



SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH IN KOSOVO

KSV/023



SECTOR | Socio-economic development

AGENCY | LuxDev

DURATION | 36 months (November 2023 - October 2026)

TARGET GROUPS

- Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade (MIET);
- innovation ecosystem;
- private sector.

INSTITUTIONAL ANCHORAGE

MIET

SECTORIAL POLICIES AND REFERENCE STRATEGIES

- Government programme/National Development Strategy 2030;
- Concept document for Sovereign Fund of the Republic of Kosovo and draft law;
- Kosovo Security Strategy/Strategy for Cybersecurity;
- Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2019-2022;
- Kosovo e-Government Strategy and its action plan.

BUDGET | EUR6.5 million



The Sustainable and inclusive growth in Kosovo project aims to contribute to sustainable economic growth by promoting innovation, inclusiveness, and social development in a greener Kosovo. The project encourages innovation, and local and foreign investments in an e-secure and transparent environment.

The project will support the innovation ecosystem in Kosovo. On one side, it will support the establishment of an innovation fund and build the capacity of departments and agencies within the MIET. On the other side, it will encourage innovation in the private sector through an innovation grant scheme. These actions will increase the overall innovation competitiveness of businesses in Kosovo, leading to job creation, fostering employment, and contributing to economic growth.

To enhance protection against hybrid cybersecurity threats in Kosovo's growing information and communication technology sector, the project will promote cybersecurity and digital transformation within the public sector. This will be achieved through the establishment of a cybersecurity lab, in

close cooperation with the Luxembourg House of Cybersecurity, and in partnership with the Ministry for Internal Affairs of Kosovo. Upon completion of this step, a training module on basic protection against cyberattacks and malware for civil servants will be developed and conducted at the Kosovo Institute for Public Administration.

The project supports the digitalisation reforms in the Kosovo Parliament by replacing its defunct electronic voting system. This action will improve not only institutional transparency and accountability, but also enhance information services to the public, fulfilling one of the criteria on the path to European Union integration.

Finally, the project will assist the government in developing a governance framework for the establishment of the Sovereign Fund of the Republic of Kosovo. The fund promises to improve the sustainability of public entities, amongst others, and attract foreign investments.

EXPECTED CHANGES/RESULTS

The project will focus on four main results:

- the innovation fund for the development of private companies is up and running;
- an e-voting system for Parliament is operational;
- civil servants' cybersecurity capabilities are improved;
- the Sovereign Fund of the Republic of Kosovo is ready for implementation.

MAIN ACTIONS

- The project has initiated support for the development of a EUR1.9 million grant scheme (EUR1.4 million from LuxDev and EUR0.5 million from MIET) aimed at fostering innovative ideas for new products and services within Kosovo's private sector. The scheme targets both Small and Medium Enterprises and startups, with a particular focus on market readiness for the latter.
- Two ongoing assessments are related to the training needs of civil servants working in the area of cybersecurity and to the cybersecurity lab. The Luxembourg House of Cybersecurity is part of these assessments; results are expected by the end of October 2024.
- The e-voting system was installed and inaugurated in September 2024 during the first autumn Kosovo Assembly session. Following installation and technical compliance, service providers trained the Kosovo Assembly staff. The system will improve voting transparency and accountability and enhance public information services.

NEXT STEPS

- evaluation of the applications for the innovation grant scheme and follow up the implementation;
- support to the innovation strategy and its action plan;
- establishment of the cybersecurity lab;
- development of the training/module on cybersecurity.

PARTNERSHIP WITH LUXEMBOURG

The project has established a first partnership agreement with the Luxembourg House of Cybersecurity.

Amount of the partnership agreement: EUR20,362 | Period: September - October 2024

Objective: contribute to the analysis of the cyber training needs and the need to establish a cybersecurity lab through technical support, transfer of knowledge and expertise and sharing best practices.

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