



- Call for Papers -

**ACTIVATING THE SOURCES OF ECONOMIC GROWTH
IN KOSOVO
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**This conference is organized to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Riinvest Institute
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 66 percent of its neighboring countries and around 25 percent of the European Union 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 percent increase in per capita income and a 35 percent reduction in the poverty rate. This advancement has been fueled by a gradual shift away from heavy reliance on foreign aid, marked by increased consumption, investment, and diaspora contributions, alongside robust public infrastructure investment and financial development.

However, the dynamics of economic growth over the past decade, averaging around 4 percent, are considered inadequate given the economic imbalances, particularly the very high trade deficit and still low activation rate of the population. The current model of economic growth, which still relies heavily on external factors, has exhausted its transformative capacities. There is a need to affirm a new model based on increased competitive capacities of products and services in both domestic and foreign markets.

Kosovo continues to grapple 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.