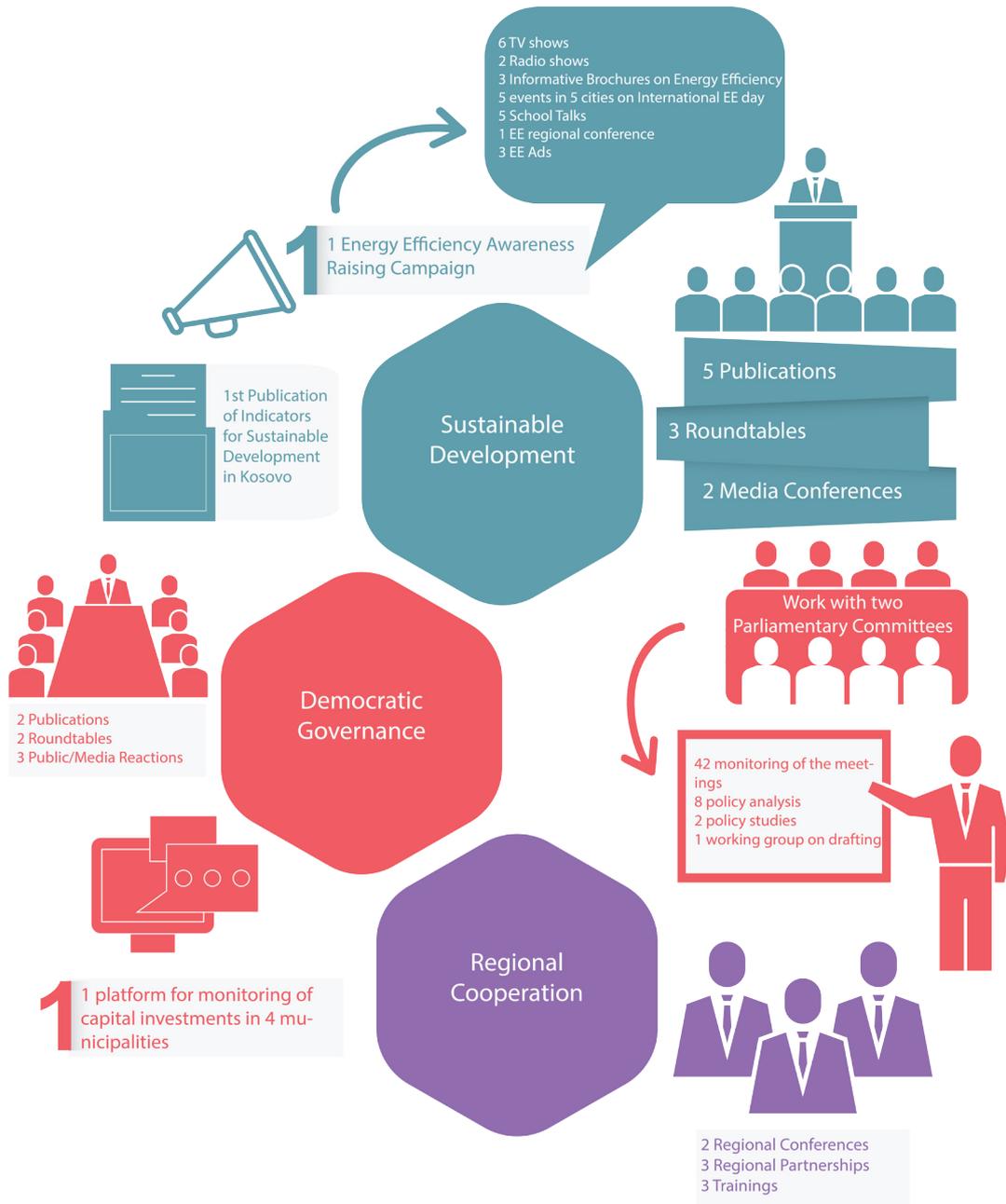
Regional Cooperation

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INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY  
INSTITUTI PËR POLITIKA ZHVILLIMORE



# INDEP on 2016



9 implemented projects

Participation in 3 international panels

2 Public Academic Talks

Over 20 media appearances

1 CSO-Academia collaboration



## Introductory statement



2016 marked INDEP's fifth anniversary. In this jubilee year, we managed to maintain the reputation as one of most influential research institutes in Kosovo besides a short time since our establishment. Throughout 2016 we completed three major projects and started three new ones, whilst we've also commenced three regional partnerships and we have been represented in several international meetings and panels. Through independent research and analysis, this year anew we have served as a source for substantive and qualitative research-based solutions for public policies. By tackling issues as energy efficiency, climate change, earmarked taxes, vocational training policies, the functionalization of independent boards, etc., we've committed to providing recommendations as an alternative for shaping policies regarding the tackled issues.

The success of this year was also a reflection of most of the work we have done throughout these years. The joint remarks by us and our partners regarding the politicization of the boards of public enterprises and public agencies have been supported by the EU office in Kosovo. Moreover, these remarks were included in the Progress Report for Kosovo 2016 commissioned by the European Commission in November 2016. Among others, we have deepened our partnership with parliamentary committees, respectively with the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure and Trade (CEDIT) and the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning (CAFESP), whereby we have been part of working groups for some of the laws.

Besides these positive results highly relevant for our work and the mission carried out by our Institute, this year, for the first time, we published the Indicators for Sustainable Development in Kosovo. Furthermore, we have continued to promote effortlessly the values of sustainable development aiming a socio-political and economic sustainability in our country by cooperating with central and local institutions on one hand and businesses and citizens on the other hand. The inclusiveness of our activities has enabled the pushing forward of our mission on facilitating the communication between citizens and institutions through civil society and media. Moreover, we have continued to be a public interest watchdog of the policy-making process by monitoring the work of the Government and Assembly and also by advocating for the intensive improvement of political and legal framework.

Thus, whilst this year we indeed wrapped some major projects, new regional partnerships have been initiated and existing ones have been deepened. Our participation as panelists in three international panels is the best proof for Institute's growing influence by challenging national and regional borders. We have continuously nurtured our work over the years aiming to accomplish the mission we have set to ourselves; the socio-political and economic sustainable development based on the principles and values of democracy.

We owe this year's success to a high number of partners, donors and supporters that are part of our journey towards building a democratic society in Kosovo. Respectively, Rockefeller Brothers Fund, British Embassy in Prishtina, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, European Union Office in Kosovo, National Endowment for Democracy (NED), Kosovo Civil Society Foundation (KCSF) and EU Tempus.

Furthermore, this success is owed also to our enthusiastic team, with whom we are leading this expedition. This success is a "thank you" for all of you!

**Burim Ejupi**  
Executive Director

## Annual report 2016

The end of year 2016 marked the fifth anniversary of the Institute for Development Policy – INDEP. As a jubilee anniversary, it served the purpose of being a reference point to assess the impact of our work and activities and their contribution towards the accomplishment of our institutional objectives. During these five years, through our research work, direct advocacy and increasing engagement in promoting the work of civil society, we have offered a series of substantial policy recommendations. Given then number of our recommendations which are taken into consideration by the policy makers, especially by the Assembly of Kosovo, our Institute has become one of the most influential research institutes in Kosovo, regardless of its short period of existence.

With a small, but skilled staff of researchers and public policy analysts, through research projects and direct engagement in decision-making circles, we have achieved to carry forward our mission. This was achieved by producing detailed research-based publications, by learning from best practices from other countries, by encouraging cooperation within the non-governmental sector in Kosovo and by investing in sustaining a close cooperation with institutions on one side and with media and citizens on the other side.

During 2016, we have managed to create a synergy between the Sustainable Development and the Democratic Governance programs, by closely supervising the adoption of legislation in the field of energy which aimed to transpose the third package of energy legislation of the European Union. On the other side, as part of the Sustainable Development program activities, we successfully completed the project “Support to private and public sector in capacity building and implementing Energy Efficiency measures.” The last part of the project, which took place during this year, was dedicated to the organizing of the awareness raising campaign on the benefits that derive from the adoption and implementation of Energy Efficiency measures. This campaign served not merely the purpose of showcasing the success of investments on energy efficiency made by businesses in Kosovo and supported by INDEP project grants, but also for encouraging institutional commitment towards prioritizing energy efficiency in the wake of the foundation of the Energy Efficiency Fund. On the other hand, we have continued with our active engagement within the Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development – KOSID through coordinating and organizing joint activities, supporting common causes and campaigns, while, in the mean time we have also founded other short – term coalitions and alliances.

In the fifth year of our activity, we started publishing the sustainable development indicators. This was an ambitious, yet a necessary undertaking toward assessing the state of sustainable development in Kosovo, which is a field in which our Institute is constituted as a leader. By collecting, analyzing and contextualizing economic, environmental and social indicators, we aim to draw up the triangle of sustainable development in Kosovo, through which we will make available a series of relevant data for different non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutes, and especially for policy makers. Our plan for 2017 is to expand further our work with these indicators in order to create a stable ground for further research work on matters pertaining to sustainable development policy making.

As far as the democratic governance program is concerned, we have broadened the scope of our activities within the Assembly of Kosovo through our direct and active involvement with selected competent bodies in order to enhance the quality of their work by investing in capacity building. Throughout this year, we have continued monitoring the work of the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry and we have commenced cooperation with the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning, where we are able to comment each law or policy. Consequently, we have analyzed several laws and issues which were brought up to these Committees. We have also continued to provide support and pave the way for reforming the system of functionality and accountability of independent agencies. We plan ahead to intensify these efforts in 2017.

Meanwhile, 2016 has been characterized also by broadening our activities regarding regional initiatives which enabled our Institute to contribute beyond our national borders. Through the project South East Electricity Roadmap (SEERMAP), we aim to develop electric energy scenarios until 2050 for South-East Europe countries. In the meantime, we also became part of the regional platform WEBER, which is established to support civil society organizations to monitor Public Administration Reform and to facilitate regional sustainable development through a well-structured communication platform, political dialogue and qualitative media reporting. Beside the listed project activities, we became a leading power on several public reactions and research activities of civil society organizations, always driven by our mission on promoting the sustainable socio-economic development and democratic governance. The analysis on underground coal gasification and the campaign on the depoliticization of public agencies boards may be considered as the two most representative examples of our engagement which extends beyond mere project-based action. Hence, we firmly believe that 2016 marks a year of successful commitment and performance towards the realization of our main efforts, while ensuring a continuity of our actions towards completing our mission on building and strengthening a socio-political and economic sustainable development based on the principles of democracy and democratic values.

## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The institute's first pillar, Sustainable Development, promotes economic development in order to advance political and social conditions while preserving environment. Accordingly, we have been intensively engaged, this year anew, into promoting policies for environment protection, efficient use of energy, which are related to development needs of Kosovo, respectively to the biggest obstacle – unemployment.

In this line, at the beginning of this year we have successfully completed the project "Support to private and public sector in capacity building and implementing Energy Efficiency measures". After completing the first two phases: 1) Investment on educating the business community on the relevance of implementing efficiency measures and grants scheme drafting for the investment on efficiency measures 2) Organizing two training modules for capacity building of responsible municipal officials on managing energy efficiency policies, also of business representatives and civil society sector. Meanwhile, the third and last phase of this project, which was completed during this year, consisted on raising awareness on the relevance of

implementing energy efficiency measures. Accordingly, the undertaken activities resulted on broadening the audience, consequently raising awareness on the benefits of implementing these measures, where besides institutions and business, we informed citizens and students also on the benefits deriving from using energy efficiently.

Secondly, we held a roundtable on April, where in cooperation with KOSID, we also presented the analysis: “Where is Kosova headed after the Parties Conference (COP21) in Paris?”, in order to assess where our country stands toward objectives of Paris Conference COP21, objectives which were set to reduce climate change effects and control global warm.

In the meantime, we continued monitoring policies in energy sector through active participation in the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry and the one for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning. Besides being part of the working group of Energy Efficiency Law, in the final version of which were included several of our recommendations and which is expected to be voted by the national Assembly during 2017; we have intensively advocated the necessity for establishing the Energy Efficiency Fund. Accordingly, the government draft of the budget for 2017 includes this fund budgeting. In this line, we have provided our readiness on monitoring and cooperating with responsible actors after approving this fund budget.

Besides the cooperation with respective Committees, during October we have participated as part of KOSID in the official meetings with World Bank. Based on our research work, there were found several law and procedural violations during negotiations between the Government of Kosovo, World Bank and the chosen bidding company Contour Global for the new generative capacity building “Kosova e Re”. Therefore, besides raising awareness of the audience on benefits of implementing EE measures and the intensive advocating toward policy makers with our recommendations for EE Law and Fund, we have also been engaged into proposing alternative policies for reducing unemployment, hence aiming for policies drafting toward sustainable economic and social development.

Aiming this, we have cooperated with Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in the vocational training field. Based on our research on vocational training, our recommendations were presented to this Ministry which reflected on obstacles and possibilities of the vocational training in order to promote it as an optimal answer toward unemployment. Our research recommendations were fully accepted by this Ministry for serving as a base for future policy drafting in this sector. At this point, it should be emphasized that only during 9 months of the year 2016, the number of people who participated in the trainings which are provided by vocational training centers, was raised from 3000 of the year before to 5180. Despite the obvious progress; our recommendations aimed for this number to be raised to 10 thousand persons. Thus, to meet this target is required a lot of more work to be done. In the meantime, regarding the ongoing work with the Assembly, we have been part of the working groups for the Labor Law, respectively Pension Scheme Law. On the other hand, while having a direct influence in these issues through our activities, avocation and proposals; lastly we published Sustainable Development Indicators in Kosovo (SDIK). This list of indicators contains more than 150 indicators, classified into 19 main themes and 47 subthemes. The main objective of this publication was to provide a clear overview of the ongoing trends in the three respective pillars of sustainable development, hence in economy, society and environment. This database will be updated in a regular basis in order to serve as a

referential base for rating the central policies success in several fields, consequently for having a better overview on the key issues which require an immediate intervention.

In coordination with KOSID, we counter-argued the Government decision for proposing to the Assembly of Kosovo to announce of public interest the project of “Envidity” company for underground coal gasification, mainly in the Dukagjin basen part. Based on this announcement, it was aimed of getting the license for using the coal in the 1/3 of Kosovo territory, which was objected by us regarding the procedure of licensing, also the consequences in environment which would might follow the implementation of this project. At this point, in cooperation with KOSID, we drafted the “Analysis of the Committee for Public-Private Partnership regarding the announcement of public interest the projects of Envidity and SharrCem companies”, which was proceeded to deputies of Republic of Kosovo. Through public reactions and debates, we intensively insisted that this projects risks earth, water and air of Kosovo. In September 2016, during the session of the Assembly of Kosovo, this project was withdrawn from its agenda, which withdrawal consists on one of the main successes of civil society organizations into shaping public policies.

## DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

In the program of Democratic Governance, this year anew, we were focused on strengthening checks and balance in between democratic institutes which act based on transparency, accountability and responsibility. After the intensive work related to the on goings remarks for massive politicization of independent boards of Kosovo, the derived recommendations by our Institute researches were included in the Progress Report for Kosovo 2016, in which was emphasized the need for depoliticization of public enterprises boards. This is a direct result of the denouncement of massive politicization of independent boards and of the official report to the Anti-Corruption Agency by INDEP, in cooperation with GAP Institute and Group for Legal and Political Studies – GLPS. After some months, ACA published its legal opinion delivered to the Office of Prime Minister, which legal opinion found law violations related to the election of directors of public enterprises boards.

In the same line, the office of the Commissioner for Enlargement and Neighborhood Policies, Mr. Johannes Hahn, shared the same concerns regarding boards policitization as an obstacle toward European Integration of Kosovo.

One of the undertaken steps by the Government regarding this issue consists on signing the Memorandum with British Embassy in Kosovo to ensure external and independent support on naming the remaining positions in boards.

Among others, this year anew, we contributed on analyzing some bills; we analyzed the bill of Oil Market, which was also delivered to the deputies of Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry. Also, we analyzed the state of radiation and protection of it in Kosovo and the lack of monitoring capacities in radiation field, the lack of control of radioactive remaining and radiological emergencies plan, etc. A policy analysis was handed to the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning, from which Committee concrete actions related to this issue are expected.

Despite the independent researches designedly to supervise and cooperate with public institutions, we have continued to monitor the above-mentioned Committees, successfully completing the fourth year of monitoring and participating into working laws. Our work within these institutions was enabled mainly by the participation in the working laws of the 2015 – 2020 Strategic Plan of the Assembly. Nevertheless, as a result of our ongoing work, starting from the 1st of September 2016 our presence and activities are extended for two more years through the grant of Kosovo Civil Society Foundation (KCSF). Through this, we aim to grow capacities in research field and to provide solutions for public policies based on independent research.

On the other side, aiming to equip citizens with the necessary tools in order for them to be active and participators in the decision-making process, which consequently increases transparency and accountability of governmental institutions; we launched the electronic platform INVESTOMETRI. This project aims to increase municipalities' transparency on capital investments. At the moment, INVESTOMETRI is being implemented in four municipalities: Prishtina, Obiliq, Fushë Kosovo and Drenas. The launching of this platform was highly welcome by all interest parties because it was estimated to contribute in increasing transparency and accountability in the local level.

During 2016, within the program Democratic Governance, our Institute has been as a guard of the public interest in the policy-making process, closely observing the legislative work of institutions and advocating the ongoing improvement of the legal and political framework. This was achieved not merely through our research work and organized activities deriving from the mentioned projects, but also through fast and ad-hoc reactions, whether in cooperation with other civil society organizations or merely based on our strengths.

## REGIONAL COOPERATION AND NETWORKING

This year anew, Regional Cooperation took an important place into our working scope, hence making a step forward to our purpose that as an Institute to serve for improving initiatives and regional policies, inciting this way the inter-border cooperation. This year, our Institute was included into three major networks: CONSUS project, regional social-scientific network for sustainability innovations in Albania and Kosovo. This project aims to strengthen the relation and cooperation between institutions in the fields of high education, research and practice of sustainable development; SEERmap (South East Europe Electricity Roadmap) project, which aims to define electric energy scenarios until 2050 for South-East Europe countries; and WEBER platform, which is established to support civil society organizations to monitor Public Administration Reform and to facilitate regional sustainable development through communication platform, political dialogue and qualitative media report.

This year was also marked by our participation in three international panels which topics were directly related to our scope of work. These participations broadened our cooperation network; hence international cooperation outran regional cooperation. Accordingly, in OSCE meetings of experts on fighting corruption, held on Vienna, we presented our activities on fighting against corruption, emphasizing our work related to the (de)politicization of independent agencies boards. We also participated at the XXVI World Economic Forum: “United or divided? Europe in the brink of tomorrow’s challenges”, which was held in Poland. In this Forum, we presented our work and emphasized the importance of innovation in behalf of the common good.

In the meantime, at the regional and EU experts meeting focusing on alternative energy and regional energetic modeling, held in Budapest, we presented our work on promoting Renewable Energy Sources (RES) in Kosovo, also challenges and possibilities for intervention.

Besides regional and international cooperation, our Institute goes ahead being part of KOSID – Kosovo Civil Society Consortium for Sustainable Development – the consortium of leading organizations of civil society which consists of think-tanks and organizations of independent media and also of local organizations. All of the member organizations work toward sustainable development of Kosovo. The objective of this consortium is to unite and use specific skills of each organization in order to efficiently raise important debates for the future of Kosovo. Initiated by the experiences and successes of KOSID, INDEP will take the lead of Kosovo organizations into networking and coalitions-making in regional level.

On the other hand, besides official cooperation, we continued to be unofficially part of the civil society voice against corruption and other harmful phenomena in our society. During this year, we have supported the request delivered to Aleksander Lumnezi, for investigating people who misused their official public position for nepotism and making home for party militants, which abuses were leaked through Pronto 2 scandal. We have also supported the civic protest held in Prizren during this August, where the resignation and penal responsibility of municipal structures was demanded for the tragedy which occurred because of the negligence on maintaining old objects in the city, in which a child lost her life.

In the scope of this year, we have published circa 10 researches, held 7 roundtables, completed 3 major projects to continue with 3 other new projects; we have started 3 regional cooperation and we were represented in several international meetings and panels.

## INDEP's work programs





## Achievements in the Sustainable Development Program during 2016

From our very beginnings, we have been known to the public as a think tank which intensively promotes sustainable development as a key concept toward the long term development of the country. Hence, this year as well we have been focused on pushing forward our agenda in promoting further sustainable development. During the whole year we promoted energy efficiency as the most efficient and practical tool for reducing the level of energy consumption, therefore ultimately contributing in economic development.

We were part of the working groups for:

Besides cooperating with central level institutions, we have been cooperating for two years now also with local level institutions; the CSO community, businesses and also citizens of different cities.

The idea of this cross-stakeholder cooperation is to ensure a wide coordination towards meeting national goals on energy efficiency.

Moreover, we have been part of the working groups for the Energy Efficiency Law, in which law most of our recommendations have been included and which is expected to be approved by the Assembly in 2017. Along with this, we intensively advocated for the establishment of the Energy Efficiency Fund, which was also budgeted in the Draft – Budget 2017. Among others, as a part of KOSID, we have participated into official meetings with World Bank during October. As a result of our joint research efforts, several law and procedural violations during negotiations between the Government of Kosovo, World Bank and the chosen bidding company Contour Global for the new generative capacity building “Kosova e Re” have been identified. These have been discussed in a one-to-one format with the World Bank.



As far as the cooperation with Government of Kosovo is concerned, we continued monitoring and cooperating with the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry (CEDITI) and we have initiated our cooperation with the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning (CAFESP). Lastly, we analyzed the state of radiation and the level of protection from it in Kosovo and the lack of monitoring capacities in this area, the lack of control of radioactive remaining and the radiological emergency plan, etc. A policy analysis was handed to the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning, out of which concrete actions by the Committee related to this issue are expected.

In the same spirit, we have cooperated with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in the field of vocational training. As part of this cooperation, we were promised that our research recommendations will serve as a base for future policy drafting in this sector.

Moreover, in cooperation with KOSID, we evaluated the current state of climate change national

policies after the Parties Conference (COP21) in Paris. We also presented the analysis: “Where is Kosovo headed after the Parties Conference (COP21) in Paris” and held a roundtable gathering key actors and interest parties, during which challenges and possibilities of Kosovo in this area were discussed.

On the other hand, during three first months of this year, we have successfully completed the project “Support to private and public sector in capacity building and implementing Energy Efficiency measures”. The overall objective of this project was to support Kosovo implement energy efficiency measures and meet targets agreed in the Energy Efficiency Action Plan within the Energy Community. As a result, we successfully reached these three targets:

Raising awareness of businesses and citizens on implementing Energy Efficiency measures

Support to private sector on capacity building and implementing EE measures and generating green jobs

Enhancing municipal human and institutional capacities on implementing the local Energy Efficiency Action Plans

During the first phase of the project, we supported the private sector by awarding 48 SMEs with energy efficiency grants in order to implement energy efficiency measures including: doors and windows replacement, buildings isolation, buying of energy efficient equipment, etc. Thereafter, during the second phase we supported the public sector implement EE measures through providing trainings for capacity building of responsible municipal officials for drafting and implementing policies regarding this field, also raising awareness of businesses and non-governmental institutions on implementing energy efficiency measures which are foreseen in the strategic, legal and political framework. Aiming this, around 245 participants were trained.

After successfully completing two first project phases, during the first three months of this year we committed ourselves toward raising awareness of citizens about the benefits stemming from the implementation of Energy Efficiency measures. While during the two first phases, our target groups consisted mainly of businesses and (non)governmental institutions; we found it necessary to broaden our audience in order to showcase to citizens how important is it to implement EE measures, since the implementation of these measures leads to the reduction of electricity bills as well as the creation of sustainable jobs.

The awareness raising campaign officially started in December 2015 and was organized in three periods:

- I. Raising awareness of different target groups on the importance of implementing EE measures through organizing various activities (e.g. spreading out EE light bulbs, brochures, etc.)
- II. Energy Efficiency Week
- III. Closing EE Conference

During these months, information on benefits of implementing EE measures was intensively channeled through various means in all the beneficiary municipalities. We distributed informative brochures, informative ads were prepared and broadcasted in local and national media, and we also directly informed businesses and citizens about the benefits of the EE use through one-on-one talks.



Through different promotion tools, we made the message on implementing EE measures benefits present, hence broadened our audience beyond former target groups.

In five municipalities, Prishtina, Fushe Kosovo, Obiliq and Lipjan, we distributed circa 15000 brochures to businesses and citizens during the Energy Efficiency Week and lectures held in schools. Brochures contained easily-comprehensible information about the benefits of implementing EE measures. In this way, businesses and citizens were informed how they could profit from investment in EE. In addition to the brochures, we directly contacted businesses and citizens, hence providing them with the necessary information concerning this issue.

Moreover, besides brochures and direct contact, we placed circa 500 Energy Efficiency themed posters in strategic locations in cities in order to reach a wider audience. We also distributed EE stickers which were given out to the businesses where it was invested in EE measures through our grants or that have replaced their light bulbs during our EE awareness raising campaign. Also, for a month in 27 different locations in Prishtina, EE ads in electronic banner displays were showcased up to 100 times per day. This awareness raising campaign reached a wider audience because our message on the importance of implementing EE measures was transformed into an integral part of citizens' daily life, as the various means and tools we used were likely to catch citizens' eye while in different occasions.

Furthermore, we broadened this campaign by also utilizing print and broadcasting media. Thus, citizens could easily get informed of EE while reading a newspaper, listening to radio or watching television.

Consequently, for almost a month, EE ads were broadcasted on national televisions: RTK, KTV and RTV21, as well as, on Klan Kosova. Besides TV channels, we also broadcasted our ads also on five radio stations which involved four national radio stations: Radio Dukagjin, Radio 21, Radio Kosova 1 and Radio Urban FM, and a local radio station, Radio Llapi. The broadcast in the local radio was a strategic move to expand our campaign also in local areas and rather rural zones.

Meanwhile, we also used print media to publish our specifically designed ads on benefits of implementing EE measures. Thus, the ads were published in the most circulated print media in Kosovo as: Koha Ditore, Kosova Sot, Zëri and Epoka e Re.

Also, the project working staff was invited on several television programs to discuss about EE and one of the televisions produced a documentary movie on Energy Efficiency. Moreover, the show "Ekonomia me Erezen" prepared a specially focused edition on Energy Efficiency developments in the country, which was broadcasted in KTV, one of the most famous national televisions. This program was deliberately broadcasted during EE week to symbolically mark and match with the main idea behind this week.



## Energy Efficiency for the youth

Besides using promotional tools, during our awareness raising campaign we broadened our audience by also reaching out to youth in order to introduce them with the concept and benefits of Energy Efficiency. In this mission, we chose schools with the largest number of pupils in the five municipalities; Prishtina, Obiliq, Fushë Kosovo, Podujeva and Lipjan, in which we held lectures on how to use/preserve energy. The lectures were conducted in two high schools, two primary schools and a gymnasium.

Approximately 200 pupils participated in these lectures, while about an additional thousand of them were indirectly benefiting because of the brochures we distributed widely. This came as a result of distributing brochures which contained information on EE to students of these five schools, besides lecturing. In this way, pupils were introduced to EE measures, given that as the new generation they are expected to contribute towards sharing knowledge and encouraging the EE use, having in mind their enormous interest toward active participation on implementing EE measures.



## Energy Efficiency Day

On March 5th we marked the Energy Efficiency Day. This activity was organized in five cities, while in Prishtina we cooperated with the Municipal structures and the Green School. Also, on this day, we distributed information on EE measures by placing promotional benches in the center of these cities. Accordingly, we directly contacted citizens to inform them on EE, distribute brochures and give out efficient light bulbs.

Moreover, we visited around one hundred businesses and changed their electric light bulbs with efficient ones. In the same time, we informed them on benefits of using EE. Along with demonstrating the benefits of investment on EE measures, we encouraged them to commit towards doing so in the future. Besides providing them with efficient light bulbs, we also distributed stickers labeled “This business uses efficient lighting” and “This business uses efficient equipment”. This was our way of inducing social acknowledgement and praising them for investing in EE measures. As a results of all these undertaken measures, we have managed to communicate effectively and broadly the message on the importance of implementing EE measures, while also focusing in reaching out to the younger generations in order to ensure a sustainable outcome in the long run.





## Energy Efficiency Week Closing Conference

In the closing of the Energy Efficiency Week, we held a conference to mark the finalization of the Awareness Raising Campaign, as well of the project itself. In this conference we aimed to analyze and assess the overall achievement of Kosovo with regards to EE and the successes and obstacles which should be addressed.

Around 100 participants attended the conference, including citizens, businesses, eminent figures of energy sector in Kosovo, along with international actors which are directly involved in energy issues in Kosovo. Besides these, this conference was attended also by experts from the region, as Albania, but also abroad as from Austria and other international organizations representatives. They shared their experiences and models on how this matter is regulated in their respective countries.

On the other side, besides distributing EE themed brochures for participants; in this conference we presented the success of 48 grant-awarded businesses in implementing EE measures, hence emphasizing the need of similar grant schemes, which would support the business community in the necessary investment regarding this sector.



## Encouraging businesses to implement EE measures

As afore mentioned, during the first phase of the project we awarded 48 businesses with EE grants through our “Energy Efficiency for Development” grant scheme. Through these grants, businesses managed to invest in several EE measures, for instance: in building isolation, replacement of doors and windows, efficient lighting and equipment and installing solar panels. These investments were highly important because they led to concrete and tangible results. After implementing EE measures, the overall electricity expenditures of these businesses were cut down by 30% compared to the same period in the last year.

In the closing of the project, we encouraged these businesses to continue implementing EE measures by giving out certificates proving their serious commitment and successful performance in implementing EE measures.



Otherwise, 48 businesses from 5 municipalities, respectively from Prishtina, Fushë Kosova, Obliliq, Podujeva and Lipjan, were direct beneficiaries of the grant scheme. The total amount of this grant scheme was 99,912.00 EUR.

“Energy Efficiency for Development” grants scheme was supported by the European Union Office in Kosovo; while the implemented project was financed by the EU Regional Economic Development Grants Scheme.



## The optimal answer to unemployment is vocational training

The unemployment rate in Kosovo has reached 32.9 percent during 2015, which consequently makes unemployment one of the biggest concerns in the country. We continued to offer policy recommendations, focusing on identifying what policies should be revised for addressing this problem. Based on our research, we identified vocational training as one of the optimal answers to fight unemployment. On February 4th, in order to discuss the analysis findings, respectively “Vocational training in Kosovo: Specifics, Relations and Problems”, we organized a roundtable in partnership with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare.

This roundtable gathered more than one hundred participants who drive an interest in this issue; a large number of representatives of national and international institutions, institutional actors, representatives of the civil society, students and other interested participants.

The results of the analysis indicated that even though there is an appropriate infrastructure for vocational training in place, it is necessary for VT to be better understood by businesses and practitioners. Several recommendations were given to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in order to undertake concrete measures toward ensuring progress in this field, including: the need for the accreditation of profiles of Vocational Trainings Centers, delivering relevant information through a well-organized marketing strategy, ensuring a more equal budget allocation and enabling a flexible system to update the training profiles.

“**The recommendations provided by this research will serve as a basis to draft future policies.**”

Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Arban Abrashi



### Analysis results

The results of the analysis indicated that even though there is an appropriate infrastructure for vocational training, it is necessary for vocational training to be better understood by businesses and practitioners. Several recommendations were given to the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare in order to undertake certain measures toward progress in this field, including: the need for the accreditation of profiles of Vocational Trainings Centers, delivering relevant information through a well-organized marketing strategy, ensuring a more equal budget allocation and enabling a flexible system to update the training profiles.

The Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Mr. Arban Abrashi, agreed that vocational training is the optimal answer toward unemployment since his ministry receives in a daily basis requests by businesses for qualified labor force; a request that cannot be met by them. He also emphasized the need for more inter-institutional cooperation between relevant Ministries and the necessity for a flexible system which meets faster market and businesses needs,

On the other side, Mrs. Louise Taylor, the deputy ambassador of Great Britain in Kosovo, emphasized the importance of vocational training in addressing the unemployment and unqualified labor force concerns. The roundtable was held as a part of “Promoting vocational training as an effective tool to fight unemployment in Kosovo through improving inter-institutional cooperation” project financed by the British Embassy in Kosovo.

At this point, it should be emphasized that only during 9 months of the year 2016, the number of people who participated in the trainings which are provided by vocational training centers, was raised from 3000 in the year before to 5180. Despite the obvious progress; our recommendations aimed for this number to be raised to 10 thousand persons. Thus, to meet this target it is required for a lot of more work to be done.

## INDEP and KOSID mark Earth Day in Kosovo

During December of 2015, United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Paris resulted in a global agreement on the reduction of climate change, setting a goal



of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees Celsius (°C).

Accordingly, we considered it necessary to assess the progress of Kosovo, in its legal and policy implementation compared to global initiatives of undertaking measures to soften climate change effects. In this line, on April 22nd – Earth Day - we held a roundtable in partnership with KOSID, to assess our country's progress alongside Paris Conference COP21 objectives. In the roundtable “Kosovo, climate change and the objectives of Paris Conference COP21”, in which public officials, representatives of local and international organizations, representatives of business community and students were present; we presented the analysis “Where is Kosovo headed after the Parties Conference (COP21) in Paris”. Mr. Ilir Morina, the executive chief of Kosova Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA), who participated in the roundtable, confirmed that institutions lack of real commitment toward reaching set objectives and targets concerning climate change

### Why is this important?

Based on the data provided by Hidrometeorologic Institute of Kosovo, the average temperature in Kosovo has increased to 1.4, which coincides with the global average of 1.5. Moreover, Kosovo emits an average of 9.5 million ton of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.



### The analysis results

Despite the existence of a relatively powerful legal basis, there are several obstacles that prevent the adequate implementation of these laws and strategies in Kosovo. The analysis draws out the obstacles toward the adequate materialization of the Framework Strategy on Climate Change (FSCC). In this line, this analysis recommends several measures that ought be undertaken by our country in order to meet the national and international goals.



## INDEP promotes sustainable development and energy efficiency measures on Green Education and Employment Day

On June 17th, the “Green Education and Employment Day” fair was organized by the NGO Go Green and Konrad Adenauer Foundation. Several organizations and businesses which are oriented toward promoting and advancing sustainable development participated.

We also participated in this fair by promoting the importance of sustainable development. In our Institute’s corner we made available our research products, audio-visual materials and reports in order to present the undertaken activities for promoting energy efficiency and sustainable development.

This fair provided us with a good opportunity to directly contact with citizens in order to inform them regarding EE measures and the importance of implementing them, and also to share our experience in this field with other organizations and businesses.



## Indicators of Sustainable Development available for the first time in Kosovo

During this year, for the first time we published the Indicators of Sustainable Development in Kosovo (ISD), to promote sustainable development in all levels of policy-making. Through these indicators one can overview trends, challenges and possibilities in economic, social and environmental areas, which consist the three main pillars of sustainable development.

Through identifying and classifying these indicators, we provide a clear overview of the state in which our country is in terms of addressing issues in these three sectors. These indicators will be available for all the interested parties and those already involved in the policy-making processes; institutions, NGO-s and also students. Thus, having these indicators available, each one can overview where we stand in a particular sector and where the immediate intervention is required.

**This ISD database consists of more than**





## INDEP – a leader on promoting partnership between academy and civil society in Kosovo

Vitin e përmbyllëm me mbajtjen e tryezës diskutuese për sfidat e prodhuesve vendorë në Kosovë. Ne suksesshëm mbyllëm këtë vit duke mbajtur një diskutim rrethorë mbi sfidat që ballafaqohen nga prodhuesit vendas në Kosovë në krahasim me produktet të importuara nga vendet tjera. Këto çështje bëhen më të rëndësishme pas nënshkrimit të Marrëveshjes së Stabilizimit - Asociimit (SAA) midis Bashkimit Evropian dhe Kosovës. Edhe pse kjo marrëveshje konsiderohej si një mundësi e madhe për prodhuesit vendas të hyjnë në tregun e madh evropian; sfidat të mbetura përfshijnë mungesën e përgatitjes së kësaj sektori për të përballuar standartet evropiane. Prandaj, duke paraqitur kërkimet të kryera me qytetarët “Konsumimi i produkteve të brendshme në Kosovë – një pamjetim i mendimit publik” ne ofruam një pamjetim të mendimit publik ndaj produkteve të brendshme. Kështu, disa çështje ishin në pyetje: nëse çmimi ose cilësia e produkteve të brendshme luan rol në zgjedhjen e tyre, sa të informuar janë ata për produkte të brendshme, cilat nga këto produkte konsumohen më së shumti dhe në çfarë masë konsumimi i produkteve të brendshme përputhet me ofrimin e tregut, etj.

Kjo kërkim do të jetë një referencë e mirë jo vetëm për kompanitë vendore, por edhe për institucionet e vendosura të cilat mund të dizajnojnë politika të përgjigjshme ndaj nevojave të prodhuesve vendas dhe të ndihmojnë ata të përmirësojnë cilësinë e produkteve të tyre dhe të gjejnë mënyra efektive për të arritur deri te konsumatorët vendas. Si rezultat, ata mund të ballafaqohen më lehtë me konkurrencën nga produktet të importuara. Panelistët e kësaj rrethore ishin: Visar Kelmendi, Kryetar i Klubit të Prodherëve Vendas në Kosovë; Burim Ejupi, Drejtor Ekzekutiv i INDEP; Alejtin Berisha, Drejtor Ekzekutiv i “Universum” kolezhit dhe një nga autorët e kësaj kërkimi, Learta Hollaj. Kësaj rrethore i pranishëm ishin edhe disa profesorë dhe studentë. Participantët kërkuan mbështetje konkrete nga institucionet e shtetit për sektorin privat në mënyrë që të përballon konkurrencën nga produktet të importuara. Kështu, në mënyrë që të promovohet më tej zhvillimin ekonomik në Kosovë, ka nevojë për të futur politika të mbështetëse për këtë sektor – vlerësuar si motor për të shtuar rritjen ekonomike në vend.

Përndryshe, kërkimi u krye përmes ankësve të organizuar në shtatë zonat rajonale të Kosovës. Ankësat u kryen nga studentët e kolezhit “Universum” të cilët ishin pjesë e

partnership project between our Institute and Universum College. By conducting this research in the field, students were able to put into practice the skills they were taught by our researchers during lectures, as part of the platform for exchanging experiences and knowledge between these two institutions. The roundtable was financed by Think Tank Fund and Open Society Foundations.

### “Consumption of domestic products in Kosovo – an overview of public opinion”

Based on the results of the research, 94% of respondents have stated that they consume domestic products; but, only 7.3% of them have stated that in their basket of monthly consumed products over 70% of the products are domestic ones. Meanwhile, as far as the selection criteria for consuming a product are concerned, quality plays the main role (71%), price (46%), while marketing and the exposition of products in the shelves, come afterwards.

On the other side, although 94% of respondents have stated that they consume domestic products, 54% of them think that consumers are not enough informed regarding domestic products.

Lastly, it results that product marketing plays a key role when deciding to consume domestic products since the products of the companies which have invested the most in marketing, were the ones mentioned by the respondents. Even though, respondents did not identify marketing as a key factor affecting their decision making.

Through this research, INDEP provided key recommendations which would help domestic producers in approaching their targets consumers and would also help governmental institutions in drafting supportive policies



## Achievements in Democratic Governance program in 2016

Through our intensive work, during this year as well we preserved the reputation of being one of the organizations which are always ready to promote Democratic Governance.

After the intensive work in partnership with GAP institute and GLPS regarding the protection of Public Enterprises Law No. 03/L-038 and their depoliticization; our findings concerning the politicization of the boards of public enterprises made international actors react and appeal for the need to encourage serious institutional commitment in this regard. Moreover, these findings were included in the Progress Report for Kosovo 2016 of the European Commission, which was published in November, where it is emphasized that appointments at boards of public enterprises are still influenced by politics, which impairs, according to EC, their independent functionality and efficient management. One of the undertaken steps by the Government regarding this issue consists on signing the Memorandum with British Embassy in Kosovo to ensure external and independent support on appointing the remaining positions in the boards of public enterprises. In the same line, based on our recommendations, the Assembly Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020 foresees a special unit within the agency for the liaison officer for independent agencies.

On the other side, we continued to closely cooperate with the Parliamentary Committees by participating in law drafting working groups and providing our recommendations. It is important to highlight our participation in the working groups for the Labor and Pension Schemes Law. In the meantime, the new Law on Energy Efficiency, in which our recommendations are included, is expected to pass in the Government by 2017. 2016 was the year of the adoption and entry into force of the Building Energy Performance Law, which was decreed by President on 5th of December 2016. INDEP contributed in the drafting of this law and the work done in this regard is part of our endeavor to promote energy efficiency and integrate it in public policies.

Meanwhile, since September, 1st 2016, we started implementing the institutional grant of Kosovo Civil Society Foundation (KCSF). The project “Promoting and encouraging partnership between stakeholders as a tool for installing democratic practice in decision-making” is being implemented within the Democratic Governance program of INDEP which aims to grow the Institute’s capacities in research field and in providing solutions for public policies based on

Committee of Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry.

Committee of Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning.

independent research.

Through this grant, we extend our activities for 2 more years. There will be analysis on law initiatives, support of monitoring law implementation, promoting and support of public hearings, analysis of annual reports of independent agencies, researches regarding independent agencies, workshops with the administrative staff of the Assembly, regular meetings with our partners, discussion roundtables for laws before their adoptions in the first reading, staff training on democratic governance etc.

The analysis of the Energy Regulator Office annual report for 2016, serves as the best case example of the combination of our activities in sustainable development with the work with the Assembly. We once more identified the problems regarding the functionalization of the Regulator and a part of those were addressed in the legislation pack for energy which came out this year.

23 sessions monitoring

4 policy analysis

4 roundtable

1 workshop

We have been monitoring and supporting the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry, since 2012. With the project of KCSF, from September 1st, our Institute has been monitoring also the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning. Our work with these two committees is important not only regarding our program on democratic governance and promoting principles of good governance, but also on observing the legislation in the sustainable development program.

Through this project, we monitored 14 sessions of the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry and 9 sessions of the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning. As part of this project, our Institute has presented to both committees the analysis “European Commission Report and the obligations which should be addressed by this

committee in the working plan for 2017”. Through this analysis we have identified the key fields which should be prioritized by each commission based on the European Commission report for Kosovo, published in November 2016.

Among others, this year as well we contributed with comprehensive legal analysis of the legislative framework. We analyzed the law of Oil Market, which was also delivered to the members of Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry. Also, we analyzed the state of radiation and protection of it in Kosovo and the lack of monitoring capacities in radiation field, the lack of control of radioactive remaining and radiological emergencies plan, etc. A policy analysis was handed to the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning, from which Committee concrete actions related to this issue are expected.

We held regular meetings with our project partners and other parties in the Assembly. We have been part of the working group for the Assembly Strategic Plan 2015 – 2020. In December, as a part of this plan, based on our recommendations, the Assembly Strategic Plan for 2015 – 2020 foresees a special unit within the agency for the liaison officer for independent agencies. In September, as part of the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency, we were one of the organizers of the event marking the Democracy Day, organized by the Assembly of Kosovo. We participated in the civil society organizations fair, held on September 15th. In our corner we presented our research products on the sustainable development program as Indicators of Sustainable Development, then we presented brochures for promoting Energy Efficiency, and also research products that promote electric energy market liberalization, the foundation of energy efficiency fund, etc. We also presented and delivered our policy analysis on: “Unemployment in Kosovo: 3 measures for over 20.000 jobs”, “The dedicated taxes in Kosovo – what are we taking in return of paying taxes”, etc.



## We cooperated with business community to assess MSA impact

In the roundtable held on February 5th, in partnership with the German-Kosovar Economic Chamber, whereby representatives of the Government, European Union Office in Kosovo, businesses, customs, civil society and other interested parties were present. The main idea of the event was to assess Kosovo's level of preparation toward accomplishing the set objectives by SAA agreement and to also discuss the potential implications of this agreement.

The signing of SAA was considered as a good opportunity for Kosovar businesses to become part of the European market, which in return is expected to contribute to an increased level export of Kosovo's products. SAA is considered to be the first contractual agreement between EU and Kosovo, which required fundamental reforms by Kosovo institutions. Meanwhile, our Institute considered the functionalization of the Competition Authority as an immediate priority in order to protect the market competition. Moreover, the role of the Standardization Agency on preparing businesses to compete in the European market was widely discussed, which would be expected to improve the quality of products and hence contribute to matching it with European quality standards.

This roundtable was financed by Open Society Institute through Think Tank Fund.

## What was said?



Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms. Hykmete Bajrami

“The signing of this agreement is an opportunity for Kosovar businesses to be part of the European market of consumers and for increasing the export of Kosovo products. But, it makes no sense for the market to open for businesses, while people cannot move freely yet. So, I hope that when this agreement enters into force in June, we will also have the visa liberalisation.”



European Union Office in Kosovo, Mr. Christof Stock

“Stabilisation and Association Agreement is the first contractual agreement between EU and Kosovo. The enlargement agenda of EU shall be followed by a reform agenda from Kosovo. Institutions can play a role into broadening the possitive effects of SAA.”



The executive director of INDEP, Mr. Burim Ejupi

“We have an institution that protects the market competition, but which is non-functional since 2013 because of the lack of action by Government. I make an appeal to the Government to complete the board of this Authority with professional people and not political ones, as we are used to see. The Standardisation Agency shall prepare businesses to compete in the European Market by improving products quality and meeting European quality standards.”



## The analysis results

Functionalization of independent agencies work: possibilities for fusion, increase of supervising and balance of independency and accountability

The way independent agencies currently function suggests that the legal basis which regulates independent agencies shall entirely change. This shall be done through a Law for Changing and Amending Laws that regulate the work of Independent Agencies. This legal basis would enable the constitution of a mechanism for parliamentary supervising which would be able to address the issue of electing board members. The board members would be elected by the Assembly of Kosovo. This would not only set free the functionality of the board from its dependency on Kosovo Government, but would also increase accountability and transparency of the agencies towards the Assembly.



## INDEP assessed the work of independent agencies in Kosovo

During March, we organized a roundtable to discuss the functionalization of independent agencies, their challenges and the way forward. This roundtable was attended by deputies of the Assembly, representatives of British Embassy and civil society. Our Institute, since it started the partnership with the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry, was intensively focused on instilling supervising mechanisms in the Assembly for independent agencies. As a result of our work, the reporting form of independent agencies was standardized and this was seen as a progress in safeguarding transparency and accountability.

Attendees considered that the current way of regulating independent agencies does not ensure functionality, accountability and independency. In line with this, we also presented the analysis: “Functionalization of independent agencies work: possibilities for fusion, increase of supervising and balance of independency and accountability”

This roundtable was also attended by representatives of civil society organizations which supervise the work of the Assembly and independent agencies. They welcomed our recommendations and estimated our Institute’s work in this field by expressing their readiness for a more active support in this regard.

The roundtable was organized as part of the project on supporting the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure and Industry work, supported by British Embassy in Prishtina.



The results of the analysis:

Earmarked taxes in Kosovo – what are we taking in return for paying taxes

The current system of managing public finances is centralized and does not meet real needs and expenditures. Furthermore, the legal basis must ensure that the purpose of collecting a tax meets its expenditure allocation. In this way, the principle of collecting dedicated taxes would be respected, hence the citizens would be protected. Moreover, sustainable and credible sources would be issued for financing projects and funds in accordance with governmental priorities.



## INDEP tackles main issues related to the earmarked taxes in Kosovo

Led by our mission to advance sustainable development and democratic governance in our country, through ensuring transparency and accountability on managing public finances; we held a press conference on April, in partnership with Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). In this conference, we presented our policy analysis on “Dedicated taxes in Kosovo – what are we taking in return of paying taxes”.

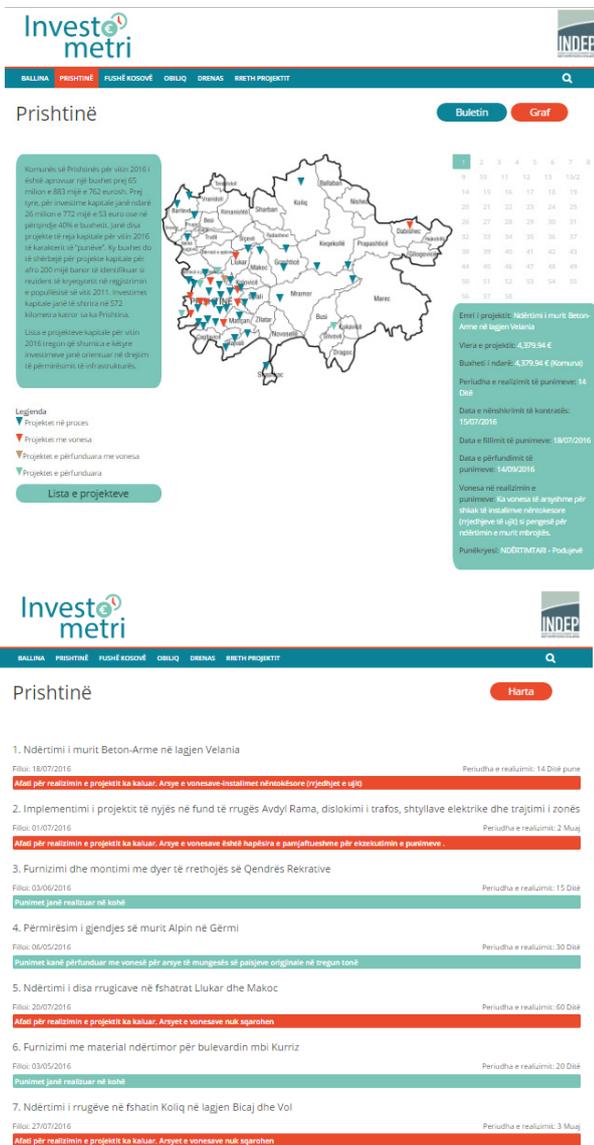
Through this analysis we reviewed earmarked taxes by being focused on how Kosovo institutions approach the dedicated revenues. The way revenues are collected in Kosovo’s budget was especially emphasized. The basic issue which was addressed by this analysis was the tax collection for dedicated purposes and its allocation for other purposes. In particular, our analysis distinguished the case of the ecological and street tax, which is collected for a specific purpose. i.e. protecting the environment, but are not allocated for the same purpose.

Based on this analysis, we have concluded that this analysis violates the fairness principle of establishing a public tax, hence harming the citizens themselves.

# Investometri

Citizens of Kosovo can now supervise the progress of local capital investments in real time

On September 28th, we launched the electronic platform [www.investometri.com](http://www.investometri.com), through which citizens can follow the progress of capital investments in the municipalities of: Prishtina, Fushe Kosova, Obiliq and Drenas. By designing and functionalizing this platform, we enabled citizens to have access and to be informed regarding capital investments in their neighborhoods, villages and cities. As a result, they can use this information tool for supervising the implementation process of capital investments and in return to become part of the decision-making process in their place.



Through visual and graphic indicators, citizens of these municipalities can be informed through a click regarding where capital investments are in process, about their monetary value and duration, also whether they are completed in time or not. The easy access and use of this platform enables citizens to use this tool without long and difficult procedures.

We were committed to bring this project to life because in the process of policy-making, along with the importance of adequate planning and implementation, the necessity of monitoring and evaluating policies is irreplaceable.

Besides, there are obvious problems regarding budget allocation based on citizens needs, the implementation of policies also stumbles on informing citizens for the projects which take place in their municipalities. Through informing citizens, the transparency of public institutions increases, along with the accountability of the governing institutions.

Otherwise, these municipalities were selected because each of them is governed by different political parties. Thus, we are able to have a comparative overview in terms of assessing the effectiveness of each political party's local governance. Moreover, we aim to extend this project into other municipalities as well.

The platform was presented to the representatives of the Ministry of Local

## The main objectives of INVESTOMETRI:

To provide an accessible space for public to be informed regarding budget, especially capital expenditures, hence ensuring a supervising mechanism which provides ongoing information on the progress of different capital projects in specific regions.

To narrow the gap in between political decision-making and citizens of selected municipalities, thus providing more transparency, accountability and information for citizens regarding capital projects in their municipalities.

To provide an opportunity to citizens to be directly involved in strategic occurrences in their municipalities.

To provide an opportunity to municipalities for promoting their work to citizens by informing them regarding past, present and future projects.

Government Administration, representatives of the respective municipalities and civil society organizations.



After launching this platform, we held meetings with citizens in Drenas and Obiliq to discuss capital investments and the actual possibility for them to be better informed regarding these investments. In this purpose, we presented the platform to them. Through brochures and bulletins, we informed citizens for capital projects of 2016 taking place in these two municipalities. We encouraged them to make use of their right to be informed regarding this issue since this enables them to participate constructively in the decision-making processes in their respective municipalities.



## By sharing our success we contributed to the organizing of the Democracy Day Fair

On September 15th, we attended the Democracy Day Fair organized by the Forum for Parliamentary Transparency of the Assembly of Kosovo. By attending this Fair, we promoted our programs of Sustainable Development and Democratic Governance. We also shared to interested citizens brochures, bulletins and research products such as: “Unemployment in Kosovo: 3 measures for over 20.000 jobs”, “The dedicated taxes in Kosovo – what are we taking in return of paying taxes”, etc.

This year’s Fair motto was: “Democracy 2030”. It was a great opportunity to directly contact citizens and to share our experience with other institutes and seeking to work jointly in this regard.



## Achievements in Regional Cooperation and Networking program for 2016

Në fushën e bashkëpunimit rajonal, kemi vazhduar edhe këtë vit ta japim mbështetjen tonë në In the regional cooperation field, we have continued to further institutionalize or efforts regarding energy, democratic governance and Euro – Atlantic integration processes. While we have strengthened our existing partnerships, new ones have come into existence at different levels.

From the most important events occurring during 2016, our participation in three international panels shall be emphasized. This marks a concrete success since we stepped from the symbolic participation in international events to the direct involvement, respectively being invited as panelists in important events organized by key international actors. This, despite being a good opportunity for cooperation toward our mutual aims, shows the success of our intensive work for advocating policies which influence economic, social and political development of countries in long term.

Firstly, we were part of OSCE meetings of Western Balkan experts group for fighting corruption, where 60 experts of this region were invited. Our Institute's executive director, Mr. Burim Ejupi, as a panelist on the topic "Politically exposed persons and fight against corruption", talked on challenges in fighting against corruption in Kosovo and the role of civil society organizations and INDEP in pushing institutions into action. Moreover, Mr. Ejupi shared our experience in fighting against politicization of public enterprises boards.

The other panel in which we took part was in the XXVI World Economic Forum which was held in Poland with the main theme: "United or divided? Europe in the brink of tomorrow's challenges". Being a panelist in one of the talks in the Economic Forum whereby Kosovo is discussed from different frontiers, once more confirms our firm stance regarding Kosovo representation and our efforts to fight political interferences. We represented Kosovo by being one of the panelist in the panel "Innovation as a key for intelligent development of cities and regions", which revolved mainly around innovative ideas which facilitate people's daily life; which in return drive the interest of the customers and attract the investors.

Meanwhile, we were panelists also at the Workshop of alternative energy planners and energetic modeling experts in Budapest. Thereby, we presented alternative scenarios for energy in Kosovo, focusing on promoting sustainable development which disapproves of a future dependence on, almost completely, lignite.

It is also important to highlight that this year we got engaged in three regional projects, in which our Institute commenced partnership with some of major regional networks. We were part of CONSUS project for sustainable development which established the regional network of high

### Three international panels:

XXVI World Economic Forum - Poland

OSCE meetings of Western Balkan experts group for fighting corruption - Vienna

Workshop of alternative energy planners and energetic modeling experts - Budapest

### Three new projects:

CONSUS project for sustainable development

SEERmap (South East Europe Electricity Roadmap)

WeBER Platform (Western Balkans Enabling Projects for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform)

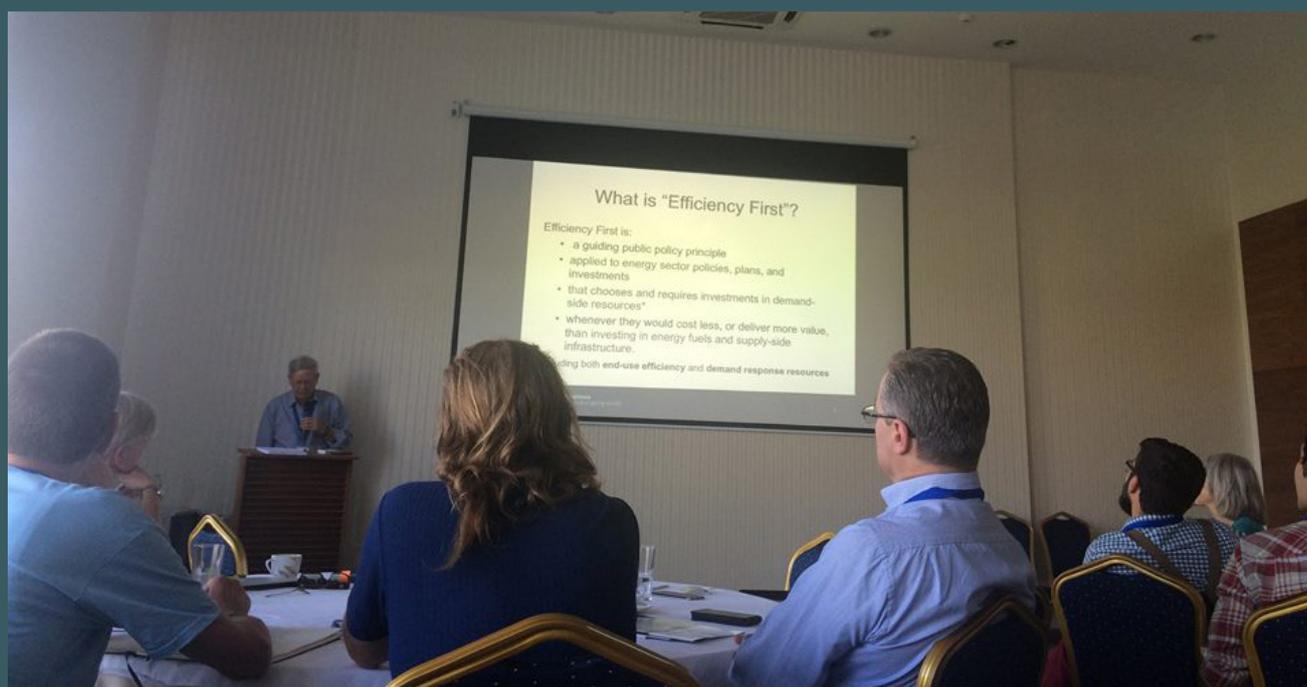
education institutions, businesses and civil society organizations in order to look for innovative ways to support sustainable development in Kosovo and Albania.

On the other side, we also commenced the partnership within the project SEERmap (South East Europe Electricity Roadmap), which aims to define electric energy scenarios until 2050 for South-East Europe countries.

In the meantime, we became part of the WEBER (Western Balkans Enabling Projects for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform) regional platform, which is established to support civil society organizations to monitor Public Administration Reform and facilitate regional sustainable development through communication platform, political dialogue and qualitative media report.



On 25th of April, we attended the Regional Conference organized by Balkan Green Foundation on Sustainable Policies of Western Balkan toward EU integration.



We represented Kosovo in the first forum of Central and Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency (C4E Forum) held in Balchik, Bulgaria during June 23 – 25. The aim of C4E Forum was to build and strengthen Central and Eastern Europe's energy efficiency community.

# CONSUS

CONNECTING SCIENCE-SOCIETY COLLABORATIONS  
 FOR SUSTAINABILITY INNOVATIONS

## CONSUS extended its network in Kosovo

CONSUS (Connecting Science – Society Collaborations for Sustainability Innovations) project founded the regional network of high educational institutions, businesses and NGO organizations in order to look for innovative ways to support sustainable development in Kosovo and Albania.

The project was led by the consortium which consisted of Graz University in Austria, Leuphana University in Germany and BOKU University in Vienna. Meanwhile, besides our institute, this network includes also:

- Universum College
- Riinvest College
- Haxhi Zeka University in Peja
- Agricultural University of Tirana
- Aleksandër Moisiu University in Durrës
- European University of Tirana
- Polis University
- Center for Comparative and International Studies in Albania

By signing the Memorandum of Understanding on May 11th, we engaged into providing our experience of shaping public policies. This networking was of a high importance for our commitment to promote innovative ways for advancing economic-social sustainable development.

This project was funded by the European Commission Program – Tempus (Erasmus+)



## We represented Kosovo in World Economic Forum

The XXVI World Economic Forum themed “Divided or united? Europe in the brink of tomorrow’s challenges” was held in Poland. Around six hundred journalists covered over two hundred debates.

We represented Kosovo by being one of the panelists in the panel “Innovation as a key for intelligent development of cities and regions”, where we discussed about innovative ideas which facilitate people’s daily life; which in return attracting new residents and investors. Panelists discussed about the best and smartest way to invest money and the solutions which would provide commodity, security and sustainable development to people.

Besides our executive director, Mr. Burim Ejupi, other panelists were:

- Frank Barr Irish Association of EV Owners
- Oleksandr Hanushchyn Lviv Regional Council, Ukraine
- Gregorz Naiperlaski – Poland Republic Senator
- Peter Ramsden – United Kingdom

This participation marks another networking and international cooperation success, where we are no longer merely observing participants but rather directly involved in these kinds of events of a high importance. In his talk, after presenting INDEP’s work, Mr. Ejupi emphasized the importance of innovation. According to him, the purpose of innovation relies on improving everybody’s life and it is fort authorities to embrace change by preserving stability and continuity. Moreover, this forum was awarded with Victoria Europe Award of the European Business Club.



## We were part of designing electric energy scenarios for Southeast Europe up to 2050

In September, nine research institutes have been invited from nine different countries in the region in order to contribute to the development of various energy scenarios up to 2050 for countries of the Southeastern Balkans, with a special focus on presenting policies related to the reduction of carbon output, which is indeed the main goal of SEERmap project. All of nine institutes discussed about the integral components which would define the designing of decarbonization models. Our Institute together with the eight others was part of the first workshop held in Belgrade. Moreover, this workshop was attended by representatives of the Kosovo Ministry of Economic Development and the Kosovo Agency for Environmental Protection. Our Institute's representatives presented about the current situation in Kosovo regarding the electric energy sector and the challenges it faces. Moreover, it was discussed about the role of INDEP and other NGO-s in terms of contributing to design policies which promote sustainable development and meet energy needs with least environmental and social costs.

Meanwhile, the second workshop was held in October in Podgorica. Key discussion topics dealt with energy policies and supportive instruments for the promotion of Renewable Energy Sources, RES rules and legislation of the European Union and integration challenges of RES in the energy system network. Also, it was discussed about problems and opportunities which are faced by Western Balkan countries toward RES promotion. In the meantime, INDEP presented latest developments with RES deployment in Kosovo. Unfortunately, there is a lack of progress in achieving indicative targets for year 2020, and as a result, opportunities and alternatives were reviewed for redesigning current policies at the national and the regional level. Also, it was discussed about main obstacles which influence directly investments in this

field, as administrative procedures and lack of their harmonization at inter-institutional level, delays of One Stop Shop opening, lack of genuine studies for measuring national capacities on energy production from RE, etc,. In this event, INDEP's representatives were accompanied by those of Kosovo Ministry of Economic Development, Environmental Protection Agency and Transmission, System and Market Operator (J.S.C).

Furthermore, the third workshop was held in Tirana in December whereby RES integration challenges were discussed, as well as, challenges and possibilities of regional cooperation toward a more substantial progress in this regard. Our Institute's participation and involvement in this project, respectively workshops, marks our serious engagement in regional networks which aim to develop policies impacting the region sustainably in a long term period.



## Vienna gathers experts on fighting against corruption, including INDEP

On October 26th, OSCE brought together in Vienna 60 experts on fighting corruption from the Western Balkans region. The two-day meeting of experts, titled “Lessons from Southern-East Europe”, discussed about regional trends and several practices on fighting against corruption in high levels, as political parties funding, public officials assets, income hiding, public procurement and money laundering, were discussed.

Meanwhile, the panel on “Politically Exposed Persons and Fighting Corruption” discussed on challenges regarding fight against corruption in the region. As part of this talk series, our Institute's executive director, Mr. Burim Ejupi, in the role of the panelist discussed about the fight against corruption in Kosovo and on INDEP's and NGOs' role in pushing responsible institutions into action. Moreover, Mr. Ejupi shared our experience on fighting the politicization of the boards of the public enterprises and how our campaign against boards' politicization brought this issue in the public agenda.

For our institute, our participation and involvement in this panel shows the success of our intensive work for five years now. These representations help us in moving further toward accomplishing our goals, while focusing in contributing in highly important issues not merely in the region, but beyond it.



## We presented the alternative energy scenarios for Kosovo in Budapest

On November 3rd in Budapest was held the workshop of alternative energy planners and energetic modeling experts. Lead energy specialists, professors and researchers as well as international bodies represented their views and experiences regarding past and possible future alternative energy visions and roadmaps. The aim of this special international meeting was to initiate a research project about a common Central and South-Eastern European alternative energy scenario building.

Our institute was represented by our senior researcher, Learta Hollaj, who as a panelist presented the alternative energy scenarios for Kosovo, with a focus on promoting sustainable energy pathways which fight the idea of a future almost exclusively reliance on lignite. Thereby, the participants questioned seriously the decision of the policy makers of Kosovo to invest in a new lignite-fired power plant, which studies show will be the most expensive and the least sustainable solution from the available alternatives.

The event was organized by Energiaklub Climate Policy Institute and Applied Communications and the Green Workshop Foundation.



## WeBER platform extends its network in Kosovo

Western Balkans Enabling Projects for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform – WeBER platform is established to support civil society organizations to monitor Public Administration Reform and to facilitate regional sustainable development through a communication platform, political dialogue and qualitative media report.

WeBER consists of a NGO-s network that aims to establish practical tools and instruments for consulting and monitoring of Public Administration structure, performance and reform.

At the launching event held in Podgorica on November 16th, our Institute signed the memorandum of cooperation with WeBER, which marked the commencement of this partnership in order to support an independent public administration which is efficiently functional and meets its citizen's needs.

In the same line, INDEP will provide its experience on the respective fields starting from the campaign on the depoliticization of the boards of the public enterprises, support of the lawmaking processes in Assembly of Kosovo and the promotion of E-participation platform to safeguard inclusive policy-making processes.

For our institute, WeBER platform is a good opportunity to unite the efforts of all regional actors to ensure a better quality and efficiency of Public Administration and its reform vis-à-vis the requirements of the European Integration process.

# Donors

In 2016, INDEP was supported by:



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Tempus



