



Riinvest Institute for Development Research
Prishtina, Kosovo
www.riinvestinstitute.org

-Call for Papers-

International Conference

ACTIVATING THE SOURCES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN KOSOVO, 15 May 2020, Prishtina

BACKGROUND:

Kosovo is a small developing country in Western Balkans seeking its route towards sustainable development and catching up with other European countries. Currently, Kosovo reaches only about two-thirds of the average GDP per capita of its neighbors and just over one-tenth of the average European GDP per capita. Through its difficult past, it experienced huge disinvestment and deindustrialization during the 90s and a long status quo under the UNMIK administration (1999-2007) until it proclaimed its independence on February 17, 2008.

Kosovo is rich with human resources and has a young population (around 60% of the population below the age of 30). It is also rich with natural resources (coal-lignite, lead, zinc, nickel) but it faces serious difficulties to transform these resources into long term and sustainable development. With a GDP per capita of about 3,650 Euros, an unemployment rate of around 30%, around 20% of the population under the poverty line, a current account deficit of around 8% of GDP (mainly driven by a huge trade deficit), budget revenues reaching around 30% of GDP and investment about 29%, Kosovo is still to enter into the phase of long term sustainable growth to address the urgent needs of its citizens. The economic growth during the last decade has been only around 4%. An annual growth rate of 7% is required to create space for ameliorating current macroeconomic imbalances, eradicate poverty and reduce unemployment. This situation puts policymakers and other key actors at the Kosovar society under heavy pressure.

The evidence of the experiences of other developing countries and especially former developing economies has shown that good governance and good policies could create an environment in which higher growth and sustainable development could take place.

OBJECTIVES:

- (1) To explore and present new knowledge and advanced experiences in activating sources of economic growth in an open underdeveloped market economy – with special reference to Kosovo;
- (2) To promote research activities in Kosovo related to economic and social development;
- (3) To strengthen relationships and partnerships with academic circles and developmental experts throughout Europe, the US and beyond, and with international organizations.

The overall theme of the conference is around Industrial Policies. While other key topics of the conference include:

- (1) Development and Institutions
- (2) Human Capital, Intellectual Capital and Social Capital
- (3) Natural Resources: a Curse or a Blessing
- (4) Absorptive Capacities for Investment and Job Creation
- (5) EU Integration and Regional Economic Cooperation
- (6) Infrastructure and Utilities
- (7) Agriculture and Rural Development
- (8) High-Value Added Services
- (9) Access and Cost of Finance

FORMAT:

The Conference will be organized in plenary sessions and workshops where contributions will be presented and discussed. The format of the workshops will be based on the number of papers accepted for the conference and the topics covered.

PAPERS:

Papers should follow the academic format and there will be peer review by a special Conference Committee. Policy-oriented papers will also be accepted, but they will not exceed 20% of total papers to be presented at the conference.

- Requirements for Abstract Submission
 - Structure of the Abstract
 - Title of the Article
 - Full first name of the author and the family name
 - Author's working place
 - Abstract of the article (maximum 1 page long)
 - Keywords
 - The page margins – 2 cm overall, Times New Roman, 12pt for the text, single space between the lines.

- Requirements for the Final Paper: Structure of the Final Paper:
 - Title of the article
 - Full first name of the author and the family name
 - Author's working place
 - Abstract of the article (maximum 1 page long)
 - Keywords
 - Introduction, indicating the **article's scientific problem, novelty, aim, tasks, object, research methods**
 - Text of the article
 - Conclusions
 - List of References (no less 25 of significant scientific works)
 - The page margins – 2 cm overall, Times New Roman, 12pt for the text, single space between the lines.
 - The final paper should be 8-10 pages long

Conference date: **15 May 2020**

Venue: Prishtina, Kosovo

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **15 March 2020:** Submission of abstracts
- **20 April 2020:** Submission of papers
- **7 May 2020:** Publication of the conference agenda