

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY
INSTITUTI PËR POLITIKA ZHVILLIMORE



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INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY INSTITUTI PËR POLITIKA ZHVILLIMORE

Why are we here? Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) was established in 2011 to set a democratic state based on the principles of development.

What are we? INDEP in its core is a think tank with a special focus in advocating with a special focus on advocacy at local and central legislative levels. Our work focuses on the development of policy and law analysis, and advocacy to ensure that local policies and legislation are open and democratic.

HOW DO WE SUCCEED?

Democratic Governance Through our Democratic Governance program we aim to help in developing long-term successful policies. In this program, we work directly with decision-makers in executive and legislative levels in analysis, debates and implementation of state policies. We aim to achieve these principles through democratic processes with broad public involvement.

Sustainable Development Through the Sustainable Development Program, we aim to ensure that all our activities are executed through the prism of sustainable development. This program has a particular focus on developing renewable energy as a key need for Kosovo and as our responsibility towards the planet. This program also includes policy development.

Regional Collaboration Through the regional union program we aim to network all our activities and policies of the state of Kosovo in the context of the region. In addition to multiplying the effect of our work, this also enables us to develop neighborly relations, for sustainable democratic development.

01

DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE



1.100 days of Haradinaj Government

Democratic governance program requires assessing executive and legislative policies. As part of this engagement, we have analyzed the first 100 days of the new government in 2018.

Together with the Group for Political and Juridical Studies (GPJS), and the GAP Institute our joint analysis has examined:

- Decisions taken and their content;
- Legislative program, drafted draft laws and new legislative initiatives;
- The main developments and challenges of Kosovo diplomacy;
- Recognition of independence and membership in international organizations

Regarding public transparency, we have identified the non-publication of official documents. The latter is extremely important for democratic governance and as one of the advocacy pillars for INDEP during 2018.

2. INVESTOMETRI

In 2018, INDEP has expanded its website for capital expenditure monitoring in Kosovo, INVESTMETRI in all 38 municipalities of Kosovo.

Democratic governance include the development of public spending policies for the benefit of citizens.

For this reason, INDEP sees the need for continuous monitoring of the development of investment policies and the effectiveness of the implementation of these policies

Investometri:

- Helps supervising project realizations;
- Monitors electoral promises of political parties;
- Increases the transparency of overseeing the spending of the budget;
- Increases the cooperation of municipalities with their citizens;

3. INFORMED DEMOCRATIC DECISION MAKING

In INDEP, we believe that successful democratic governance is only done with the continued participation of various stakeholders, including citizens, CSOs and independent experts.

As a continuation of the project to promote and encourage stakeholder cooperation as a tool for installing democratic practices in decision-making, INDEP has worked with Parliamentary Committees and other stakeholders to improve policies.

Through this project, INDEP, in cooperation with the Kosovo Assembly has provided direct access to law making and policy-making to CSO groups and marginalized groups to the laws that affect them.

INDEP has also assisted lawmakers with 13 research and analysis to ensure independent and informed law making regarding the country's development.

4. MONITORING OF STANDARDS

Democratic governance requires constant monitoring and assistance to policy makers.

We are engaged in cooperation with the Ministry of Trade and Industry, Tourism Division, Quality Infrastructure Division / Department of Industry and Legal Department.

As part of our dedication, we have conducted analyzes and research on:

- Concept Document for Tourism
- Draft for Amending and Supplementing the Law on Economic Zones
- Regulation on the Content and Method of Management of the Technical Rules Register, Approved Bodies for Conformity Assessment, Foreign Documents and Conformity Marks

5. INFORMED DEMOCRATIC DECISION MAKING

Sincere engagement of policymakers and civil servants is indispensable to ensure genuine democratic governance.

For this reason, employment of civil servants by meritocracy, and better communication with citizens has been one of the important focus of our work in 2018.

During 2018, INDEP, thanks to the WeBER platform, monitored the public administration reform in the municipalities of Drenas and Obiliq.

Based on civil service surveys and on the dialogue with Non-Governmental Organizations and citizens in these municipalities, INDEP has published two research reports on meritocratic employment and local accountability.

Cooperation with government organizations, civil society and citizens remains a fundamental aspect of our work.

THE FIRST 100 DAYS OF HARADINAJ GOVERNMENT

At the beginning of the year we engaged with the analysis of 100 First Day of Government Haradinaj. This paper has been compiled in partnership with two other non-governmental

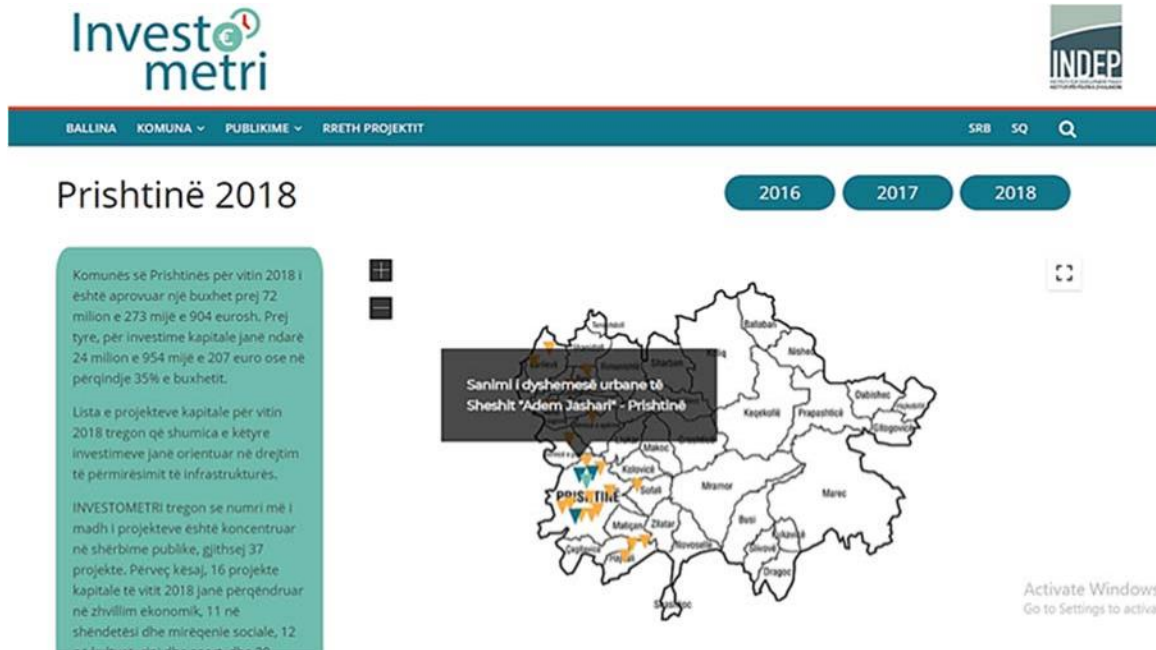


organizations, Group for Political and Juridical Studies (GPJS) and the GAP Institute. The paper praised the four main pillars. The first pillar analyzed the decisions taken and their content. The second pillar assessed in detail the legislative program, namely drafted draft laws, adopted and new legislative initiatives. The third and fourth pillars reflected the main developments and challenges of Kosovo diplomacy, focusing on recognitions of Kosovo's independence and its membership in various international organizations as well as the level of transparency that the Government has reflected over its 100 days of government.

In addition, what this analysis came to conclude was that the Government Haradinaj did not take steps during its first 100 days to publish official documents such as vehicle homologation contracts, highway construction contracts and, among other things, the lists of businesses that have benefited from debt forgiveness, which seriously undermine the level of transparency and accountability of the Government of Haradinaj.

INVESTOMETRI

Lack of transparency and monitoring capability on spending municipal capital budgets has driven us to develop INVESTMETRI. This tool's aim is to assess the progress and success of capital investments in eight selected municipalities.



Municipalities of Prishtina, Fushë Kosovë, Obiliq, Drenas, Gjilan, Novobërdë, Kamenica and Gračanica are the direct beneficiaries of this project, which is designed with the sole purpose of promoting transparent practices in the management of capital investments at the local level.

The platform provides information to citizens about where and how municipal budgets are spent and when they have to wait to see the completion of the projects. Also, the platform serves as a tool that will show the effectiveness of party entities in terms of successful management of the municipalities they lead, and, likewise, the level of responsibility shown by these political entities to their electoral zones.

As part of this project, we work closely with citizen groups and local NGOs to mobilize them for active engagement in public budget design and effective management. In addition, we work closely with the municipal structures to understand their needs and challenges in terms of ensuring a more active citizen participation in local policy-making levels.

The three year project by INDEP, INVESTOMETRI this year was extended to 38 municipalities of Kosovo.

INDEP staff organized meetings with representatives of respective municipalities and citizens to identify their concerns regarding capital investments. In these meetings, INDEP gained the confidence of citizens to use this platform in order to be informed on capital investments in their municipalities and citizens to be monitors of local authority decisions on capital investments. After the completion of the project, thanks to the sincere and genuine cooperation with the municipalities, the platform is foreseen to pass on their management.

Analysis of the Annual Report of the Railway Regulatory Authority

Analysis of the Annual Report of the Commission for Mines and Minerals

Analysis of the Annual Report of the Privatization Agency of Kosovo

Analysis of the Annual Report of the Energy Regulatory Office

Analysis of the Annual Report of the Civil Aviation Authority

Analysis of the Draft Law on Treatment of Illegal Constructions

Draft Law on Import Protection Measures

Draft Law on Construction Products

MONITORING OF STANDARDS

The main purpose of this particular project was to reflect the level of implementation of the minimal standards in public consultation processes by the central institutions of the Republic of Kosovo.

The institution that was monitored by INDEP was the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), respectively Tourism Division, Quality Infrastructure Division / Department of Industry and Legal Department. Through this project, frequent meetings with representatives of this ministry were held.

The documents that gave the contribution of INDEP are the concept paper on Tourism, the Draft Law Amending and Supplementing the Law on Economic Zones, and Regulation on the Content and Method of Management of the Technical Rules Register, Appointed Corps for Conformity Assessment, Foreign Documents and Conformity Marks. The satisfactory result of this project was the adoption of the concept tourism document, which included our comments given during the consultation process. This document in the future will pave the way for the drafting of a legal basis that will serve to improve the chain of functioning of institutions and policies in terms of promotion and growth of tourism in the country. Regarding the other two consultative processes, they also proved to be successful with the creation of new and fruitful partnerships for the future with the respective divisions and departments.

Review of Independent Agencies in Order to Rationalize Functions and Enhance Performance

Reforming the Number, Function and Accountability of Independent Agencies

Functionalization of the Work of Independent Agencies, Challenges, and the Way Forward

Legal Regulation of Independent Agencies

Monitoring Law Enforcement

INFORMED DEMOCRATIC DECISION MAKING

INDEP has been focused on increasing the capacity of the responsible institutions for policy creation at the central level. We have done this by offering them independent research support in order to provide informed political decisions.

In this regard, INDEP is committed to providing space for direct and marginalized access. Consequently, the implementation of planned activities not only is expected to contribute to increasing citizen participation in policy making, but will also contribute equally to increasing the capacity of the organizational staff itself and expanding networking and dissemination capacity.

Through this engagement, INDEP provides regular technical assistance to Civil Staff of the Commission for Economic Development, Trade, Infrastructure and Regional Development and the Committee for Agriculture, Forestry, Environment and Spatial Planning. Technical assistance focuses on engaging in drafting policies and independent legislation in order to create strong bases for them not to depend on foreign aid in the future. In addition, in this process, INDEP has worked closely with local CSOs in terms of their mobilization to engage more actively in meeting the SAA criteria.

We managed to publish 13 papers, 8 of which were parliamentary research and 5 other policy analyzes.

The main focus was on the independent agencies, their function, and the analysis of meeting the standards on the annual reports compiled by them. Parliamentary research also included draft law drafting and law enforcement monitoring, which was presented to parliamentary committees and quoted many times by MPs who are also some of the main project partners.

Transparency and Accountability in Kosovo Municipalities

In the first part of 2017, INDEP implemented the project "Improving Accountability and Transparency of Public Institutions through a Professional and Impartial Local Political Administration".

This project was implemented within the framework of the Western Balkans Regional Platform for Enabling Projects for Civil Society Monitoring of Public Administration Reform (WeBER). Weber is a platform that aims to support civil society organizations to monitor public administration reform and development more sustainable, promoting genuine political dialogue and media coverage. Beneficiaries of this project were two municipalities, of Drenas and Obiliq. The main purpose of the project was to identify key challenges in the functioning and accountability of local administration, specifically in relation to public services and human resource management.

In February 2018, two researches resulted from this project that highlighted the need to expand reforms in order to promote meritocracy in public recruitment processes and increase accountability in local administrations. INDEP staff surveyed a total of 120 local administration officials in these two municipalities and held 2 focus groups with non-governmental organizations and citizens from these municipalities in order to make research findings as realistic as possible.



“Chief Prosecutor to Launch Investigations into the Illegal Acts that Are Taking Place in the Country”

“Haradinaj Government to Stop the Practice of Violating Applicable Laws”

“Reaction on the Government's Decision to Appoint the General Secretary of MTI”

REACTIONS



In INDEP, we remain committed to ensuring that we guarantee accountability in developments around democratic governance.

In order to prevent abusing of official positions and their denunciation, INDEP in partnership with local NGOs has asked the Chief State Prosecutor to initiate investigative proceedings against the prime minister, his subordinates or any political subordinate who may abuse their position with decisions that create the standard of open legal violations.

INDEP called on these two institutions to demonstrate their political independence and impartiality, professionalism, and political neutrality.

By advocating for the respect of laws and annulment of non-legal verdicts, the second reaction of INDEP, in cooperation with the GAP Institute and GLPS, addressed Haradinaj Government. In this reaction, INDEP raised the voice against the decision to appoint two members to the public company NPH "Ibër Lepenci" JSC, appointments these made in political nuances and contrary with Law for Public Enterprises.

INDEP believes that the politicization of public enterprises severely damages the institution and the process of public competition, the right to equal treatment of citizens and the legislation in force.

While INDEP responded to the numerous irregularities in the appointment of civil servants, another such case occurred again with the appointment of the General Secretary of MTI, a candidate who did not meet the required criteria for this senior

position. Additionally, the evaluating commission was supported by the British company in concordance with the memorandum signed between the Government of Kosovo and the British Embassy in Pristina, in October 2017. With this decision, the Kosovo government has violated the law on civil service, politicized one of the highest positions in the civil service, sacrificed professionalism, violated the rights to employment, and has violated a memorandum of understanding with the British Embassy for Recruitment professionals in senior state positions.

INDEP, GAP Institute and the Group for Legal and Political Studies (GLPS) have expressed their concern with the Government of Kosovo for failing to respect the Memorandum of Understanding with the British Embassy and for the continuation of the politicization of appointments to senior positions in the Government and Boards. The reaction has demanded that these practices be stopped immediately and all the positions for which the British professional company has voiced open opposition are revoked. Politicization in senior positions in the Government of Kosovo and in the Boards of Independent Agencies and Government Agencies has become a chronic problem. Appointment and selection of political and non-political members in key positions in institutions and agencies is not only unlawful but also severely damages equality before the law and public contests.



“Stop politicizing the civil service and independent institutions and respect the memorandum with the Embassy”

“As a sign of protest, the executive director of INDEP resigns from the evaluation committee for the election of the CEO of KAEE”

“INDEP and IKD call upon MEST and DC to implement the guideline of ethical standards and principles in recruiting new academic staff in UP”

REACTIONS



In addition to dissatisfaction with recruitment and unprofessional appointments, INDEP's executive director in protest against Government decisions and Kosovo Assembly, which continued to choose candidates who did not meet the conditions to hold positions in state institutions, while neglecting the numerous civil society reactions, and even more the implementation of the memorandums with the British Embassy, resigned from being part of the evaluation committee for the election of the Chief of Kosovo Energy Efficiency Agency.

Based on the interpretation of the legal basis, the Statute, the Code of Ethics, the Regulation for the Selection of Academic Personnel in UP, INDEP, together with the Kosovo Law Institute (KLI), addressed the bodies of the university, in particular the Ethics Council to make public the written measures and standards regarding the prevention of nepotism in the recruitment process of academic staff. The Ethics Council in response to the Ombudsman's Opinion and the request of our Institutes issued a 'Guidebook on Ethics and Ethical Principles of the University of Pristina regarding the avoidance of nepotism and the prevention of conflict of interest in the procedures for selecting academic staff for new positions, according to the public competition institution'. After the Ethics Council issued this guideline, INDEP and KLI through a letter addressed to the Minister of Education and the Council of the UP Director have called for these guidelines to be followed and to apply ethical standards and ethics that are listed so that to combat the phenomenon of nepotism and to prevent conflicts of interest in recruiting academic staff in UP.

In the course of the reactions, within a period of only 6 months, INDEP again addressed the chief prosecutor's letter. This time regarding the loss of the sum of 53 million euros

in the state budget as a result of non-fulfillment of contract obligations by the Kosovo government. This particular case was to serve as an alarm for the Kosovo Prosecution Office to investigate the possibility of a massive abuse of public money. The lack of prosecution response in earlier cases has created poor public management misery.

Regarding the energy sector and the work done by key players in this sector, INDEP reacted to illegal power supply cuts. The letter addressed to the Energy Regulatory Office, ERO, states that this practice violates Law no. 05 / L-085 on Electricity, Law no. 06 / L-034 on Consumer Protection, Human Rights of Citizens for access to vital services and violates the economic freedom of business entities. Power cuts, especially in the cold winter months, can cause damage to the health of the population, interrupts or weakens public health services, etc.

Also, through illegal power outages, KEDS / KESCO have damaged a large number of businesses that did not have the opportunity to plan reductions.

This letter was not addressed to ERO alone. In August, INDEP reacted against ERO's decision to allow losses for KEDS, which only injured citizens. By this decision, ERO has violated its mandate to protect the public interest and using arbitrarily its own power, has decided to bill the losses of a private company, to all of Kosovo's citizens. INDEP emphasized that this unfair decision taken without consultation will increase the profits of KEDS and will increase the energy poverty for Kosovo citizens, hence we called for the decision to be canceled and at the same time to revise the sales contract of the Distribution and legislation in force, and to ensure the empowerment of an independent ERO that works in the public interest, not private companies.



“Civil Society Letter to Chief Prosecutor Aleksander Lumezi”

“Stop power cuts, punish law offenders, and compensate citizens!”

REACTIONS



In terms of the 'Kosova e Re' Power Plant, During 2018 INDEP, along with other organizations, part of the Kosovo Consortium for Sustainable Development (KOSID), categorically expressed its stance on the immediate need of canceling the contract and the risks that come with his construction. Moreover, the construction of this power plant would endanger Kosovo's relationship with the European Union and its integration into international mechanisms.

INDEP's concern is strengthened even more with the deep concern expressed from the Energy Community Secretariat regarding the terms of the contract. The Secretariat explained that the signing of this agreement risks integrating Kosovo's relations with the European Union. Ergo, along with KOSID, INDEP requested the immediate withdrawal of this harmful project. Instead, we requested energy sector policies that guide Kosovo towards sustainable development.

In our attempts to protect the environment, INDEP called on Kosovo Assembly deputies not to vote on amending the Law no. 05 / L-132 on Vehicles, arguing that the voting of this draft law would damage the environment in Kosovo and would undermine efforts to align our legislation with that of the European Union and furthermore, would jeopardize the safety of citizens in traffic. The vote against this regressive and dangerous draft law would pave the way for a proper law enforcement monitoring process that would serve its overall improvement in the public interest, rather than its partial change to close interests.

02



Sustainable DEVELOPMENT

ROCKEFELLER BROTHERS FUND (RBF)

In sustainable development, our partnership with Rockefeller Brothers Fund over the years has enabled us to be the country's leading developer of sustainable development policies.

In 2018, in the framework of the cooperation we have published:

- 2 Parliamentary Research on Energy Efficiency and KOSTT.
- 7 Policy Proposals for the protection of the environment and natural resources;
- 3 Analyzes of Revenues for heating plants, waste management and plan for power plant “Kosova e Re”;

INDEP remains committed to ensuring sustainable development in Kosovo. As such, we partner with institutions that have long-term vision and aim for sustainable policies

1. EDUCATION ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION

In recent years, the information media environment has drastically changed the proliferation of online information resources. As a result, INDEP has also adapted the platform for sustainable media development, expanding its work across the entire consumer information link, from generators to readers. Through Media and Information Education (EMI), INDEP has conducted an in-depth analysis of all stakeholders and institutions related to critical reading, critical thinking, and free media.

Supported by UNESCO, we have teamed together with the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and other stakeholders to start developing a framework for EMI.

As a result, INDEP will be closely related to EMI developments in the country.

2. PENSIONS SYSTEM

Sustainable development also requires sustainable solutions for the human population. One of these choices has direct links to the pension system, which should ensure a dignified and sustainable life for all citizens.

In 2018, INDEP has published three studies that relate to the pension system in Kosovo.

In the first paper, "Pension System in Kosovo: Challenges and Opportunities" we have identified challenges and opportunities about the pension system in Kosovo.

In the second paper, "Pension reform, the Way Forward," we have analyzed the research and decision-making steps that need to be taken.

In the end, we have provided alternatives and opportunities to find a viable solution for the country.

3. COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS OF KOSOVO

Sustainable economic development requires the competitiveness of local enterprises. One of the key criteria for competitiveness of Kosovo products is to ensure production standards.

Our contribution in this area is focused on three main aspects to ensure the quality of local products:

- We have studied the requirements regarding the standards that arise from the signing of the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the EU
- We have studied what are the main target groups for Kosovo businesses in EU markets
- We have highlighted the steps Kosovar businesses should undertake to ensure the fulfillment of quality standards in their field of production or service

4. RESOURCE CENTER FOR CSOs

A healthy society requires steady and continuous participation of citizens in decision-making. As part of our work for sustainable development, this year we are committed to ensuring the sustainability of CSOs.

Through this commitment we have:

- Open the Resource Center for CSOs, which provides information sources for CSOs, opportunities for organizational development and space for use without budget obligations.
- Started the Academy for Sustainability, which aims to continuously train CSOs
- Provided Grants for Participating CSOs, which are offered to 15 local organizations that are expected to work together in the future.

Analysis of Allowed Revenues for District Heating Termokos JSC

Waste Management in Kosovo - Identifying Sector Challenges

Analysis of the Draft Law on Energy Efficiency

Analysis of the TC Kosovo New Contract

Analysis of KOSTT Annual Report

International Earth Day: 10 Policy Proposals to Land Resources
Conservation

International Energy Efficiency Day: 10 measures to increase energy
efficiency

International Conservation Day: 10 Recommendations on Policy Change

10 Measures that Kosovo should undertake to mark the international
forest day

10 Recommendations for more rational use of energy

10 Measures to Address the Air Pollution Problem

10 Environmental Protection Measures

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

In order to ensure sustainable economic, social and environmental development, INDEP has published 10 measures that central and local institutions could implement in the short term. Apart from them, INDEP was also active with public analyzes and consultations, such as the determination of revenues for the district heating company Termokos JSC, in which analyzes were proposed also sustainable charging options for citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.

INDEP also analyzed the contract for the New Kosovo power plant, advocating for withdrawal from its construction contract.

Since such an investment would put Kosovo into an economic collapse, INDEP stressed that stopping and canceling this contract is necessary to pave the way for real social dialogue on the future of the energy system of the Republic of Kosovo. In addition to this analysis, INDEP also compiled an analysis of the Draft Law on Energy Efficiency, in which the INDEP field postponed the drafting of a legislation that promotes this important component in the energy sector.

In 2018, the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund was inaugurated. This is a key step towards achieving national energy efficiency targets. INDEP has always been positioned as a think tank for sustainable development as the main concept for the country's long-term development. Advocating for the establishment of such a Fund has been one of the main pillars of our work. The establishment of this fund enjoys and makes us more optimistic about the national commitment to advancing the Energy Efficiency Agenda in the country.

Our commitment in this direction started in 2012 when we consolidated our cooperation with the Kosovo Assembly, especially the Committee for Economic Development, Infrastructure, Trade and Industry (CEDITI). As part of this cooperation, we have supported the committee to draft and adopt effective, sustainable and transparent development policies that derive from democratic processes. We have been part of working groups for drafting and amending the legislation as well as various national action plans. Among other things, we were part of the working groups on amending the Law on Energy Efficiency. There, we provided our recommendations and supported the inclusion of findings from our monitoring of the Law on Energy Efficiency realized in 2012. Due to the contribution in this working group, INDEP became part of the working group to draft Kosovo's new Law on Energy Performance in Buildings.

INDEP has conducted a series of publications on Energy Efficiency. We published the first publication in 2012 titled 'Energy Efficiency in Kosovo: Analysis of its Legal Framework and its Implementation', followed by 'Efficiency for Development: Energy Efficiency Economics in Kosovo', and 'Analysis of the Draft Law on Energy Efficiency'. In 2017, we provided the Ministry of Economic Development with a model for the development of the Energy Efficiency Fund with the work 'Energy Efficiency Financing - Benefits and Barriers'.

As a result of this work, INDEP is already part of the new working group for drafting the Third National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency. In addition to our advocacy and work at the central level, we have also worked on raising awareness campaigns and have implemented projects to inform citizens and businesses about the importance of energy efficiency. Through the project "Support to the implementation of Energy Efficiency Measures and capacity building in the private and public sectors" we have designed a small and medium sized small business grant scheme for small investments in implementing energy efficiency measures.

We have outreached businesses about benefiting from small investments in Energy Efficiency measures. Moreover, these grants were also one of our ways to appeal to the Government of Kosovo to seriously consider setting up the Energy Efficiency Fund.

Energy Efficiency is officially considered as a source of energy itself. By adopting Energy Efficiency measures, we reduce energy demand and ultimately fight our dependence on fossil fuels and generate energy that is environmentally friendly to our lives.

EDUCATION ON MEDIA AND INFORMATION

EMI is the first project of this type in Kosovo, supported by UNESCO. The main goal is to increase the demand for qualitative media and reliable information. This will be achieved through the integration of Media Education and Public Policy Information, which will pave the way for a proper EMI framework. INDEP has assessed EMI's situation in Kosovo, and promoted strategic and political mechanisms for EMI. The main partners of this initiative were the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, and the Office of Good Governance.



INDEP carried out two conferences which in total collected 60 individuals directly involved in the topic on the EMI. In order to educate a larger number of audiences, INDEP launched the EMI awareness campaign, where we shared facts about EMI on the official site 'MIL Clicks in Albanian' on Facebook and Twitter.

Following the successful completion of UNESCO and EU national media and information consultations in Kosovo, INDEP has gladly received the UNESCO invitation to be part of the Media and Information Users Coalition Steering Committee in South East Europe - CIMU SEE. The initiative launched in 2018 will continue in 2019, with other activities that will further promote the EMI. The main goal in the coming year will be the introduction of EMIs in university curricula at the Journalism Branch.

- 7 Focus groups
 - 2 Round tables
 - 2 Meetings
 - 1 Workshop
-

PENSION SYSTEM

During 2018, INDEP also managed to advocate on the issue of the pension system and its need for reform. The project through the activities implemented has aimed at identifying the challenges that this system faces and the opportunities it has in the future.

Three works were published in the project, 'Pension System in Kosovo: Challenges and Opportunities', 'Pension Reform: The Way to Follow', and 'Pension Reform: Alternatives Available, Which Is the Right One'. Within the project, two roundtable discussion were held, three closed meetings with representatives of key pension retention institutions, one workshop and seven focus groups held in the seven largest municipalities in Kosovo, which encompasses around 230 people who contributed with their views and recommendations on the possibilities of reforming the pension system.

With the involvement of our organization on the subject of pension schemes and the contribution made through the researches prepared during the previous year, INDEP was invited to be part of the working group from the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MLSW) for drafting the Concept Paper in the Field of Pensions. Subsequently, INDEP supported the work of the working group with our views and expertise. In support of MLSW, INDEP also organized a workshop in Tirana, Albania, where among the representatives of the central public institutions who participated was also the current Minister of MLSW. The project was also promoted on television platforms, namely interviews were held that elaborated the purpose of the project in general, the factual situation of the pension system and recommendations of INDEP on what should be done in the future in terms of reform.

COMPETITIVE PRODUCTS OF KOSOVO

This project was supported by Swedish Development Agency and International Cooperation (SIDA) Its main goal was to improve policies alongside increasing interest and the number of Kosovar businesses possessing European standards defined in the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA).

Through this project, specifically, INDEP contributed to some of the identified priorities that relate to the competitiveness and free movement of goods.

Thanks to a genuine and honest cooperation with the Kosovo Standardization Agency (KSA), INDEP managed to publish three works. The first paper "Standardization in Kosovo and the challenges of increasing the quality of domestic products" discussed the situation of local producers against the measures imposed by the SAA and the process standardization, whose conditions must be met to enable integration into the European commodity market. The research initially identified local producers that have the potential to export to the European market, while identifying target groups that exist in these international markets. Further, this research identified the existing challenges of local producers in the standardization process and the measures to be taken to cope with competition.

In the second paper published under this project, the 'Stabilization and Association Agreement and Standardization of Local Products' presented the current state of implementation of the SAA in Kosovo and comparative analysis among the countries of the region that carried out implementation of the SAA much earlier than Kosovo. This research identified measures taken by the central level of relevant institutions to meet the criteria set out in this agreement and the mitigation policies that have been shaped to support the local producers alongside European market competition. The findings served as recommendations for the central level of institutions in Kosovo on which policies to follow to assist local producers in the facing European market competition and meeting the requirements of the standardization process.

Meanwhile, the third paper, 'Kosovo Distribution and Selling Guide', was intended to serve businesses in about the procedures it needs followed to be equipped with standard.

During the implementation of the project, two roundtables were organized and a press conference, which received media coverage of 5 different media.

In marking of the Standards Day by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) together with the Kosovo Standardization Agency (KSA), INDEP was invited for an introductory word. In this project, promotional material was distributed, including published works. In addition to these two works, the promotional video "With Competitive Products towards the European Market" was launched during the day, which was watched by 10,000 people in the Facebook network and 150 people more who took the product directly via USB.

FIRST WEEK OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Inspired by the European Week for Sustainable Development, a group of local actors in Kosovo have organized the First Week of Sustainable Development of Kosovo (KSDE). KSDE '18 was a five-day event that focused on exploring Kosovo's key successes and challenges in implementing sustainable development.

This was also the first event of this kind bringing together the Government of Kosovo, representatives of Civil Society, the donor community, national and international experts, and the academy to address issues related to development sustainability in the country.

The host of this event was the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning in cooperation with the European Union Office in Kosovo / EU Special Representative, GIZ Kosovo and KOSID (part of which is INDEP).

In this week, there were 5 daily conferences, 1 side event, 14 panels, more than 85 speakers, 7 movie shows and more than 10 media appearances.

Organizers chose to elaborate themes. During this week, the organizers chose to elaborate topics such as:

- Water is Life, Environmental Crimes.
- Waste Management and Challenges in this Sector
- Transition of Energy and Climate Change.
- Etc.

Given the extraordinary success of this event, the event is now set to become an annual organization.

RESOURCE CENTER FOR CSOs

This year, we have started promoting the Sustainable Organizational Development of CSOs in Kosovo together with the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FCI). We aim to contribute towards a democratic society through the development of sustainable civil society organizations, which will serve in the authentic change of policy making and decision-making at all levels.

This project aims to provide organizational development, advocacy, capacity building for fundraising, profiling, partnership building and CSO networking in Kosovo.

The three main components of this project are:

Resource Center (RC)

The Resource Center serves as a primary source of information for CSOs in Kosovo on developments that are relevant to the civil society sector. It is also a source of extensive opportunities for organizational development and capacity building. The Resource Center was established in the spaces of the Forum for Civic Initiatives (FCI) in Pristina. This space is available to all CSOs in Kosovo and is offered to them for their various activities without having budgetary implications for the use of this space.

The Academy for Sustainability

The Sustainability Academy, which is implemented within this project, will provide inclusive training for capacity building of local CSOs, not only in terms of organizational development, but also specifically for providing them with the skills and competencies required for development and implementation of successful advocacy initiatives.

Grants for participating CSOs

Part of the project is the grant allocation scheme for 15 local organizations, which are being funded with small grants for realizing various projects. After the implementation of their projects, the winning CSOs will establish partnerships between them, in the form of 4 thematic coalitions, to engage in local advocacy initiatives.

PROMOTION OF GREEN ENERGY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

INDEP in cooperation with Balkan Green Foundation started this year implementing the three-year project 'Empower- Engage Build Ownership'. We aim to enable the civil society sector of Kosovo to fulfill its role in the democratic environment by acting as an independent actor to monitor public institutions, increase accountability and transparency in policy development and decision-making processes related to community concerns and civil society groups in the fields of environmental protection, green energy and the circular economy.

The project also aims to improve the skills and information exchange of CSOs on policy monitoring, advocacy and campaign organization. Also, special focus has been put on improving the participation of CSOs in policy making and implementation, as well as raising citizens' awareness of sustainable development in Kosovo.

As part of this project in this first year, the grant scheme was launched, whereby we have 16 beneficiaries of small grants and 3 beneficiaries of medium grants. The beneficial CSOs are engaging in activities that promote the preservation of the environment, green economy and sustainable economic growth throughout Kosovo; and at the same time, contribute to raising citizens' awareness of sustainable development in Kosovo. This grant scheme will be open in the next two years.

THE LARGEST CONFERENCE IN THE REGION ON THE TRANSITION OF ENERGY

Another story of success in 2018 was the conference organized together with various local and international partners on the Energy Transition. This conference gathered approximately 200 participants who had a platform to talk about overcoming challenges and obstacles, along with policy strategies, which would help move towards the energy transition in Kosovo and the region. Based on the discussion that took place during this conference, it was emphasized that the entire region is based on energy produced from fuels and it is crucial that energy sector agendas prioritize diversification of energy resources that are sustainable and affordable in financial and environmental terms. Moreover, this conference provided a valuable opportunity for networking and created opportunities for further cooperation between different stakeholders in the energy sector.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN KOSOVO MUNICIPALITIES

During 2018, INDEP also commenced its commitment to achieving the goals of sustainable development in Kosovo Municipalities.

Municipalities in Kosovo have responsibilities as defined by law regarding policy making and decision-making in their regions. As such, they are funded and taken accountable for major developments in such regions.

Kosovo has approved the Sustainable Development Goals and as a result is committed to achieving them. These goals are to be achieved by 2030. This goal is targeted through the 2030 Agenda.

INDEP, thanks to this project will assist seven municipalities of Kosovo in drafting plans and strategies on sustainable development. This process will include ongoing work with municipalities to define their policy making and strategic priorities in relation to sustainable development.

Also during this time, INDEP will be actively engaged in publicly promoting these GOALS. This promotion aims to raise awareness among citizens about the goals of sustainable development thanks to the 2030 Agenda.

INDEP remains committed to working with all local and regional actors to achieve sustainable development goals in the country, and beyond.



Goal 1:
End poverty in all its forms everywhere



Goal 2:
End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture



Goal 3:
Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages



Goal 4:
Ensure inclusive and quality education for all and promote lifelong learning



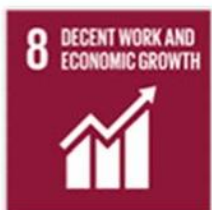
Goal 5:
Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls



Goal 6:
Ensure access to water and sanitation for all



Goal 7:
Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all



Goal 8:
Promote inclusive and sustainable economic growth, employment and decent work for all



Goal 9:
Build resilient infrastructure, promote sustainable industrialization and foster innovation



Goal 10:
Reduce inequality within and among countries



Goal 11:
Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable



Goal 12:
Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns



Goal 13:
Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts



Goal 14:
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources



Goal 15:
Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss



Goal 16:
Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies



Goal 17:
Revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development



03

REGIONAL Collaboration



Under the regional co-operation program, we continued to push forward our goals and our partners towards issues of sustainable development, democratic governance and Euro-Atlantic integration of Southeast European countries. INDEP succeeded not only to strengthen cooperation with existing partners, but also to integrate into numerous networking that brought new partnerships to the organization.

The abovementioned conference brought together various stakeholders, namely institutional ones, business representatives and non-governmental organizations of all the signatories of the Energy Community Treaty. During this conference, it was discussed how, together with the energy market structures and energy systems, legislation in the field of market competition, state aid and oversight mechanisms is undergoing a full

transformation. Moreover, it was argued that a liberalized market of the energy market would provide mechanisms by which it would ensure that the state is not favoring certain enterprises and that the market is competitive and protects consumer rights.

In this regard, INDEP continues to promote the protection of competition and respect for European legislation in the field of state protection.

Relating to the energy topic, this year INDEP organized a partnership with the SE3T.net network, a conference on "Legal Basis for Competition in the Energy Sector" held in December in Vienna, Austria. This conference discussed energy systems in Southeast Europe which should be clean, safe and affordable in terms of costs. In addition, the conference discussed the demands, challenges and potential policies in order for this part of Europe to enjoy a stable energy system.



During 2018, as an official partner of the World Economic Forum, INDEP's executive director was invited as a panelist in the discussion on 'Digital Transformation of Cities - How to make them even more wise?' alongside the representatives of the Justice Ministry of Poland, and city councils within that country. The Economic Forum is a unique platform for sharing views and serves as a meeting point of local leaders and regional elites from Central and Eastern Europe with the business and scientific environment in order to exchange experiences and create partnerships. This forum is a meeting of prime ministers, secretaries of state, ministers and deputies of participating countries, whose participation continues to prove the importance of this forum. This forum is the largest conference in Central and Eastern Europe. At every beginning of September, this forum gathers around 3,000 participants and over 500 journalists attend the event.

In 2018, INDEP and Kosovo overall were for the first time participants in the World Energy Week, which was held in Milan, Italy. INDEP was represented by Senior Researcher and Operations Manager, who was added this year to the Future Energy Leaders (FEL-100) program of the World Energy Council (EC). With INDEP's participation in this event, Kosovo's representation in the energy sector in Kosovo is ensured in the coming years. During 4 days, various workshops and panels were organized in which, among other things, the participants had the chance to get acquainted with developments in the energy sector in Kosovo.

In the context of the engagement of the Future Leaders Program in the Regional Energy Cooperation Sector, INDEP's representative is engaged in the work group which will deal with the global identification of barriers and opportunities for increasing the share of renewable resources of energy (i.e. wind and sun) into existing electricity networks. The project aims at a global diagnosis of the problems and opportunities faced by different regions across the world regarding this issue.

In 2018, INDEP was supported by:



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