

THE OVERVIEW OF THE EXISTING PUBLIC POLICY  
DOCUMENTS IN KOSOVO  
WHICH RELATE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SMART  
SPECIALISATION STRATEGY OF KOSOVO (RIS 3)

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## INTRODUCTION

Research, development and innovation is a field of activity that has a direct impact on economic and social development of all countries and this is a guarantee for Kosovo economy and industry, adapting to the conditions of regional and European competition. Also, the transfer of knowledge and technology are premises for a smart specialization and for creating a society based on knowledge as well as social and economic prosperity.

Kosovo's RDI system is one of the most underdeveloped in the region. It was ranked as penultimate in the 2016 OECD Report and achieved poor results in all four policy areas: RDI policy governance; research base; private sector RDI activities; and business-academia collaboration. The Government has recently approved the Law on Scientific Innovation and Transfer of Knowledge and Technology. And according to the Law No. 04/L-135 on Scientific-Research Activities, Kosovo should allocate 0.7% or EUR 14 million annually for science and innovation, although there is an increase of funds (2019 annual allocation for this category are €1,600,000) remains very low. There is no statistical data on private (business) spending on R&D. However, SMEs aimed at developing innovative products or activities have not expressed any interest in absorbing aid through 'vouchers' and other institutional support.

Kosovo has four research-scientific institutions involved as partners in Horizon 2020 projects. Kosovo's position within this framework program does not allow institutions to be a bearer and this reduces the possibility of benefiting from this program, even though Kosovo has already signed an agreement to participate in the EU programs. The projects developed so far in scientific research institutions have been focused on scientific work, while the commercialization of research-scientific activity has not shown any development.

The National Strategy for Development 2016-2021 defines necessary interventions, or measures that will be undertaken in the course of the six years to eliminate main obstacles that inhibit economic growth by limiting the quality, productivity and of the capital and labour force, producing market distortions and institutional failures; encourage private sector investments and innovation, rendering the use of country's resources in a rather efficient and effective way. In practical term the NDS focus on the limited number of priorities related to the increasing access to finance for and upgrading Kosovo SMEs to activities with higher added value and developing sustainable basic infrastructure, including deployment of information and communication technology infrastructure.

Also, the Government took the efforts on reforming the policy and strategic framework and building capacities for research and innovation. Establishment of the Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship has marked an increase of funding for innovation activities.

The State Council for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the field of innovation was established and Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy was approved in April 2019, which sets the legal framework for pre-conditions for implementation of concrete measures and operationalization of the State Council for Innovation. Better coordination between MEST and MIE is required in this area. Kosovo has been involved with the smart specialisation platform and it is expected to draft a Smart Specialisation Strategy under coordination of Strategic Planning Office (Office of Prime Minister) as well as the research and development infrastructure mapping.

The Government of Kosovo also develops annually the Economic Reform Program as a part of Economic and Fiscal Dialogue with the European Commission. The last Economic Reform Programme 2019-2021 contains specific priority structural reforms related to innovation as follows: Improvement of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Environment (Measure 12); Expansion of relevant ICT infrastructure networks and services

for the socio-economic development (Measure 13); Reduction of energy consumption through energy efficiency measures (measure 1); Further development of energy generation capacities (measure 2); and Structural changes in agro-processing sector (measure 3). In other words, ERP stressed the needs of reform in the areas/sectors, which are mentioned as high potential for innovation and use of R&D seeking to enable economic growth. Those are the areas to be considered as priorities for smart specialisation in Kosovo.

Another important document that is related to S3 process is the National Research Programme that aims to identify research priorities, establish provisions for infrastructural investments, enhance participation in international scientific research projects and elaborate a systematic education programme for researchers.

Development and implementation of the Smart Specialisation Strategy will have great strategic importance for Kosovo as it may encourage public and private investments in research, technological development and innovation. Adequate identification of S3 development priorities may enable consolidation of research capacities and infrastructure, gathering a critical mass of researchers and innovators that would work together on strategically important topics of research and development, with a view to achieving research excellence and strengthening the potential of domestic products for commercialisation. In addition, S3 may also enable the development of the new economic sectors through investments in research and innovation in areas that contain strategic potential within the national framework.

## 1. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY 2016-2021

### 1.1. Strategic framework

The National Strategy for Development 2016-2021 presents the highest priorities of the Government of Kosovo in terms of the country's economic development, driven by the development of the agenda towards European integration in all areas. The selection of priorities and measures of the NDS is based on two general principles: (i) the need to provide higher annual growth rates and (ii) the need that in parallel with economic growth to ensure the social cohesion and inclusion.

Structurally, NDS is divided into four thematic pillars: a) human capital; b) the rule of law and good governance; c) development of competitive industries; and d) development of infrastructure. The key focus of these pillars is **Employment, Law, Business and Construction** (in Albanian, **PLAN**). These pillars include 34 measures with up to seven concrete implementation activities for each measure.

Simultaneously, NDS is in full harmony with other strategic processes, such as EU integration process through the implementation of Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) or the Economic Reforms Programme (ERP). This is because the measures set out in NDS are mostly synchronized with priorities of economic and institutional reforms necessary for Kosovo's integration into the European Union. For its implementation is also developed the Roadmap.

### 1.2. Expected results

NDS expected results are: Under Human Capital pillar - increased inclusion of children in pre-school institutions and Improved quality of teaching in the primary and secondary education; improved correlation between skills acquired in education and labour market needs; strengthened mechanisms of accountability and certification in the education system; decreased level of informal employment.

Strengthened property rights system and enhanced efficiency of judiciary in disposing cases better - public procurement system; enhanced service delivery and decrease administrative burden for business; more efficient and better coordination of state inspections and taxation inside Kosovo instead of border taxation

For competitive industries the results are: increased access to funding for Kosovar enterprises; networking of enterprises in similar industrial groupings; improved quality of standards and activities with higher added value; increased Foreign Direct Investments and Diaspora Investments; regulating fragmented agricultural land and Kosovo's mining potential used at the service of economic development; Fully revitalization of Trepça; increased effectiveness of state-owned companies, and Invested Privatization Funds into strategic economic assets.

And as per infrastructure the expected results are: Increased local capacity for power generation from both lignite and renewable sources; transmission line to diversify sources of energy import; invested measures on energy efficiency; main international and regional road axis and the international railway line completed; increased use of IT in business operations, schools and public institutions; improved support infrastructure for agriculture production; rationalization water usage and increased production and distribution capacities; ensured sustainable use of Kosovo forests and waste management.

### 1.3. Goals

Four main NDS goals are: the improvement of human capital (better skills); good Governance and the Rule of Law; increasing the competitive industries; and improvement of infrastructure

### 1.4. Implementation of the strategy

Implementation of NDS will be done through the Roadmap, which presents the translation of the list of priorities, as planned in the document of Strategy; links financial resources through the Mid-Term Expenditure Framework; avoids the overlapping institutional processes. Monitoring the implementation of the National Development Strategy is carried out through the system of monitoring indicators included in the Roadmap. The monitoring and reporting system is designed to ensure interconnection as far as possible with systems implemented within the Integrated Planning System.

The Government's Coordinating Secretariat (GCS), along with SPO, is responsible for monitoring the progress of implementation of NDS priorities, as set out under the governmental annual work plan. Responsible institutions are expected to report on the progress on quarterly basis, as part of the standard work plan cycle. SPO, based on the contribution of responsible ministries sent to GCS, analyses the implementation of high priorities and provides reports to the Prime Minister and the Government. Analytical reports on the implementation of the NDS top priorities after their review within the Strategic Planning Steering Group are to be submitted for information and further review to the Strategic Planning Committee chaired by the Prime Minister.

### 1.5. Policy measures

Below are the NDS policy measures per pillars broken-down in activities that relate to the process of Smart Specialisation:

**Pillar 1– Human Capital, Measure 3: Better linkage between education and labour market: *Activity 5) Relate research work at universities with industry by facilitating access to smart specializations in line with Europe 2020 strategy. This provides for public and private investment in research and development (R&D) in a number of specific industrial sectors.***

**Pillar 3 – Competitive Industries, Measure 17 - Network and cluster development of SMEs - *Activity 1) Development of a National Competitiveness Strategy, which will identify strategic interventions to enhance competitiveness of SMEs. Identify seven competitive and functional clusters to be supported through concrete forms (grants, technical assistance, etc.). The support will be provided through Investment and Employment Fund, specifically, through SMEs Competitiveness Scheme or thematic scheme for Innovation Growth in IT sector; and***

Measure 18 - Upgrading SMEs to activities with higher added value – Activity: 2) *Establish an innovation support scheme, which will provide incentives (matching grants) for investment of SMEs in scientific research and development. The scheme will be part of the Employment and Development Fund.* 3) *The Ministry of Finance will also introduce tax exemptions for purchase of new technology and encourage connection with research institutions abroad, and Activity 4) Establish a fund for subsidizing innovation projects in the area of information technology (IT). The fund will be part of the Employment and Development Fund.*

Pillar 4 – Infrastructure, Measure 30 - Deployment of information and communication technology infrastructure: Activities: 1) *Establish National IT Council to coordinate various aspects of development and implementation of IT strategy;* 2) *Support to Kosovar IT businesses (through Employment and Development Fund) to export services abroad and to other businesses to upgrade their business operations through use of IT;* 3) *Adopt relevant international ITC standards for public institutions and businesses;* 4) *Implementation of the Kosovo Digital Economy Programme – KODE (through ITC scheme under Employment and Development Fund), which would involve laying broadband and high-speed infrastructure and development of human resources for digital economy.*

## 1.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

The NDS as mentioned above is an overarching document that list the key priorities of the country and serves as an umbrella document for all following strategic and policy documents at the Government of Kosovo. The above activities are related to the Smart Specialisation Strategy and therefore the Smart Specialisation Strategy shall be in line with it.

Link to the strategy: [http://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/docs/National\\_Development\\_Strategy\\_2016-2021.pdf](http://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/docs/National_Development_Strategy_2016-2021.pdf)

<http://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/First-Report-on-the-implementation-and-results-of-the-National-Development-Strategy-2016%E2%80%932021.pdf>

## 2. STRATEGY FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP 2019-2023

### 2.1. Strategic framework

The Government considers innovation as an important area for entrepreneurship development and at the same time direct impact on Kosovo's economic and social development. When analysing general policy on innovation and entrepreneurship of Kosovo, it is noteworthy that there has not been an explicit and coordinated national policy on entrepreneurship. The establishment of Ministry of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (MIE) in 2017 is likely to produce concentrated efforts to boost innovation and entrepreneurship.

The challenge for the Republic of Kosovo in terms of Innovation and Entrepreneurship is to find the right balance between supporting all national industries that still suffer to become innovative and competitive and to use its limited resources to tap into opportunities for transformation to meet structural challenges by combining their existing capacities into unique innovative activities (smart specialisation, Foray et al 2018). By means of the Thematic Pillar “Promotion and treatment of innovations in sectors with economic development potential” the National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy bundles activities in domains of high economic importance that should translate into structural transformation within the economy of the Republic of Kosovo in an accumulative process that links the present and future strengths of the Kosovar economy.

## 2.2. Expected results

By 2022, Kosovo should base its economic competitiveness in the effective utilization of knowledge, creativity and innovations, and become internationally recognised as hub for digital driven be known at regional level for innovations and scientific research with economic effects, and become a regional centre for the development of digital economy.

The main expected key outcomes of the strategy are:

1. Public policies to facilitate innovation, with focus on increasing competitiveness of Kosovar SMEs, are improved;
2. Private sector and academia participation as well as collaboration in overall investments in research and development is enhanced;
3. Strong coordination mechanisms for innovation and entrepreneurship at the national level are in place;
4. Human capacities and competence for research, development and innovation in entrepreneurship are sustainably increased.

## 2.3. Goals

The National Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategy aims to stimulate innovative ideas and activities in order to increase economic and institutional productivity, develop entrepreneurship and private initiative through innovation focused on business development (SMEs, start-ups) and at the same time promote close cooperation between the academy, the public sector and the private sector.

The strategic objectives defined in the Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship represents a more general, at least five-year, and ambition in the form of a statement about the preferred conditions that the Government of Kosovo will be committed to achieve. The following four strategic objectives are defined with linked specific objectives:

- Strategic Objective 1: Development of an integrated system for innovation in the Republic of Kosovo and advancement of the legal and fiscal framework conditions
  - 1.1. To well align the implementation of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Strategies with related initiatives
  - 1.2. To streamline the responsibilities and operational tasks of Kosovar innovation intermediaries
  - 1.3. To install a systematic fiscal and non-fiscal policy toolset for the promotion of innovation activities
- Strategic Objective 2: Enhancement of the potential for innovation in Kosovar enterprises
  - 2.1. To increase awareness of the importance of innovation among the private sector
  - 2.2. To implement a programmatic and institutional innovation and entrepreneurship support scheme in an efficient manner
  - 2.3. To efficiently transfer R&D outcomes into marketable solutions through close cooperation between academia and research with the private sector
  - 2.4. To promote innovation through foreign investments and export promotion
- Strategic Objective 3: Supporting innovation and entrepreneurship among youth and women in businesses
  - 3.1. To boost innovative spirit and awareness among young talents
  - 3.2. To align vocational and higher education curricula with entrepreneurship and economic demands
  - 3.3. To better integrate women in business through specific support programs



- Strategic Objective 4: Promotion and treatment of innovations in sectors with economic development potential

4.1. To establish a horizontal policy toolset in order to provide good frame work conditions in the economy and research, and to lay the foundations for follow-up approaches with a sector-specific orientation

4.2. To channel investments in economic and innovation fields with great economic development potential

4.3. To tightly interlock the promotion of prioritized industries with the digital economy

## 2.4. Implementation of the strategy

Effective implementation of the Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship will be a key to succeed. Thus, the implementation process includes appropriate institutional arrangements and monitoring approaches. The MIE is responsible for continuously monitoring and the implementation of the Strategy and will undertake all necessary steps to ensure timely and effective conduct of the activities set out in the action plan, which includes among others duties organisation of the functioning of inter-ministerial co-ordination body and ensuring close cooperation with the National Council for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The key actions under the leadership of the MIE are:

- Establish an effective monitoring and reporting mechanism in line with monitoring and reporting requirements and ensure its application;
- Collect information from participating ministries on the implementation of the strategic document and its action plan;
- Prepare regular annual reports on the implementation of the strategic document and biannual reports on the implementation of the action plan;
- Organise the work of inter-ministerial co-ordination body, for which they provide secretariat functions;
- Initiate discussions of problematic issues, if needed;
- Publish regular reports on the website of the ministry after its endorsement by the respective body.

All these activities initiated by the MIE will be operationalized in close cooperation and communication with the National Council for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

The Council is seen as the most appropriate body to monitor the implementation process of the strategy through regular meetings and discussion on the progress in implementing objectives, indicators and actions of the respective strategic document; identification of challenges and bottlenecks to successful implementation and propose corrective measures to be taken by the MIE; discussions and endorsements of regular reports Policy measures.

The innovation and entrepreneurship policy should focus the efforts of the various actors in the public sector as well as international donors, NGOs and other stakeholders and to ensure coherence in their implementation.

As it stated in the ERP, the main risks/challenges in improvement of Innovation and Entrepreneurship environment are the following:

- The stagnation of inter-institutional cooperation;
- Stagnation of cooperation between the private sector, the public sector and the academia for implementing the innovative ideas and projects in enterprises;
- Reduction of the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Fund;
- Stability of start-ups and their transformation into stable businesses with potential for growth;

- Population of Regional Innovation and Entrepreneurship Centres;
- Lack of necessary expertise of academic staff on innovation, science, technology, digital economy for human capacity building.

## 2.5. Policy measures

The strategy identifies four sectors (Priority Areas) where high innovation dynamics and over-average growth potential can be expected in the future:

1. ICT and related Digital Industry
2. Food production and processing
3. Manufacturing
4. Tourism and related service industry.

The priority of Kosovo during the next years of the Strategy implementation is to create a climate favourable for innovation and to stimulate business sector investments in innovation activities in order to develop new products, services and technologies that will enable modernization and diversification of the Kosovan economy. The identification of the four Priority Areas might help to streamline the investments and efforts connected to the implementation of the Strategy.

## 2.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

The Strategy for Innovation & Entrepreneurship embeds key elements and philosophies of the Smart Specialisation approach, adapted to the current challenges of Kosovo. Thus, the current Innovation & Entrepreneurship strategy can be understood as an approach by stimulating specialisation in certain areas, where the public and private sector has gained significant strengths, like in ICT and high value-added se. The current strategy will act as an umbrella for long term competitiveness and innovation of private sector which can be used for developing S3 in Kosovo.

Link to the strategy: The strategy is not available online yet
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## 3. KOSOVO EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2017-2021

### 3.1. Strategic framework

The Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (KESP) is the basic document for the development of the education sector in Kosovo in the period 2017-2021.

The KESP covers seven thematic areas that present all relevant segments of education in Kosovo:

- Participation and Inclusion,
- Management of education system,
- Quality Assurance,
- Teacher development,
- Teaching and Learning,
- Vocational Education and Training and Adult Education,
- Higher Education Policy measures

## 3.2. Expected results

The KESP have formulated an updated vision for education in Kosovo: Kosovo, a competitive knowledge society, based on European values with equal opportunities for all its citizens to contribute to sustainable economic and social development.

## 3.3. Goals

The main goal of KESP is development of the Education System based on quality, all-inclusiveness and accountability, offering education and training for individuals in accordance to best international standards and practices.

Strategic objectives are defined as follows:

- Increasing participation and providing equal opportunities for the development, training, and education
- Improving the quality and efficient management of the education system, based on transparency and accountability of every individual in pre-university education
- Developing a functioning quality assurance system, in accordance with international standards.
- Enhancing teaching quality through an effective and sustainable system for teacher professional development and preparation.
- Maximising learning through quality teaching, implementing competency-based curricula, and by using high-quality teaching resources.
- Harmonising vocational education and training with labour market requirements in the country and abroad, and creating an open system for adult education.
- Upgrading the quality and competitiveness of higher education through the promotion of excellence in teaching, scientific research, artistic creation, innovation, and internationalisation

## 3.4. Implementation of the strategy

A special team for KESP Implementation leading by the Minister (or Deputy Minister on his/her behalf); coordinated by the Secretary General and consisting of directors of major departments in the Ministry of Education, Science and technology (MEST) was set up.

The main responsibilities of this body are:

- Development of annual implementation plans in accordance with KESP, NDS and European integration agenda;
- Development of annual budget for KESP implementation within the budget limits set by MTEF and relevant budget circulars;
- Analysis of progress in implementing KESP, based on information collected from MEST and other sources;
- Considering and approving additional measures to ensure KESP implementation;
- Defining the need for support from donor programs to ensure KESP implementation.

The KESP Implementation Team cooperates with other ministries, municipalities, development partners and civil society organisations to build effective mechanism for monitoring the KESP implementation. Based on the need, other officials from the MEST, local and international experts are involved in the work of the KESP Implementation Team.

### 3.5. Policy measures

For each strategic objectives KEPS sets the specific objectives (in KEPS terminology – results) with measurable target and proposes the actions to be taken seeking to achieve those results as well as provides the assessment of implementation risks/challenges and relevant mitigation measures.

Action plan of Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021 present information on needed funding (overall and by years).

### 3.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

Current KESP focuses on the reform in the system of education, however, this system has to ensure that the economy receives the labour force of appropriate quality and quantity. From that perspective, effective functioning and adaptability of the educational system is pre-conditional for successful implementation of any strategy aiming socio-economic development of the country. Thus, after the adoption of new smart specialisation strategy, the KEPS shall be revised to address the new needs and challenges.

Link to the strategy:

<https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2017/02/20161006-kesp-2017-2021-1.pdf>

<https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2017/02/20161006-action-plan.pdf>

## 4. KOSOVO IT STRATEGY 2014-2020

### 4.1. Strategic framework

In 2013 the Government of Kosovo officially declared the IT industry a high priority sector for its economy. Bearing in mind the importance of the IT industry as an engine for economic development, innovation and international competitiveness, the stakeholders of the Kosovo IT industry, including several national ministries and agencies, the Kosovo Association of Information and Communication Technology (STIKK), universities and donor organizations, have developed a collaborative strategy for promoting the Kosovo IT industry.

Kosovo IT strategy envisions to promote digital transformation and support Kosovo in becoming a knowledge-based economy. The main beneficiary or target group of this strategy is the IT industry while the focus is on software and IT services.

### 4.2. Expected results

Overall results of this strategy include:

- Higher IT industry growth rate
- Improved framework conditions
- Increased employment in the Kosovo IT industry

### 4.3. Goals

The overall goal of this strategy is to make Information Technology the main driver for economic growth, employment and innovation by 2020 through increasing the international competitiveness of the Kosovo IT industry based on digital excellence. Its specific objectives include:

- Introducing a comprehensive IT promotion policy
- Promoting company excellence & quality
- Promoting exports of the Kosovo IT industry

- Developing the domestic market and increasing domestic productivity through IT
- Improving IT education and promoting HR excellence
- Increasing systemic competitiveness through IT clusters and collaboration
- Enhancing IT entrepreneurship
- Fostering innovation and applied R&D
- Promoting Kosovo as an IT investment location.

#### 4.4. Implementation of the strategy

The strategy identified the following key challenges seeking the strategy goals:

- Complexity and dynamics of the IT industry
- Limited financial resources that require better prioritization and careful design of the measures
- Lack of administrative capacities, relevant experiences and best practices
- Multi-stakeholder ownership that require setting appropriate organizational structure for collaborative implementation and monitoring

Taking into consideration the collaboration between independent stakeholders, for the efficient implementation of this strategy an innovative approach was needed for a multi-stakeholder setting which is beyond traditional corporate or bureaucratic organizational structures based on control or hierarchy. Therefore, a network-oriented organization was defined which includes all relevant stakeholders.

Table 1. Kosovo IT Strategy stakeholders (p. 201)

Organizational Unit	Members and Staffing
Steering Committee ("Product Owner")	STIKK, MED, MTI, Public University, Private University, Donor Organizations
Advisory Board	Universities, ICK, MF, ASHI, ZKM, MASHT, OEK, AmCham, OEGJ, Donor Organizations,
Task Forces (Agile Teams)	
Organizational Unit	Members and Staffing
Task Force 1: IT Promotion Policy	STIKK, ZKM, MF, MTI, ASHI, USAID
Task Force 2: Company Excellence & Quality	STIKK, MF, Donors, CBC
Task Force 3: Export Promotion	STIKK, KIESA, MF, Donors
Task Force 4: Domestic Market Development	STIKK, ASHI, KIESA
Task Force 5: IT Education	MASHT, STIKK, UP, UBT, Universum College, Riinvest University
Task Force 6: IT Clusters & Collaboration	STIKK, Donors, KIESA
Task Force 7: Entrepreneurship	ICK, KIESA, Donors
Task Force 8: Innovation & Applied R&D	ICK, MASHT, STIKK, MF, FIEK
Task Force 9: Investment Promotion	KIESA, MF, MTI

#### 4.5. Policy measures

The strategy's operational plan sets a number of measures and tasks with expected results for each of the 9 pillars:

##### 1. IT Promotion Policy –

- To establish governing bodies such as Ministry of Information and Communications and National Committee on Digital Transformation Technology to promote digital transformation in Kosovo

- To adopt decree on income tax incentives for certified software developers
- To reduce custom tariffs and VAT for IT equipment
- To Improve efficiency by introducing new standards and methodologies for IT management
- To improve monitoring and evaluation of the performance of IT sector by utilizing the established IT Barometer

## 2. Company Excellence & Quality

- To establish STIKK Training Academy
- To develop enterprise capacity building & excellence program that will provide a combination of specialized training, coaching and consulting services in focus areas such as operations, finance, quality, marketing & sales, etc.
- To ensure Kosovo position s as a leading outsourcing/near-shoring destination

## 3. Export Promotion:

- To create website and tools for digital marketing of the Kosovo IT industry
- To develop IT export manual for companies in order to improve the export capabilities of IT companies
- To develop integrated service portfolio and delivery model

## 4. Domestic Market Development

- To organize the Kosovo CIO Summit for joint networking, exchange of experience, expert discussions and for strengthening cross-sectoral cooperation
- To hold B2B match-making events with selected domestic market target industries
- To introduce financial incentive scheme for stimulating IT usage in SMEs (iSME)

## 5. IT Education –

- To improve IT education curricula on the primary, secondary and university level
- To train and employ students through the Student Placement Service
- To promote high-potential students by introducing the IT scholarship program
- To prepare highly-qualified IT specialists through the targeted vocational education

## 6. IT Clusters & Collaboration -

- To increase international competitiveness through IT clusters and collaboration

## 7. Entrepreneurship –

- To increase capital for entrepreneurship through Kosovo Business Angels and VC Associations and B2B match-making events
- To increase international visibility of the Kosovo IT industry as an attractive destination for investment

## 8. Innovation and R&D

- Increased investment in innovation as a result of introduced tax incentives
- To implemented support program for promoting IT innovation and R&D in the Kosovo IT industry

## 9. Investment Promotion

- To maximized investment and export promotion activities for the Kosovo IT industry by targeted dissemination of information

- To attract additional FDI by establishing Digital Tech Park

Possible risks to the implementation of planned activities can be considered eventual delays in the implementation of projects. Other potential risks are also limited absorption capacities among potential ICT workforce and businesses. As a mitigating activity, a detailed review, at the early stage of the activity's implementation, of potential ICT workforce and existing ICT businesses has been foreseen in relation to activity admission criteria by using the most efficient ICT tools for testing and assessment of potential candidates.

#### 4.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

In terms of IT (particularly software) Southeast Europe is one of the most innovative and dynamic regions in Europe. Kosovo National IT Strategy is directly related to RIS3 development since it covers one of the most promising area for economic development in Kosovo. The services sector is the key driver of Kosovo's economic growth and makes up for 68 % of Kosovo's GDP. Therefore, the development of IT services and software is seen as an important and prioritized sector for economic growth. The main pillars associated with the RIS3 are export promotion, innovation and applied R&D and entrepreneurship.

[http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Kosovo\\_IT\\_Strategy.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Kosovo_IT_Strategy.pdf)

## 5. KOSOVO DIGITAL AGENDA 2013-2020

### 5.1. Strategic framework

The Electronic Communication sector Policy – Digital Agenda for Kosovo 2013–2020 has been prepared bearing in mind that information and communications technology (hereinafter referred to as “ICT”) development is a dynamic and rapidly changing process in numerous areas of public and State activities, and successful involvement of the public sector in the promotion of the positive and minimization of the negative effects of this process would be a significant contribution to the sustainable development of an information society.

### 5.2. Expected results

Equal access to sustainable and future-proof ICT infrastructure and necessary software (including for developing ICT skills) for the whole population and throughout the territory of Kosovo.

### 5.3. Goals

The main goal of the strategy is development of ICT in order to maximize the social and economic advantages provided by those technologies, primarily the Internet as a very important instrument for economic and social activities, the use of which allows one to provide or receive services, work, access entertainment, communicate and freely express opinions.

The strategy sets the following priorities:

1. Development of the ICT infrastructure
2. Development of the electronic content and services and promotion of use thereof
3. Enhancement of the Kosovo residents' ability to use the ICTs

and the follows specific objectives:

- To improve and develop broadband electronic communications networks throughout the national territory of Kosovo and promote use of electronic communications services

- To increase competition on the broadband electronic communications market and provision of internet speed higher than 30 Mbps to all Kosovo residents by 2020
- To adopt and amend legal acts which ensure security and integrity of the electronic communications networks and services
- To increase number of residents who use computers and internet to gain knowledge in various areas
- To certify public servants according to ECDL (European Computer Driving License) system
- To increase usage of ICT by small and medium enterprises to improve their efficiency and competitiveness of their operations
- To digitize Kosovo cultural heritage and usage of that as a basis to create publicly accessible digital products, thus ensuring preservation and spread of digital content in the cyberspace

#### 5.4. Implementation of the strategy

The implementation of the strategy is coordinated by the Ministry of Economic Development (MED). Information society development covers horizontal processes in a large number of sectors of the economy and public administration, thus the Policy is implemented in line with the Plan of Policy implementation measures in coordination with the public authorities and bodies responsible for the implementation of the Policy's task. The Implementation Plan lays down the specific measures and nominates the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of concrete measure(s). Competent authorities in their annual working plans submitted to the Government and Parliament respectively for approval should include those measures

As a coordinator the MED shall:

- analyse the information received from the authorities responsible for the implementation of the Policy's tasks concerning the measures necessary for Policy implementation and shall submit proposals and recommendations on the compliance of these measures with the Policy's priorities, objectives and tasks;
- oversee the implementation of the Policy's priorities, objectives and tasks, and by 1 January 2017, shall carry out an interim review of the tasks set out in the Policy and of the changes in the values of their assessment criteria and, where necessary, shall initiate Policy revision;
- supply information on Policy implementation in its annual activity report to the Government. If necessary, the progress of the implementation of policies will be discussed at meetings of the National Forum for Development of the Information Society, which will be created after the adoption of this Policy.

#### 5.5. Policy measures

The measures in the implementation plan are linked to the Priorities and specific objectives of the strategy

Priority 1: Development of the ICT infrastructure

1.1. to ensure a geographically consistent development of broadband electronic communication networks throughout the national territory and to promote the use of electronic communication services;

1.2. to ensure the security and integrity of the electronic communications networks and services, to increase public and business confidence in the cyberspace

Priority 2: Development of the electronic content and services and promotion of use thereof



2.1 to encourage the residents to use online public and administrative services, and to ensure the quality of data transmission and the infrastructure of functioning search systems, thus contributing to the development of e-democracy

2.2. to use the ICTs to promote the Kosovo culture and languages

2.3. to promote the development of e-business

Priority 3: Enhancement of the Kosovo residents' ability to use the ICTs

3.1. encourage Kosovo residents to gain knowledge and skills required for successful use of the ICTs and to become involved in the information society, to improve their quality of life and to reduce social exclusion and to create the necessary conditions for that.

In addition, a number of objectives and actions required in the previous document "Telecommunications Sector Policy" of 2007 have been addressed (completed) in the Law for Electronic Communications No.04/L-109 approved by Assembly of Kosovo on 04th of October, 2012.

## 5.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

Kosovo Digital Agenda aims to set the environment for ICT, social and economic development. Its main objectives, also referred as priorities are related to RIS3 since their accomplishment will directly have a positive impact on economic growth and knowledge-based economy.

[http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Electronic\\_Communication\\_Sector\\_Policy\\_2013-2020.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Electronic_Communication_Sector_Policy_2013-2020.pdf)

## 6. ENERGY STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO 2017-2026

### 6.1. Strategic framework

The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo 2017-2026 (hereinafter the "Energy Strategy") is a basic ten-year document for the energy sector's development. The Energy Strategy is prepared based on the Law on Energy. The scope of the Law on Energy includes electricity, natural gas, and thermal energy. Among others, the Law defines the duties and responsibilities in determining policies and measures for renewable sources and energy efficiency which are outlined in national action plans as mandatory documents approved by the Ministry responsible for energy, and based on the strategic objectives of the Energy Strategy. The Energy Strategy is based on existing policy documents and strategies of the Government of Kosovo and the result of analyses done by the Working Group as well as other studies conducted in the energy sector.

### 6.2. Expected results

For the Kosovo's economy to enjoy sustainable, high-quality, safe, and reliable energy supply based on developed generation, transmission, and distribution capacities functioning in the free, competitive and integrated regional energy market, benefiting from application of diversification of resources approach with increasing use of new (renewable) sources and respecting of energy efficiency as well as environmental protection goals.

### 6.3. Goals

The Energy Strategy sets up the follows objectives:

- Security of a sustainable, high-quality, safe, and reliable electricity supply with adequate capacities for stable power system operation;
- Integration in the Regional Energy Market;

- Enhancement of existing thermal system capacities and construction of new capacities;
- Development of natural gas infrastructure;
- Fulfilment of targets and obligations in energy efficiency, renewable energy sources, and environmental protection.

#### 6.4. Implementation of the Strategy

The implementation of the strategy is coordinated by the MED. The Implementation Programme lays down the specific measures and nominates the competent authorities responsible for the implementation of concrete measure. Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the programme of the strategy is done annually and is submitted to the Strategic Planning Office within the Prime Minister's Office. During 2018 implementation of the measures that have started in 2018 and onwards, the implementation level is satisfactory (majority are 50% and above), considering that implementation period of some measures is continuing and is projected beyond 2018, with only few of the planned activities lacking behind the planned implementation period. The cooperation level among stakeholders in implementation of the measures and activities, and reporting is considered well, however the level of cooperation among the stakeholders should be enhanced further.

#### 6.5. Policy Measures

Specific measures are set out to reach each objective. In relation to the objectives that are linked with smart specialization, the breakdown of measures is as follows:

##### **Energy Efficiency:**

- Implementation of the third intermediate plan 2016-2018.
- The transposition of the European Directive on Energy Efficiency 2012/27/EC through the review of the existing Law on Energy Efficiency.
- Drafting and approval of sub-legal acts of the new Law on Energy Efficiency
- Completion of the establishment of KAEE with required staff and development of capacities at central and local levels for implementation of the energy efficiency policies.
- Development of an Action Plan for energy efficiency for the period 2019 and beyond according to the requirements of the Directive 2012/27/EC and the previous study
- The adoption of secondary legislation for implementation of the Law on Energy Performance in Buildings in line with Directive 2010/31/EC.
- Drafting and approval of the Program for the mobilization of investments for the renewal of the stock of residential and commercial buildings in the public and private sector, according to the Ministerial Council Decision of the EnC.
- Establishment of the Energy Efficiency Fund in consultation with the financial institutions and in line with best practices.
- Completion of the EE-RES project funded by a WB loan, along with the reporting.
- Completion of the project of EE - RES funded by KfW loan, along with the reporting.
- Approval of the Energy Code for the energy certification of buildings
- Implementation of the energy efficiency measures outlined in the Paris Declaration in relation to the Charter of Sustainability of the Western Balkans (WB6).

##### **Renewable Energy Sources:**

- Continued implementation of the Action Plan for Renewable Energy 2011-2020 and its revision by 2018 in order to achieve the target set at 25% for gross final consumption, based on the strategic objectives defined in this strategy for new electricity generation capacities from RES.
- Implementation of new EU policies for meeting the target with more cost reflective in accordance with the rules of ECT for RES with a focus on the application of supporting schemes suitable to attract investments.

- Development of the Action Plan for RES for the period from 2021 and onwards in compliance with the requirements of the RES Directive and based on previous studies.
- Simplifying authorization procedures for RES projects and harmonization of the legal terms of approvals and permits required in consonance with the longevity of technologies.
- Promote the development of the woody biomass market, considering its use format such as pellets and briquettes.
- Establishment and functioning of One Stop Shops for RES.
- Supporting generation projects for thermal energy systems using RES as fuel.
- Implementation of measures for RES as set out in the Paris Declaration concerning the Charter of the Western Balkan Sustainability (WB6).
- Carrying out of a comprehensive study for energy sector through 2050, which will also include a study on RES.

#### **Environmental Protection:**

- Completion and harmonization of legislation with the applicable environment acquis and its implementation within the period 2018-2027, ensuring that the construction of new plants' environmental policies are harmonized as much as possible with security of supply policies in a more affordable fashion.
- Approval of plans on the reduction of emissions from large combustion plants under the requirements laid down by the Energy Community for the period 2018-2027.
- Decommissioning and dismantling of gasification facilities, fertilizer, heating, and other facilities that do not impede the normal operation of active units of TPP Kosovo A, in accordance with the decision of the GoK, no. 04/156 "The use of lignite, in accordance with all environmental protection requirements (construction, rehabilitation and reconstruction of new power plants) must meet environmental criteria as defined within the Energy Community which are a reflection of the EU criteria); 04/156."
- Development and adoption a master plan for rehabilitation of the environment from impacts of the operation of KEK.
- The carrying out of a comprehensive study for energy sector through 2050, which will also include a study on environmental impact deriving from the policies recommended by the study.
- Implementation of environmental measures set out in the Paris Declaration concerning the Charter of the Western Balkan Sustainability (WB6).

#### 6.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

In relation to the Smart Specialization and R&D, The Energy Strategy focus on the objectives related with the Energy Efficiency, Environmental Protection and the Renewable Energy Sources (RES) which represent an important source of energy in Kosovo, with a highly underutilized potential.

[https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Kosovo\\_Energy\\_Strategy.pdf](https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Kosovo_Energy_Strategy.pdf)

[https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/ENERGY\\_STRATEGY\\_IMPLEMENTATION\\_PROGRAM\\_2018-2020.pdf](https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/ENERGY_STRATEGY_IMPLEMENTATION_PROGRAM_2018-2020.pdf)

## 7. NATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME OF KOSOVO 2010-2015

### 7.1. Strategic framework

The legal frame of research and technology development (synonym of R&D in international terminology) in Kosovo in general, and for the Scientific Research Programme in particular, is provided by the Law No.

2004/42 on Scientific Research Activity (Assembly of Kosovo, 2004). The Law states (Article 51 and 52) that the National Research Programme should aim - among other things - to work upon identified research priorities, to establish provisions for infrastructural investments, to enhance participation in international scientific research projects and to elaborate a systematic education programme for researchers. The National Research Programme is to be approved for a period of five years by the Kosovo Assembly which also has to provide the funds for the realisation of the programme as proposed by the government.

## 7.2. Expected results

The Programme sets the targets for each specific objective, proposes the most relevant activities to achieve them and provides the estimations for needed funding.

## 7.3. Goals

In the course of the preparation of the Programme, the Planning Team agreed on the following six criteria for priority setting:

- Relevance to economic and social development of the country,
- Number and quality of human resources for within the country and Diaspora,
- Condition of research infrastructure,
- Contribution to preservation and promotion of national identity of Kosovo,
- Potential to achieve research results and apply them within the country and abroad,
- Existing international cooperation in a field.

By applying those criteria and in line with the classification, presented in the Frascati Manual<sup>1</sup> five fields of science and technology have been defined as national research priorities:

1. **Environment, Energy and Natural Resources**
2. **Agricultural Production and Food Safety**
3. **Medical Research**
4. **Development of a Knowledge Based Society**
5. **Linguistic, Historic and Cultural Studies**

In addition, the field of Information and **Communication Technologies** is considered as cross-horizontal priority that may occur in any of the abovementioned fields.

The disciplines that are not listed under priority fields are not excluded from the beneficiaries of all regular research funding programs operated by the Government, but the priority fields should receive additional support from the Government, public and private sector in the country, because research in those fields directly contributes to the development of the country.

The Programme identifies the scope for each of 5+1 priority areas (see table 2) and set up the follows specific objectives:

1. Development of human capacity for research activities;
2. Development of research infrastructure;
3. Internationalization of scientific research activity;
4. Strengthening the links between science and society and economy for enhancing economic and social development;
5. Excellence in research and scientific activity.

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<sup>1</sup> Frascati Manual - Proposed standard practice for surveys on research and experimental development, OECD, 2002.

It should be noted that the Programme priority areas as well as its detailed– topics in the table 2 – although have never been revised, they are very much in line with priorities of NDS 2016-2021 and sectors with high innovation potentials defined in Kosovo Strategy for Innovation and Entrepreneurship 2019-2023.

The targets for each objective and most needed activities to achieve them are outlined below:

#### 1. Development of human capacity for research activities

- 1.1. Promoting development of doctoral programmes in higher education institutions
- 1.2. By 2015 at least 50 candidates will receive support to pursue post-doctoral studies through joint programmes with full or partial financing from the Kosovo Budget
- 1.3. By 2015 at least 50 candidates from Kosovo will obtain the PhD degree in top 500 world universities with full or partial financing from the Kosovo Budget.
- 1.4. 100 short-term mobility grants for active researchers.

#### 2. Development of research infrastructure

- 2.1. By 2012 the legal infrastructure (framework) is reviewed and updated.
- 2.2. Laboratories and equipment to meet optimal needs of researchers are provided with full or partial support from the Kosovo Budget. The target until 2015 is the establishment of at least 10 laboratories (each more than € 250,000) which should be accredited, and additionally scientific equipment at a total amount of € 1 mil awarded in an institutionalised way based on competitive calls for proposals.
- 2.3. RTD Information System is built by 2012.
- 2.4. Access to relevant electronic libraries is granted by 2011.

#### 3. Internationalization of scientific research activity

- 3.1. Support for the publication of a considerable number of scientific publications in international journals
- 3.2. Total annual value of joint research projects with foreign institutions is at least 2 million EUR starting with 2012
- 3.3. Enhanced participation in international research networks
- 3.4. Improved cooperation with our researchers working abroad.

#### 4. Strengthening the links between science and society and economy for enhancing economic and social development

- 4.1. Establishment of an applied research and technological development (RTD) programme for supporting science-industry relations to upgrade collaborative technological capacities until 2013 to be implemented with sufficient funding in 2014
- 4.2. Establishment of an innovation programme to meet the economic and social innovation needs of the private sector (business, NGO) until 2015 to be implemented with sufficient funding in 2016

#### 5. Excellence in research and scientific activity

- 5.1. Centres of scientific excellence established
- 5.2. Fundamental disciplines supported
- 5.3. Awards for extraordinary achievements applied
- 5.4. Research institutions build quality assurance mechanisms in the field of research

#### 7.4. Implementation of the strategy

The National Research Council (NRC) was established based on Article 53 of the Law. The Council consists of 15 members and its main task is to develop, implement and monitor the Programme. Currently is not functional because its mandate has terminated.

The Programme provides the estimation for yearly budget appropriations for activities from 2010 until 2015 and continuation of basic activities beyond 2015 until 2019.

The Programme also assesses the main operative risks/challenges during the implementation process:

- Delay in adoption of the Programme by the National Assembly;
- Later amendment of related legal act and other provisions that set up the platform for implementation of different programmes and instruments foreseen under the National Research Programme;
- Lack of administrative capacity in the MEST needed for running the Programme (e.g. for launching and operationally implementing the calls for proposals and the introduction of transparent evaluation schemes);
- Risk of ensuring the transparent evaluations of the submitted project proposals with solid representation of the scientific community in Kosovo and strategic partnership with foreign evaluators;
- Failure of properly and timely done evaluation of the main programmes and instruments stipulated in the National Research Programme, which is conditional for corrections and adjustment seeking the effective results;
- The budget appropriations and liabilities. Although the budget requirements across the next 5 years look challenging at first sight, it is a legal requirement to earmark 0,7 % of the national budget for scientific research.

Limited funding and research capacities became a main factual obstacle to successful implementation of the National Research Programme and supported measures since 2010. The Law on Scientific Research Activities is not being properly implemented. Government spending on research has fallen to 0.1% of GDP. In higher education, the quality of post-graduate programmes being prepared for scholarly careers are of poor quality, with private and public higher education institutions having very unequal criteria for promotion based on scientific research and publications.

#### 7.5. Policy measures

Among the main instruments to be employed in the operational delivery of the Programme grouped by specific objectives are:

##### 1. Development of Human Capacity for Research Activities:

- 1.1. Doctoral programmes to educate young scientists in outstanding institutional settings (e.g. within international joint programmes leading to double degrees or dedicated Centres of Excellence at the universities).
- 1.2. Individual post-doc researcher's grants for the promotion of scientific careers in priority fields both at home and abroad.
- 1.3. Individual PhD researcher's grants for the promotion of scientific careers in priority fields both at home and abroad.

1.4. Short-term mobility grants to further strengthening the cooperation between home and host institutions for the collaborative advancement of sciences.

## 2. Development of Research Infrastructure.

2.1. The competitive funding of national research-infrastructure networks and national central laboratories in priority research areas.

2.2. The funding of stand-alone projects equipment procurement projects based on scientific development plans and competitive tendering procedures.

2.3. The procurement or development and implementation of a RTD information system which also serves the requirement of national S&T statistics.

2.4. Procuring the access of Kosovar researchers to relevant electronic libraries (e.g. Thomson Web of Knowledge; SCOPUS etc.)

## 3. Internationalization of Scientific Research Activity:

3.1. Establishment of a funds to support scientific publications and science communications (e.g. for stand-alone publications like monographs; translation of stand-alone publications; to tackle the international dimension priority should be given to publish in international journals)

3.2. Provision of competitive grants for joint projects with a foreign partner institution funded under bilateral intergovernmental RTD programmes signed between Kosovo and other countries or other uni-, bi- and multilateral schemes.

3.3. Competitive distribution of project preparation grants to apply in international consortium for European funding under COST and especially the European Framework Programme for RTD.

3.4. Establishment of a brain-gain fund to attract foreign researchers and especially Kosovar researchers working abroad.

## 4. Strengthening the Links between Science and Economy for enhancing Economic and Social Development:

4.1. Implementation of a competitive applied RTD programme to mitigate the science-economy bottlenecks. The individual applied RTD projects include a strong technology and knowledge transfer component. RTD should clearly reflect the economic needs. Although research is (mainly) conducted by public research organisations, the beneficiaries are to be found in the business sector.

4.2. Establishment of an innovation programme oriented towards the technological, organisational and social innovation needs of the private sector (business, NGO). The implementation is based on competitive funding of individual cooperative projects (actively involving partners from business, society and academia) to generate concrete new economic, societal or cultural applications.

## 5. Excellence in Research and Scientific Activity:

5.1. The competitive funding of five national Centres of Excellence in priority research areas (especially in enabling technologies) based upon sound individual RTD programmes, transparent, realistic and enabling outreach activities, advanced educational tasks and international inclusiveness.

5.2. Establishment of a competitive fund for basic research open towards all scientific disciplines.

5.3. Implementation of individual yearly awards for the most outstanding Kosovar researcher and newcomer researcher.

5.4. Development of a comprehensive quality assurance and evaluation process focusing on scientific research activities, subsuming also precautions for programme, policy and institution evaluations (including the benchmarking of scientific research organizations and policy-delivery institutions).

## 7.6. Relatedness to the development of the smart specialisation strategy

Although the National Research Program has not been revised and expanded beyond the first planning horizon (2010-2015); its' implementation progress has never been properly assessed and analysed by the content, structure and the presentation format. The Programme is a policy document that reflects the smart specialisation ideas in the most appropriate way in the national planning system. It should be emphasised that wide range of the expert were involved in the preparation of the programme. Without any doubts it shall be used as a solid platform to build-up smart specialisation strategy in Kosovo.

- **National program for research** (<https://www.uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/33DA1FD8-AADE-461B-BE70-87C51D3CD4E1.pdf>)
- **Law on Scientific Activity** ([http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2004\\_42\\_en.pdf](http://www.assembly-kosova.org/common/docs/ligjet/2004_42_en.pdf))
- **Law on Innovation and Technology Transfer**  
<http://ligjet.kuvendikosoves.org/LTS/DraftLawPhase?draftLawId=73&languageid=1>



**Table 2. Topics to be tackled under Five plus One National Research and Development Priorities in Kosovo**

1.Environment, Energy and Natural Resources	2.Agricultural Production and Food Safety	3. Medical Research	4. Development of a Knowledge Based Society	5. Linguistic, Historic and Cultural Studies	6.Cross-horizontal Research in ICT
Monitoring of Emission of polluting substances during the production of energy as well as from industry and transport	Food security, quality and implementation of safety standards at farming and processing level	Development of bio-medical research	1.Studies on the identification of factors that impact the most effective use of all human, natural and financial resources of Kosovo toward developing a new knowledge-based society, including but not limited to the following:	1.Studies on the practical aspect of effective communication at all national levels and political and social structures, as a strategic function of all other fields, including but not limited to the following:	ICTs innovations focusing to solve environmental and social issues, providing the data and analysis to answer these questions.
Establish early warning systems due to the dangerous effects of climate change on human health	New technologies to increase agricultural production	Prevention and control of infectious diseases (Crimean Congo, Haemorrhagic Fevers, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections, diarrhoea diseases, acute respiratory infections, health-care associated infections and antimicrobial resistance, vac-cine-preventable diseases, etc)	- Research on promoting value chains (from primary production, processing, and marketing of domestic products) that includes studies in the field of production and consumption (example: interdisciplinary studies that would identify the means for upgrading the existing consumption structure of the population in line with the best fit with production structure)	-Creation of data base for the large electronic Corpus of Albanian as necessary ground for research and solution of different problems in the field of lexicography, structural research and many other practical needs (including human resources, infrastructure, hardware and adoption-developing of software's, etc.).	ICTs contribute to sustainable economic growth and social well-being and their role in the shift toward knowledge-based societies.
Environmental pollution and human health, and ecosystem condition from microscopic (molecular) to the macroscopic level	Agriculture sustainable development (land, animals, plants, irrigation, etc)	Non-infectious diseases control and prevention (Oncological, cardiovascular, diabetes, injuries/violence, oral health clinical problems, etc)	-Research on factors impacting the integration of Kosovo into international markets	-Research on language use in media, education, culture, politics, science, business in the view of existing standards, strata and varieties, and with regards of further developments in the frame of new horizons of European Kosovar society.	Application of new innovations such as smart electrical grids, tele-medicine, intelligent transportation networks, interactive learning and computing as tools for efficient operation and fast communication networks.
Environmental pollution and human health, and ecosystem condition from microscopic (molecular) to the macroscopic level	Animal production, improvement and health	Inter and Multi-disciplinary partnership (Basic science, Clinical research, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Bioinformatics, Patients and populations)	-Research on incentives that attract foreign investment	-Language variation and identity: the relationship between our identity as members of groups and the language varieties important to each group.	The role of ICTs for climate changes (future perspective)
Indoor air pollution and human health effects	Plant protection and improvement	The assessment of the quality of evidence relevant to the risks and benefits of medical treatments	-Research of factors that impact the development and nurture of relationships with foreign partners in promoting integrated value chains with significant components of production and service from Kosovar partners	-Research on structural, lexical and other resources of Albanian, especially with regard to the new horizons within the frame of European and western societies (terminology in economics, finance, law, society and in other fields of importance for economic and social	Use of ICT from official sources to develop a conceptual framework on different field (in economy, in environment, in the education system, in the health system, in public administration etc).
Energy as an Instrument for	Control of Zoonosis	The study of the	-Research on the impact of institutional stability and the rule of law in economic development and European integration		In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and

Socio-Economic Development		biochemical and physiological effects of drugs on the body		development). -Research on relations between Albanian and other Southeast European languages with special regard to aimed closer contacts between respective societies in the region (research and language learning). -Language use and language learning in educational settings	communications.
Energy system, from extraction of primary energy to energy system	Impact of global changes on the effects on agriculture production	The detection, assessment, understanding and prevention of adverse effects of medicines	2.Studies on the development of education and research institutions that provide an integrated framework of the effective education-research-innovation triangle		Promotion relevant information content, trust, freedom of opinion and the other potential for innovation in society.
Energy and Sustainable Development	Added value to agriculture products by improved processing and marketing activities	Mother and child health- to reduce neonatal, infant and maternal mortality	3.Studies on governance, that includes the following: -Research on economic governance, both at a macro and micro level; -Research on the rule of law within the framework of European integration; -Research on public security, both for institutions and individuals;	2. Multi- disciplinary studies of Kosovar society from the cultural, literary, artistic and folkloric perspectives, including but not limited to the following: -Research on the impact of young Kosovar expectations on their working behaviour, industriousness and their propensity to leave Kosovo	Development of the future content networks
Energy End-Use Efficiency Improvements	Improve competitiveness of the agricultural production and substitute imports and export to other markets	Substance abuse among young people- to protect young people from the negative effects of tobacco, alcohol, drugs, unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases	-Research on electronic governance and electronic services to the public; -Research on financial governance and reduction of informalities; -Research on resolving social problems through productive employment; -Research on the development of social cohesion	3. Historic studies that will promote the national identity and the history of Kosovo, including but not limited to the following: -Research on the history of the transformation of ownership of the major means of production in Kosovo in the past 150 years, and the impact caused on the behaviour of individuals toward common, public, state and private property, and their relevance on governance.	
Integrated Demand and Supply Opportunities	Support sustainable development and improve the quality of life through promotion of farming and other non-farming activities without causing any damage to the environmental resources	Mental health- to reduce mental health problems			
Renewable energies (solar, hydroelectric and wind energy)	Support to agriculture production and rural diversification	Develop of the human resources that support the health care reform (health information, health costs and financing, health policy, etc)			
Energy Consumption and Population	Residue of pesticides and heavy metals	Environmental and occupational health-to improve life conditions and safety at work;	4.Studies on the trends of social norms and behaviour, including the following: -Research on Kosovars' attitudes to work, industriousness and relationship building within social groups within the context of the integration of Kosovo within		
Capacity building for implementation of the ecosystem approach to management of nature	Preservation of agricultural (animals and plants) genetic resources	The study of dental problems			
Management of drinking	Increasing the production	Research to ensure that			

water and treatment systems of contaminated water Treatment of groundwater as drinkable water source in rural areas	and use of forestry	effective measures, policies, and interventions according to EU standards.	European Union		
Treatment of polluted water in urban and industrial sector	Aligning Kosovo's agriculture policies with that of the EU.		-Research that would identify the most effective models that would enable Kosovars' to a faster embrace of cultural and social norms and values of mainstream European nations, enabling a smoother integration of Kosovar society in the European Community		
Inventory of flora, fauna and fungus in Kosovo					
Study of land degradation (construction, conversion, fragmentation, pollutants, erosion) and land consolidation					
Application of geographic information system (GIS) in preparing the map for degraded and endangered ecosystems					
Sources of pollution (radiation, heavy metals, pesticides and herbicides) and their effects on living beings					
Urban design and environmental problems					