

# Progress and Prospects: Evaluating Kosovo's State of Sustainable Development Goals

December, 2023





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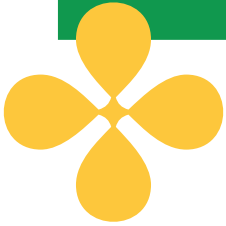
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**4**  
PRIORITY SDG-s

In this progress report, we highlight 4 goals that we think we should prioritize



Good health  
and well-  
being



No poverty



Decent work and  
economic growth



Climate action



## Insufficient of data\*



The available data cover only 33% of the indicators



There is no data for 44% of the indicators



25% of the indicators are not relevant for Kosovo

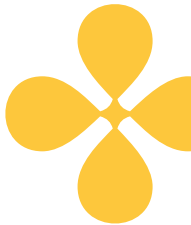
\*Mentioned in the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2021 - 2025. Accessible here: [https://kosovoteam.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/2021-2025%20UNKT%20Cooperation%20Framework\\_final\\_signed\\_shared%20with%20government\\_revised%20May%202023.pdf](https://kosovoteam.un.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/2021-2025%20UNKT%20Cooperation%20Framework_final_signed_shared%20with%20government_revised%20May%202023.pdf)

# INTRODUCTION

Within the complex structure of Kosovo's post-independence history, the pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has become a pillar of support and a kind of yardstick that points the way to a fairer and more sustainable future. Kosovo has negotiated the complex interplay of historical legacies, economic constraints and societal aspirations since gaining independence in 2008. Kosovo now has a universal framework to address the complex web of issues that create its development narrative thanks to a global mandate embodied in 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by the United Nations in 2015.

The main objectives of Kosovo's development journey are the reduction of poverty (SDG 1), good health and well-being (MDG 3), the advancement of decent employment and economic expansion (SDG 8) and climate action (SDG 13). Despite experiencing some economic fragility, Kosovo is making efforts to diversify its economy. Kosovo's economic trajectory has been significantly shaped by several new entrepreneurship initiatives and international investments, striving to commit to equitable growth that is consistent with the SDGs. This economic tenacity serves as evidence of Kosovo's determination to deal not only with current issues, but also to lay the foundations for long-term success. A stable economic growth would also be an impetus for the fulfillment of other SDGs.

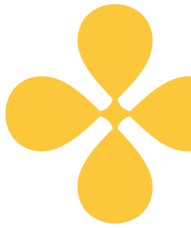
An important part of Kosovo's development narrative is improving the quality of education, which resonates with SDG 4. Kosovo has so far shown slow progress in meeting this objective. The best demonstrator of this is the poor results in the PISA test. This comes as a result of numerous problems with the academic staff of educational institutions, the non-implementation of the new curriculum and the lack of quality assurance mechanisms.

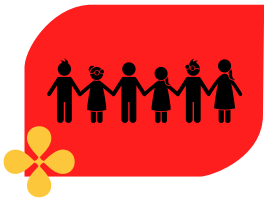


Another challenge in this regard continues to be the mismatch of market requirements with the skills and knowledge acquired in schools, thus creating a society that, among other things, may not be developed in terms of political culture.

SDGs 6, 7, 11, 13 and 15 all refer to environmental protection. Encouraging economic growth while maintaining environmental sustainability is a challenge faced by all countries, especially countries in transition like Kosovo. Over the last year, Kosovo has demonstrated an increased commitment to environmental responsibility through several initiatives aimed at ensuring affordable and clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, climate action and the preservation of life on earth. But these initiatives are not enough to preserve natural resources for future generations, and also to simultaneously address current environmental issues.

In essence, Kosovo's progress towards the SDGs is a narrative of resilience, interconnectedness and determination. The SDGs serve not only as a point of reference, but also as a shared vision that transcends borders, aligning Kosovo's development trajectory with a broader commitment to a sustainable and inclusive world. As we delve into the pages of this report, it becomes more than just a documentation of progress; it unfolds the challenges we face and the triumphs achieved through joint efforts. Amidst our ongoing challenges, this report stands as a reminder of the importance of reflection on our path to sustainable development. Kosovo's steps towards the SDGs, detailed in this report, not only point to significant achievements, but also serve as a source of inspiration, moving us collectively towards a brighter, more connected future for our country and community. global.





## SDG 1: NO POVERTY

End poverty in all its forms everywhere

### Evaluation of targets

1.1 In Kosovo, according to the latest report of the European Commission for Kosovo, about 18% of the population of Kosovo lives below the poverty line (45 euros per month, where 5.1% of the population lives below the extreme poverty line).

The percentage of family members who in 2021 cannot afford: 1) to keep the house adequately warm - 14.9%, 2) a week's vacation away from home (56.8%), 3) to eat meat, fish or equivalent of protein every second day (43.0%), 4) an unexpected expense of €100 (43%).

1.2 Social welfare is a target that is measured in Kosovo by the Kosovo Statistics Agency. In 2022, 90,806 residents benefited from social assistance.

1.4 In 2022, no major natural disaster occurred in Kosovo, which could have caused death, disappearance of persons or direct impact on the population, but there were numerous rainfalls which occasionally caused flooding in some area of Kosovo. But, apart from the material damage, there was no damage to people. Kosovo has had a Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2020, which has not been updated for the period after 2020.

### General situation

According to the World Bank, about 18% of the population lives below the international poverty line (at 45 euros per month), with 5.1% percent of the population below the extreme poverty line[1].

During the year 2022 in Kosovo, 41.5% of registered job seekers were in the 25-39 age group, which shows that we have a relatively young workforce. But on the other hand, Kosovo has a high degree of economic dependence, 230 during the year 2022, which means that there is a significant burden on the working age population to support those who are economically dependent. This burden becomes even worse if wages are low.

During the year 2022, there was a relatively small increase in the average net salary compared to the year 2021, but this increase is not enough if we evaluate it in relation to the level of inflation. [2]

The proportion of unstable employment in relation to general employment during the year has risen, from 12.7% in 2021 to 13.3% in 2022. On the other hand, the unemployment rate has decreased, from 20.7% in 2021, to 12.6% in 2022. This may be the result of the pandemic phase in 2020-2021, which resulted in significant job losses for citizens.

During the year 2022, 49.4% of working-age men were employed, while 18.4% of working-age women were employed. The sectors with the highest percentage of employment were: Trade with 19.3%, construction with 11%, education with 10.8% and production with 8.9%.

## Laws that include this goal

Law on population, household and housing registration

Law on social assistance scheme in Kosovo

Labor Law

Law on the Economic-Social Council

Law on Social and Family Services

Law on state-funded pension schemes

## Main challenges

- As presented in the statistics above, the employment rate between women and men has a big difference and this should be addressed in state policies
- The informal economy and illegal employment continued to remain a challenge even during 2022
- The high degree of economic dependency presents a multiple problem because on the one hand a relatively small number of working individuals will have to support a large number of people who are economically dependent and on the other hand the Government will likely need to increase the number of "social safety nets" and support systems to help care and support the dependent population
- Lack of access to stable and decent employment can contribute to poverty. This includes issues such as high youth unemployment and informal employment sectors.





## SDG 2: ZERO HUNGER

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

### Evaluation of targets

2.a Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing make up 7.4% of GDP. In 2022, the total value of subsidies for agricultural land surfaces was €36.50 million, while the total value of subsidies for the livestock sector was €11.44 million [3]

2.c In August 2022, food inflation was 19.3%, compared to 3.6% in August 2021.

### General situation

Food insecurity, a pervasive global challenge, refers to insufficient access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food for an active and healthy life. The causes of food insecurity are complex, ranging from poverty and economic inequalities to natural disasters and conflicts. In Kosovo, the latter fortunately have not yet affected the food chain, but poverty is more than present. All over the world there are some social categories which are more vulnerable than others (children, women, persons with disabilities and the elderly) and are therefore at greater risk of poverty and hunger/malnutrition

The pandemic has had a very negative impact on the economy of Kosovo in general, especially in the agricultural sector, which makes a significant contribution to the GDP of the state. This can be seen from the decline in the participation of agriculture in GDP by 0.31% at the end of 2020 [4]

[3] Agency for Agricultural Development, List of beneficiaries of grants and subsidies. Accessible here: <https://azhb-rks.net/>

[4] INDEP, Kosovo's Food System: Its Sustainability and Missing Policies. Accessible here: <https://www.kas.de/documents/286052/0/Report+21-11-22+Kosovo%E2%80%99s+Food+System%2C+Its+Sustainability+and+Missing+Policies+%28ENG%29.pdf/6cfd3166-30fe-0059-8409-46b5b22185ad?version=1.0&t=1638353322828>

According to the Survey of Agricultural Economies 2022, the total utilized area of agricultural land is 420,482 hectares, where the largest part is meadows and pastures with 216,998ha. The most cultivated crop on arable land continues to be wheat, which accounts for 38.4% of the land.

Since agriculture represents a significant contribution to GDP, then the labor market is also affected by agriculture. In 2022, the participation of agriculture in total employment was 2.2%.

In order to fulfill SDG 2, it is not enough to ensure a sufficient supply of food, but a sustainable food system must also be built that enables the consumption of food products with high nutritional value, and at the same time addresses issues such as the emission of greenhouse gases coming from the agricultural sector and the food industry in general.

### Laws that include this goal

Plant Protection  
Products

Law on food

Law on general  
product safety

Veterinary law

Law on  
agricultural  
inspection

Law on organic  
agriculture

Law on livestock  
of Kosovo

Law on fishing  
and aquaculture

Law on  
agriculture  
and rural  
development

Law on biocidal  
products

Law on strong  
alcoholic  
beverages

## Main challenges

- Food security risks are caused by high poverty and unemployment, along with low incomes, high food expenditures, high dependence on remittances, and high agricultural and food trade deficits.
- Insufficient institutional capacities to implement sustainable agriculture and food security policies and strategies.
- Digitization and monitoring of the system of grants and subsidies in the agricultural sector
- The rate of food inflation in 2022 in Kosovo was 19.3%, affecting basic food products and the most vulnerable groups of society.



## SDG 3: : GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Evaluation of targets

3.2. The child mortality rate, 16 per 1,000 according to MICS data, is four times higher than the EU average. It is almost twice as high for Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities (27 children per 1000) [5]

3.7. In 2022, there were a total of 414 cases of teenage births and one birth at the age of 14 and under

### General situation

A thriving society is built on sustainable health care policies. Such policies ensure that everyone has access to high-quality health care, protecting the well-being of every citizen. Furthermore, strong health care policies are essential to address demographic changes and new health challenges. Without sound health care policies, vulnerable populations can suffer, inequalities widen, and the overall health of the population at risk.

Unfortunately, inadequate health policies, insufficient equipment in hospitals and insufficient number of medical staff in public hospitals force citizens to turn to private health institutions. The number of licensed private institutions in Kosovo is 2095, of which the majority are dental clinics. In addition to the private sector, dental services are also offered at the University Dental Clinical Center of Kosovo, where during 2022 this center provided 198,776 services.

One of the services that has the most requests to be offered in Kosovo hospitals is radiological services. Unfortunately, half of the radiological services are offered only in KKUK, which means that citizens from other municipalities have to come to Pristina to enter the long waiting list together with the citizens of Pristina.

This issue, and many other issues, should be addressed in an updated version of the Health Sector Strategy.

## Laws that include this goal

Law on the price of medicinal products

Law on prevention and control of transmissible diseases

Law on the Sanitary Inspectorate of Kosovo

Mental Health Law

Law on Health

Law on health insurance

Law on the Red Cross of Kosovo

Law on Public Health

## Main challenges

- One of the challenges that has accompanied and continues to accompany the health system of Kosovo throughout the years is the lack of equipment and infrastructure of clinic facilities;
- Shortage of health care professionals in Kosovo, including doctors, nurses and other specialized health care workers. This shortage can strain the system and lead to longer waits for appointments and procedures.
- Unequal access to medical services. There are regional disparities in access to health care services, with urban areas generally having better access compared to rural and remote regions.
- Access to Health Information systems. Collecting, managing and sharing health data can be challenging. A robust health information system is essential for effective health care planning and decision making.



## SDG 4: QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

### Evaluation of targets

4.2. The number of children enrolled in preschool education (children aged 0-4 years) during the period 2022/2023 was 5420, while in preschool education (children aged 5 years) 18,946.

4.3. The number of students enrolled at the bachelor's level in the period 2020/2012 was 9954, where women dominated against men.

4.5. The index of gender equality in terms of upper secondary education is relatively good, where the number of enrolled students is more or less the same between women and men. The same phenomenon is also observed in registrations at the lower secondary level, namely in the 6th grade.

4.C. The number of teachers in relation to the number of students has decreased from the 2020/2021 academic year..

### General situation

The education system in Kosovo is divided into pre-primary, primary, secondary and higher education levels. Pre-primary education is optional, while primary education is compulsory and lasts nine years. Secondary education offers general and professional tracks, each of three years. Institutions of higher education, including private and public universities, offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs. Kosovo emphasizes vocational training to equip students with practical skills. Efforts have been made to harmonize the system with international standards, although challenges persist, such as the need for infrastructure development and teacher training. Inclusion and equal access to education, including students with special needs, are the main points of Kosovo's education policies.

Participation in primary and lower secondary education in the 2022/23 school year is lower by 1.71%, compared to the previous year[6]. Also, the participation of children who remain outside primary and lower secondary education was lower during the academic year 2022/2023 than during the previous year.

In terms of gender equality in employment in education, Kosovo stands quite well, where the percentage of female teachers at the pre-school and pre-primary level is almost 100%, at the primary and lower secondary level it was 59%, at the upper secondary level it was 44 % [7].

In the 2022-2026 Education Strategy there are 5 strategic objectives, defined for 5 priority areas [8]:

- **Objective 1:** Increasing inclusion and equitable access to early childhood education;
- **Objective 2:** Increasing the quality of pre-university education through the consolidation of quality assurance mechanisms and the provision of quality teaching;
- **Objective 3:** Harmonization of education and professional training with the dynamic developments of technology and the labor market, in function of lifelong learning;
- **Objective 4:** Improving the quality, integrity and competitiveness of higher education;
- **Objective 5:** The use of digital technology for the improvement of services and quality in education, in accordance with the trends of digital transformation

The vision of this strategy is **“Quality and comprehensive education, which develops the potential and competences of individuals, as well as encourages lifelong learning, in accordance with the trends of global transformation”** and is related with the National Development Strategy 2030.

[7] Kosovo Statistics Agency. Kosovo in numbers 2022. Accessible here: <https://askapi.rks-gov.net/Custom/8bb60bb7-a9ee-469b-a759-9bc84a7b46ae.pdf>

[8] Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Education Strategy 2022-2026. Accessible here: <https://masht.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/03-Strategja-e-Arsimit-2022-2026-Alb-Web.pdf>

## Laws that include this goal

Law on  
Preschool  
Education

Law on Pre-  
University  
Education

Law on  
Education in  
Municipalities

Law on  
Vocational  
Education and  
Training

Law on Adult  
Education and  
Training

Law on Higher  
Education

Law on the  
Inspectorate of  
Education

Law on Scientific  
Innovation and  
Transfer of  
Knowledge and  
Technology

Law on  
National  
Qualifications

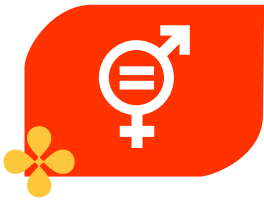
Law on  
research -  
scientific  
activities

Law on  
Qualifications



## Main challenges

- Access to quality education: There are differences in the quality of education between urban and rural areas, as well as between different regions within Kosovo. Urban areas tended to have better resources, including more qualified educational staff, while rural areas faced difficulties in attracting and retaining qualified staff.
- Number of students in urban and rural areas. In the latter, the number of students is constantly decreasing and the cost of maintaining schools in those areas is quite high compared to the number of students.
- Teacher shortages and quality: Kosovo is facing a shortage of qualified and trained teachers, especially in specialized subjects. In addition, there is a need for continuous professional development to improve the quality of teaching.
- Higher education: While there has been growth in higher education institutions, issues such as accreditation and the quality and applicability of the programs offered raise questions.



## SDG 5: Gender equality

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

### Evaluation of targets

5.1 We can say that Kosovo has a satisfactory legal basis to promote gender equality. In addition to the Constitution, which guarantees equal rights and freedoms for all citizens, regardless of sex or gender, Kosovo has also ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. All these legislations, together with the Law on Gender Equality, serve as the basis for the actions of the Agency for Gender Equality within the ZK. But, despite the existence of the legal framework, the achievement of gender equality in Kosovo faces many challenges which prevent us from ending all forms of discrimination against women and girls.

5.2 During the period 2019 - 2022, the number of cases of sexual assaults reported to the Kosovo Police was 257[9]. Whereas the number of reported cases of domestic violence in 2022 was 2764, of which 2294 were female and 523 male[10]. This is very worrying because we have a 13.65% increase in reported cases from the previous year.

5.3 During the year 2022, there were 768 cases of coronations where the woman was 15-19 years old, while 88 cases where the man was 15-19 years old.

5.5 Women still remain underrepresented in parliament, with only 32.5% of seats.

5.6 In addition to the Law on Reproductive Health, the Assembly of Kosovo has recently approved in principle the Law on Reproductive Health and Medically Assisted Fertilization. These two laws basically guarantee the rights to universal access to reproductive health and the rights to information on sexual health.

[9] QIKA, Cases of sexual assaults reported to the Kosovo Police (2019-2022). Accessible here: <https://data.qika.org/infografike/policia-e-kosoves/rastet-e-sulmeve-seksuale-te-raportuara-ne-policine-e-kosoves-2019-2022/>

[10] QIKA, Cases of domestic violence reported to the Kosovo Police – 2022. Accessible here: <https://data.qika.org/infografike/policia-e-kosoves/rastet-e-dhunes-ne-familje-te-raportuara-ne-policine-e-kosoves-2022/>

## General situation

Despite significant efforts towards progress, persistent socio-cultural norms and economic inequalities continue to hinder the full realization of gender equality in Kosovo. As mentioned above, regarding the legal and political framework, Kosovo has taken commendable steps towards the promotion of gender equality. The country's constitution guarantees equal rights for men and women, and numerous laws have been passed to protect and advance women's rights. The Law on Gender Equality, created in 2004, serves as a basic legislative tool in this regard. However, while these legal and policy instruments provide a solid foundation, their implementation remains a major challenge. Women in Kosovo still face substantial obstacles in accessing justice and cases of domestic violence continue to go unreported. Furthermore, traditional gender roles and stereotypes persist in both urban and rural areas, affecting women's opportunities for education and economic empowerment. This is particularly evident in the labor market, where women are often confined to low-paid and informal jobs, while representation in leadership positions remains disproportionately low. The female employment rate in relation to the population in 2022 was 18.4%. The largest number of employed women is in the Education sector (24,565 employed), followed by wholesale and retail trade (21,156 employed) and public administration and defense, compulsory social insurance (9,247 employed). So, as in previous years, women are mainly employed in tertiary economy activities

On the other hand, education stands as a vital arena in achieving gender equality. Kosovo has made important steps in the promotion of girls' education, with the increase in the enrollment rate at the primary and secondary levels. However, inequalities persist, particularly in rural and marginalized communities. Factors such as early marriage and limited access to quality education hinder progress. Efforts to combat these issues include awareness campaigns and scholarship programs targeted at girls, such as the STEM scholarships offered by MEST, which aim to break the cycle of educational exclusion.

Equal rights in access to education must be followed by the inclusion of women in decision-making positions. Although we have had improvements in recent years, the number of women in decision-making positions is still small. The reasons why women do not apply for these positions have to do with gender stereotypes, the perception of women that men are more suitable leaders, the obligations that women have in the family, and the lack of an institutional strategy for their motivation.

## Laws that include this goal

Law on Gender  
Equality

Law on  
Protection from  
Discrimination

Concept  
Document for  
Gender  
Responsive  
Budgeting

National Strategy  
for Protection from  
Domestic Violence  
and Violence  
against Women  
2022-2026

Criminal Code

Law on  
Reproductive  
Health

Law on prevention  
and protection  
from domestic  
violence, violence  
against women  
and gender-based  
violence

## Main challenges

- Traditional social norms and deep-rooted gender stereotypes continue to be present in Kosovo. These norms often dictate rigid roles and expectations for men and women, limiting opportunities for women in education, employment and political participation.
- Women in Kosovo experience a large gender wage gap and are disproportionately represented in the low-wage and informal employment sectors. Access to credit and financial resources for women entrepreneurs is also limited, which hinders their ability to start and grow businesses.
- Women continue to be underrepresented in leadership positions in various sectors, including politics, business and civil society. This lack of representation reinforces gender inequalities in decision-making processes.
- Despite the 30% gender quota being in place, women continue to be underrepresented in political decision-making bodies. Balancing a political career with family responsibilities, as well as prevailing cultural norms, can discourage women from actively participating in politics.
- Women in Kosovo often face challenges in accessing justice, especially in cases of domestic violence or gender-based discrimination. This may be due to a lack of information about their legal rights, financial constraints or fear of retaliation.



## OZHQ 6: CLEAN AND WATER SANITATION

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

### Evaluation of targets

6.1 According to estimates, the central systems supplied by seven businesses provide drinking water for about 79% of the population of Kosovo [11]. According to this, out of a total of 1,240 there are only 672 residential areas that have access to the public water supply systems managed by KRU.

### General situation


One of the essential human rights and essential strategic requirement for the social and economic development of a region is the availability of clean drinking water. The basic prerequisite for the supply of clean water is monitoring regarding the use and maintenance of water. Both of these, especially exploitation, are related to the human factor. With the growth of the population, the consumption of water has also increased, where there is an imbalance between the demand and the supply of drinking water. This problem is particularly evident in congested urban areas, where the drinking water distribution system is not efficient enough and therefore many areas do not have drinking water 24/7. Rural areas have a similar problem, but a slight progress has been seen with the addition of 6 rural water supply systems under the management of KRU.

Another factor that adds to the problem is the pollution of water resources. Unfortunately, Kosovo does not have sufficient mechanisms for adequate water protection and pollution control. Certain industrial activities, the use of fertilizers and pesticides, and outdated or poorly maintained infrastructure contribute here.

[11] Water Services Regulatory Authority, Level of services provided by licensed Providers. Accessible here: [https://www.arrurks.org/assets/cms/uploads/files/Inspektimi/Raportet/Raporti%20per%20Nivelin%20e%20Sherbimeve%202022%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.arrurks.org/assets/cms/uploads/files/Inspektimi/Raportet/Raporti%20per%20Nivelin%20e%20Sherbimeve%202022%20(1).pdf)

Sustainable water management means using water in a way that meets current, ecological, social and economic needs without compromising the ability to meet these needs in the future [12]. Some of the main principles of sustainable water management include: balancing needs and supply, protection of water quality, conservation and efficiency, adaptation to climate change, integration with infrastructure planning, etc.

### Laws that include this goal



Law on the waters of Kosovo

Law on the regulation of water services

Regulations of the Authority

[12] Water Foundation, Sustainable Water Management. Accessible here: <https://waterfdn.org/sustainable-water-management-swm-profile/#:~:text=Sustainable%20water%20management%20means%20using,those%20needs%20in%20the%20future> .

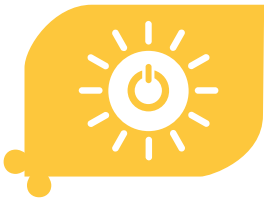
## Main challenges

- Not having water permits for about 58% of the resources that are in use by KRU and not defining mutual obligations about the responsibility for the maintenance of resources that are used for human consumption. [13]
- Dirty water continues to flow into about 25 water bodies because the dirty water is not being properly controlled. Until now, throughout Kosovo, only 8 plants (of which 7 are relatively small systems) for the treatment of polluted water are in operation.
- Certain regions within Kosovo have water shortages and there may be disparities in access to water resources between urban and rural areas. Unequal distribution can lead to social tensions, conflicts and economic inequality. It can also exacerbate environmental degradation as communities may use unsustainable practices to secure water.

[13] Water Services Regulatory Authority, Level of services provided by licensed Providers. Accessible here:

[https://www.arrurks.org/assets/cms/uploads/files/Inspektimi/Raportet/Raporti%20per%20Nivelin%20e%20Sherbimeve%202022%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.arrurks.org/assets/cms/uploads/files/Inspektimi/Raportet/Raporti%20per%20Nivelin%20e%20Sherbimeve%202022%20(1).pdf)





## SDG 7: AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

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

### Evaluation of targets

7.1 Kosovo continues to have 100% coverage of the population with electricity.

7.2 The production of RES connected to the transmission network in 2022 was 469.4 GWh and is higher by 57.8% compared to 2021, due to the full capacity operation of 103.41 MW of the Sowi wind farm[14 ]. This means that there is a trend of increasing the participation of renewable energy in the overall percentage of energy sources.

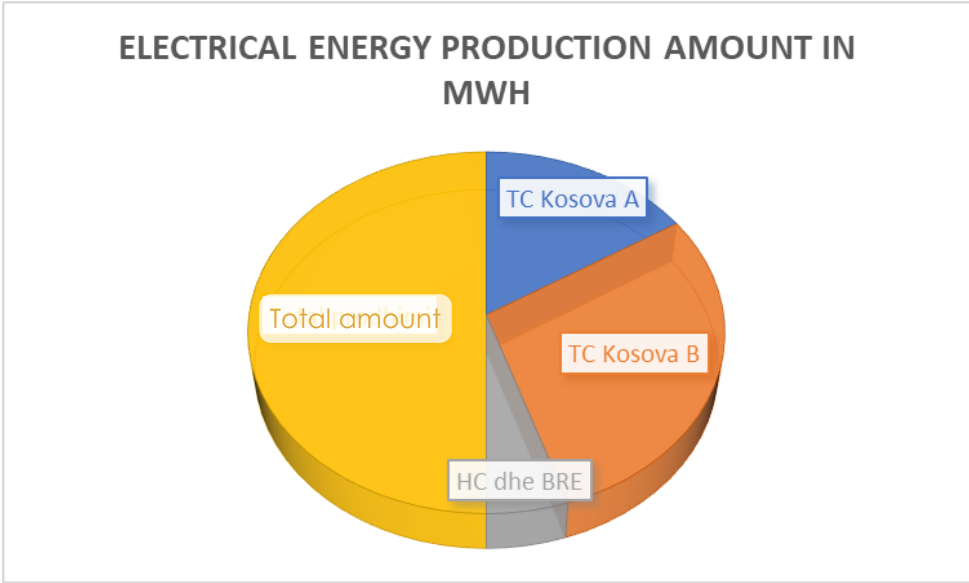
7.b The total installed capacity for renewable energy generation for the year 2022 was 202.96 MW.

### General situation

Electricity production in Kosovo continues to be based on lignite as a raw material. The installed production capacities are of 1,568 MW, including the generating capacities from RES, where the operational capacity is considered to be around 1,236 MW, of which thermal power plants (TC) with lignite make up about 77.69%, while the rest consists of HC Ujmani, RES in transmission and Other RES (hydro plants, solar panels and wind plants) with 22.31 %.[15] The greatest responsibility for the production of electricity falls on the Kosova B thermal power plant, which during 2022 produced close to 6000 GWh.

[14] Energy Regulatory, Annual Report 2022. Accessible here: [https://www.ero-ks.org/zrre/sites/default/files/Publikimet/Raportet%20Vjetor/Raporti%20vjetor%202022\\_ZRRE.pdf](https://www.ero-ks.org/zrre/sites/default/files/Publikimet/Raportet%20Vjetor/Raporti%20vjetor%202022_ZRRE.pdf)

[15] The same one



Balancing electricity needs and production capacities is a problem that has plagued Kosovo over the years, especially during the winter season. It has often been necessary to import energy from other countries to meet the needs of citizens. The share of import to the overall demand for energy was 11.63%, marking a decrease of about 7.41% compared to last year. The participation of family consumers in the total invoiced consumption still remains dominant with about 63.27%, followed by commercial consumption with 23.59%, then by industrial consumption with 12.38%, and finally by consumption in public lighting with 0.76%.

Kosovo is a member of the Energy Community Treaty and one of the obligations was that by 2020, 25% of energy sources should be from RES, but unfortunately this obligation has not been fulfilled, even though Kosovo came very close with 24.4%. The only noticeable progress in this direction is the Law on Renewable Resources, which has passed the first reading stage. Kosovo is in the early stages of the transposition of the Clean Energy Package 2021, with the exception of the electricity legislation, where drafting has not yet begun [16].

## Laws that include this goal

The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo for the period 2022-2031 and the Draft Law on Renewable Resources

Law on Energy

Energy Efficiency Law

Law on the ratification of the loan agreement for the project "Energy efficiency in public buildings in Prizren" between the Republic of Kosovo and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Law on electric energy

Law on Thermal Energy

Law on the ratification of the loan agreement for the project "Framework of Green Cities 2 Window 2- Energy Efficiency in public buildings in Pristina" between the Republic of Kosovo and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

## Main challenges

- The age of the existing coal-fired power plants, Kosova A and B, the need for significant improvements or replacements, presents a problem in energy efficiency issues.
- The existing technology of generating capacities does not meet the environmental criteria for operation, and as a result we also have a lack of investments from foreign investors.
- Securing funds for the modernization or construction of new energy infrastructure, especially for renewable resource projects, continues to be quite challenging for Kosovo.
- The main challenge for the coming years remains the transition from energy produced with "traditional" basic materials such as coal, to renewable energy. In order to make this transition, it is necessary to create adequate generation mechanisms that can cope with the demands of consumers for energy.



## SDG 8: DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

### Evaluation of targets

8.1 Kosovo's GDP per capita for 2022 was around €5,066, an increase of 1.55% from 2021.

8.5 The unemployment rate during the year 2022 was about 12.6%, where the highest unemployment was the age group 15-24, with 21.4% unemployment level. In this age group, the unemployment rate among women was 16.5% and among men 11%

8.6 The data from KAS only show the number of young people who are involved in employment, education or professional training, but seeing that this number is decreasing then we can assume that unfortunately the number of young people who are not involved in employment, education or vocational training is increasing. This phenomenon may have many reasons behind it, one of them may be the employment of young people in the informal sector of the economy, for which we unfortunately have no data.

8.7 We do not have official data on the number of children working in any sector of the economy, but according to the US Department of Labor, in 2022, Kosovo has made moderate progress in efforts to eliminate the worst forms of child labor.

8.8 Safety in the workplace is still a problem for Kosovar workers. During 2021, the Labor Inspectorate registered 188 accidents at the workplace, of which 139 resulted in minor injuries, 40 of them resulted in more serious injuries and 9 of them resulted in fatality at the workplace [17]

## General situation

Data from KAS show that Kosovo's GDP in 2022 had increased by 3.5%. Measured at current prices, Kosovo's GDP reached 9 billion euros (\$9.5 billion) in 2022, after reaching 8 billion euros the previous year. The sectors with the greatest positive contribution to the economic growth of Kosovo in 2022 were wholesale and retail trade, vehicle and motorcycle repairs with 10.8%, information and communication with 9.2%, professional, scientific and technical activities with 7% and administrative activities and supportive with 6.7%.

According to KAS, the employment rate for 2022 was 33.8%. There is a big difference between the employment rate for men, with 49.4%, and for women, with 18.4%. The rate of the economically inactive population as part of the working age population is quite high, with 61.4%. This number may not fully represent the reality because informal employment is not included in the calculation. Also worrying is the youth unemployment rate, which was 21.4% in 2024. Again, the percentage of women in this group is higher than that of men.

The total number of employees with contracts during 2022 was 50,702, of which 32,492 were men. Also, the largest number of employees without contracts were men [18]

The average gross salary marked an almost negligible increase, from €484 in 2021 to €521 in 2023, but still Kosovo remains one of the two countries with the lowest salaries in the Balkan region. The average gross salary in the private sector in 2022 was 473 euros, while in 2021 it was 419 euros. According to KAS, the average gross salary in 2022, according to economic activities, was the highest in: Supply of electricity, gas, steam and air conditioning (968 euros) and information and communication (896 euros). Until then, the lowest salary was in accommodation and food service activities (323 euros) [19]

The social assistance scheme is one of the main aspects of welfare in Kosovo. According to data from KAS, the number of families that benefited from the social assistance scheme during 2022 was 22,980, where the largest number of these families was from the region of Mitrovica, followed by Pristina and Peja.

[18] Labour Inspectorate, Work Report for 2022. Accessible here: <https://ip.rks.gov.net/wp-content/uploads/Raporti-Vjetor-2022-IP.pdf>

[19] Kosova Press, "Average wages 521 euros in Kosovo, only 37 euros increase in 2022". E qasshme këtu: <https://kosovapress.com/en/pagat-mesatare-521-euro-ne-kosove-nje-rritje-prej-37-eurosh-me-2022/>

## Laws that include this goal

Labour Law

Law on material support for families of children with permanent disabilities

Law on training, professional retraining and employment of people with disabilities

Law on state-funded pension schemes

Law for the Employment Agency

Law on registration and provision of services for the unemployed, jobseekers and employers

The law on the ratification of the financing agreement between the Republic of Kosovo represented by the Ministry of Finance, Labor and Transfers, and the International Development Association for the "Social Assistance System Reform Project in Kosovo"

Law on safety and health at work

Law on Compensation of Crime Victims

## Main challenges

- Kosovo has one of the highest youth unemployment rates in Europe. This is a major social and economic challenge, as it leads to a lack of opportunities for young people, potentially resulting in social unrest and emigration.
- There is often a disconnection between the skills learned in educational institutions and those required by the labor market, which can lead to unemployment or underemployment. A trend that is constantly increasing in recent years is the emigration of young people in professional fields, towards countries, mainly German-speaking, of the EU.
- While remittances represent a significant source of income, dependence on external sources of income can make the economy vulnerable to fluctuations in the global economy and changes in the economic situation of the diaspora.
- Political instability can deter foreign direct investment (FDI) and inhibit the growth of domestic businesses, as investors may perceive the environment as risky and uncertain.
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) often struggle to obtain financing, which limits their ability to invest, grow and create jobs.





## SDG 9: INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

### Evaluation of targets

9.1 Numri i pasagjerëve të transportit hakurudhor ishte 73 mijë në vitin 2022, në krahasim me 60 mijë në vitin 2021.

9.2 Industria përpunuese në Kosovë paraqet 13.2 % të BPV-së.

### General situation

Production as an economic activity has a very small percentage of the number of employees in relation to other activities. In 2022, the percentage of employees in production was only 8.9%.

As mentioned above, Kosovo's economic and political instability often drives away foreign investors. But, during the year 2022, within the financial account, foreign direct investments recorded an annual increase of 85.0% and reached the value of 778.2 million euros[20]. The real estate sector accounts for 67.3% of total FDI, while the value of remittances received in 2022 has reached 1.22 billion euros. The 3 countries that have invested the most in Kosovo during 2022 are: Germany, Switzerland and Turkey.

In 2022, the number of new registered enterprises was 11,024, where the largest number of them was in the wholesale and retail trade sector, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles, followed by construction and production. Also, the largest number of employees (19.3%) is in the sector of wholesale and retail trade, repair of motor vehicles, motorcycles. During the year 2022, there were also enterprises that went out of business, about 1784 sosh. In Kosovo during 2022, mainly micro enterprises were registered, which make up 98.9% of enterprises, while no large enterprises were registered.

## Laws that include this goal

Law on scientific  
innovation and  
transfer of  
knowledge and  
technology

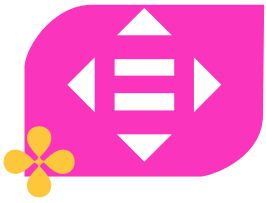
Law on Industrial  
design

Law on  
railways of  
Kosovo

Law on the  
creation of the  
National Spatial  
Information  
Infrastructure in the  
Republic of Kosovo

## Main challenges

- The unstable supply of electricity forces Kosovo to import energy from other countries, and consequently makes it difficult for citizens and enterprises/businesses to meet the cost of energy.
- Kosovo has 2384.3 km of paved roads and 49.7 km of unpaved roads. Some roads are in poor condition and there are limitations regarding road connectivity between regions.
- Except in the capital, public transport in other municipalities is not sufficiently developed. This can be an obstacle for economic development and the mobility of citizens and tourists from foreign countries.
- It is vital to strike a balance between the need for infrastructure expansion and environmental concerns. This includes taking into account how land is used, available water supplies and air quality. Because of these factors, it is essential to evaluate and consolidate information about environmental permits granted to certain businesses. It is also important to make efforts in areas such as intelligent infrastructure and environment-friendly transport.
- Kosovo's landlocked position makes it dependent on neighboring countries for access to international markets. Ensuring smooth transport links with neighboring countries is essential for economic growth.



## SDG 10: REDUCED INEQUALITIES

Reduce inequality within and among countries

### Evaluation of targets

10.4 according to the 2023 budget, salaries and wages constitute 18.09% of the total GDP value.

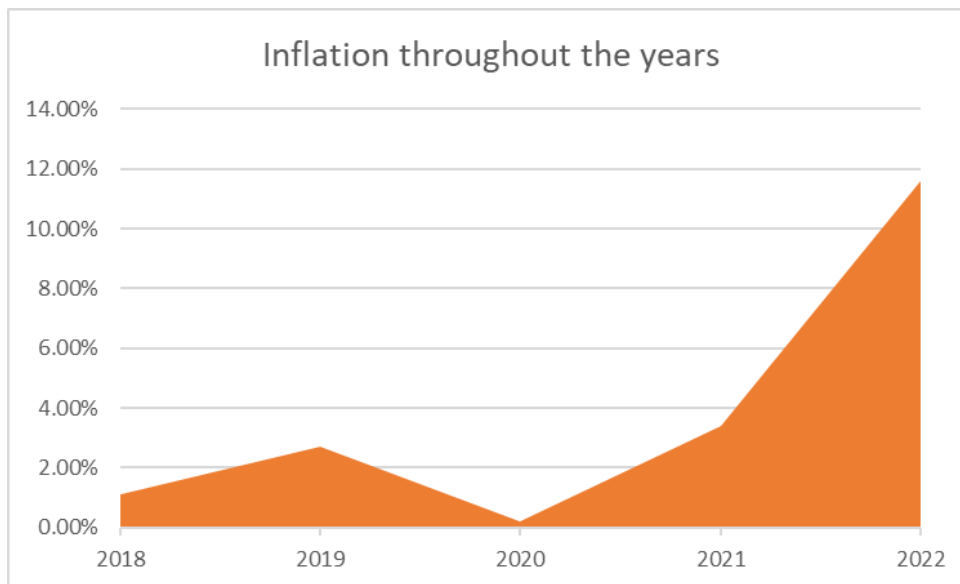
10.5 Financial indicators in Kosovo are published on an annual basis by the International Monetary Fund. In 2022: Return on assets (2.57%); Regulatory capital assets (8.91%); Liquid assets to short-term liabilities (36.52%); Non-performing loans to total gross loans (1.94%); Net open position in foreign capital (3.32%), Weighted regulatory capital Tier 1 assets (12.82%)

10.a Exemption from customs tax is made for: agricultural equipment, construction goods coming from CEFTA countries, some pharmaceutical products, civil aircraft and goods for use in civil aviation. Countries that are outside CEFTA and other products that are not included in the special provisions of Kosovo customs tariffs, pay the full obligations (10% customs tax and 18% VAT)

10.b The value of remittances received in 2022 has reached 1.22 billion euros.

### General situation

Kosovo is considered one of the poorest countries in Europe, with a relatively low GDP per capita. Economic inequality is an obvious issue, with a growing gap between the richest and poorest segments of the population. This gap has widened even more in the post-pandemic and post-war period in Ukraine, when rising prices have left many families struggling to afford the basic food basket of consumption.



Inflation (consumer price index) for 2022 was 11.6%. It means that inflation increased more than 3 times, compared to 2021 when inflation was 3.4%. The average net salary during 2022 was €521.

The main factors affecting the growth of economic inequality are unemployment, non-formal work, low-wage work, etc. There are also inequalities of other forms such as gender, physical ability, ethnicity, etc. The latter is evident especially among the Roma community, who are more likely to be employed in the informal sector or to be unemployed. There is also inequality and discrimination against persons with disabilities, starting from the difficulty of access to traffic and public facilities, to access to the labor market.

## Laws that include this goal

Law on protection against discrimination

Law on material support of families of children with permanent disabilities

Law on state-funded pension schemes

Law on the creation of the National Spatial Information Infrastructure in the Republic of Kosovo

Child protection law

## Main challenges

- Access to quality education and health care services continues to be limited, especially in rural areas. This hinders social mobility and deepens inequalities.
- A significant part of economic activity operates in the informal sector. This leads to lower wages, less job security and less legal protection for workers.
- The distribution of property and the division of wealth have implications for discrimination based on gender. Although the law in Kosovo recognizes women's right to property inheritance, the implementation of such laws in practice leaves much to be desired.



## SDG 11: SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

### Evaluation of targets

11.7.2 During the period 2019 - 2022, the number of sexual assaults cases reported to the Kosovo Police was 257.

### General situation

Since the end of the 20th century, Kosovo has undergone a rapid urbanization process, especially after 2000. The capital, Pristina, emerged as the focal point of this urban growth, becoming the political, cultural and economic center of the country. . This high intensity of urbanization, especially in Pristina, has been influenced by the rapid growth of the population, migrations from the countryside to the city, changes in the labor market, etc.

Although we do not have official data on the degree of urbanization, with a look at real life we can notice that in rural areas there is not much new population as a result of the movement of this age group towards the cities. This has caused many cities to be overpopulated and burdened with housing/buildings which contribute to continuous environmental degradation. One of the reasons why the young population is constantly migrating to the cities has to do with the lack of transport and adequate infrastructure that connects rural areas with cities. The job market and economic opportunities are better in cities, thus showing the need to travel to cities. The lack of adequate transport and efficient infrastructure makes the aspect of travel from residence to workplace very difficult, in cases where residence is in rural areas and work is in urban areas. In the absence of this, citizens are "forced" to migrate to cities to have easier access to transportation.

In 2022, out of 2434 km of roads, 2384.3 km were paved and 49.7 km were unpaved. As for rail transport, it is used very little by citizens due to its age and poor rail connections between cities. During the year 2022, only 73 thousand passengers used the railway transport



## Laws that include this goal

Law on road transport

Law on cultural heritage

Law on Special Protected Areas

Law on Construction

The Law on Religious Freedoms

Law on environmental protection

Law on balanced regional development

Law on agriculture and rural development

Law on environmental impact assessment

Multimodal Transport Strategy 2023 – 2030

## Main challenges

- More effective delivery of services in rural areas is hindered by transport and poor health infrastructure. This is another reason why citizens migrate to urban areas
- The low financing of the municipalities and the inadequate budgetary allocations of the municipalities for the development of the villages cause the latter to have a limited social life
- The continuous degradation of the environment in urban areas from incorrect spatial planning and the misuse of public spaces



## SDG 12: RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

### Evaluation of targets

12.4 Raiffeisen Bank has published sustainability reports for 2022;

12.A The installed capacity for the generation of renewable energy in Kosovo in 2022 was 202.96 MW.

### General situation

The agricultural sector in Kosovo has long been an important pillar of the economy, including major crops such as wheat, corn and potatoes, along with livestock. Although this sector constitutes a significant part of GDP, on the other hand, it also contributes to land pollution. Parallel to the agricultural sector, the mining industry, especially the extraction of lignite, is quite important because it has been and continues to be a major component in energy production.

Unfortunately, the waste produced by the agricultural and mining sectors, along with other waste, is not properly managed. The whole waste management system is based on a very low recycling system. Unfortunately, data on waste treatment for 2022 are missing, but during 2021, the total waste collected was 483,777 tons, of which 21,307 tons were recycled and 960 tons were sterilized.

In order to have the best possible level of sustainable consumption and production, it is necessary for Kosovo to be guided by the circular economy, leaving behind the linear economy. Since the Republic of Kosovo is committed to the implementation of Agenda 30 and the Green Agenda, the transition to a circular economy must continue with greater seriousness than until now. In 2023 the Ministry of Environment, Infrastructure and Spatial Planning has launched the Circular Economy Roadmap, which will serve as a starting point for the necessary reforms in all sectors [22]

## Laws that include this goal

Law on medicinal products and devices

Law on Livestock

Law on organic agriculture

Law on food

Law on the price of medicinal products

Law on general product safety

Law on biocidal products

## Main challenges

- Waste dumps are not managed according to EU standards and regulations
- Citizens and businesses still do not understand and do not implement circular economy practices for sustainable consumption
- There are not sufficient financial or other incentives that can push businesses towards a more sustainable chain of consumption and production
- Lack of legislation and regulations forcing manufacturers to take responsibility for the entire life cycle of their products, including collection, recycling or safe disposal



## SDG 13: CLIMATE ACTION

Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

### Evaluation of targets

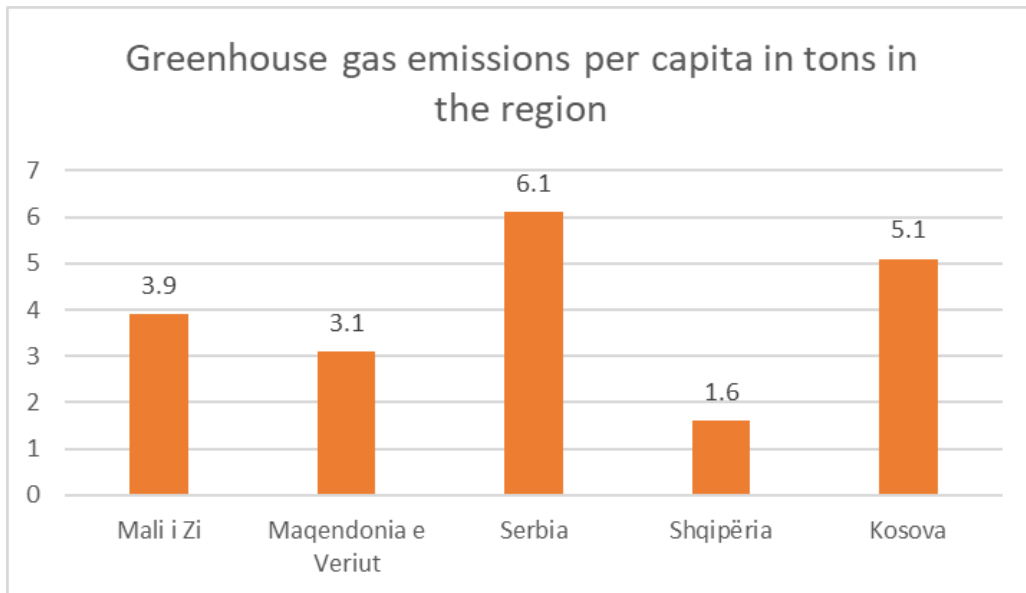
13.2 Kosovo has recently adopted the Law on Climate Change and there is also the Strategy for Climate Change 2019 - 2028. While the Action Plan for Climate Change was only for the years 2019 - 2021. As for greenhouse gas emissions, the data of the last ones that are accessible are from 2021, when annual greenhouse gas emissions were 5.64 million tons.

### General situation

The climate action sector in Kosovo encompasses a broad context of environmental challenges, including air pollution, waste management and water quality. In this aspect, it is worth mentioning the historical reliance on fossil materials, such as coal, within the energy sector, causing both greenhouse gas emissions and environmental degradation. In response, the government has taken some steps towards committing to a transition to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources. But, seeing the urgency of global warming, the steps taken by the government are not enough. The challenges that Kosovo is expected to face as a result of global warming and climate change are part of the treatment in the document Strategy for Climate Change 2019-2028 and Action Plan for Climate Change 2019-2021. Due to the expiration of the Action Plan, it is required a new version of it to address the urgency of climate change in line with the latest environmental protection trends and legislation.

Greenhouse gas emissions per capita during 2021 were 3.4 tons, which positions Kosovo in second place, after Serbia, for the largest amount of greenhouse gas emissions in the Western Balkans region [23]. Kosovo accounts for about 0.02% of global emissions.

[23] Our World in Data, Kosovo: Per capita: how much CO<sub>2</sub> does the average person emit?. Accessible here: [https://ourworldindata.org/co2/country/kosovo?country=O%C3%89BID\\_KOS~ALB~SRB~MKD~MNE#per-capita-how-much-co2-does-the-average-person-emit](https://ourworldindata.org/co2/country/kosovo?country=O%C3%89BID_KOS~ALB~SRB~MKD~MNE#per-capita-how-much-co2-does-the-average-person-emit)



## Ligjet që përfshijnë këtë objektivë

Law on environmental protection

Law on Energy

Law on energy efficiency

Law on natural gas

Law on road and ecological vehicle tax

Climate change law

Law on integrated pollution prevention and control

Law on environmental impact assessment

Law on the ratification of the loan agreement for the project "Energy efficiency in public buildings in Prizren" between the Republic of Kosovo and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Law on the ratification of the loan agreement for the project "Framework of Green Cities 2 Window 2- Energy Efficiency in public buildings in Pristina" between the Republic of Kosovo and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

## Main challenges

- In Kosovo, no specific national policies or laws have yet been adopted to address the issue of climate change. The climate change law is still under consideration.
- Slow transition from coal to renewable energy sources. The longer this process lasts, the higher the environmental cost will be. While there have been efforts to develop renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, the capacity for these technologies is still relatively limited compared to overall energy demand.
- Unauthorized constructions and non-compliance with construction standards (eg use of highly polluting materials) are causing major environmental degradation. Moreover, many buildings in Kosovo were built without energy efficient standards. Renovating and improving the energy efficiency of existing buildings is an important challenge





## SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

### Evaluation of the targets

15.3 Unfortunately, forest degradation continues at an alarming rate, where during 2022 Kosovo lost 785ha of forests, compared to 520ha in 2021 [24].

15.5 The last update of the "Red Book of Fauna" was made in 2018 and unfortunately we no longer have updated public data since that year

### General situation

Kosovo exhibits a diverse range of ecosystems and biodiversity, characterized by its transitional biogeographical position between the Mediterranean and continental biomes. The country boasts a rich mosaic of habitats, including mountainous regions, coastal areas, wetlands and agricultural landscapes. Here it is worth mentioning "Sharri Mountains" and "Bjeshke e Nemuna", which are declared by the Government as national parks and house a unique group of flora and fauna, including some endemic species. However, Kosovo's biodiversity faces significant pressures due to factors such as habitat fragmentation, unsustainable land use practices and pollution.

Although there is considerable forest area, it is decreasing day by day as a result of illegal activities and forest fires. In 2022, forest damage is estimated to be 750 ha. In recent years, minimal efforts have been made to address these challenges through various conservation initiatives and policy frameworks. A comprehensive understanding of Kosovo's biodiversity and ecosystems is imperative for public policy researchers, as it informs evidence-based strategies aimed at achieving a harmonious balance between environmental conservation and socio-economic development.

## Laws that include this goal

Law on Plant  
Protection

Law on Land  
regulation

Law on  
agriculture  
and rural  
development

Law on hunting

Law on the  
Protection of  
Plant Varieties

Law on  
environmental  
protection

Law on  
environmental  
impact  
assessment

Law on biocidal  
products

## Main challenges

- Urbanization, infrastructure development and agricultural expansion have led to the fragmentation and degradation of natural habitats. This disrupts ecological processes and reduces the space available for wildlife.
- Unsustainable agricultural practices, including intensive farming, overgrazing and deforestation, contribute to land degradation and biodiversity loss. Incorrect land management techniques can lead to erosion, reduced water quality and habitat destruction.
- Industrial activities, improper waste disposal, and inadequate wastewater treatment can lead to air, soil, and water pollution. This poses a threat to both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, affecting plant, animal and human health.
- Insufficient data on species distributions, population trends, and ecosystem dynamics can impede informed conservation decision-making. Robust scientific research is essential for evidence-based policy and management.



## SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

### Evaluation of targets

16.6 Government budget expenditures were 119.2% in 2022 in relation to the initial approved budget

### General situation

Kosovo has made significant strides towards stability since the last war, however, occasional incidents and political tensions continue, especially between the Albanian majority and the Serbian minority. Efforts have been made to reform the legal framework, strengthen the judiciary and fight corruption, showing progress in justice and the rule of law. Chapter II of the Constitution of Kosovo is all about basic human rights and freedoms. This includes political, civil, economic, social, cultural rights, etc. However, ensuring universal access to justice remains a concern, especially for marginalized communities.

During 2022, more precisely from January to May, the number of suicides and suicide attempts was lower than in previous years. While in 2021 the number of suicides was 44, in the period January - May 2022 the number of suicides was 9, while attempts were 40 [25].

In Kosovo, there is also a legal infrastructure that punishes domestic violence. The most recent law that addresses this issue is the law on prevention and protection from domestic violence, violence against women and gender-based violence, which was approved in October of this year. In addition, there is also a special body that deals specifically with cases of domestic violence.

According to Transparency International in 2022, Kosovo's points for corruption are 41/100, compared to 39 from 2021, so we have a non-significant increase. Out of 180 countries, Kosovo is ranked 84th in terms of transparency and corruption. To make the reporting of corruption and increase transparency easier, the Anti-Corruption Law guarantees that persons who prevent, detect or investigate corruption enjoy full independence for the purposes of effectively exercising their powers and fulfilling their obligations.

## Laws that include this goal

Criminal  
Code of  
Kosovo

Law on the  
prevention of  
conflict of interest  
in the exercise of  
public function

Amnesty Law

Law on  
international legal  
cooperation in  
criminal matters

Law on  
Ombudsperson

Code of Ethics  
of the  
Ombudsperson  
Institution

Law on the  
Institute of  
Crimes  
Committed  
during the War in  
Kosovo

Law on judicial  
experts

## Main challenges

- Kosovo has a diverse population, with Albanians making up the majority and Serbs making up a significant minority. Historical tensions and different perspectives on the status of Kosovo are often resulting in inter-ethnic conflicts and political challenges.
- The political landscape in Kosovo is characterized by a fragmented party system and a history of coalition governments. This can sometimes lead to political gridlock and impede progress on critical issues related to governance and institutions.
- Building strong and accountable institutions is an ongoing process. Reforms in public administration, anti-corruption measures and transparency efforts are necessary to ensure effective governance.
- A free and independent media is essential to hold institutions accountable and guarantee transparency. Challenges in this area include issues such as media ownership and political influence.
- Kosovo's status as a partially recognized state may complicate its ability to fully participate in international institutions and engage in diplomatic relations.



## SDG 17: PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

### Evaluation of the targets

17.1 Budget revenues for 2022 were 2,430 million EURO, of which 89.24% come from tax revenues [26]

17.3 Regarding financial support for our country, the level of foreign direct investments as a percentage of the budget was 1.25% [27], while remittances include 12.4% of Real GDP [28].

17.4 Debt service as a share of exports of goods and services in 2021 was 3.02% [29].

17.8 In order to improve the use of information and communication technology, KAS made measurements of the use of the Internet and in 2022 it was found that 79% of individuals are Internet users.

17.13 There are many variables that can be included in the macroeconomic panel, but for Kosovo there is only data on the annual inflation of consumer prices. KAS shows that the annual inflation rate measured in August 2022 compared to August 2021 was 13 percent higher.

17.18 Law no. 04/I-036 for the official statistics of the Republic of Kosovo is national statistical legislation that complies with the Basic Principles of Official Statistics.

[26] Law No. 08/L-193 On Budget Allocations for the Budget of the Republic of Kosovo for 2023

[27] Foreign Direct Investments 2008-2021, World Bank. Accessible here:

[https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/foreign-direct-investment-net-outflows-as-share-of-gdp?tab=chart&region=Europe&country=~OWID\\_KOS](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/foreign-direct-investment-net-outflows-as-share-of-gdp?tab=chart&region=Europe&country=~OWID_KOS)

[28] Kosovo's economy, Central Bank of Kosovo. Accessible here: <https://bqk-kos.org/eag/sq/>

[29] Debt as a share of exports of goods and services, 2004-2020, World Bank. Accessible here: [https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/debt-service-of-exports-of-goods-services?tab=chart&region=Europe&country=~OWID\\_KOS](https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/debt-service-of-exports-of-goods-services?tab=chart&region=Europe&country=~OWID_KOS)

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17.18 Law no. 04/I-036 for the official statistics of the Republic of Kosovo is national statistical legislation that complies with the Basic Principles of Official Statistics.

## **General information**

Since the declaration of independence, the Republic of Kosovo has continued its efforts to build its bilateral and multilateral relations with various actors of the international system. Kosovo has become part of several important world organizations, including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Football Federation, the European Football Federation, the Olympic Committee, the World Customs Organization and the Free Trade Agreement of Central Europe (CEFTA). In addition, it has developed good relations with other organizations such as the UN, EU, OECD, WHO, WTO, etc.

In the last decade, the main political priority of Kosovo has been membership in the European Union. The political dialogue with Serbia, started in 2012 and followed by the signing of the April Agreement in 2013, has served as an important step towards the prospect of membership. However, there have still been no visible developments in the realization of this goal.

The UN and EU membership process has been interrupted by difficulties caused by two permanent members of the UN Security Council and five EU member states. In order to pave the way towards membership, Kosovo has emphasized the dialogue with Serbia, considering regional cooperation and good relations with neighbors as important conditions.



Good relations with neighbors include intensifying trade, encouraging the free movement of people and ideas, and working together to achieve common goals. Kosovo is part of several regional initiatives, including the South East European Cooperation Process, the Council for Regional Cooperation, the Regional Initiative for Migration, Asylum and Refugees, the Western Balkans Fund, the Office of Regional Cooperation for Youth, the Berlin Process and the initiative of UN for Sustainable Development.

The discussions and steps undertaken by Kosovo within these initiatives show its commitment to strengthening regional cooperation and sustainable development at the international level.

## **Main challenges**

The lack of data for reporting on the achievements of ODG, which results in incoherence between public policies, ODG and budget planning for their implementation.

Regional stability and political tensions do not hinder efforts to create effective partnerships and undertake joint actions with other countries in the region.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 4 PRIORITY SDGS

## Good health and well - being

1

Implementing health information systems for better data collection and monitoring of health outcomes.

2

Integrating mental health into primary health care systems and providing support to those affected by mental health disorders. This is where it is important to push ahead with amending the Mental Health Act.

3

Support women's rights to reproductive health and ensure access for all women to family planning services.

4

Developing and regularly updating emergency response plans, ensuring coordination between health care providers and relevant authorities.

## No poverty



1

Establishing and expanding social protection programs to provide a safety net for the vulnerable population, including the poor, the elderly, and the disabled. This can include targeted cash transfer programs, food assistance and access to basic services to ensure that individuals and families have the means to meet their basic needs.



2

Investing in sectors with high potential for job creation and implementing policies that promote entrepreneurship, especially for women and youth. This can contribute to reducing poverty and creating sustainable livelihoods.



3

Investing in rural development initiatives and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. This can include providing smallholder farmers with access to resources, credit and markets. Strengthening the agricultural sector can create employment opportunities, increase food security and improve the incomes of rural communities, contributing to poverty reduction.

## Decent work and economic growth

1

Kosovo can promote economic growth by diversifying its economy beyond its current dependence on a few sectors. Supporting the development of industries such as technology, renewable energy and tourism can create new job opportunities and reduce vulnerability to economic shocks. Investing in innovation, research and development can also contribute to a more dynamic and resilient economy.

2

To meet the demands of a changing economy, Kosovo must focus on increasing the skills of its workforce. Investing in vocational education and training programs that match the needs of emerging industries can help ensure that the workforce is equipped with the skills needed for current and future employment opportunities. Collaboration with the private sector can facilitate the development of programs that directly address industry needs.

3

Implementation of labor standards that include, among many others, fair wages and safe working conditions. Furthermore, creating and strengthening social protection mechanisms, such as unemployment benefits and health coverage, can provide a safety net for workers, promoting economic stability and well-being.

4

SMEs play a crucial role in economic growth and employment. Implementation of policies and programs that specifically support SME development, including access to finance, business development services and market opportunities. By creating a favorable environment for entrepreneurship and facilitating the growth of small businesses, Kosovo can contribute to job creation and economic diversification.

## Climate action

1

Investing in and accelerating the transition to renewable energy sources such as solar, wind and hydropower. The development and implementation of policies that support the adoption of clean and sustainable energy can significantly contribute to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

2

Kosovo should prioritize the development of strategies and infrastructure for climate resilience to adapt to the impacts of climate change. This includes assessing vulnerabilities to climate-related risks, implementing early warning systems and incorporating climate-resilient practices in sectors such as agriculture, water management and urban planning. Investing in resilient infrastructure can help mitigate the negative effects of extreme weather events and ensure the long-term resilience of communities.

3

Helping farmers adopt climate-friendly agricultural practices that increase resilience to changing climate conditions. This may include promoting sustainable water management, introducing drought-resistant crops and implementing agroforestry practices. Supporting farmers to adapt to climate change not only increases food security, but also contributes to the overall climate resilience of the region.

4

Cooperation with neighboring countries and participation in international initiatives to address transboundary climate issues. Sharing knowledge, technology and best practices with regional partners can strengthen collective efforts to combat climate change. Participation in international agreements and partnerships reinforces Kosovo's commitment to global climate action.

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