



REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
Ministry of Trade and Industry

FACTSHEET KOSOVO



Geography

Land area: 10,908 km²

Terrain: Low flood plains throughout central Kosovo, surrounded by mountains to the north, west and south.

Land Use: 52 % agriculture, 39 % forests

Capital: Prishtina - est. population 500,000

Population

Population: approximately 2.2 million

Ethnic

composition: 90 % Albanians, 5 % Serbs,
2 % Muslim Slavs (Bosniaks, Gorans),
2 % Roma and 1 % Turks

Distribution: 42 % urban, 58 % rural

Diaspora: over 500,000 people living abroad

Languages: Albanian, Serbian, English.



Investment Opportunities

Kosovo offers excellent investment opportunities in agriculture, food processing, wood processing, ICT and shared services, construction, automotive components, textiles, tourism, mining, and energy. For additional information on investment opportunities contact IPAK-Vienna at www.ipak-vienna.org



Education

The compulsory school and higher education systems have been reformed, lending great importance to their quality.

Over 30,000 students at two public universities and over 10,000 at private universities and colleges. New world class public university in Prizren.

Over 8,000 graduates per year.



Economy

Currency: EURO

Gross Domestic Product (GDP): In 2009: € 3.792 billion, Per capita: € 1,731, Growth rate: 3,8%; Mostly driven by private sector growth.

Inflation: On average 2.2% per annum over the past five years.

Financial Sector: Two tier banking system consisting of Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo and eight private Banks, 10 Insurance companies and two pension schemes.

Enterprises: Over 40.000 active SMEs in 2009, app. 50% of total SMEs engaged in trade industry. 500 Socially Owned Enterprises of which 400 already privatized.

Budget: In 2010 totalling app. € 1.461 billion.

Tax System: VAT 16%, Corporate Profit Tax 10%, Personal Income Tax progressive max. 10%.

Tariff duties: 10% customs duties on imports, no duties on raw materials, capital and intermediary goods; Excise tax on fuel, tobacco alcohol and luxury goods. No duties and taxes on exports.

Free trade: Customs-free access to the EU market based on the EU Autonomous Trade Preference (ATP) Regime, Central European Free Trade Agreement – CEFTA and preferential treatment of exported goods in the US market.

Labour market: Average monthly labour cost 262.5 Euro in 2009, skilled and well educated work force.

Location factors: Competitive, well educated and young workforce, enviable natural resources (mining, agriculture), low taxes and a transparent tax system, customs free access to the markets of CEFTA, EU and USA, Euro as official currency.

European Integration and Membership to international Bodies

Participant in the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP), the EU's policy framework towards the Western Balkans, by following the guidelines of the European Partnership. The SAP steers Kosovo's reform process according to EU best practice and European legislation.



EU-Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) helping to strengthen rule of law.



Member of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Negotiations for a trade agreement with the EU currently underway.



Judiciary

Applicable commercial Law: Built in compliance with EU-Legal Framework, all laws available online and in English.

Court structure includes the Supreme Court of Kosovo, District Courts, Municipal Courts and Courts of Minor Offences. A Special Chamber of the Supreme Court deals with Kosovo Privatisation Agency related matters.

Security

App. 7,500 Kosovo Police (KP) officers; 5,000 NATO Peacekeepers, 1,950 international officials.

Specialized agencies, including Kosovo Anti-Corruption Agency, investigate misuse of public money and financial crime.



Telecommunication

Telecommunication: The Post and Telecommunications of Kosovo (PTK) offers a comprehensive range of services: Post (120 post offices), fixed and mobile telephony, Internet ("Dardanet").

Fixed network: 92,000 fixed telephone connections in 1999; currently around 135,000. Second fixed telephony license issued to Ipko Net in July 2006.

Mobile Network: Currently around 900,000 customers of "Vala" (PTK). As of March 2007 the second GSM license granted to IPKO – Slovenian Telekom. Currently IPKO has ca. 300,000 users.

Internet: Wide coverage; three licensed providers; 21% of population has internet access.



Transportation

Road network: The road network consists of 630 km of main roads. A highway connecting Kosovo with Albania and Serbia currently under construction.

Railway: Combined length of 330 km. It covers the entire territory, connecting both the south with the north and east with west.

Air transportation: Prishtina International Airport is, with over one million passengers per year, one of the most frequented airports of the region.

About Us

Mission

Contribute to Kosovo's economic development by promoting foreign direct investments from German-Speaking Countries.

Free-of-charge Services

Information on investment opportunities in Kosovo, business and legal environment, assistance with local authorities, after-care-services, etc.

Implementation

The Vienna Office of Investment Promotion Agency of Kosovo is a project implemented by the Economic Initiative for Kosova - ECIKS.

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