

## ACTIVATING THE SOURCES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH IN KOSOVO, 15-17 May 2025, Prishtina

### BACKGROUND

Kosovo, a small developing country in the Western Balkans, is striving for sustainable development and to bridge the gap with its European counterparts. Currently, its GDP per capita stands at around two-thirds of its neighboring countries and less than one-third of the European average. Enduring significant challenges, Kosovo faced substantial disinvestment and deindustrialization in the 1990s, followed by a prolonged period of UNMIK administration until declaring independence in 2008. Since then, the country has made notable economic progress, witnessing nearly a 50% increase in per capita income and a 35% reduction in the poverty rate. This advancement has been fueled by a transition away from heavy reliance on foreign aid, marked by increased consumption, investment, and diaspora contributions, alongside robust public infrastructure investment and financial development. However, despite inclusive growth, Kosovo still grapples with insufficient formal employment, especially for women and youth. Addressing infrastructure constraints, prioritizing human capital investment, and fostering private sector development are vital for sustaining growth and creating quality jobs. Additionally, efforts towards environmental sustainability, including alignment with EU environmental standards, are imperative. Good governance and sound policies, as observed in other developing economies, are essential for fostering an environment conducive to higher growth and sustainable development.

### OBJECTIVES

- (1) To explore and present new knowledge and advanced experiences in activating sources of economic growth in an open developing 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 academics, development experts, and organisations throughout Europe, US and beyond.

### KEY CONFERENCE TOPICS

1. Human capital, education, and innovation
2. Industrial policy and competitiveness
3. Innovation driving green and digital transformation
4. Role of institutions and public policies
5. Financing growth and building absorptive capacities
6. EU integration and regional economic cooperation (convergence, common regional market, EU Growth Plan)

## FORMAT

The conference will consist of plenary sessions and workshops where contributions will be presented and discussed. The format of the workshops will depend on the number of papers accepted and the topics covered.

## PAPERS

Papers should follow an academic format and will be peer-reviewed by a special Conference Committee. Policy-oriented papers are welcome but will comprise no more than 20 percent of the total papers presented.

- Requirements for Abstract Submission: structure of the abstract
  - Title of the article
  - Name, surname, and affiliation of the author(s)
  - 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
  - Name, surname, and affiliation of the author(s)
  - Abstract (maximum 1 page long)
  - Keywords
  - Introduction, indicating the **article's scientific problem, novelty, aim, tasks, object, research methods**
  - Main text of the article
  - Conclusions
  - List of References (Harvard referencing style)
  - The page margins – 2 cm overall, Times New Roman, 12pt for the text, single space between the lines.
  - The final paper should be no more than 10 pages long (excluding references)

Conference dates: 15-17 May 2025

Venue: Prishtina, Kosovo

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## IMPORTANT DATES

- **28 February 2025: Submission of abstracts**
- **25 April 2025: Submission of papers**
- **3 May 2025: Publication of the conference agenda**