

Project narrative report

PREPARED BY

**Institute for
Development Policy**



FOR

**Raiffeisen Bank
Kosova**



**Raiffeisen
Bank**

Name of the Project:

SDG Progress Kosovo: A Concrete Approach

Implementation period:

11 December 2023

15 November 2024

Submission Date

11 February 2025

Executive Summary

With the generous support of Raiffeisen Bank, INDEP successfully implemented the project "SDG Progress Kosovo: A Concrete Approach", marking an important step toward advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kosovo. This project contributed to Kosovo's sustainable development efforts and demonstrated the potential for private sector engagement in supporting impactful initiatives. Over the course of nine months, INDEP organized key activities aimed at fostering dialogue, cooperation, and concrete actions among public institutions, the banking sector, and civil society. The 3rd edition of the SDG Forum, a roundtable on sustainable mobility (as a side event within the Kosovo Sustainable Development Week), and a roundtable discussion on Public Policies and SDGs were successfully conducted. As the final product of this project, INDEP published the third SDG Monitoring Report, presented during the second roundtable discussion. These activities produced valuable recommendations for local implementation and policy alignment.

This collaboration highlights the crucial role of financial institutions like Raiffeisen Bank in advancing sustainable development. Supporting us, Raiffeisen Bank reinforced its commitment to responsible financing, environmental sustainability, and inclusive economic growth in Kosovo. The project also marks an important milestone for INDEP, as it represents a step forward in diversifying financing avenues by engaging the private sector in sustainability-driven projects.

Through active stakeholder involvement—including government representatives, civil society, academia, and youth—the project increased awareness, built partnerships, and contributed meaningfully to the Agenda 2030 objectives.

Main Activities



3RD SDG FORUM



**ADVANCING
SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
ROUNDTABLE**



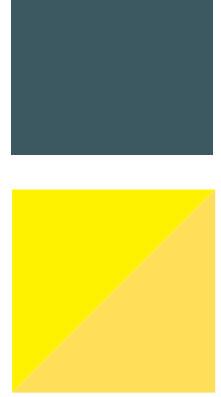
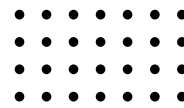
**INTEGRATION OF SDGS
INTO KOSOVO'S PUBLIC
POLICIES
ROUNDTABLE**



**SDG MONITORING
REPORT**

SDG FORUM

2024



As the first activity of the project, INDEP organized the third edition of the Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Kosovo. Featuring **four dedicated working groups, 17 expert panelists, and 17 concrete recommendations**, this forum served as a catalyst for advancing SDG implementation. Through meaningful dialogue and cross-sector collaboration, stakeholders representing various SDGs came together to drive actionable solutions and foster a more integrated approach to sustainable development.

In the discussions we had participants from public and private sector, including government institutions, civil society, businesses, and academia, to address Kosovo's commitments to social inclusion, renewable energy, digital transformation, and education reform. High-level representatives and experts discussed challenges and strategies to integrate Agenda 2030 locally. The forum explored social welfare gaps, emphasizing reforms for inclusiveness and accessibility. Panels on renewable energy and digital transformation highlighted administrative barriers and the need for improved public-private collaboration. Discussions on education addressed early childhood learning, dropout prevention, and targeted support for vulnerable groups.

Although the event was structured around discussion panels, the conversations extended far beyond the panelists, fostering dynamic engagement with the audience—comprising representatives from diverse sectors. With over **50 participants** actively contributing to the panel discussions and an online reach exceeding **20,000 people**, the event successfully created an inclusive and far-reaching dialogue.

Recommendations on each of the panels focused on reducing bureaucratic barriers, fostering partnerships, and adopting innovative approaches for sustainable development. At the end INDEP published the forum report which presented actionable steps to enhance Kosovo's alignment with global SDG objectives. This report was shared with the key stakeholders who participated in the Forum.



Advancing Sustainable Mobility roundtable



Recommendations

- Increase the number of bus routes and stations in underserved areas to enhance accessibility and reduce reliance on private vehicles.
- Prioritize Prishtina as the central hub for intra-urban connections, ensuring better integration between the capital and surrounding municipalities.
- Mandate an increase of at least 20% in public transit coverage in urban planning documents, including Zonal Maps and Municipal Development Plans, across all municipalities in Kosovo.
- Designate more pedestrian zones in city centers, ensuring better crosswalks, benches, and green spaces to encourage walking and improve pedestrian safety.
- Establish a financial instrument to incentivize municipalities based on a measurable Pedestrian Zone Index, rewarding those that actively expand and enhance pedestrian-friendly spaces.
- Integrate this mechanism into the existing Grant of Performance framework, providing financial support based on municipalities' improvements in pedestrian infrastructure.
- Encourage collaboration between municipalities and private companies to fund and implement sustainable mobility projects, ensuring scalability and long-term impact.

As one of the organizers of KSDW 2024, INDEP considered the theme of sustainable mobility for the second roundtable to be an excellent fit as a side event within KSDW 2024.

Held under the umbrella of KSDW 2024, the country's biggest sustainability platform, this roundtable aimed to promote sustainable transportation in Kosovo, addressing the need for environmentally friendly and efficient urban mobility solutions. As panelists we had present: Gent Sejdiu (Municipality of Prishtina), Edon Xharra (Raiffeisen Leasing), Besmir Kokollari (Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure) and Mentor Isufi (Urban Traffic).

Discussions focused on reducing dependency on private cars by supporting accessible and affordable public transport, and improving its infrastructure and services. The roundtable also highlighted the importance of urban planning that prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists, fostering walkable and bike-friendly cities.

Innovative solutions like integrating electric vehicles, expanding bike-sharing programs, and creating green corridors were discussed to reduce traffic and lower carbon emissions. Experts emphasized the role of public-private partnerships in ensuring the long-term success of these initiatives. The event reinforced the link between sustainable mobility and improving urban quality of life while helping Kosovo achieve its climate goals, contributing to more sustainable and livable cities aligned with the SDGs. In the end the event was included in the KSDW 2024 report.

Integration of SDGs into Kosovo's Public Policies roundtable

Overview of the roundtable

During this round table INDEP launched its report on SDG integration, highlighting the government's commitments and INDEP's continued monitoring efforts. During the roundtable we discussed Kosovo's progress in implementing SDGs with key stakeholders from institutions, civil society, and the financial sector. The roundtable provided a platform for collaborative discussions on advancing sustainable development at the national level.

Panelists and Their Contributions

The project brought the **Chairwoman of the Council for Sustainable Development** on board, strengthening institutional engagement in Kosovo's SDG progress. Ms. Shqipe Krasniqi, coordinator for CSO relations in the Kosovo Assembly emphasized the importance of collaboration, while Ms. Antigona Limani discussed the financial sector's role in supporting sustainability.

Discussion Topics

The roundtable focused on Kosovo's efforts to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), discussing both progress and challenges across key areas. The conversation focused on Kosovo's national commitments in poverty reduction, education reform, renewable energy transition, and digital transformation. A key topic was the integration of SDG indicators into the 2024 census, which can improve data collection, monitoring, and policy planning. However, participants highlighted institutional and technical challenges in managing and harmonizing SDG data, limiting effective monitoring.

The roundtable also explored Kosovo's policy alignment with the SDGs, particularly in social welfare, education, and energy. Despite progress, there were challenges in full implementation. To move forward, participants recommended enhancing multi-sectoral collaboration, promoting digital transformation, and utilizing data-driven policymaking. The discussion also highlighted the role of Sustainable Development Week, Kosovo's largest sustainable development event, and emphasized regional collaboration to address shared challenges such as climate change and energy. Lastly, there was strong support for aligning fiscal policies with the 2030 Agenda to prioritize sustainable development investments.

SDG Monitoring Report

OVERVIEW OF THE REPORT

For the third year in a row INDEP published the SDG Monitoring Report, but with a slight change. In the first two years we monitored how and if the 17 SDGs are being addressed in Kosovo's public policies. In the third year we decided to focus only on the implementation of Kosovo's 4 commitments:

- Leave no one behind
- Accelerating the transition towards renewable energy
- Digital transformation
- Transforming education in Kosovo

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The goal of the document is to provide policymakers, civil society, and international partners with a monitoring framework for progress, along with a set of steps for moving forward. The recommendations presented aim to enhance the effectiveness of policies related to the SDGs, promote stronger engagement from stakeholders, and ensure that the country remains on track to meet its 2030 targets.

Focus Problem

A key challenge identified in this report is the disconnect between Kosovo's national commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the limited availability of comprehensive data for effective monitoring and policy planning. The report highlights the critical importance of integrating SDG-related indicators into the 2024 Census as a means to address this gap. Strengthening data collection and analysis is essential for tracking progress, informing decision-making, and ensuring that Kosovo remains aligned with its 2030 targets.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- **Strengthening policy coordination and institutional outreach**
- **Advancing digital transformation for monitoring and implementing SDGs**
- **Strengthening capacities for data-based policy planning.**
- **Integrating Sustainable Development into fiscal policies**
- **Advancing regional partnerships and shared learning**

The findings and recommendations of this report were shared at the roundtable “Integration of SDGs into Kosovo's Public Policies.” Printed copies of the report were distributed to participants during the event, while stakeholders unable to attend received the report via email, as per their request.



Advocacy efforts

In the course of our project, social media and email distribution played a crucial role in amplifying our advocacy efforts, reaching a wide audience, and fostering engagement with key stakeholders. Through targeted social media campaigns, we aimed to raise awareness about the project's objectives, share insightful findings, and encourage active participation from our audience. Additionally, we leveraged email as a direct channel to distribute our two key reports, ensuring that our project's impact and progress were effectively communicated to a broader audience.

SOCIAL MEDIA REACH AND ENGAGEMENT

Throughout the project, we focused our advocacy efforts on Facebook to reach our audience and raise awareness about our activities. We shared different types of content, such as project updates, key findings, events, and reports, to keep our followers informed and engaged. Our posts received strong interactions, showing a high level of interest and support from the community. Some posts were especially popular, like the one about the SDG Forum, which got a lot of engagement. This showed that our message reached the right people, including local communities, stakeholders, and youth. The regular interactions and positive feedback on our Facebook page proved that this platform was effective in increasing our project's visibility and building a sense of connection and involvement among our audience.



Views **31,979**



Reach **22,477**



Interactions **30**



No. of posts **3**

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION OF REPORTS

To ensure that our key findings reached a broader audience, we distributed our two reports via email to a targeted group of stakeholders, partners, and other interested individuals. We used an organized distribution strategy, reaching out to over 100 recipients through our mailing list. The reports were sent at strategic intervals, with clear and engaging subject lines to encourage higher open rates. Additionally, links within the emails allowed recipients to easily access and download the reports, and the engagement from the follow-up emails confirmed that many readers took the time to review the content. This method of distribution played a key role in ensuring that our project's outcomes were communicated effectively and widely, reaching those who were most likely to act on or share the information.

Closing remarks



This project and this collaboration was an important activity in 2024 for INDEP. The 2030 Agenda takes a special attention under our program for sustainable development. The partnership with Raiffeisen Bank was particularly meaningful, as it brought together corporate social responsibility with impactful action on sustainable development.

With this project, we aimed to place SDG discussions at the most important platforms, ensuring that key decision-makers and experts were part of the conversation. From high-level roundtables to Kosovo Sustainable Development Week (KSDW), the project became a driving force in shaping the national dialogue on SDGs.

We are proud to have reached over **20,000 people** , both directly and indirectly, engaging stakeholders such as the Chairwoman of the Council for Sustainable Development, 17 experts, and representatives from key institutions and the financial sector. More importantly, this collaboration resulted in one of the few SDG-focused reports in Kosovo, bearing the logos of INDEP and Raiffeisen Bank—a testament to the power of cross-sector partnerships in advancing sustainability.

