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Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria-Vlada-Government

**PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO
2015-2018**

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A. PRINCIPLES AND PILLARS OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM

The primary aim of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is to build an effective, competent and accountable governance which will strengthen the trust of the citizens of Kosovo and our international partners for the vitality of Kosovo as a new and independent state; strengthen civic democracy, rule of law and respect for the rights of everyone; to promote economic development and welfare through social market economy; ensure free movement of citizens and promote the society of knowledge; develop policies that enhance the quality of life, equal opportunities for access to quality education and health, in social life and public services in general.

In the foundation of the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and in its operational philosophy are included European democratic values such as: respect for tradition, freedom, justice and tolerance, transparency, freedom of expression, individual and collective freedoms which represent the basement of modern European society of Kosovo. In all of its policies the government will promote and strengthen the vision of Kosovo as an independent, democratic and integrated state in Euro-Atlantic structures. The Government will be fully committed in independent functioning of the legislative, executive and judiciary branches, thus creating conditions to increase their efficiency.

Government pledges that within six months to draft the National Strategy for the Development of Kosovo during the medium term period of 2015-2020, and it's the first time in its history for Kosovo to have a comprehensive strategy for development. The new strategy will focus on policies that stimulate economic growth and improvement of the wellbeing of the citizens. The strategy will reflect, to a large extent, the proposed measures in this government program and measures to increase the competitiveness of Kosovo's economy in the region and beyond, increase employment and unblock the potential for economic growth which are not used up to now such as mines, energy sector, information and communication technology, etc. The strategy will consider environmental criteria in the process of economic development and the long-term use of natural resources which Kosovo posses. The strategy will highlight the importance of human resource potential that Kosovo has to promote the economic development.

National strategy for development will be accompanied with measures to improve the institutional capacity of Kosovo to manage development policies. The more that Kosovo advances in the process of European integration, the greater the demand for strengthening institutional capacity. With the intensive help of European Commission, the Government will adopt an integrated planning system, as one of the most advanced practices of the countries in transition. Programme of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo focuses on these main pillars:

- I. Sustainable economic development, employment and welfare;
- II. The rule of law;
- III. The European agenda and foreign policy;

- IV. Education, science, culture, sports and youth development; and
- V. Modern healthcare.

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND WELFARE

Economic development, promotion of employment and improvement of welfare will be based on private initiative, in competition and open market as the main forces that ensure economic prosperity. Government's role will be to provide an institutional framework within which the economic activities take place, in order to ensure the internal cohesion of economy and society.

The Government is fully committed to integration in regional and global markets. Will improve the environment for generating entrepreneurial ideas, to attract foreign investment and promote employment, by providing at the same time rational use of resources for present and future generations. Elimination of poverty will be a central objective of economic and social policies.

The government will work hard to generate sustainable economic growth, which ensures macroeconomic, fiscal and social stability, as well as economic structural reform where domestic production, export and knowledge promotion will gradually enable the reduction of the trade deficit.

The government will promote investment by reducing costs for businesses by building adequate infrastructure of road and railway, telecommunication, energy and water. Government economic policies will ensure active involvement in the economic development of our countrymen who work and live in other states.

The abovementioned guidelines will be based on these fundamental budget principles: (I) budget stability and macro-fiscal stability in the field of public finance management; (II) coherence between incomes and budget expenditure, by following the policy of low tax burdens in the interest of private sector development. Strengthening the private sector will continue to be realized through the development of policies which will derive from the public-private dialogue, in order that the fiscal policy, trade policy, attracting foreign investments, improving the business environment and workforce development to be a promoter of private sector growth and to generate new workplaces.

Continuity in the implementation of structural reforms in the economy, namely the acceleration of the privatization process of state-owned enterprises and promoting public-private partnership models in order to attract private foreign capital and improve the services provided to citizens of Kosovo, will be an important component in the framework of development policies for realization of reforms towards market economy.

1.1. Favourable fiscal policy

The government will promote fiscal policies which derive from economic objectives, by stimulating new investment, employment and attracting foreign capital. Appropriate tax system and business friendly environment are the most important pillars for sustainable development of the private sector in the country. Therefore continuous improvements of tax system and tax compliance are fundamental priorities of the Government of Kosovo. This ambition aims to expand the base of resources to fund economic development of Kosovo and social cohesion agenda, and at the same time to maintain the competitive advantage of the country's business environment.

We intend through the reform of tax policy to achieve:

- The increase in total revenues in the budget, while maintaining low tax levels, by contributing to the steady growth of foreign investment;
- Maintenance of predictable and stable tax environment, which conditions are important for domestic business growth and for attracting foreign investors;
- Expansion of the tax base through fiscal reform, as well as improvements in the collection through combating legal gaps and tax evasion.

The government will apply a simple tax policy, with simple procedures for the declaration of taxes, through advancing electronic system of reporting and control. Tax policy will maintain the key principles such as: business competitiveness capacity, fiscal policy predictability, inclusiveness, fairness and transparency. The focus will be in continuous growth of social welfare and living standards through increase of wages, pensions, categories of war, and social schemes.

The government will work in concluding the process of fiscalization of all businesses through: increasing the citizen's awareness on getting fiscal coupons by offering incentives for informants in this process; encouraging small and medium enterprises in the financial statements, by reducing the obligations and simplifying the tax reporting procedures. Along with the increase of revenues from domestic taxes, it will be lowered the threshold for payment of VAT in progressive manner.

1.1.1. VAT levelling

Government during the first part of the mandate will consider the levelling of VAT. Such action requires analysis and assessment to determine which basic products that have a direct impact on the welfare of the citizens would be exempt from VAT. This would mean reducing the rate of VAT on basic products such as: bread, milk, oil, drinking water, etc. in accordance with best practices and directives of the European Union on this matter. At the same time, keeping VAT at 0% for primary agricultural products will have a positive impact on increasing production and improving the trade balance of Kosovo, replacing imported products with domestic ones.

1.1.2. Decrease of VAT threshold

Given that a significant number of businesses are categorized under current VAT threshold of 50,000 Euros, a reduction of the threshold would contribute in improving the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises. In this context, the Government will commit to take all necessary actions in order to reduce the VAT threshold to 20,000 Euros, which will enable more businesses to operate more easily and grow. This would increase the tax base for about 1,500 businesses and would create additional revenues. Any reduction of the threshold will be conducted in full harmony with the capacity building of TAK to cope with the increased volume of work. Special attention will be paid in preserving the simplicity of the tax system of Kosovo, a factor with which Kosovo was characterized so far.

1.1.3. Tax break

In the context of tax policies, tax breaks will be applied for businesses that invest a substantial sum and generate new workplaces. This policy will contribute in further development of new enterprises and stimulate new investment in the country, and will create new jobs. It is a general principle of tax break that they work best when they determine the expiry date. These policies encourage new investment, open new workplaces, generate economic growth and improve social welfare. Taking into account the best international practices and with domestic and international experts will prepare a package for investors which will exempt them from corporation tax and VAT payments for capital investments depending on the level of investment that they conduct and the number of jobs that they create.

1.1.4. Integration of TAK, KC and collection of VAT within the country

Within three years the administrative capacity will be built to conduct the gradual shift of the VAT collection from the border point to inland of the country, after the sale of goods. This will ease the burden of businesses and increase their liquidity.

In this regard, the continuity of the reform of the two main bodies of revenue collection, the Tax Administration of Kosovo and Kosovo Customs will be done for the purpose of creating facilities for the business community through communication and public-private dialogue and promotion of fair competition in the market by addressing all legal entities equally. It is planned during the next mandate to unify these two administrations in a joint agency for collection of tax revenues in the country. The melting of TAK and Customs in single revenue authority will be in harmony with the processes of integration, since customs tariffs will be eliminated with the majority of main trading partners after the entry into force of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the ratification of agreements for free trade.

1.1.5. Exemptions from customs

Import of Information Technology equipment will be exempt from any customs duty. These equipments are used especially by the younger generation in the sector of services. This will certainly avoid the black economy in this sector, which is estimated to be about 20% of the sector. The removal of customs charge for these equipments will provide a 30% increase in this sector.

1.2. Competitive trade policy and improvement of the business environment

1.2.1. Market opening

Constitutional regulation of the economy of the Republic of Kosovo is based on the principles of market economy with free competition. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo shall have a liberal trade regime based on the principles of market economy with free competition that favours opening of markets as the only possibility for sustainable development of competitiveness. Bilateral agreements of customs cooperation will result in improving the quality of data and regular declaration of goods according to real prices with main states that we have substantial trade relations. Further simplification of customs procedures with Albania will be a priority of approximation of our economies. Government of the Republic of Kosovo will continue to comply and strongly believe in the principles of market economy with free competition, including the continued implementation of a liberal trade regime.

In the area of trade policy, will undertake these actions, measures and instruments:

- Drafting of the Operational Plan and application for membership in the World Trade Organization, including the drafting and implementation of the necessary legislation;
- Harmonization of trade legislation with that of the European Union as an integral part of the SAA, including the procedures and arrangements for "Joint Recognition and Acceptance" of Kosovo products particularly the accompanying sanitary, phytosanitary and food safety certificates, thus enabling easier export of Kosovo products in regional and European markets;
- Continuous expansion of the list of customs exemptions for products that are manufactured in competitive sectors;
- Financial incentives from the Fund for Investment and Employment for international standardization and certification of products that have the potential for export, as well as increase the quality and number of workforce of top 100 exporting enterprises;
- Facilitation of trade with countries of the region through the implementation of the simplified procedures of import and Integrated Border Management system;
- Modernization and increase of efficiency of services of Food and Veterinary Agency;
- Membership in European and international organizations for standardization.

1.2.2. Functioning of free trade zones

The Government intends that through the functioning of free zones to create space for businesses to operate with more favourable cost. Government during four years will take all necessary steps in order to functionalize the free economic zones in Drenas, Gjakova, Rahovec, Mitrovica, Prizren and other municipalities that will express interest in the implementation of such concept for new investment for domestic and foreign companies. In these areas it will be set a quota (percentage) for investments originating from Diaspora. Mitrovica in the past had a reputation for heavy industry, which can be restored through the revitalization of Trepça and accompanying industry that is built around it, where the free economic zone would have a catalyst impact in the development of the entire region. Gjakova also enjoyed a wide range of businesses in light industry, which will be restored through the

functioning of free economic area. Prizren is known for concentration of a number of craft businesses which could be developed with the functioning of the free zone in this municipality.

1.2.3. Combating informal economy

The presence of the informal economy is one of the main obstacles for the further growth of the economy. In the absence of free competition, honest businesses are punished and the consumer is not protected. Government during this mandate will be focused on reducing the level of the informal economy in the country, at the average level of the European Union. In this regard, according to the National Strategy for Combating and Prevention of Informal Economy, Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and Financial Crimes, and based on the evaluation of the informal economy by EU experts, work will be conducted on raising the awareness of the impact of the informal economy and financial crime; strengthening the combat against informal economy and financial crime, by increasing transparency, accountability, good governance and social partnership; effective prosecution of actions related to money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; applying a proactive approach in international cooperation to prevent money laundering, terrorist financing and other financial crimes; and the development of national legislation in line with international standards and ensuring its effective implementation.

The government does not see the formalization of the economy only in strengthening of repressive measures. The government will also provide incentives and preferential measures in order to motivate entrepreneurs and workers to formalize. The presence of the informal economy is often an evidence of excessive regulation and bureaucracy, the fiscal burden or lack of spaces for credit. The government will be committed in addressing these problems, with particular emphasis on providing new lending opportunities which will serve as the impetus for businesses to be formalized, and through this to ensure borrowing.

Among other measures that will be taken in order to prevent and combat the informal economy include:

- i) Presentation of the new tax package, discussed above, aiming at stimulating businesses to operate in the formal sector of the economy;
- ii) Completion of legal gaps in accordance with European Union legislation;
- iii) Strengthening institutional capacity such as: TAK, Customs and other institutions that oversee the functioning of business;
- iv) Increased inter-institutional cooperation to ensure that businesses operate in the formal sector;
- v) In sectors where the informal economy is high, such as construction it will be established a complex system for supervising the companies in terms of employment of workers, turnover of construction materials and performance of construction works;
- vi) In the catering sector, it will be monitored and compared the employment of workers, circulation of revenue and used goods to estimate fair tax reporting;

- vii) In the sector of services (lawyers, healthcare, accountants, auditors, software developers, architects, various agencies, other service professions etc.) will be included in the formal sector through a special unit of the Tax Administration, which would monitor these activities;
- viii) Fiscalization process will continue conform fiscalization strategy, where it will be provided conditions for fair and equal competition in the market;
- ix) Will review the system of supply, equipment and maintenance of fiscal devices. A new administrative instruction will set the standards for fiscal devices, depending on the type of business which will fully liberalize the supply with fiscal devices;
- x) Will work on the successful implementation of the Agreement of Brussels, to extend full control of customs points in Jarinje and Brnjak, which did not contribute to the state budget and were a source of smuggling and informal economy.

1.2.4. Elimination of legal barriers and reduction of bureaucracy

The government will conduct reforms by supplementing and implementing the legislation for establishment, functioning and closure of businesses. The procedures for obtaining a building permit will be reduced during the next 4 years of the Government. The government will continue to require from municipalities to reduce costs for construction permits and simultaneous to reflect in regional trends in property tax. The government will simplify procedures and costs for connection to the network of electricity and other public services for businesses.

The legal framework will be assessed on a regular basis for its effects and will change in line with developments in the market. It will be increased the role of local authorities in the provision of facilities for doing business, by enabling decentralized legal framework and necessary discretion for local authorities to promote competition among them in attracting businesses in their territories. Business Registration will be fully decentralized and will pass to local authorities. Local authorities will have enhanced authorities to lease land to investors, in accordance with criteria defined by laws and specific administrative instructions from the central institutions.

1.3. Support for small and medium enterprises

The main generator of economic growth and jobs will be the private sector, especially small and medium enterprises (SMEs), through policies that increase business investment, especially in the manufacturing and service with high additional value. Will advance the economy of knowledge and local competitiveness, will stimulate domestic production and will improve the quality of local products and services, as a first step toward reducing dependence on imports. Will undertake policies that increase manufacturing capacities, jobs, improve the trade balance, as well as policies that make Kosovo a destination for foreign investors. Specifically:

- It will be allocated a special fund for co-financing investment projects of local firms, mainly SMEs, when these firms manage to absorb international donations, especially in the sectors of Information Technology (IT), research, innovative ideas, services, manufacturing and agriculture;

- It will mobilize available funds of privatization in financial system, mobilize diaspora funds and credit lines with international and financial institutions to support private investment;
- Will build the capacity of business incubators for firms in the sector of Information Technology (IT) and services in general, in which Kosovo has commenced to be strongly involved in the international market. These incubators will be located in business parks and will benefit from tax exemptions;
- Will be functionalized the industrial zone through advancing their mode of management based on public-private partnership. Businesses from Diaspora in particular will have the priority to be placed on industrial zones.
- It will be worked on further strengthening of the Agency for Investment Promotion and Enterprise Support, within the MTI by creating a new unit to support ideas of young entrepreneurs in particular through consultancy for registration of business and financial consultancy. This new unit will also manage a scheme for co-financing loans that start-up businesses get in certain sectors;
- Will strengthen industrial and intellectual property rights through the advancement of legal base and effective law implementation, in compliance with European standards;
- Will increase the efficiency of functioning of the justice system and the protection of investors, through capacity building of domestic courts in efficient handling and in prompter time the cases that relate to the businesses.

1.4. Investment promotion

Strategic orientation of the platform for investment promotion relate to the strengthening of the private sector and promotion of investment, including foreign direct investment. Institutions under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), such as the Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency, Kosovo Business Registration Agency, and Kosovo Standardization Agency will be in function of meeting these strategic orientations. In this regard it will also be used the potentials of the Ministry of Diaspora, especially the business networks established in the Diaspora. In order to achieve this, the Government of Kosovo during this mandate will focus on:

- Utilizing market size growth as a result of the implementation of the SAA, to promote strategic investments in the economy;
- Conducting research and analysis for competitive advantages in certain sectors of the economy and the application of incentive measures in these sectors;
- Preparation and implementation of vocational training in all sectors, regions and enterprises with competitive potential, with special emphasis in the mechanisms of the Investment and Employment Fund;
- continuation of the dynamics on reform of doing business, especially through concrete reforms that allow a clear legal assurance for investors;

1.4.1. Establishment of strategic partnerships in the field of investment

Kosovo government has signed a strategic partnership with Albania, which relies on four pillars: Foreign and Security Policy, Justice and Internal Affairs, Economy, Energy, Transport, Tourism and Environmental Protection, Culture, Education and Science, as well as

the Agreement for cooperation in the sector of Information and Communication Technologies. The strategy of cooperation and economic development will constitute the main commitment of the two governments aiming to provide a stimulating environment for businesses in an integrated market by effectively and rationally using the common potentials. It will be targeted a joint offer of an integrated market for investment by the Albanian Diaspora. A special emphasis will be given to energy sector by complementing the hydro and thermal systems of both countries and establishing a common energy system. Also, we will build close strategic cooperation with neighbouring countries and the countries of the European Union in particular sector such as: Energy, Transportation, Environmental Protection, Information and Communication Technology, Education and Science, Security, etc.

1.4.2. Facilitation and promotion of Diaspora investments

Kosovo is considered as one of the countries with the largest Diaspora, with a tremendous potential for contribution in development of Kosovo. Kosovo Diaspora has played a crucial role in our history and has given a significant contribution to the country's survival, resistance to occupation, and in economic development throughout the decades. The main contribution of Diaspora is through remittances to assist the wellbeing of Kosovo families. It is now proven that Diaspora has created a great potential and represents a high value for the country. Also, from other countries experiences is proven that this potential established outside the country can have a significant role in the economic development of Kosovo. The Government of Kosovo will work that the Diaspora investment to be mutually beneficial, on one hand to create conditions where investors from Diaspora will find a suitable environment in Kosovo to conduct business and profit, and at the same time this investment to contribute to the economic development of the country.

Kosovo government should engage maximally to transform the economic potential of Diaspora into a tremendous opportunity to attract investments from Diaspora, whose members have already created a reputation on business and entrepreneurship throughout the world. Currently, remittances in Kosovo reach the amount of 13% of gross domestic product, while very few of them are intended for investments. During the next four years the share of remittances must be increased that is dedicated to investments in order to generate workplaces and economic development, by including the sector of manufacturing, services and family businesses.

In this regard, the Government will continue to promote facilitations for Diaspora on opening and starting businesses in Kosovo, ensuring the protection of their investment through the application of appropriate funds to support businesses (Credit Guarantee Fund). Simultaneously, the investors from Diaspora must be identified, since they still appear on the joint list of foreign investments in Kosovo and their exact number is unknown. Responsible institutions, such as the Kosovo Investment and Enterprise Support Agency should enhance the institutional efforts in coordinating activities regarding the promotion of Diaspora investments, namely the provision of business support services related to investment

opportunities in Kosovo, as well as in organizing regular forums, conferences and business fairs in Diaspora and in Kosovo.

The Government of Kosovo shall undertake specific legislative measures to facilitate foreign investments. These measures include: exemption from corporate tax, exemption from import duties from equipment and raw materials needed for investment, reducing the number of procedures for obtaining a construction permit; Facilitation of procedures and lowering the cost for access in electrical energy; Facilitating the procedures for obtaining the use of public land; creating contractual facilitations with several countries, in which the majority of Diaspora lives; agreements regarding avoidance of double taxation; protection and promotion of investments (signature and inter-state agreements), establishment of a special chamber in the Basic Court of Prishtina that would deal with foreign investors disputes, including investors from Diaspora, as well as the guarantee of foreign investment from the state of Kosovo; Promoting good practices and services in finding co-investors from Kosovo.

The objective of the Government to facilitate and involve Diaspora in the Kosovo economy will be implemented through the establishment of various facilitations for investment, establishment of the Investment and Employment Fund, development of the sector of information and communications technology, agriculture, minerals, industry, education, culture, sports and many other fields.

The Government of Kosovo so far has taken important steps towards stronger bonds with Diaspora, in terms of legislative and institutional framework. Government of Kosovo will work in the following direction:

- Expansion and strengthening of existing business network and their union in serving as a first direct link to investors from Diaspora and foreign investors;
- In identifying and resolving problems faced by Diaspora investors while investing in Kosovo;
- Establishing facilitations to invest in the service sector, especially of IT services, agriculture, tourism, minerals, industry, education, culture, sports and other fields.
- Determination of a quota for Diaspora businesses in industrial zones.
- Determining a percentage from the Investment and Employment Fund for Diaspora investments projects.
- Use of Diaspora intellectual and academic potential for the function of development of the country and exchange of experiences gained in various countries
- Specification of official statistics regarding the investments conducted by Diaspora until now, because so far they appear in the context of foreign investment in Kosovo, therefore little can be said on how many investments are in Kosovo. Such statistics would help in specifying policies for attracting investment from Diaspora.

In the function of coordinating policies for Diaspora investments, it will be established the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Investment from Diaspora. This inter-institutional committee shall functionalize the objectives of this government program, shall draft policies of coordinated promotion of advantages that are offered by Kosovo for Diaspora businesses,

shall work on identifying the barriers for businesses from Diaspora and their removal, shall handle appeals of businesses that invested in Kosovo etc.

In this regard, work will be done in establishing a financial legal framework to enable and promote the business cooperation between Diaspora and Kosovo, as well as mobilization of Diaspora savings in the Kosovo financial market through an integrated and functioning legal and financial system that protects the rights of owners and provides inviolability of interest, property and rights of investors and depositors.

1.4.3. Advancement of the public-private partnership

During this term of governance, we will strengthen the public-private dialogue, with business associations through continuous functioning of the National Council for Economic Development, by drafting and implementing short and medium term plans of economic reforms in sectors with competitive abilities. Also, it will be strengthened the cooperation mechanism TAK-Customs-Business through the Consultative Council Ministry of Finance - Customs – TAK - Business. While within the Office of the Prime Minister it will be established the Council of Foreign Investors, in order to provide higher institutional guarantees for current and potential investors. Work will be done towards higher promotion of public-private partnership by the local government, through an adequate and effective legislation.

1.5. Efficiency of expenditures, size of the public sector and fiscal rules

The Government will be engaged for a small and efficient public sector, with governmental departments that are functional and of optimal size in accordance to needs for services from people and businesses. The government believes in budgetary policies that maintain the sustainability of the state budget. We will commit on a financial discipline regarding the state budget. This approach ensures fairness in distribution of fiscal burden. Government shall commit to a full transparency in expenditure of public money, by returning it to taxpayers through quality public services in education, healthcare, infrastructure and in efficient functioning of central and local governments.

In particular, priority will be given to capital expenditures to produce maximum effects on local economy and equal benefits for all citizens. Budgetary organizations which operate with similar mission and established dualism with relevant ministries will be extinguished or integrated into respective ministries. All independent agencies will be functionally revised.

The e-procurement will be fully implemented on expenditures of public money that is done through tendering. This will save about 12% of public expenditure in tendering projects and will reduce administrative costs up to 30%. It will be analysed the possibility to apply referent pricing of public procurement. Application of these reforms in procurement, including e-procurement, enables the increase of efficiency, transparency, quality of work and materials, avoidance of complicated procedures and is added the value of money. Submission of tender documents, evaluation procedures and all other steps will be completely transparent. This would enable a full elimination of contact of procurement officials with

economic operators. The work of each officer will be traceable and transparent. Supervisory bodies of public procurement will be able to supervise all processes, not just the ones where complaints were submitted by economic operators. It will be applied a system for re-licensing officials working in the field of public procurement. Inclusive tenders for goods and services shall be taken which are used by all contracting authorities, in order to enable the economization and reduction of supply cost.

The E-Government project will be implemented at all levels. In education, school data of all municipalities will be linked in order to monitor the student progress in each school, the efficiency of school operations, teachers' work etc. In healthcare it will be finalized the health information system. This system will enable an accurate evidence of occurrence of various diseases, setting General Practitioners and monitoring the medical examinations history for each citizen.

After completion of the current program with the International Monetary Fund, it is necessary to proceed with a new program, which will reflect Kosovo's institutional maturity. Part of this program is the fiscal rule, which aims to preserve the sustainability of public debt. Public debt limit according to the law on public debt is 40% of the Gross Domestic Product and the current debt reaches 10%.

In order to maintain the macro-fiscal stability, the Government will continue to maintain the budget deficit within the fiscal rule of 2% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) according to the Law on Public Financial Management and Accountability. This deficit will be mainly financed by the foreign debt. The Foreign debt of international financial institutions is in long term and offers favourable rates compared to commercial lending rates. Through this form of covering the budget deficit it is avoided the overload of domestic credit market and the interest rate increase in the domestic financial market.

The Government of Kosovo will work with caution regarding the issue of securities, which began in 2012 and reached maturity extension of securities for 2 years, and the extension of the primary market to include the Pension Trust. The government shall undertake necessary measures for the functioning of the secondary market.

1.6. A stable financial system and in function of the economic development

Despite the global financial crisis, Kosovo was stable in the financial market. Many sectors continue to face difficulties in obtaining adequate financing for business development. It is noticed an enormous demand for lending, and the banks despite the financial stability, profitability and liquidity continue to offer loans with higher interest rates compared to countries in the region and EU. Despite the Government commitment for membership of Kosovo in international financial mechanisms (IMF, WB, EBRD), Council of Europe Development Bank, signing of the framework agreement with the European Investment Bank, the private sector needs to increase lending portfolio from commercial banks with more favourable terms. In order to address this, the Government of Kosovo shall take the following actions that include:

- Policy development for full mobilization of financial savings from the fond of privatisation of socially owned enterprises
- The establishments of incentives for mobilizing Diaspora savings and other savings of citizens and businesses. These funds can only be put in function through an integrated and functional legal and financial system that protects the rights of depositors, by strengthening the supervisory role of the Central Bank;
- Accession with full rights of the Central Bank of Kosovo into the European Central Bank;
- Elimination of any form of infringement of competition in the banking and insurance market;
- Undertaking a credit assessment of Kosovo and publishing information regarding the country credit assessment;
- Establishment of prerequisites in order for the interest rates in the country to drop to single digits. Through this, it is intended the motivation of businesses, especially young entrepreneurs through the increase of credit offers, strengthening the competition in the credit market, strengthening property rights, better collateral assessment, special unit within the courts for disputes concerning bank loans etc.

1.7. Investment and employment fund

Investment and employment fund aim to contribute in the economic growth of Kosovo, in opening new jobs and improving access to finances with favourable conditions for young entrepreneurs, small and medium enterprises, and corporations. This will be achieved by providing access for newly businesses in finances, cheaper loans for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and corporations that intend to expand their businesses. Investments from the Fund will be focused particularly on economic activities, which will aim to increase the employment, production and export. The fund is expected to create indirect effects, by attracting foreign direct investment and establishing other businesses within the chain offers. These effects will increase confidence in economy and will provide incentives for other investments from other economic agents. Moreover, an increase in the production of goods and services is expected to replace imports with domestic production and increase exports. Also, these effects will contribute in improvement of the Kosovo trade balance and reduce the dependence from remittances and foreign aid.

This fund will create prerequisites for supporting the private sector, as well as organizations responsible for economic development. The fund is intended for the following purposes:

- Provision of financial assistance for supporting training programs for the private sector needs;
- Support in purchasing machinery for manufacturing by strategic sectors for development;
- Financial support for enterprises contributing in research and development of new products or services;
- Provision of guarantees for private sector lending on the basis of strategic sectors and the in opening of new jobs, etc.

- Advancement of good governance and transparency in drafting and implementing economic policies.

The fund will support:

- Young entrepreneurs and small businesses in all identified sectors;
- Medium sized businesses to expand their production capacities and/or increase the quality and manufacturing standards;
- Corporations that plan to grow innovative or underdeveloped sectors, such as alternative energy, information and communication technology, export sectors or sectors that significantly increase the number of employees
- Public-Private Partnership (PPP) projects; and
- Services for businesses for attracting foreign direct investment.

This fund will be managed with transparency and professionalism, applying the highest levels of expertise and international experience, and borrowing best similar practices. In order to establish and function this, the Government will also rely on close collaboration with prestigious international organizations, in advanced expertise and in assistance of friendly west countries. Above all, the management of the Fund will be carried out independently of any political pressure or interference, according to the legal basis regulating this mechanism.

The essential prerequisites for implementation of the employment and development fund are:

- Drafting and amending the existing legal base;
- Necessary tax facilities for promoting new investments;
- Harmonization of the Fund's purpose with European Integration Policies;

On the other hand, activities for implementation of the Fund consist of:

- Drafting the Operational Plan: "Improvement of competitiveness of the private sector through measures of employment fund" in cooperation with the business community;
- Implementing the activities of the Operational Plan, aimed at development of human resources;
- Intervention with fund assets in the manufacturing sector and service sector;
- Restructuring and modernization of sectors with high added value and in which Kosovo has a comparative advantage, based on a serious study of the feasibility;
- Implementing the activities that ensure equal competition in the market, with particular focus on good governance and transparency of economic activities in private sector.

1.8. Investment in energy, mining, environmental protection

The development of the sector of energy, mining and information and communication technology is a key element for a sustainable economic development of the country and foreign investments. Supply with qualitative energy at affordable prices is one of the priorities of the Government, taking into account the impact of these sectors in economic development and the lives of citizens. At the same time, it is very important that the development and exploitation of existing mines and the opening of new mines should go in favour of improving social welfare and living standard in our country.

1.8.1. Regulation of the status of the "Trepça" enterprise by a special law

In terms of the mining sector, a strategic approach will be applied on usage of mineral resources. Decisions about the future of Trepça mine, and other mines of strategic importance, will be based on clear strategies that reflect economic and state interests of Kosovo. Decision on the future of Kosovo's natural assets, on their use and management should be the responsibility of the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo. Therefore it will be prepared the Strategy for Trepça and Law on Trepça as a national asset that will be aimed at increasing the investment and opening new jobs through restructuring Trepça into two basic functions: a basic company which will only deal with the exploitation and processing of mines, and separation of support services of this enterprise.

The purpose of dividing the enterprise into two functions is to focus Trepça on increasing the productivity of minerals and their processing, by freeing "Trepça" from the burden of keeping other functions that are not related to the main purpose of minerals production and processing. In the next four years, the Government of Kosovo through the "Employment and Development Fund" shall allocate sufficient funds for new investments in "Trepça", mainly in new technology for exploitation and processing of minerals in function of increasing the production and export which will result in creating new jobs and improvement of trade balance of our country.

1.8.2. Building new generating capacities

The Government will be engaged for an optimal utilization of Kosovo energy resources, as a public good for future generations as well, by meeting European environmental criteria. Within four years of governance, a stable and qualitative energy for households and businesses will be ensured. The Government considers that the energy sector is one of the main pillars that enable sustainable economic development. The main objectives of the energy sector are:

- To have sufficient energy for the needs of Kosovo,
- To have affordable energy prices for citizens and businesses,
- To protect the environment and efficiently use the resources,
- To increase private investments and create new jobs.

During the mandate of governance, the tendering for construction of thermal power plant "Kosova e Re" will be finalized. This thermal power plant will include the following capacities: 2x300 MW, expected to be operational by 2021 and 600 MW by 2023. Other efforts will be made towards issuing a decision for the development of the tendering procedure for the construction and functioning of Hydropower plant Zhuri with a capacity of 305 MW by 2017, with the aim of building and functioning during the period 2018-2022. Relevant studies will be finalized by 2017, and through a decision of the Government, appropriate measures will be implemented in order to rehabilitate the thermal power plant "Kosova B" during the period 2018-2021. The Government will unify energy market with Albania's energy market in order to achieve complementarity.

The Government will meet its obligations arising from the Energy Community Treaty (20:20:20) regarding the requests for Energy Renewable Resources. The Government intends to continue the support for investments in renewable energy and develop the following resources: Solar 8 MW, Wind 130 MW, Hydro 180 MW and Biomass 10 MW. At the same time it will be worked in achieving the goals foreseen by 9% by 2018, based on the Action Plan for Energy Efficiency 2010-2018, Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2015-2017 and the obligations deriving from the Secretariat of the Energy Committee.

1.8.3. Decommissioning of old generating capacities

In line with commitments of Vienna Energy Community Secretariat and the European Union, the older thermal power plant in Kosovo, which uses very old technology in energy generation, should be decommissioned. Decommissioning of TPP Kosovo A will start from the Government, after ensuring the consistent supply with the construction of thermal power plant "Kosova e Re".

1.8.4. Advancement of central heating projects

Urban organization of Kosovo cities enables the mitigation of demand for electricity during the winter, by functionalising the central heating in urban areas. After cogeneration project for Prishtina, Kosovo will continue to support the existing heating enterprises in Gjakova, Mitrovica and Zveçan. The Government will review the possibility of a Public-Private Partnership in the construction of a heating plant in Drenas from Feronikeli. The Government, based on the interest expressed by municipal levels will require funding from donors for studying the possibilities for construction of central heating for other cities. Also, the project will be designed and it will be implemented the connection of Kastriot to the heating system of Termokos.

1.8.5. Liberalization of energy and mineral market

The restructuring of the electricity sector should enable liberalization of the electricity market in order to ensure a competitive, transparent, non-discriminatory and customer-oriented market.

1.8.6. Inclusion of Kosovo in the gas pipeline network

The Government will continue to be engaged through the EU and regional mechanisms to ensure studies for providing the gas pipeline in Kosovo. This study should be preceded by a master plan for potential distribution networks in cities which will have greater demand for gas use. After construction of the Trans Adriatic Pipeline, it will commence the construction of the Ionian-Adriatic Pipeline, which would allow the connection of the Republic of Kosovo to pipeline through Albania, with stable supply.

1.8.7. Protection of the environment

The protection of the environment is an obligation and commitment for the wellbeing of future generations. Therefore, the legislation will be developed that defines the limit values for gases release, criteria for the protection of water, air and soil from pollution and the use of technology that protects the environment in line with European standards and drafting of new

law on Cadastre, by which it will be conducted the vertical organization of municipal cadastral offices with the Kosovo Cadastral Agency and self-financing.

1.8.8. Measures for supporting the protection of the environment

Considering that solution for environmental problems is very expensive, the fund will be established for subventions and grants through the use of funds collected from ecologic taxes.

1.9. Development of agriculture

Agriculture has had a significant increase year by year, becoming an important part in the Gross Domestic Product of Kosovo. Agriculture has traditionally been one of the main economic activities in Kosovo, but underestimated for its potentials. The Government will be strongly engaged in promoting the production chain, from primary agricultural production up to processing, storage and trade of agricultural products, as well as credit and subsidy incentive measures and improvement of public infrastructure. Domestic market coverage with agricultural products from the country is the first step in supporting the domestic production.

1.9.1. Measures to support the agriculture

In order to further develop the agricultural sector, the Government will take the following measures during this mandate:

- Increase of the budget to support/subsidize agriculture with priority in competitive sectors with comparative advantage such as: fruits, vegetables, production and processing of milk and meat (livestock).
- To the extent possible, the review of the manner of support by orienting support towards manufacturing, not towards agricultural inputs.
- Subsidize the interest for agricultural loans - Farmers who take loans from banks will take the risk of returning the loan, while the Government will pay the interest on those loans. In this case, the agriculture sectors will be determined where it will apply this type of policy.
- The customs duty on all agricultural inputs will be removed.
- Investing in food safety in accordance with European standards. Food and Veterinary Agency will pass under the authority of Ministry of Agriculture,
- In mountain regions, it will be promoted the rational use of forest, enabling continuous reforestation along the usage of forests.
- Provision of free consulting services to farmers, such as mobile veterinary or mobile agronomy. In this regard, the state will contract veterinarians and agronomists, who will have the responsibility to oversee and advise farmers and pastoralists in certain regions.
- Technical capacity building in certain locations for protection from hail.
- Reforestation of steep surfaces to protect from erosion.
- In order to protect from insects, forests and certain areas will be sprayed continuously.
- In hilly-mountainous lands, especially in unused agricultural lands it will be supported in particular the planting of orchards, vineyards, hazelnuts, walnuts, etc.

- Protection of rivers from uncontrolled usage of sand and their pollution from sewage and industrial waters.

1.9.2. Increase the fund for subventions and grants

In order to improve the agriculture, the Government will attract other investments in addition to the Employment Fund, helping with funding, subventions and loans with favourable conditions, especially for the purchase of agricultural machinery, fertilizers, insecticides or pesticides, seeds and seedlings. Here, a special attention will be paid in encouraging the use of greenhouses, new techniques and technologies in agriculture. Another priority will be the stimulation of sectors with great development potential, such as: pomology, viticulture and horticulture. Also, the manner of support will completely change, orienting the support towards production, not towards agricultural inputs, since the orientation towards inputs has made agricultural subsidies not to reach the farmer who works the land, but to the land owner.

1.9.3. Legal reforms for protecting the agriculture

The Government will design policies in order to ensure that agricultural lands to be used for productive purposes. Incentives will be created to encourage the cultivation of unused lands, especially those that have been privatized. Tax and customs facilities will be provided for primary production sector and tax facilities measures which will lower the cost of production. This would create positive effects in increasing the sector and the population employment level. Policies for protecting the land destination after privatization will be undertaken. Also, the definition of the ownership of the land, both private and public, will continue because in many cases the arable land is undefined or not well defined. By using agricultural census results, it will be conducted the immediate inventory stock of livestock, vineyards, greenhouses, orchards, milk collection points, green markets, etc., in order to establish cooperation with them and to provide them the required support. It will be further enhanced the protection of market from dumping imports and other forms that cause distortion of competition in the market is also one of the measure which could produce positive effects on the growth of the agricultural sector.

1.9.4. Improvement of the agricultural infrastructure

In order to regenerate and consolidate the agriculture, the Government will undertake infrastructure investments aimed at improving irrigation and drainage system. As a result, during these years it was conducted the agricultural land census which will provide accurate data for the agricultural sector and will facilitate the undertaking of new policies in this sector. It will also be invested in irrigation system of Iber-Lepenc to cover the fields in Kosovo Plateau with irrigation system, and in irrigation system of Radoniq to cover the fields in Dukagjini Plateau.

Also, the Government will be engaged in construction, through public-private partnerships of the collection and distribution centres of agricultural products, medicinal plants, wild fruits and specialized fridges for maintenance as well as construction of infrastructure for collection, conservation and packaging. The Government will continue to support

investments for construction of collection points of agricultural and livestock products through subventions of interest and partial investment coverage through state subventions, in order to immediately inventory the stock of livestock, vineyards, greenhouses, orchards, milk collection points, green markets, etc. This will once again represent our engagement in establishing cooperation with the private sector and provide them the necessary support for development.

1.9.5. Support for the livestock sector

Livestock is one of the richest heritages of Kosovo and it is believed that it could be competitive on the market. The Government will support and encourage the development of livestock in Kosovo in order to increase production of milk, meat, wool, leathers and encourage the industry related to these by-products. In order to enable the development of livestock, the future Government will promote the cultivation of land with plants that serve the livestock, such as alfalfa, cabbage, fodder, as well as will promote the maintenance of pastures.

1.9.6. Promotion of new agricultural crops and organic agriculture

The Government will support scientific research and market analysis that will research the potential for cultivation of new crops in Kosovo that are not traditional such as: industrial flowers or plants that serve in pharmaceuticals or cosmetics; fruits or vegetables that have not been cultivated before but which are suitable for the climate and soil such as kiwi, asparagus etc.; new crop farms that are achieving success in neighbouring countries such as apiculture, snail production for exporting purposes, ostriches, deer etc. Also, there is a pronounced sensitivity to the environment and it considers Kosovo's development closely related to the conservation of nature that will ensure lifespan and tourism. In international markets it is noticed a growing demand for organic agricultural products. In addition, opportunities will be offered for grants and loans with favourable conditions from countries and international institutions to implement the organic farming. The Government shall engage in close cooperation with farmers to gather more funding to promote the development of organic agriculture.

1.9.7. Forest resource protection

Protection of the environment is an obligation and commitment for the wellbeing of future generations. Therefore, we will draft legislation that sets the limit values for release of gases, criteria for protection of water, air and soil from pollution and the use of technology that protects the climate in line with European standards. A special priority will be the preservation of forests assets and green investments, as well as it will be promoted the rational use of forests, enabling continuous reforestation along forest usage.

1.10. Infrastructure

In terms of further development and improvement of infrastructure, the Government will take measures to create the necessary infrastructure which will be funded primarily through soft loans or through public-private partnerships. This form of infrastructure investment will not burden the state budget.

1.10.1. Road infrastructure

There was a high scale of investment in infrastructure, particularly in the construction of European corridors. The government will continue implementing the existing contracts for the construction of the highway Prishtina-Hani i Elezit - R6, which will be completed in the medium term. This highway and Highway R7 will cover approximately two-thirds of European routes which will enable better approach of foreign investors in Kosovo and better connection of Kosovo cities. With the completion of the highway Prishtina-Hani i Elezit, Kosovo meets the requirements for the construction of European corridors defined by South East Europe Transport Observatory (SEETO) and will enable Kosovo to have a central role in the Balkans.

The government will continue the construction-expansion of the road that connects Prishtina with Mitrovica and Vushtrri by using the funds from the agreement that the Government has signed with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), OPEC Fund for Development (OFID) and the Saudi Fund for Development (SFD). Expansion of the regional road Prishtina-Peja will be achieved through funding from development banks which offer long-term loans with cheaper interest rates. The Government has already formally expressed the request to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and European Investment Bank (EIB), and expects to be invited from them to negotiate financial arrangements to complete the project. Work will be performed on the regional road project from Qafa e Duhles towards Ferizaj and then towards Gjilan which enables connection to the East-West corridor and to the regional road Prishtina-Skopje. It will commence the road project that connects Prishtina with Podujeva as well as the road project Prishtina-Gjilan-border crossing point towards Bujanovc.

For all these infrastructure projects, including the highway project Prishtina-Hani i Elezit, efforts will be made to provide funds out of the budget, through favourable credit lines in order for the project funds to go to priority projects that promote employment in the private sector and in income growth.

The Government will continue the support for municipalities in building regional and rural roads. The government will decide which projects will be selected before the start of the budget year. Criteria for determining the projects will be determined by administrative instruction. A comprehensive study will be required to determine the rehabilitation and construction of regional roads.

1.10.2. Rail infrastructure

The Government intends through development banks to finance the rehabilitation of the railway Line 10, which allows cheaper transportation for people and goods. Over four years, the Government will finance the rehabilitation of the East-West line, which enables rail link with Albania and Montenegro, respectively it will be created the connection to the sea ports on the Adriatic. The study for connection with these countries should be done according to the multi-modal transport strategy, with priority from the Secretariat of South East Europe

Transport Observatory (SEETO) and in cooperation with neighbouring states. After rehabilitation of the basement of existing lines and with the electrification of lines from neighbouring countries, the investment will be followed in the railway electrification.

1.11. Telecommunication and information technology

Sustainable development of the telecommunications sector is hampered tremendously after the war, due to problems with Kosovo's status in international organizations, especially those profiled in the field of telecommunications. Limited management of numbering and frequency resources continues to have negative effects on total revenues of the telecommunications sector. The telecommunication sector has continued to further liberalize and Kosovo now has a broader network of telecommunications services, affordable retail prices of voice calls and data. Liberalization and the launch of 3G and 4G/LTE technology have opened a broad horizon for the future of communications in Kosovo.

For further development of telecommunications, Kosovo government will focus on three main priorities:

1. The development of ICT infrastructure with a focus on the development of broadband infrastructure and security of networks and electronic communications,
2. Development of electronic services and contents and promotion of their use,
3. Advancing the skills of the inhabitants of Kosovo in the use of ICT

1.11.1. Obtaining a country telephone code

Currently Kosovo continues to have only three codes for telephone services (+377, +386 for mobile phone services and +381 for fixed phone services), which reduces the attractiveness for investment in the telecommunications sector, causes financial losses and major difficulties to manage the numbering system by the regulator and operators that provide telecommunications services in Kosovo. This is addressed in the dialogue facilitated by the EU where it is agreed between the parties that Kosovo will get a 3-digit telephone code from the ITU (International Telecommunication Union). This code provides a real opportunity to solve major problems of telecom. Currently 'Vala' operator uses Monaco code (+377), while IPKO the Slovenian code (+386), and after obtaining the country code and after the relevant decisions from the RAEPC, these contracts will cease being valid. After obtaining the code, all operators of fixed and mobile telephony in Kosovo will be required to use this unique new code after a certain period determined by RAEPC.

1.11.2. Privatization of VALA after the necessary restructuring

The process for privatizing 75% of the shares of the public telecommunications operator, PTK, ended with no privatization of the shares due to non-approval by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo. Subsequently the strategy will be reviewed and intensively will be worked on improving the performance of this company and there will also be capital investments to improve the competitiveness and its market value.

1.11.3. Further liberalization of the mobile phone market

The flow of value-added services for electronic communications is growing exponentially. In the dialogue facilitated by the EU, an agreement was reached on telecommunications in September, 2013. The main achievement was the agreement between the parties to allocate a 3-digit telephone code to Kosovo by the International Telecommunication Union (UNT) starting from 2015. One of the three main policies, deriving from the document of policy for the electronic communications sector - digital agenda for Kosovo 2013-2020, is the development of infrastructure for information and communications technology. This priority commenced to come true in terms of further liberalization of mobile broadband services by allowing the use of new technologies that enable advanced mobile broadband services (3G and 4G / LTE).

Internet users continue to increase rapidly, where the total number reached 167.953, with penetration per capita of over 9% and home penetration of 56%. Usage of fixed internet continued to have progressive increase. Now we can say that the internet provision market is almost completely liberalized, considering the fact that so far there are 50 licensed internet service providers. Leading operators are also the operators that are connected to the internet exchange point KOS-IX such as: Ipko, PTK, Kujtesa and Artmotion, which offer modern Internet services with particular emphasis on the implementation of DOCSIS 3.0 technology and expansion of fibre-to-the-home FTTH by a small number of operators.

1.11.4. Information Technology

Across the globe, information technology (IT) has a great impact on economic transformation, on public sector reforms and in the entire society in general. This is a trend towards digital transformation and the IT sector is set as a top priority on the agendas of many governments. In addition, taking into account the overall value of this technology in the world market by 1,133,330 million EUR (2013¹), the IT sector is not only one of the largest sectors, but is also the most dynamic sector making this sector as a key sector to economic growth and innovation.

Kosovo Government having in mind the strategic importance of IT sector considers this technology as one of the most important priorities for economic development and structural transformation towards a knowledge-based economy. The main pillars for IT development in Kosovo will be based in:

- Promotion, exporting and investment policies for IT
- Development of the internal market and cooperation among IT enterprises
- Increase the level of entrepreneurship, and job quality in IT enterprises
- Education, Innovation and capacity building for Research and Development in IT

Government of Kosovo with the aim of more sustainable development and creating a knowledge-based society and economy will create a special fund for the development of Information and Communication Technologies.

¹
EITO 2014/2015

1.12. Development of tourism

Tourism was and remains an important area for Kosovo society and economic development of the private sector and the economy in general. Kosovo offers good opportunities for winter and mountain tourism, recreational-sports tourism, cultural tourism based on our historical and cultural heritage. Through the creation of road and air infrastructure that will enable faster connection with Albania and Macedonia which is expected to be finalized soon, as well as with other countries, will positively impact the increase of the flow of tourists in Kosovo. This has enabled and will further increase the possibility for Kosovo to be a part of the Balkan map for different groups of visitors, ranging from one day stay and longer. Also completed road infrastructure in major destinations such as the Rugova Gorge or Brezovica has positively influenced the growth of tourism in those parts.

In this regard, the Government will promote tourism as a sector that has multiple effects on the economy and environmental protection. Tourism development will have a direct impact in several areas such as: production, income growth, development of economic activities, catering, transportation, trade, cultural institutions, etc., in increase of employment, in increase of the level of the living standard, in increase of investments, in improving the balance of payments, development of underdeveloped areas, etc. While indirect impact will be on economic activities such as: agriculture, construction, industry, handicrafts, etc. The economic importance of tourism as one of the determinants of development constitutes only a small part of the overall economic system of Kosovo. Government will focus with special emphasis on:

- Improving and developing the infrastructure that enables the development of tourism.
- Preparing tourist maps for each municipality.
- Reassessing Kosovo tourism potentials based on international standards.
- Investing in enhancing local gastronomy and its usage as a tourist product.
- Promotion and support of balneary tourism (health).
- Promotion of mountain tourism in high altitude tourist destinations, especially in Bjeshkët e Nemuna and Sharri Mountains.
- Cooperation with local communities in preserving natural monuments.
- Opening tourist websites for the entire territory of Kosovo and tourist sites separately.
- It will be worked on drafting a joint tourist offer with Republic of Albania for foreign visitors and investors and for Albanian Diaspora.

1.12.1. Development of multifunctional tourist resort "Brezovica"

Now Kosovo provides opportunities for developing tourism in certain areas such as the Ski Centre in Brezovica in Sharri Mountains. This resource is located between 1,700 and 2,500 meters above sea level. It offers excellent conditions during the ski season from November to May. Assets of Brezovica include three hotels with 680 rooms, two restaurants and nine ski-lifts with transport capacity of 10,000 skiers per hour. Through its proximity to Prishtina Airport (60 km) and Skopje Airport (70 km), this resource represents a potential destination for foreign tourists and is likely to become the most favoured winter resort destination in the Balkans.

During the government's mandate, it will be realized the Project for Development of Brezovica Tourist Centre, which has already begun, and is classified as a project of national importance. Launch of the Brezovica project will create over 3000 new workplaces in Kosovo, and for realization of this project are foreseen to be invested over 400 million Euros. We will continue to work with high priority to modernize, advance as well as to create conditions for the citizens to deal more with tourism, especially the touristic areas of Kosovo. We will provide assistance, advice, convenience and tourism promotion opportunities for Kosovo.

1.12.2. Development of rural and mountain tourism

Rural tourism and agro-tourism is another sector with great development potential in Kosovo. The number of tourists who prefer this type of tourism at international level but also at national level is increasing. Also it is noticed a trend of citizens from urban areas of Kosovo in spending more time in rural area in direct contact with nature and traditional agricultural and livestock activities. Therefore, we believe that the development of agro-tourism by implementing the best international practices will provide diverse and longer tourist offer in many scenic areas of Kosovo and will increase significantly the employment and income from the tourism sector. Besides the aspect of beauties of the nature, Kosovo agro-tourism can be stimulated by the presence of culinary features, rich folk tradition and typical Kosovar generosity. In the next mandate, the Government will develop a comprehensive strategy for this sector, and will channel some funds to stimulate this sector.

1.12.3. Protection of natural resources

The government besides all the focus on state-building and development will also consider a priority to protect the natural resources in Kosovo. Regarding this matter there is the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and within the Ministry is Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (KEPA). Also, other governmental and non-governmental organizations are active in protecting the natural resources. Protection of natural resources is realized through government institutions provided by legal acts and which are engaged to preserve the quality of air, water, soil and biodiversity, promote the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable use of natural resources in order to provide a healthy environment for present and future generations in line with the progress of economic and social developments.

One of the main priorities of the Government during the next 4-year mandate will be the protection of natural resources of Kosovo, with clear and specific policies for natural resources. Our mission will be to protect the resources in cooperation with the local inhabitants of those areas, by stimulating the preservation of environment and creating living conditions for the inhabitants of those areas.

1.13. Performance improvement of public enterprises

The Government will strengthen accountable and professional corporate governance that ensures sustainability of public enterprises, high quality services for citizens and economy of the scale that provides lower cost than the private sector. In order to improve the performance of public enterprises, the Government will review the legal basis and reasoning that divides

the public enterprises in central and local government to ensure that in the decision-making of these enterprises are involved the stakeholders that are affected by the activities of these enterprises.

In terms of a more efficient control and management, it will be sought the possibility that some of the public enterprises to be transferred for monitoring purposes to the relevant ministries. Independence from the state budget will be reviewed for a number of public enterprises, with particular emphasis on enterprises with commercial character, but by never harming the services to the citizens, it will be supported the coverage of a public service for the families in social assistance in services of electricity, drinking water, heat and waste. Given that the public procurement procedures have been identified as a barrier for new investment and for some commercial activities of some public enterprises, we will seek opportunities that those public enterprises that face direct competition from the private sector to get special legal treatment from public procurement procedures. It will be sought the possibility of prioritizing the court cases such as appeals for payment of debts of public enterprises from consumers.

The privatization of public enterprises should happen, but only when privatization as a process will maximize the value of the enterprise and other benefits related to privatization. Regarding the privatization of PTK-Vala900, the Government will review the existing strategy for its privatization. Before it is privatized, it should be improved the performance of this company through an efficient management and capital investment to enhance the competitiveness of the company and its market value. For each enterprise, key performance indicators will be set so that the management and boards of these companies are held accountable for their work.

1.14. Privatization Agency of Kosovo and social enterprises

The process of privatization of social enterprises has passed in the stage of completion, and for this reason the Government will focus on reviewing the legislation that governs the functioning of PAK to ensure regular and efficient accountability. Also, regarding this matter it will be set a time limit for the completion of the privatization and liquidation of social enterprises and for the completion of the work of this agency. As stated above, the Government will draft a national strategy to be approved by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo regarding the use of funds collected from privatization and liquidation of social enterprises. These funds will be used to subsidize the interest for agricultural loans and investments in small and medium enterprises with the aim of promoting employment. A portion of these funds will be directed in professional advancement and further professional training of workers who remain unemployed by the privatization of social enterprises. In order to increase the efficiency of handling potential creditor claims by the privatization of social enterprises by the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court, the Government will review the legal basis that regulates this field. The cases of special spin-off privatizations will be audited regarding fulfilment of the contract terms.

1.15. Water

In Kosovo, in average in one year there is a flow of around 120 m³ / sec of water. Out of this amount only 15% is accumulated, while in total the water use for all socio-economic activities does not exceed 20 per cent of the water flow. This proves that Kosovo has water, but the planning and usage of water as an economy and social resource is very low. Within time period of six months we will complete the Strategy for Water which will clearly define the water sources for drinking water, for industry, for agriculture and economy.

Today about 20% of Kosovo's population has no access to public water supply. Therefore, drinking water will be a priority. In this context, we will work in partnership with donors and financial institutions to finalize on time the project for Prishtina, whereas in the upcoming four years villages and other areas that do not have water in eight municipalities that are supplied by the system will work to get them connected with water through public access.

1.15.1. Water management plan

Kosovo Government will provide funding from donors for a comprehensive study of water management for the long-term period. Urban areas are undergoing significant population growth, which is causing an overload for regional water supply companies. Therefore it is necessary to create new capacities. The plan would study the most convenient opportunities to create necessary lakes to cope with the demands of citizens and to provide drinking water for 24 hours. Regional and local companies will be stimulated to improve management in order to facilitate direct financing from development banks operating in the Republic of Kosovo. Government has a program with donors for further expansion of the network in rural areas and rehabilitation of existing network.

1.15.2. Wastewater treatment

In large urban centres, which are considered as big polluters of water and rivers, it will begin the implementation of plants. It will be also invested in Lake Batllava and Badovc in order to avoid the wastewater and other water pollutants. Funding will be provided from the budget, by conducting a reorientation of investments as well as from donors and international financial institutions. The government with the help of donors has functionalized Water Treatment Factory in Skenderaj, while funding agreements were signed for Prizren and Gjakova with donors to cover half of the cities with this service, which is necessary for environmental protection. Soon it will be provided the funding for the wastewater treatment plant in Peja which will greatly cover the basin of Drini i Bardhe. Over the next four years, the Government will provide funding agreements for Prishtina, Ferizaj, Gjilan and Mitrovica.

1.15.3. Investments in irrigation system

Expansion of two main systems will take place, such as Iber-Lepenc and Radoniq, as well as design and construction of new irrigation systems by using a large portion of rivers of Kosovo such as: Drini, Lepenci, Ereniku, Lumbardhi, Sitnica, Drenica, Llapi and Morava. We will double the areas that will be irrigated and we will start with the major investment in building accumulations which will have the purpose of irrigating agriculture lands, but they will also be used for other purposes. It will commence with the regulation of main rivers and

the construction of accumulations on these rivers. This will enable their better use and will prevent the floods. Also, all possible locations will be identified in order for the water potential to be used for generating electricity, and thus meeting the environmental and EU criteria. The interest of investors in this area is great. We will support all projects which will provide additional energy from water resources.

1.16. Social policy, social welfare and inter-social solidarity

1.16.1. The principles of social welfare policies

The Government is committed to strengthen the market economy and economic development as the main tool for alleviating poverty and unemployment, also by providing inter-social solidarity through economic policies of income redistribution. Social policies will ensure financial stability and sustainability of the scheme of mandatory pension contributions and will promote voluntary savings schemes.

Reduction of social problems and social welfare are directly related to economic development and increase of employment rate. Creation of new jobs is the only possibility to reduce social problems in Kosovo. The Government believes that a welfare system must be build, and its primary objective will be retraining of individuals who depend on social assistance. Considering that the largest number of social assistance beneficiaries come from rural areas, there will be support for the certain sectors which are expanded in these areas such as agriculture, livestock and similar, and it is an opportunity for economic development and improvement of conditions of these families.

Government will address the social welfare as a whole to provide conditions for employment, quality education and efficient services for social categories. The Government will support the improvement of conditions for social assistance beneficiaries and basic pensions. Reduction of the number of people on social assistance and their integration in society will be conducted by promoting their employment. Social assistance will be designed in that manner that will encourage people that depend on assistance to seek work and increase their skills for the labour market.

1.16.2. Treatment of special categories

War categories including Families of Martyrs, Invalids, Veterans and Members of the KLA as well as the Families of Civilian Victims of War make up a sensitive part of Kosovo society, which face numerous difficulties. There is also political sensitivity besides social side of the problem in dealing with this particular category. The government will start implementing the law on the status and rights of martyrs, invalids, veterans, members of the KLA, civilian war victims and their families, which will also be amended in accordance with the relevant requirements. It will continue to be increased the aid for invalids, families of martyrs, veterans and other war categories. In addition to pensions, beneficiaries of the scheme will continue to have benefits in: exemption from electricity costs and exemption from customs duties on cars for war invalids. Government of Kosovo will continue to cooperate with associations that represent war categories.

1.16.3. Maintaining the living standard of persons who depend from the state

The Government will engage that the social assistance that is provided by the state to the poorest to meet the basic needs through the financial means that it receives. To the extent possible, social assistance will be conditional on the active work of beneficiaries and participation in retraining, as a measure to alleviate poverty and dependency from social assistance. It will be eliminated to the maximum the obstacles that discourage companies to hire women to work, and will promote the employment of elder persons who have not yet reached the retirement age.

The pension system will further advance for the beneficiaries of: basic pensions, contribute-providers, people with disabilities, pensioners of "Trepça", former members of KPC and KSF. During the 4-year period, it will be a steady growth of payment for these categories.

- We will continue in reaching agreements in the field of pension with the countries where Kosovo citizens have worked. These agreements will provide the realization of the right to a pension for all those who have worked in other countries.
- It will continue provision of services for family housing for children who have no family ties and realization of family housing without parental care.
- Also, it will continue the implementation of the scheme to support families who have children with permanent disabilities of 1-18 years, through doubling the current amount of 100 Euros per month.
- Also, it will continue the assistance for housing and protecting the victims of domestic violence. It will continue and it will increase to 24-hours the institutional care for children and adults with mental disabilities, for residents who are in the Special Institute in Shtime and in seven community-based homes. It will continue the additional care for the elderly people without family care in the Home for Elderly People in Prishtina and in two community-based homes.
- It will increase the social assistance for families in need for inclusion in the Social Assistance Scheme.
- It will continue the subsidies in cooperation with KEK for electricity for households in SNS Scheme and in the Scheme of FMWI. It will continue the support for war veterans, invalids and families of martyrs

1.16.4. Promoting entrepreneurship to reduce dependence from social assistance

The Government will draft active social policies that promote entrepreneurship to reduce the dependence from social schemes, through entrepreneurship of youth and women. In particular, it will be offered opportunities in rural areas for intensive development in agriculture and other incentives in the field of agricultural lending. Special attention will be given to the workers affected by the privatization of social enterprises, so they do not become a burden of social assistance. Funding the addition for the contribute providers pensioners in the former Yugoslavia will be reviewed through the application of the principle of solidarity for this category, as in other countries.

2. RULE OF LAW

The fundamental principle, based on which the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will work is the rule of law. Our main goal will be the strengthening of Republic of Kosovo and provision of service for all its citizens, support their efforts to provide income and a peaceful and safe life. Strengthening of the rule of law and ensuring internal socio-economic cohesion will help Kosovo in the consolidation of its statehood in the international arena. The rule of law is determinant for good quality and governance. The government will have no compromise in its fight against corruption, organized crime, terrorism and related activities with the phenomenon of terrorism, economic crime, human trafficking and other forms of criminality. This can be accomplished only with honest and responsible people.

The Government aims at making justice and security system in Kosovo functional, professional, apolitical, integrated and extended in the entire territory of the country, in line with European standards in the field of law and security. The justice and security system should be at the service of all citizens. Government of Kosovo considers as very important the work of bodies that deal with the rule of law and external and internal security and is engaged in strengthening them in accordance with the principle of separation of powers.

Government will be engaged on ongoing reform and strengthening of the prosecution, as a prerequisite for efficient and effective fighting of crime. The Government is committed for an independent and impartial prosecution, in order to fight, without compromise, all forms of criminality, by protecting most vital values of the citizen and society. Government of the Republic of Kosovo will be engaged to support the independent profession of lawyer.

In addition to successes in the justice sector there are also many challenges which will be handled with great commitment by the Government. Through the new institutional framework, the justice system will be consolidated and concentrated on improving the quality, efficiency and performance. Another challenge is in obtaining the executive responsibilities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission - EULEX, as well as the implementation of the agreement on the normalization of relations with Serbia, namely the establishment of a uniform system throughout the territory of Kosovo. Government of Kosovo will be engaged to support the independent judicial institutions in handling the large number of backlog cases, as well as data improving and processing and case management.

In order to improve the situation in the justice system in general, the Government will be engaged to implement the necessary reforms for development of a transparent judicial system, providing full functionality of judicial reform in accordance with applicable laws and creating and improving the physical infrastructure of courts in order to meet the needs that derive from the reform. The Government of Kosovo will support the construction of basic courts facilities in Gjakova, Prizren and Mitrovica, and will provide support for the development of electronic systems for case management and communication, and training the users of electronic systems, review the backlog management strategy, functioning of unit for research and analysis and capacity building with professional co-operators and court interns.

The Government of Kosovo will be engaged to provide prerequisites and more efficient management of the execution of criminal sanctions system. We will continue building the new infrastructure capacity for Kosovo Probation and Correctional Service and with the reconstruction of existing ones through professional development of correctional and probation staff and undertaking measures in re-socialization of prisoners, with the establishment of special institutions for execution of correctional and educational measures for juveniles in accordance with the Juvenile Justice Code. The functionality of High Security Prison and two new detention centres (in Prishtina and Gjilan) will be improved and it will be applied the electronic surveillance system for convicts, as well as the functioning of facility for juveniles with educational measure. In forensics besides capacity building, we will also engage in establishing DNA laboratory which will deal with civil cases.

Protection and respect of fundamental rights and freedoms is the main pillar in the normal functioning of a democratic state. In fact, from this depends directly the political, economic and legal development of a state. In Kosovo, human rights and freedoms are guaranteed by law. The Government will put human rights on top of its political agenda, and will increase the allocation of budgets. The Government will be engaged in respecting the civil, political, economic and social rights of all citizens of Kosovo, regardless of their nation, ethnicity, religion, race or gender, as guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. In this respect, the Government of Kosovo will implement existing laws and will continue to update strategies for human rights, ensuring long-term approach in this regard. The Government will adopt new laws with a view of supplementing the legislation for protection of human rights. This will include the anti-discrimination law, law on Ombudsperson and law on gender equality. Citizen equality under the law, fair trial, non-discrimination, property right, freedom and security, human dignity and other civic rights are the foundation of constitutional and legal order in Kosovo, therefore the Government is strongly engaged in protecting these principles and rights. The Government will be focused on strengthening the role and position of women in society, drafting and implementing appropriate policies for their economic strengthening with inter-sector approach followed by proper resources for implementation. The Government will continue to strengthen institutional mechanisms for gender equality. The Government of Kosovo will respect and implement the rights of minority communities in Kosovo, showing commitment for their full integration in Kosovo society. A special dedication will be given to the rights of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The Government will also focus on the implementation and advancement of the children rights, and economy, social and cultural rights of people with disabilities, LGBT community rights, the rights on union organization, property rights, as well as rights of refugees and internally displaced persons in Kosovo. The Government will be engaged in preventing and fighting the trafficking in human beings, as well as will provide the necessary protection and assistance to victims of crime of violence (trafficking in human beings, domestic violence, organized crime, etc.).

Furthermore, the Government will protect personal data, and will fight cybercrime. Specifically the Government will ensure to adequately address the recommendations of the

Ombudsperson and create conditions that will enable this independent institution to carry out its constitutional responsibilities.

2.1. Advancement of legislation in the field of justice

The legislation in the field of justice is an important segment, which will be treated with priority. In addition to changes and adoption of new laws that enable the fight against corruption and organized crime, the following laws will be supplemented:

- Law on Kosovo Judicial Council (There were remarks from the Venice Commission regarding the composition of the KJC and manner of selecting the members of the KJC. These recommendations imply that the KJC members should be selected from Judiciary members);
- Law on Kosovo Prosecutorial Council (a standard of the Venice Commission, and also a recommendation, is to change the KPC composition in order to restrict the representation of the chief prosecutors in this body, and to maintain the effective accountability. In the spirit of the recommendations for functioning of accountability, the Venice Commission also recommended that the chief prosecutor should not lead KPC);
- Law on Courts; Law on State Prosecutor; Law on Financing Political Parties;
- Law on the Separation of Judicial and Prosecutorial Administration;

The Government will continue to advance the legal and institutional framework in view of rule of law and order in accordance with the priorities that emerge from the process of European integration. The Government will continue to supplement the legal framework, facilitate the work of the judiciary through the functioning of the notary, jurisprudence and mediation system; bankruptcy administrators and private enforcement agents; fighting and preventing crime and potential misuse of criminal proceeds through the management of seized or confiscated property which generate high profits; improvement in approximation of legislation and elimination of the collision of laws; continuation of the support for property issues and functioning of the State Advocacy Office.

Upon admission of Kosovo in the Council of Europe, all conventions in the field of justice, arising from this mechanism, should be accepted.

Also, the Government's priority should be the regulation and international judicial cooperation in criminal matters, through special agreements. In order to further advance the international legal cooperation and assistance system, the Government will work to create safer conditions for staff and provide proper equipments for storage of files, sensitive and confidential cases, build professional capacity of staff, judges and prosecutors, and complete the legal framework regarding the field of international judicial cooperation.

2.2. Fight against corruption and organized crime

The fight against corruption has continued to be one of the main challenges of our society and an ongoing priority of Kosovo institutions. The main challenge in the fight against corruption is the lack of many results in investigations of corruption, lack of transparency and accountability in the procurement process and weak enforcement of legislation. In addition to

the creation of the general framework for fighting corruption, this phenomenon remains one of the main challenges of Kosovo institutions in general, especially considering that Kosovo should intensify efforts to investigate, prosecute and convict cases related to corruption.

The Government will show zero tolerance approach in the fight against corruption and organized crime. The Government will be strongly committed to improve and strengthen the legislative and institutional framework for fighting corruption. This will be achieved by making anti-corruption policies effective through cooperation and coordination among institutions for the implementation of strategic and legislative framework to this effect.

The Government will implement the anti-corruption legislation, as well as adopt new laws to further supplement the relevant legislation. Government will be engaged in preventing and eliminating the causes of corruption, education of public administration for prevention and fighting corruption and building the needed institutional and human capacities.

The Government is aware that fight against the organized crime and corruption is essential in fight against the penetration of crime in political, legal and economic systems. In this way, the Government has a clear will to effectively fight corruption and organized crime by implementing existing strategies and plans, as well as accepting the results of independent judicial processes.

The new anti-corruption strategy and the action plan for its implementation represents a powerful and advanced base which aims to address corruption through a comprehensive approach that will cover the entire society, starting from the legislative, executive and judiciary to private sector, media and civil society organizations. However, the main challenge is the lack of budget and necessary mechanisms to implement the strategy from various institutions.

In order to fight corruption in cases related with public procurement, there should be more joint trainings, especially in the field of professional development for knowledge in the field of public procurement, since the knowledge of many prosecutors in this field are still basic.

2.3. Regulation and unification of civil justice

The Government will have as a priority the unification of civil legislation, in terms of creating a common civil code, which would include all laws of civil field. The Government of Kosovo will pay special attention to the consolidation of mediation and arbitration system. Mediation and arbitration guarantees the avoidance of bureaucracy and prolonged procedures of state judiciary by providing faster and efficient solution of problems. By leaving space to private initiative and voluntary engagement of stakeholders in these alternative forms of justice, we will aim to reduce the load on the court, namely the reduction of backlog cases, making the system to be more efficient and focused on more serious problems or in those cases that cannot be solved unless from the conventional justice system.

Measures will be taken to increase the number of employees in justice institutions in order to make these institutions more efficient and prompt in their activity. Also, the logistical support and administrative staff of judges or prosecutors will be increased, so they can do their job much easier and faster.

2.4. Complete integration of northern municipalities in the justice system

The Government will have as an important priority the integration of northern municipalities in the justice system and the functioning of justice institutions in the north. This will greatly increase the reliability of Government towards citizens, but will also strengthen the rule of law. It is clear that such thing cannot be done immediately through prompt actions, but this issue should be preceded with a concrete political process, with concrete actions that will enable the integration of northern municipalities in the justice system.

2.5. Continuation of the reform of Public Administration

The main objective of the Government is to have a Public Administration built on European principles, as a key factor for the provision of services to citizens and to be closer to them. The Government of Kosovo deeply believes that the public administration should be at the service of citizens and based on values, not in narrow interests.

Ministry of Public Administration, as a bearer of the process of coordination and management of public administration reform, so far has undertaken a number of actions to improve the public administration services, where a significant number of services have already been digitized and are offered in the electronic form. Also, the entire necessary legal infrastructure for the advancement of processes in Kosovo civil service has almost been completed. A good foundation was built to improve the professionalism in the civil service.

In general, in recent years it has been worked on supplementing the strategic and legislative framework for the operation of a functioning administration and a solid foundation has already been established. It is needed a deeper focus on creating a strategic framework for Public Administration Reform, development and coordination of policies, advancement and provision of public services, human resource management and accountability, and public finance management. The Government will provide an integrated system of strategic planning, with the aim of improving the quality of policies, as well as will develop a coherent, legal and sustainable system of public administration providing effective mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the policies and legislation.

Analysis that derived from monitoring the implementation of public administration reform have concluded that the next strategy for Public Administration Reform should be more focused, planning should be applicable and followed by necessary financial, human and other resources. Therefore, for the future strategy of reform, the priorities in the field of public administration are:

- Strategic Framework for Public Administration Reform (PAR): Creating the proper cohesion of PRAS with other strategic documents, especially with MTEF and annual

budget plan. Also the increase of dedication of all responsible mechanisms for implementation of PAR.

- Policy development and coordination: a more proper inter-institutional coordination, at the centre of government, inter-ministerial, policy development and more thorough financial analysis.
- Management of human resource in Public Administration: a structured standards-based public service; a non-political service, based on fair and transparent recruitment and promotion based on merit and professional development. Also, it is intended to build a unified system of salaries in Public Administration and digitalization of the process of human resource management.
- Accountability: improvement of services through increasing transparency and strengthening the mechanisms for appeal and access to public documents, resulting also in the possibility of administrative and legal correction.
- Advancing the governance: improving services for providing better services through electronic governance (e-governance), as a faster, cheaper and more efficient opportunity. The deeper and wider application of e-governance aims to better meet policies, provision of more qualitative services for the public, more efficient and economical use of public funds, more efficient and prompt processes of administration and governance, greater inclusion of the citizens and businesses and what is most important a higher level of transparency towards the public.
- Management of Public Finances: improving the quality of planning of strategic financial documents, monitoring expenditures and reporting. Also, the Government aims at increasing the financial stability through financial decisions based on Government policies and qualitative assessments of the financial impact of policies, and strategic and legal documents.

In order to ensure that our civil servants respect the principles of ethics and discipline, the Government of Kosovo will develop a comprehensive Code of Ethics for Civil Service, which will include detailed information on matters concerning the conduct of civil servants. Moreover, the inspection function of Public Administration will be developed, which will ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics and the proper use of disciplinary measures.

Kosovo Government will continue to pay particular importance to the supplement of the legal framework and implementation of the official statistics program, in accordance with international standards which are important in analysing the situation, as well as proper orientation and planning of government policies.

2.6. Increase of transparency and participation of citizens in decision-making

Awareness raising and understanding the practices of Government relies greatly on the ability of the public to have access to information of interest. The Government will work to ensure and establish a system of transparency and participation of citizens in policy-making. Being aware that the participation of citizens directly affects the effectiveness of its work, the Government will promote transparency and will provide information to citizens about what is the Government doing.

The existing legislation has enabled greater transparency in relation to citizens and it should be noted that the access to official government documents has been significantly improved. Within the process of reform and development of local government, it is made possible that in accordance with the most advanced western democracy values, the services of local government administration to be direct and more qualitative towards the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo. Aiming the achievement of the highest standards in this regard, the Government will make continuous efforts to improve the legislative and institutional framework, but also in the application of legal provisions, which are sanctioned by the Constitution, international conventions and other legal acts.

Democratic governance seeks to strengthen the relationship between citizens and Government; therefore, the Government of Kosovo will provide mechanisms to provide information to citizens, so they can be ensured that their interests are adequately represented. The use of information technology will take an important place in this entire process.

2.7. Continuation of electoral reform

One of the important issues that the government will take into account is electoral reform and the establishment of effective mechanisms that would ensure the development of free and democratic elections. Kosovo institutions have managed to complete the basic legislation necessary to guarantee the fundamental rights and freedoms for democratic elections based on international standards. Basically, laws related to elections are the Law on General Elections and the Law on Local Elections of the Republic of Kosovo.

Kosovo Government will be committed to electoral changes, which fully address the acute problems faced in Kosovo. The reform should be carried in a transparent manner and in a spirit of consensus, taking into account the best option for Kosovo, after a wide public debate with the participation of all political actors and representatives of civil society and academics. Kosovo Government will support the adoption of an electoral system which has the lowest possible level of distortion of the vote and in the future will be using more advanced technology and adoption of successful practices. In this context, the Government of Kosovo will support the process of cleaning electoral lists, motivation of more voters to participate in elections, as well as special importance will be paid to Diaspora voting, through the creation of easier possibilities, with less bureaucratic procedures for voting by mail and through our diplomatic representation.

2.8. Implementation of the Strategy for Partnership with Civil Society

Government of Republic of Kosovo being aware that a strong civil society is an essential component of a democratic system of government, shall treat as such the civil society and will deepen the cooperation on each dimension of government's work. Government of Kosovo, deeply believing that the role of civil society is important for active democracy and that without strong civil society there is no development of governance and democracy, will continue its commitment to further consolidate the relations with civil society, in the wide

sense of the word as an essential element of democracy and as a need for good and comprehensive governance.

The Government will have the will and readiness to further strengthen the participation of civil society in the process of drafting and implementing policies and laws. In this way it is intended during the upcoming years to advance further the cooperation with civil society through the transfer of certain public responsibilities that will be carried out by civil society for citizens. Such models are already successfully implemented in developed democracies, such as: services for people with disabilities, for trafficked persons etc. Specifically, the Government will continue to implement the Government Strategy for Cooperation with Civil Society, as well as create other necessary mechanisms associated with this. The Government of Kosovo is convinced that the role of civil society is important for active democracy. Without strong civil society, there is no development of governance and democracy.

2.9. Guarantee for the freedom of speech and freedom of the media

Kosovo Government strongly believes that freedom of speech, including freedom of the media is essential for a democratic society. Being aware that without freedom of speech, citizens cannot realize their participation in decision-making, the Kosovo Government will work to guarantee the freedom of speech under the highest standards of human rights and professional standards, and not to intervene in any form. Despite the advancement that has been made in this regard, the Government will ensure this to advances further, ensuring the respect of the right to freedom of speech. The government will be committed that issues such as autonomy of journalists and publishers, protection of professional standards of journalism, the right to reply and correct for the public should be regulated by the relevant legislation according to international democratic standards. In its own priorities, the Government will have the adoption of the Law on Religious Communities since this law will allow addressing and resolving problems of religious communities in unique manner.

2.10. Approval of the Law on Prevention of Participation in Foreign Conflicts

The Government will ensure that the Republic of Kosovo will be a regional and international factor of stability and cooperation in the fight against organized crime and terrorism. The Government will work on developing its capacities to prevent radicalization, including the development of appropriate measures to address the phenomenon of foreign fighters. In a very quick timeframe, the Government will adopt proper legislation that sanctions the participation of its citizens in the armed conflicts in foreign countries, as well as in terrorist activities.

2.11. Fight against terrorism

The Citizens and the Government of the Republic of Kosovo are committed to live in a peaceful, prosperous and multiethnic state that guarantees the freedoms and wellbeing of all citizens without distinction as it is engraved in the Constitution. The Government will be committed that Kosovo to be a part of global coalition in the fight against terrorism. In a very quick timeframe, the Government will adopt appropriate legislation and draft sustainable policies to prevent and fight terrorism. Furthermore, the Republic of Kosovo aspires to

become an integral part of regional and global structures of security, in particular part of NATO, EU, OSCE and UN as well as it will commit in cooperating with all countries to fight terrorism.

2.12. Approval of the Law on Special Court

The Law for establishment of the Special Court, according to the decision of the Assembly, will be one of the main challenges of the Government and the new Legislation. The Government will handle with priority the drafting and adoption of the Law on establishment of this Court. The Government with priority will draft and propose to the Assembly for adoption, the Law on establishment of this Court which has already been taken as an international obligation by the Republic of Kosovo in integration processes.

3. EUROPEAN AGENDA AND FOREIGN POLICY

3.1. Principles

For the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the foreign policy will be a continuation and a reflection of domestic policy and in function of preserving the sovereignty, territorial integrity, constitutional order, rights and freedoms of the citizens of Kosovo inside and abroad and ensuring its state security. Strengthening the state of Kosovo in domestic dimension will impact positively on the outside dimension. Consolidated and efficient foreign policy will be reflected positively on domestic developments, especially in terms of investment and other aspects.

3.2. Recognitions

The International recognition of Kosovo's independence and sovereignty will remain a priority for the Government of Kosovo. The recognition of Kosovo has shown that the state of Kosovo is an irreversible reality and an indispensable factor of peace and stability in the region. This is best demonstrated by the fact of the formal recognition of Kosovo by all neighbouring countries (with the exception of Serbia), most countries in the region and the Euro-Atlantic community. So far achievements are a merit of pro-active and dynamic diplomacy of Kosovo, but also a merit of our international partners who have supported the recognition process through lobbying on behalf of Kosovo.

Government of Kosovo will strongly be committed to lobby for international recognition by Member States of the UN, in order to strengthen the international position of Kosovo and to establish diplomatic relations with most member states of the UN. Kosovo has achieved 108 recognitions, thereby achieving the goal of having more than 100 countries that recognized Kosovo. Ministry of Foreign Affairs will aim during the next term to achieve recognition of Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state by 2/3 of member states of the UN. Achievement of this goal will strengthen Kosovo as a full and equal member of international community and will be an important contribution to peace, stability and security in the region. Also it will be a powerful impetus towards its formal acceptance as a member state of the United Nations.

The commitment of the Government of Kosovo to complete international recognition should focus on diplomatic communication with large states that have not yet recognized Kosovo, within Europe and beyond. Kosovo will continue its proactive efforts to convince the five EU member states to recognize Kosovo as a right decision and in interests of stability and European unity.

Government of Kosovo will remain strongly committed to full normalization of interstate relations with Serbia and the continuation of the dialogue, which will aim to be finalized with mutual recognition which will allow the construction of sustainable peace between both countries and establishment of good-neighbourly diplomatic relations, in the European spirit.

Kosovo Government will actively engage with countries in Africa, Asia and South America to convince them about the need for recognition of Kosovo and establishing diplomatic relations. Kosovo will utilize regional organizations to promote the group of countries to take the decision to recognize Kosovo and will use multilateral organizations, such as Francophony to support Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state.

Kosovo's recognition by Russia, China, Brazil, India and South Africa, as the most influential countries in the international arena and in their respective regions, remains important. The government estimates that their unfavourable position has undergone significant change. Furthermore, we will continue to work with other regional powers, such as: Indonesia, Nigeria, Mexico, Kenya, Chile, Paraguay, Bangladesh and other influential countries in different regions.

Further strengthening of international position of Kosovo is the main priority of foreign policy. One of the main goals of Kosovo approach in foreign policy is the importance that it gives in strengthening bilateral relations. Most of Kosovo's international efforts are bilateral and Kosovo remains committed to further develop bilateral relations.

By increasing the number of recognitions, a priority remains the establishment of diplomatic relations with countries that have recognized Kosovo as an independent and sovereign state. Diplomatic relations strengthen the recognition of Kosovo by a state and strengthen the position as a full member of international community. Also, these relationships have the potential to bring other important benefits, such as foreign investment, trade exchanges etc.

In addition to establishing diplomatic relations with key countries in different continents, the Kosovo Government intends to develop diplomatic relations beyond the traditional ones, such as the initiation of regular political consultations, signing agreements for removal of visa regime, investment protection as a priority to create a good cooperation and consolidated legal basis.

3.3. European Integration

Kosovo's integration into the European Union will continue to be a national priority for the social, economic and political development and transformation of Kosovo. Achieving this objective in entirety will enable the country to strengthen the international subjectivity, and to contribute in security, stability and prosperity in this part of Europe, based on democratic principles and values. The Government of Kosovo is convinced that the most effective political, economic and social advancement is the implementation with responsibility of the obligations and conditions resulting from the process of European integration. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to continue with the implementation of necessary reforms in various fields, such as rule of law, public administration reforms, economic development, protection of human rights etc.

Coherent implementation of these policies will positively affect the Europeanization of the country and would also enable the Republic of Kosovo, within a reasonable time the

membership in the European Union. The implementation of government in the field of foreign policy and Euro-Atlantic Integration will enable the Government of the Republic of Kosovo to remain a reliable and welcomed partner of the international community.

Harmonization of Kosovo's foreign policy with that of the EU (SAA) and the launch of joint political dialogue within the implementation of the SAA represents a strategic objective of Kosovo. The common foreign and security policy of the EU in many aspects is in natural line with Kosovo's foreign policy and its vision and state identity. Political dialogue will be undertaken to integrate, approximate and harmonize positions between Kosovo and EU on international issues, regional cooperation and good neighbourliness.

Stabilization and Association Agreement serves to Europeanize the state policies. The focus of the Government of Kosovo was a prompt start of this process, and the content of the text of the SAA to be complete, by regularly lobbying in decision-making institutions of EU and in capitals of the member states to be put as priority Kosovo's integration into European Union.

During this mandate, the Government will be committed to reach the signing of the SAA, by working in two directions, with EU member states, where the government will try to ensure a unanimous decision by the Council for signing the SAA with Kosovo, and with the European Parliament, where the government will use all available resources to lobby to the Members of the European Parliament and parliamentary groups to finalize the SAA. Signature and formalization of the SAA will be a short-term priority of the Government of Kosovo and will be finalized during 2015.

Entry into force of the SAA in early 2016 will represent a continuation of Kosovo's further integration into the EU, and will open a new stage in the integration process related to the intensification of the SAA implementation and performing mutual obligations arising from this agreement. Proper implementation of the SAA will be a thorough priority during the mandate of this Government. Entry into force of the SAA obliges Kosovo to push forward the implementation of the agreement that results in social, economic and political transformation of the country.

The strategic goal of the Government of Kosovo in the next four years is the application for status of the candidate country in EU. In this regard, the advancement in the implementation of the SAA will enable Kosovo the application for candidate status. The Government will be committed in prompter signing, formalization and implementation of the SAA, in order for the Commission to positively assess the implementation and Kosovo to finally get the status of candidate country.

Five countries that have not recognized the independence of Kosovo still remain a challenge. The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, along the lobbying for recognition, will continue to develop policies in order that the Kosovo's path towards the EU to not be hindered by these countries.

Conclusion of the visa liberalization process, where the citizens of Kosovo will be able to move freely throughout the Schengen Area, will be short-term priority of the Government. The Government will address all the recommendations deriving from the assessment report of the European Commission, and through the implementation of the Action Plan on Visa Liberalization will ensure to conclude sooner this important process for the country, so that citizens of Kosovo can move freely in Europe. In this respect, a key priority is the implementation of the Action Plan that addresses all the challenges of repatriation, reintegration, documents security, border and migration management and overall security of public order. Kosovo government will use all available resources to lobby at Schengen countries in order to ensure their support so that this process can be successfully completed.

The Government of Kosovo will be committed within the first 6 months of 2015 to sign the framework-agreement with the European Union, which will enable Kosovo access to EU programs. Through this agreement, Kosovo is entitled to participate and benefit from programs in different sectors, such as:

- Culture and Youth (Culture, Youth in Action, Research and Innovation)
- Economic affairs (Program for Entrepreneurship and Innovation)
- Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity,
- Program for the Community Action in the field of consumer protection and
- Programs of other sector issues, such as GALILEO Program, for ICT policies support program, Public health etc.

3.4. NATO and security

The Government of Kosovo will continue to maintain its internal and external security. Approximation towards NATO membership would help in this regard. North-Atlantic Alliance will continue to be the main multilateral instrument of Kosovo security and defence policy in diplomatic and military aspects. Through contractual approximation to NATO, Kosovo will be part of framework of collective defence to prevent potential threats, challenges and risks to the stability of country and region.

Kosovo will continue its commitment to achieve membership in NATO Partnership for Peace Program (PfP) and in other Euro-Atlantic mechanisms, in order to improve relations with NATO and to strengthen the stability, security and peace in Kosovo and in the region. Kosovo will increase its commitment in regional mechanisms and security structures, in order to be a responsible NATO partner in the region. The importance of membership in the PfP program consists of two aspects: political and military.

In political aspect, Kosovo aims to start a new chapter of cooperation and partnership with NATO through PfP which represents halfway to full integration in Euro-Atlantic structures; it aims to open the opportunity to sign bilateral agreements with PfP members. In this sense, Kosovo will benefit from the opportunity of opening a diplomatic representation in political and military headquarters of NATO, in order to equally participate in political and diplomatic

forums of NATO, as well as intend to access to the funds and calls for NATO funding in the region, dedicated to institutions and civil society.

In military aspect, Kosovo intends to participate in joint military exercises with NATO members and PfP members, in order to be gradually incorporated into geographical battle-groups, by gaining direct access to seven different training centres. Also, it would open an opportunity of sending Kosovo Armed Forces members in military academies in partner countries to streamline and intensify experiences.

During this mandate of the Government, Kosovo will continue to build its capabilities in terms of security, as well as to contribute in international peace missions, dialogue and resolution of crises and humanitarian assistance and development. Special commitment will continue to be given to the process of transformation of the Kosovo Security Forces into Kosovo Armed Forces, based on the Strategic Review of the Security Sector (2014-2024), by continuing its professionalism in close cooperation with NATO, as well as in bilateral level with the Euro-Atlantic partners.

Kosovo Armed Forces (KAF) will be a professional force led by the principles of democratic and civilian control, gradually integrated into Euro-Atlantic structures and ready to contribute to regional and global security and peace, along with its counterpart armies from NATO.

Specifically, a transition process will occur upon transformation of Ministry of Kosovo Security Force to Ministry of Defence, under the principle of civilian oversight of security. This new infrastructure of defence is based on vision of Republic of Kosovo as a country that promotes stability and security, not only for its internal needs, but also for the region and Europe, even beyond, by believing that national security is closely related to regional security and broader Euro-Atlantic security.

National security interests and objectives of Republic of Kosovo will be KAF's mission, such as: independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity; constitutional order; sustainable economic development; life, wellbeing, property and safety of citizens; regional stability and membership in international organizations; integration and cooperation with European Union and Euro-Atlantic structures.

In close cooperation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defence the presence of the Defence and Security Attachés will continue to grow through the diplomatic missions of the Republic of Kosovo, in order to improve and promote the interests under Foreign and Security Policy. Also, besides the US and the Republic of Albania, bilateral status of forces agreements SOFA will be signed with partner countries of the Republic of Kosovo, in order to deepen bilateral cooperation and partnership to promote security, peace and stability.

Capacity building of law enforcement institutions in Kosovo will carry on, in providing a safe and secure environment in the country. Special focus will be given to modernization of Kosovo Police and strengthening of its capacities, particularly in areas related to the investigation and detection of organized crime, corruption, terrorism and radical extremism.

The goal is the membership in INTERPOL and advancement of cooperation with EUROPOL, contributing to strengthening internal and regional security. Kosovo, as a dedicated partner of Euro-Atlantic community, will remain committed in supporting its allies in dealing with various challenges of global security such as terrorism and religious extremism. It will continue to take the necessary actions and measures to prevent and combat the threats to its constitutional order and of secular character of the country.

3.5. Multilateral Relations

Kosovo will continue its efforts to become a full member of UN, its specialized agencies and to increase its participation and representation in multilateral mechanisms. Kosovo multilateral diplomacy will continue to function in advancing state interests of Kosovo, democratic and economic development of the country, as well as in taking international responsibilities.

Membership of the Republic of Kosovo in international organizations will remain one of the primary priorities of the Government of Kosovo. Kosovo's role in multilateral relations is being strengthened through its inclusion in numerous regional and international initiatives. Any progress so far in this field improves the image of our country in the world and enables Kosovo's involvement in multilateral projects aimed at stability, peace, security and common wellbeing in the world.

Today, Kosovo has reached the political maturity to be part of the multilateral system. Kosovo has established democratic and stable institutions, functional economy and multiethnic society. Kosovo's involvement in the international multilateral system serves several purposes, such as establishing new contacts with countries that have not recognized Kosovo yet; international legitimacy of independence of Kosovo; reduction of costs arising from bilateral diplomacy; benefit from donations and benefits arising from membership; as well as opening opportunities to establish diplomatic relations with countries that have recognized Kosovo.

Full membership of the Republic of Kosovo at the UN is of strategic interest and as such remains the supreme objective of our multilateral agenda. Despite the fact that Kosovo is not a full member of UN, its membership in two of its 16 specialized agencies (IMF and World Bank), have in a way facilitated Kosovo's role towards other UN agencies. Therefore the priority of Government of Kosovo are specialized agencies of the organization, because membership in the IMF and WB often is not recognized as one of the fulfilled preconditions, given that these similar agencies are treated exclusively as financial category mechanisms. In accordance with the probability, benefit and, time and procedural opportunity, Specialized Agencies of the UN, where our country can be part of in short and medium term are: World Health Organization (WHO), UNESCO, International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Universal Postal Union (UPU), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the International Labour Organization (ILO).

Short-term priority of Government of Kosovo remains the membership in two most important UN specialized agencies: World Health Organization and UNESCO. WHO plays a huge role in drafting and implementing global health policy and its membership would increase the number to three of UN specialized agencies, where Kosovo is a member. Another UN Specialized Agency of special importance is UNESCO, headquartered in Paris, which promotes education for all, cultural development, international cooperation in science, protects natural and cultural heritage, and promotes freedom of press and communication.

Another multilateral organization in which Kosovo intends to join and which is the priority of the multilateral agenda of Kosovo is the Council of Europe (CoE). Kosovo is a European country and has all democratic attributes to be a full member of the Council of Europe. Membership in the CoE would be an evidence of long-term investment for the consolidation of democracy and protection of human rights in the entire area of South-Eastern Europe. By joining Venice Commission and the Council of Europe Development Bank, has created the preconditions for application even in Council of Europe. Kosovo citizens would benefit the most from membership in the CoE and its institutions, such as the European Court of Human Rights. Membership in (CoE) shows an achieved standard in development of democracy, economic development and the rule of law. This dimension is also reflected in the context of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the EU.

Organization for Security and Cooperation (OSCE) is another organization that Kosovo wants to continue and to further improve its relations with. As a broad political and security forum, which goes beyond European borders, the OSCE is an organization in which Kosovo could, in a very active and effective way promote and protect its foreign policy and general interests. By continuing cooperation on all three dimensions of this organization (political-security, economic and environmental), Kosovo could use assistance programs and support of the OSCE in police reform, judicial reform and in strengthening of democratic institutions.

In addition to efforts for joining organizations with broad political and economical influence, Kosovo will enhance the efforts to join the international organizations of sports, culture and education. This would be in the interest of strengthening these social sectors in Kosovo, which would provide the opportunity to promote local identity and talent in international instances.

3.6. Strategic Partnerships

The basic concept on which strategic goals of the Republic of Kosovo are supported on, in its relations with other countries is and should always be the national and mutual interest. Kosovo national interest is determined and defined by democratic and constitutional values embodied in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo. On these premises, the Kosovo Government will be committed that the foreign policy of Kosovo to remain a principled policy that is guided by the same values and democratic principles and from international norms. Government of Kosovo will be committed to further improve the special relations with the United States of America, in level of deep strategic partnership. Relations between the two countries should reach the level of strategic cooperation with mutual benefits in the

economy, security and areas of common interest to push forward the integration in Euro-Atlantic structures.

For Government of Kosovo, the United States of America remains the most important strategic partner. This strategic partnership aims to deepen the existing cooperation, and mutual benefit of both countries in a wide range of common interests, such as strengthening democracy and free economy, preservation of territorial integrity, strengthening the rule of law and respect for human rights, promoting communities' rights, and support for strategic projects in the field of security, energy areas and coordination in multilateral mechanisms. The Republic of Kosovo is committed to an enhanced role of the Euro-Atlantic structures in South-Eastern Europe.

With the transformation of the KSF into KAF, within this partnership we will be committed to contribute to international peacekeeping missions or peace-building, accompanied by civilian and diplomatic contribution. This partnership will cover all areas of mutual interest, which will be identified within direct consultations that will be initiated.

Kosovo will continue to strengthen strategic cooperation with Germany, France, Great Britain, Italy and other European countries. By praising the historical and current role that these countries have for the Republic of Kosovo, it is necessary to deepen the cooperation and developing special relations with them. Bilateral relations with these countries are a key factor for reaching the objectives of foreign policy of Kosovo, for its democratic and economic development, and will push forward the integration efforts in Euro-Atlantic structures. Through close collaboration with each of these countries, Kosovo will be committed to continuously promote Euro-Atlantic values in the region.

In this regard, the Government of Kosovo will be committed to strengthen the partnership with the Federal Republic of Germany, Great Britain, France, Italy and other European countries. By praising the support that these countries have given to Kosovo in internal consolidation of state, they are key supporters on the path towards EU integration. Proactive approach towards Kosovo and region makes these countries key partners within the European Union.

The main commitments within this cooperation are integration in European Union, where Germany in particular and other countries are the main supporters in this process. Germany's support in this process will have a large impact in other European stakeholders; policy toward the region (Berlin Process), increase of German investments in Kosovo and overall bilateral cooperation. Government of Kosovo will be engaged in expanding deeper and thorough cooperation as well as encourage the growth of bilateral exchanges with all European countries.

3.7. Policy toward the region

Government of Kosovo will continue to promote good and constructive neighbourly relations with all countries of the region. In fulfilment of this regional policy, Kosovo will remain engaged in constructive and pragmatic manner in order to increase effective regional cooperation by strengthening and continuing its participation in regional organizations and forums. Government of Kosovo's objectives toward the region include cooperation with all countries which are or intend to be part of Euro-Atlantic structures, such as EU and NATO / For Kosovo, integration into these structures and clear orientation towards them, is a step and a precondition for a stable, peaceful and sustainable region and therefore it is deeply committed to encourage and promote this spirit in all regional cooperation.

Regional policy of Government of Kosovo will continue to support the dialogue of all levels, regional security, economic cooperation, deepening of trade exchanges, protection and promotion of human rights and freedoms. The approach of Government of Kosovo in relation to the countries of the region will continue to be inclusive, and will promote and stimulate areas of common interest as well as will support Euro-Atlantic perspective of the region.

One of the main objectives of the Government of Kosovo is to strengthen regional cooperation through bilateral commitment with regional countries and multilateral commitment in regional forums and mechanisms. Taking into account the geopolitical position of the Republic of Kosovo in the region, Kosovo will continue to promote good neighbourly and constructive relations with all countries of the region. In fulfilment of this regional policy, Kosovo will remain engaged in a constructive and pragmatic way to increase effective regional cooperation by strengthening and continuing its participation in SEECP, Regional Cooperation Council (RCC), RACVIAC, MARRI, A5 and other important regional organizations and initiatives, in which Kosovo is a member and participant. Kosovo shall promote the facilitation of free movement of citizens, goods and services in the region, based on European standards and existing mechanisms.

The primary objective of the Government for regional cooperation is to strengthen relations with neighbours, raising the current level of overall exchanges, enhancing the cooperation in all fields of common interest. Hence, Kosovo aims to deepen cooperation so that all these countries create joint mechanisms that enable the improvement of people's lives in areas of mutual interest, such as:

- The rule of law, combating organized crime, cooperation in fields of security and justice;
- Economy: Increase the volume of economic, trade and energy sector cooperation, better infrastructure links;
- Euro-Atlantic Integration: Enhance of cooperation for exchange of experiences in European integration and NATO;
- Free Movement: Creating opportunities for free movement of people, goods and capital;
- Cooperation in academic, cultural and sports areas, cooperation in health and employment areas.

Further commitment of EU in supporting and strengthening regional cooperation, especially in strengthening economic governance is necessary for the Government of Kosovo. Kosovo is committed to cooperate with region countries and EU, in terms of standardizing fiscal and economic policies. In this direction objectives deriving from South Eastern Europe Strategy 2020 have to be implemented. By enhancing cooperation with all region countries, especially in economic and infrastructure sphere it is intended to transform Kosovo into an attractive market for foreign investment.

Strategic partnership Implementation with Albania, by promoting the close political, economic and cultural development, which will be a priority for the government to promote trade integration between both countries and accelerating Kosovo's integration in EU and NATO. Relations between the Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Albania have to be further established and developed in all directions, aiming at removing all barriers that hinder economic, educational and cultural exchanges and integration between the two countries.

Government of Kosovo is committed to strengthen the strategic partnership between Kosovo and Albania even more and to effectively make it more important for the two parties. In the context of further intensification and sophistication of this natural partnership between the two countries there will be additional efforts towards creating circumstances for developing common economic, energy, culture and education fields.

It remains a priority the implementation of joint projects in terms of cooperation in Process of Berlin Conference, where other countries of the region are included as well, such as: Montenegro, Serbia, Macedonia, Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Kosovo will strongly remain committed in complete normalization of interstate relations with Serbia and the continuation of the dialogue, which is aimed to be finalized with mutual recognition that would allow building of sustainable peace between the two countries and the establishment of diplomatic relations and good neighbourly relations in the European spirit. Until achieving this aspiration, Kosovo remains committed through the dialogue, as a European value and as the only way to implement the Agreement of 19 April 2013 on the normalization of relations with Serbia, as two independent and sovereign states to resolve disputes that exist between our two countries through high-level and technical dialogue, facilitated and guaranteed by European Union.

This meaningful interstate dialogue was based on the principles of international law and best European standards for good neighbourly relations, aiming at improving citizen's lives, establishing good neighbourly relations between the two countries, providing European agenda for two countries, as well as strengthening regional peace and stability. Kosovo invites and further encourages commitment of European Union and United States of America to facilitate this historical process between the two countries.

Lack of normal interstate relations between Kosovo and Serbia is a serious obstacle to the stability, security and prosperity throughout South Eastern Europe. As a result, neither

country can join the European Union without resolving open bilateral issues and without full normalization of neighbourly relations, therefore this normalization process between the two countries serves to the interests of citizens of both countries as well as interests of the region.

Interstate normalization process will continue to be used also in the context of strengthening the sovereignty throughout the country, as well as in enhancing Kosovo's international legitimacy. Agreement of 19 April 2013 is only the start of normalization chapter and should be enriched by reaching new agreements. While the results achieved so far from the implementation of all Brussels agreements has set a stable foundation for normalizing inter-state relations, however, many challenges remain in terms of full and effective implementation of the agreement.

During this mandate, the Government of Kosovo will be committed that the Inter-state normalization process to have clear parameters, without ambiguity, measurable and time-bound in order to avoid the endless negotiation inside the triangle Prishtina-Belgrade-Brussels and vice versa. Also, the dialogue process for the normalization of inter-state relations aims to have full implementation of all agreements reached by Serbia, without tendency for renegotiating or changing them; complete dismantle of Serbian parallel structures in north of Kosovo; full integration of Kosovo Serbs in the institutions, through constructive commitment that Serbia to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and not to block or hinder directly or indirectly Kosovo's membership in international organizations such as the Council of Europe, OSCE and UN, as well as inter-state dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia to be concluded with mutual recognition.

In this context, the Government of Kosovo will insist to keep new issues of importance on top of the agenda of the normalization process, including:

- Demarcation or setting the international border between the two countries, due to the fact that over 50% of borderline or from 743,556 km, 380,068 km is bordered with Serbia;
- Discontinuation of interventions from Serbia in Kosovo in other areas that are not addressed in the Brussels agreements;
- Establishment of inter-state cooperation in the fields of interest by European standards, including air aviation / air transportation;
- Mutual recognition of conformity assessment certificates;
- War reparations - including the compensation of war damages; indemnification for disinvestments - for the period of occupation; indemnification for loss of wages to persons terminated from work due to their ethnicity; indemnification for the destruction of the pension system; indemnification for the destruction of the banking system and the looting of foreign currency savings of Kosovo citizens, including the recovery of bank savings; indemnification for war damages in public and private property and cultural heritage objects; indemnification of the relatives of the people that were killed and disappeared by Serbia; indemnification of persons or their family members that were politically held in jails of the former Yugoslavia; indemnification of women raped during the last war in Kosovo;

- The issue of missing persons - including the return of displaced persons, the return of exhibits and documents of cultural heritage taken from Serbia; return of KosovaFilm films; return of the Pension and Disability Fund of the citizens of Kosovo; return of bank deposits;
- Satisfaction - admitting responsibility for the war and damages; justice for and punishment of war actors for the genocide / crimes against the population of Kosovo, including the rape of women as a means of war; public apology for crimes committed in Kosovo;
- Succession – Division of the assets of the former Yugoslavia and Kosovo's international debt; Financial assets of the former Yugoslavia; diplomatic and consular missions properties of the former Yugoslavia; military property of the former Yugoslavia; movable properties of the former Yugoslavia; archives of the former Yugoslavia; return of documents of former Yugoslavia that implicate Kosovo; returning the list with complete data for all radioactive facilities and devices.

Just as Kosovo remains committed to respect the rights of all its citizens and communities that live in it, Kosovo will be committed to promote and protect the interests and rights of the Albanian community in the region through the development of good neighbourly relations with the neighbouring states as well as through existing mechanisms of the European Union, Council of Europe and OSCE.

3.8. Economic diplomacy

Economic diplomacy and growth of foreign investment will be the major axis of the Government, as one of the main priorities of Kosovo in terms of economic development and creating new jobs. This priority is based on the immediate needs of the country's economy, and is in full compliance with EU priorities defined in the Enlargement Strategy 2014-2015. Therefore, economic development will be one of the main priorities for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which will continue to contribute to this field through economic diplomacy. Kosovo's economy has overcome the first phase of reconstruction and achieved the reform and transformation into a free market economy with strong steps. The reforms undertaken in recent years, characterized by an extensive process of privatization and continuous improvements in relation to the environment of doing business, have affected on the change of economic structure of Kosovo and are highly valued by the prestigious international reports.

The focus of the Government of Kosovo will be in the economic field, in order to create a suitable environment for rapid economic development. This will be achieved through the establishment of necessary alleviation for foreign investment and continuing to implement reforms needed to remove bureaucratic burden. In this regard, the diplomatic service of the Foreign Ministry will continue to be in function of achieving the fulfilment of economic objectives of the Republic of Kosovo.

Kosovo will aim to become one of the top-destinations for attracting foreign investment in the region. The biggest task belongs to MFA and to the Foreign Service to clarify that

Kosovo is open for investment with no obstacles. Also, it is very important to further promote all legal, economical, structural and human advantages that Kosovo has through our diplomatic network, through organizing economic and business forums, participating in fairs and other multilateral events with economic and financial character, etc. Hence, increase of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to attract foreign investment, promotion of export of Kosovo products and promoting Kosovo as an attractive tourist destination will be a priority of economic diplomacy.

The role of diplomacy in Kosovo's economic development will be essential. Ministry of Foreign Affairs will have a role in four aspects in economy:

- a) The first aspect will be economic diplomacy. Government of Kosovo will continue to use diplomatic network to attract investment and promote Kosovo businesses around the world, with a view of increasing international economic activity for Kosovo. Also, an important focus in this regard will be paid in cooperating with the Diaspora, aimed at attracting investment and promoting Kosovo businesses in countries where they live. It is more than obvious that at current time, a country cannot have sustainable economic development without international cooperation in this field. In this regard, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in close cooperation with all institutions of the line will promote key areas for investment in Kosovo, areas where Kosovo has comparative advantage with other countries of the region and the world. Also, we will work closely with relevant international institutions, such as: Development Funds, Chambers of Commerce and other organizations with Economic character.
- b) The second aspect will be strengthening of bilateral and multilateral relations. In this field the Government of Kosovo will continue to have priority in reaching economic / trade character agreements with all countries that are partners of Kosovo. Besides the bilateral aspect, Kosovo's membership in various multilateral mechanisms of economic and financial nature will be driven further, which will help the development of Kosovo. Particular importance will continue to be paid to regional cooperation, in compliance with the obligations arising from the Process of Berlin and South Eastern Europe 2020 Strategy. The clear perspective of Kosovo's integration in the European Union is in itself a priority for Kosovo, which is seen as a very attractive aspect for many investors from countries outside Europe. All these will promote the growth of trade exchanges, increased foreign investment in Kosovo and consequently the growth of exports. Also, through these agreements and this cooperation, Kosovo will ensure access in soft loans and other international financial means, in order to develop certain economic areas and support local businesses. All this activity significantly improves the image of Kosovo and increases credibility in the eyes of potential investors.
- c) The third aspect relates to the new role of the Foreign Ministry as a facilitator and mediator between foreign investors and other governmental and administrative bodies. MFA will intensify cooperation with all institutions of the line in the interests of developing greater economic cooperation with partner countries. In this regard, the MFA will be an intermediary between potential foreign investors and relevant local institutions, aimed at further developing the country economically. Proper

communication and close coordination between local institutions will facilitate the attraction of foreign investors, as well as promoting products abroad Kosovo.

- d) The fourth aspect is implementation of objectives of foreign policy of the Government of Kosovo in relation to other countries of the world through economic diplomacy. In this regard the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will continue to have a central role in identifying strategic partners of Kosovo, which will help the orientation of economic cooperation of Kosovo. Diversification of imports has special importance in this field, so that Kosovo will not be dependent on certain products only from imports originating from one country.

Kosovo Diplomacy will be focused on supporting efforts to connect Kosovo with the Trans-Adriatic Pipeline (TAP). This project is in the interest of Kosovo to gain access to the TAP pipeline, in function of ensuring development, diversification of energy sources and independent energy system, which is one of the most important energy projects supported by the European Union and Euro-Atlantic community. By achieving this goal, the pipeline will allow Kosovo to have access to the Southern Gas Corridor, an EU project deriving from energy strategy for the independence of gas resources in Europe. TAP provides a guarantee for Kosovo and the region to maintain energy independence and establish EU rules in the region's energy market.

Diplomatic Network in function of development will be the focus of the government of Kosovo to maximize the multi-sector benefit from Kosovo Foreign Service. Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with its international network of embassies and consulates will continue to contribute in broader efforts to bring foreign investment in Kosovo, to increase the export of Kosovo goods and services, to promote tourism, financial services and trade in general, being closely coordinated with relevant government agencies to provide a common focus on immediate and long-term goals of Kosovo economic development.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs will also utilize its consulates in Europe more effectively to promote trade and investment and to put them in the service of Kosovo entrepreneurs in the process of seeking new markets for Kosovo products.

3.9. Diaspora

Promotion of Kosovo Diaspora and realization of objectives arising from Strategy on Diaspora and Migration 2013-2018, which is related to the preservation of national and cultural identity of Diaspora, to creation of conditions for the participation of Diaspora in the political and social life and their representation in decision-making institutions of the country, integrating them in countries where they live, as well as involvement of Diaspora in socio-economic development of the country.

Government of Kosovo will continue to finalize and consolidate the legal & administrative infrastructure for Diaspora, in order to enable full implementation of the Strategy for Diaspora and Migration in all dimensions of life in Kosovo and in the countries where they live. So far were adopted: Law on Diaspora and Migration, Law on Citizenship, Law on

Diplomatic and Consular Services and other documents that can be supplemented upon defining objectives, which are explained below in this Government Program.

Due to the fact that we still have a fragmented organization of Diaspora, Ministry of Diaspora will work to create conditions for a better and unique organization of Diaspora in order to take full advantage of the opportunities that are provided by the countries where our fellow countrymen live, but also for this organization to be useful for our country. It will continue the commitment for advancing social and political rights of Diaspora in Kosovo, but also in countries where they live through involvement in the political life of the country. Efforts will be made in preserving cultural and linguistic identity in the Diaspora, by organizing through mechanisms assisted by Ministry of Diaspora such as cultural network associations, associations of teachers, association of art and science, sports federations and confederations, youth, students and lawyer networks, etc. In this regard we will work to avoid assimilation through the program for inclusion in supplementary education and scholarships for Albanian students to study in Kosovo and facilitation for investment in Kosovo in order to gradually transform remittances into investment.

Efforts will be made to realize in cooperation with the Republic of Albania the "Joint Programme for the Development of Supplementary Learning in Diaspora and Migration", a process which started in 2012 and which should begin with its implementation after signing the agreement between the two states. As a result of this project of special importance, conditions will be created to increase significantly the number of pupils who are included in the supplementary education program in Albanian language during the next four years. As part of this agreement the legal regulations shall be harmonized, it will be drafted a common curricula for Albanian language, joint licensing of teachers will take place, the standards of teaching and recruitment of teachers and lecturers will be set, funding of process will take place, a didactic portal will be created, it will be conducted the supply of school textbooks, novels, various books, and awareness campaigns for supplementary education will be organized.

In order to carry out the project of Albanian supplementary learning in Diaspora, the Republic of Kosovo and Republic of Albania shall establish individual agreements with countries that have not institutionalized the education in Albanian language. Finland and Sweden are positive models of institutionalization of learning Albanian language.

Depending on the circumstances, opening of cultural centres for the Diaspora and Migration needs to go on. Opening of these centres in cooperation with the Republic of Albania would reduce budgetary burdens and allow adequate treatment of the Albanian Diaspora in the field of culture.

In a 3-4-year period Diaspora Census project shall be carried out and it will be opened a section of the Museum of Kosovo Diaspora and Migration within the National Museum and Diaspora Archives Section within Kosovo Archive.

Within the commitments to bring Diaspora closer to our country, policies will be drafted to stimulate Albanian students from abroad to study in Kosovo, especially through a special credit scheme in collaboration with the Business Union of Diaspora, Albanian Diaspora students studying in deficit departments for Kosovo, will be stimulated through loans. Also policies will be drafted that other Albanian professors and scientists from Diaspora to be involved in the educational process in Kosovo universities. Also efforts will be made so that Albanian doctors from abroad can become part of improving the health system in Kosovo and thus all these categories of immigrants with university education can maintain links with their country of origin and resume contacts and preserve the Albanian language and culture.

Although a challenge, the Government of Kosovo will work to increase the political representation of the Diaspora in the country's decision-making through the establishment of various representing mechanisms. A special committee for Diaspora will be established, responsibility of Diaspora will be added to the Committee of Foreign Affairs. So this committee together with the Ministry of Diaspora and Ministry of Foreign Affairs will coordinate activities for greater involvement of the Diaspora in the work of Kosovo Assembly.

The government will be committed to ensure that RTK carries out legal obligations to broadcast 6-9% of its program for the Diaspora, including appointing of a board member of RTK from Diaspora.

At the same time there will be a close cooperation with electronic and printed media in Albanian language that are lead by members of the Diaspora and aimed at advancing and promoting the rights of our citizens in the countries where they live. Ministry of Diaspora in cooperation with associations of journalists from Kosovo and Diaspora will set annual journalism award for writing, chronicles, shows and other genres that promote values and initiatives from Diaspora.

3.10. Public diplomacy

Kosovo will continue to promote a real and modern image, its culture and identity through public, cultural and digital diplomacy and will aim to enhance the cultural and human impact on the regional and international level.

Kosovo Government must be committed to continue initiative launched for public diplomacy, divided into lobbying at the countries that have not yet recognized Kosovo, promotion of tourism and Kosovo brands abroad and increasing foreign investments in Kosovo. Considering that the objectives of Strategy for Digital Diplomacy are fulfilled, the Government of Kosovo shall draft a strategic document channelling the efforts to brand the new state from a post-independence country to a state with a new image, ready for tourism and foreign investments.

In this regard, the Investment Promotion Agency, which operates within the MTI, shall be transferred under the Office of the Prime Minister and will lead and coordinate all Kosovo

institutions to bear the burden of promoting tourism and foreign investments in Kosovo. Foreign Diplomatic Service of Kosovo must play an important role in this regard, with the aim on moving forward the "economic diplomacy".

All parties in society, including state institutions, independent institutions, businesses, civil society and other mechanisms such as foreign experts or companies will be included in the drafting and implementation of the strategy. It should be allocated a reasonable budget that can handle the requirements in carrying the burden of promoting a new image of the state, launch campaigns and attract foreign direct investments.

In order to avoid the politicization process, as has happened in many other countries in the region, the Government of Kosovo will appoint the person in charge a state representative, independent and not involved in politics and should be an expert that will be in charge of the Agency or the ministerial team, who will lead the tourism promotion campaign and foreign investments in Kosovo. Apart from foreign companies which can assist the Kosovo Government in drafting the strategy and managing this long process, former politicians, diplomats and experts should engage in advising the Government in relation to the above mentioned topics. Albanian personalities, artists and sportiest known worldwide must be included in this initiative in carrying the campaign for promoting the new state, as the best "ambassadors" for recognizing Kosovo in the world.

Digital Diplomacy campaign must continue by including more and more citizens of Kosovo through the "Diplomat citizens" initiative, who in any travel, private or official, must be equipped with brochures and other propaganda material to present Kosovo.

Kosovo positioning in the long term must be identified by investors in the IT sector, due to the large number of youth that we have and high penetration of internet, listing Kosovo as the first country in the region.

According to many studies, Kosovo could be promoted as a state of ecotourism and bio-products, and it should be focused more on producing bio-products, due to the appropriate climate or thermal baths, which in Kosovo are in considerable numbers.

Another extraordinary possibility to make Kosovo a part of the global agenda of sport and culture, is the membership in international sports, culture and education organizations, especially in FIFA and UEFA. Therefore artists, athletes and other talents would be able to promote Kosovo values in the world. (Repeated from on portion above!)

Preparation of a Database on professional profile of human potentials in Kosovo and Diaspora, which is mainly focused on identification of personalities who achieved a lot in different profiles, such as: business, sports, culture, science, technology, health and tourism, this must happen in a shorter period of time.

3.11. Parliamentary Diplomacy

Governmental partners in the context of further dynamism in all fields of diplomacy and foreign policy aim at increasing the use of parliamentary diplomacy in order to strengthen cooperation's and relations with countries that recognized the Republic of Kosovo. Engagement of partners will also be in functioning of maintenance and enhancement of current cooperation between the Republic of Kosovo and other countries in the parliamentary level. Being aware of the role of Kosovo Assembly and especially its Committee of Foreign Affairs, the partners will enhance coordination between the Legislative and Executive in the function of parliamentary diplomacy. In this regard, it will be drafted a strategy for cooperation and enhancement of parliamentary diplomacy effectiveness, and will be intensified the cooperation in the function of parliamentary representation in parliamentary multilateral structures, in which Kosovo is part or intends to be within a short period.

3.12. Foreign Service

Another priority will be the development of the legal and institutional infrastructure of Kosovo Foreign Service, as well as the professionalism and enhancement of performance of Kosovo's diplomatic corps in order to effectively confront current and future challenges. It will be continued with the expansion of diplomatic network in the world.

The organizational structure of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reflects new realities of international relations, as well as the needs and interests of Kosovo in the future. Organizational reform, undertaken at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the necessity to strengthen Kosovo's ability to operate on international relations and to provide better consular services for citizens abroad. The purpose of this reorganization process continues to be the improvement of the manner in which the Ministry deals with foreign policy issues in bilateral and multilateral forums and to ensure a more effective implementation of Kosovo's foreign policy objectives.

As a consequence, the necessity of amending the current law remains a priority, in order to govern the activity of the Foreign Service and the diplomat status in particular, as a specific part of the Civil Service which is administered by this law, such as the organization, coordination and operation of bodies with Institutions responsible for the foreign policy of the Republic of Kosovo, according to the "one service, one ministry" principle.

The new structure will continue to provide a preparation, better coordination and prioritization of Kosovo's foreign policy in all international levels, by presenting clear, consistent and coherent positions. The new structure will further attempt to integrate policy development and provide an integrated approach to thematic issues in an effort to address present and future challenges

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs shall continue to strengthen the Diplomatic Service of Kosovo and provide its staff with opportunities on career development. The reorganization process has enabled the establishment of the Diplomatic Academy, which shall continue to be an important institution in order to strengthen the human capacity of Kosovo Foreign Service.

The Diplomatic Academy shall continue to strengthen its capacity in order to provide expertise and assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in various regional matters, planning policies and other matters of foreign policy.

The purpose of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is to continue expanding Kosovo diplomatic presence in the world, with a small and professional staff, but that would allow Kosovo to have a global presence in order to properly represent its interests in different regions of the world. Kosovo has established a successful diplomatic presence in Europe, North and Central America and Asia. The focus in the coming years, in order to address international challenges of Kosovo, is to be present through diplomatic missions in Eastern and Southern Europe, South-eastern Asia and Africa, that will push forward the Kosovo foreign policy objectives, to be fully integrated into the international community.

In order to improve efficiency, the foreign policy is identifying / developing new work methods. Strengthening the coordination between different sectors enhances the international prestige of the RKS and contributes in enhancing the efficiency of state interest representation. The key element remains the unified representation of the foreign policy in relation to all government clusters. The Unified representation system is a guarantee to citizens that the state of Kosovo provides services in all segments / relations, following the same professional standards. Through the unified system, Kosovo shall continue to have a diplomatic presence in order to address with its staff the political, economic, consular, cultural and defence issues which will strengthen Kosovo's interest in bilateral and multilateral level.

The use budgetary advantages, (perhaps it is thought about revenues from consular services?) will aim continued modernization of consular services. The success of this service will strengthen the relationship between the state and the citizen that will provide better public image of Kosovo outside the country.

Kosovo will continue to expand its consular network in Asia, Europe and North America to provide civil public services to its citizens living abroad. Kosovo will continue the cooperation with Albania in order to offer joint consular services, based on mutual agreements of consular representation between the two countries, in particular, the example of joint representation in the Consulate General in Milan.

Expansion of consular service package and enhancement of efficiency in service delivery is one of the constant goals. Within this, the "efficiency in service and not on fees" principle remains the main goal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

It will be commenced to apply in all consular missions, the service on obtaining personal identification documents through an accelerated procedure, in order to reduce the time limit for issuance of personal identification documents with lower costs.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the reduction of consular fees for some services that do not have postal implications and are accomplished "instantly", will enhance the service

efficiency and promote the expansion of the service packages that were not previously provided. As a Ministry, priority will be given to the promotion and delivery of professional services.

Also, the continued provision of all civil status services in consular / diplomatic missions, in "one-stop-shop" manner shall decentralize the service and will increase the professional responsibility of the diplomatic personnel. As a result, it will mitigate the bureaucratic procedures and the requirements of Kosovo citizens in order to directly address certain civil services. Services that are offered in municipal level in Kosovo, without having the need to address those issues during the holidays in the home country.

Among the priorities in the field of consular services, which need to be addressed is the further distribution of the visa system, with a global expansion through the provision of this service in other missions, and commercial intermediaries and authorized bodies of the Government of Kosovo.

4. EDUCATION, SCIENCE, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS

4.1. Education and science

Government of the Republic of Kosovo aims to build a society of knowledge, integrated into the European trends and with equal opportunities for personal development. In line with this vision, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to build an inclusive education system which provides conditions for qualified education and in line with the needs of the labour market and of society. In this context, the Government will engage in improvement of strategic framework of education sector through the drafting of the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021. Also there will be a review of educational documents and policies that relate to the Kosovo Curriculum Framework, Core Curriculum, namely with the structure of education and human capacity building at MEST, municipality and school level for implementation of the New Curriculum of Kosovo. Kosovo Government considers the education as one of the main determinants for long-term economic and social development and sustainability of the country, and that is why it is committed to address the education sector as an essential priority for development of the country, a commitment which will be reflected in importance given to the education and science in allocation of annual budget. Government program in the field of education and science is structured in these pillars:

- Structural reforms in education,
- Increased participation and equal access in education,
- Provision, guarantee and improvement of the quality of education,
- Management of educational institutions
- International integration and cooperation,
- Promotion of science and research,
- Education and science funding.

4.1.1. Structural reforms in education

Development and functioning of the National Development Programme during Early Childhood, which will provide services and regular visits of doctors to the families that have children of age 0-3 years, provision of necessary such as adaptation of existing homes in villages or neighbourhood for preschool education for children of age 3-6 years, as well as training and employment of a significant number of educators are some of the key points of the Government Programme in the field of Education.

Lower secondary education (grades 6-9) will be the basis for orientation in further education of pupils, by adapting the curricula and by preparing the teacher staff. Given the large number of pupils in classes, especially in upper secondary education, the Government will work in creating infrastructure conditions for learning in order to eliminate the overload and shifts in schools. The Government will work in meeting the necessary conditions to make pre-university education mandatory, as it is defined by European education trends.

Also, the government will work in providing opportunities for our youth to choose if they want to go in general or vocational education, in line with developments in the labour market in Kosovo, region and Europe. The ratio between general and vocational education shall be

decided in accordance with projections of demand of the labour market in Kosovo and region.

The development of higher vocational education institutions and promotion of professional degrees in higher education, according to the National Qualifications Framework - will stimulate the opening of study programs with professional orientation, which will vary according to the needs of the labour market.

Government of the Republic of Kosovo will be engage in providing conditions for carrying out practical work and connection with the labour market. The conditions will be provided for performing practical work in vocational schools and will establish institutional links with the economy and in the area of curriculum, for concluding professional practice - dual system of education. *Increase of the employment rate and strengthening of vocational training, based on the needs of the labour market, especially the development of 'triple helix' triangle, cooperation: university-government-labour market.*

Entrepreneurial skills will be promoted at all levels of education in Kosovo because those are considered essential for generating new ideas and in employment of the youth that completed the school. The Government will work in integrating the teaching subjects and topics in education system that provides students with entrepreneurial habits and skills.

Promotion of lifelong learning will take place in programs for adult vocational education, retraining and requalification to enable the renewal of their knowledge as well as their integration and stability in the labour market.

The University of Agricultural Sciences will be established, which will be located in the triangle Prizren-Rahovec-Suharekë (Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary of University of Prishtina will be transferred to this University). This university will deal exclusively with agricultural research, according to the German model. This university will get a considerable property from the lands of social enterprises for the purpose of study and practice work for the students. Within this university will also be established incubators for agricultural businesses. Also, scholarships will be awarded for this university to promote the creation of cadres in various agricultural fields.

4.1.2. Increased participation and equal access in education

Given the low participation of children in preschool education, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in close cooperation with local authorities will engage to increase the involvement of children in preschool education through public-private schemes for stimulating the construction of kindergartens and support for private institutions of preschool education. In this context, the Government of Republic of Kosovo will be engaged to open pre-primary classes in all Kosovo schools for children aged 5-6 years, in order to reduce the overloads in preschool institutions. *Awareness rising at the local level for investment in early childhood and for strengthening of inter-sector cooperation.*

Increase of participation in higher education, in line with European trends through the development and implementation of policies that help increase the participation in higher education towards achieving the European average. Establishment of new universities, opening new programs, as well as increased demand for higher education makes it necessary to increase the number of academic staff and the advancement of their qualification.

The government will allocate special funds that will serve to stimulate students to be oriented in strategically important fields for the development of Kosovo's economy, with particular focus on the exact sciences, agriculture, engineering and medicine. There will be a special treatment for deficient programs, allowing zero cost for studies.

Provision of education for development of basic skills in Albanian language and for obtaining cultural knowledge that are needed for children in Diaspora. Support for the children of Diaspora and Migration will continue by supplying books and through various educational activities in order to preserve the language and national identity.

4.1.3. Provision, guarantee and improvement of the quality of education

The Government will work that the provision, guarantee and improvement of the quality of pre-university education to be made through:

- Improvement of the educational infrastructure according to European standards. Important focus will be given in supplying and advancement of public educational institutions with advanced technology, computers and Internet access in order to enhance the quality of education. The government will invest in computerization and digitization of schools and educational programs by learning through electronic content starting from primary school to ensure that every child will have equal opportunity to access information technology.
- Acceleration of teacher licensing process (realization of the Advanced Teacher Training program).
- Continuous improvement of curricula and textbooks.
- An important priority will be human capacity development for implementation of new curricula. In function of enhancing the quality of pre-university education, we will continue with the implementation of curricula through pilot schools, and then depending on the results the curricula shall be reformed. Important priority will be verification of implementation of new curricula in pre-university education, teachers' training related to the new curriculum, development of syllabus according to the fields and levels, supply of the schools with the didactic means and materials, drafting of the textbooks according to the new curricula.
- Creating better conditions for students with special needs.
- In order to have real results and increased quality, an external evaluation of student will be conducted through evaluation tests of grade 5, 9 and Matura exam according to European standards.
- Functioning of professional services in schools (doctor, psychologist, pedagogue, social employee etc.).

- Establishing mechanisms and standards for evaluation and internal quality monitoring of teaching and learning.
- Setting the standards of achievement for all three levels of pre-university education (primary, lower secondary and upper secondary).
- Drafting policies for vocational training and retraining of teachers in pre-university education.
- Promotion and support of the National Agency for Continuous Teacher Training.
- Promoting and supporting the Independent Agency for Implementation of the National Exams.
- Strengthening of the Agency for Adult Vocational Education and Training.
- Organizing competitions scheme of knowledge at school, municipal and domestic levels.

Assuring and improving the quality in higher education will be done through the following policies and measures:

- Increase the budget for higher education in Kosovo to ensure the implementation of necessary reforms, namely improving the educational infrastructure and academic development (growth of academic staff) according to European standards.
- Reforming the structure of higher public education institutions.
- Increasing the demands and quality control of non-public providers.
- Strengthening the link of higher education institutions with the economy and transformation of universities in economic development generator of Kosovo.
- Ensuring comparability of higher education institutions syllabus in Kosovo with the European ones.
- Establishing subsidy schemes for students at home and abroad. Particular emphasis will be given to the establishment of an incentive scheme for the return and retention of the staff.
- Inclusion of marginalized and minority communities in higher education.
- Promote the mobility of students and teachers. The government will establish a scholarship fund for advanced studies of doctoral level, post-doctoral, and to increase academic exchanges and enable participation in scientific and international conferences or forums.
- Establishing mechanisms for quality monitoring and internal assessment.
- Modernization of learning environments through the establishment of laboratories in higher education institutions and the establishment of modern computer centres.
- Capacity development and improved residential facilities for students. Having in mind the establishment of new universities, dormitories will be built for accommodation of students and visiting professors.
- Advancement of higher education and scientific research through technical and technological means, libraries (including electronic libraries) and laboratories.
- Universities should create a joint electronic archive of all doctorates and a list of published scientific works from their academic staff.
- Public university should review the criteria for selection and advancement of academic staff.

4.1.4. Management of educational institutions

Continuous improvement of the management of educational institutions will be achieved through the implementation of these policies:

- Decentralization of decision-making at the local level.
- Capacity building of inspection offices and cooperation with the Municipal Education Departments in Kosovo (establishment of the Educational Inspection Agency);
- Strengthening the role of schools in decision-making;
- Will advocate for active involvement approach of all stakeholders in the management of educational institutions (parent councils, organizations of children's rights and other NGOs, civil society and students organizations);
- Continuous Training for managers of educational institutions;
- The government will ensure to functionalize in central and municipal level the mechanisms that ensure compliance with the code of conduct in schools; Special attention will be given to safety in the schools and in prevention of violence.
- Substantial autonomy for higher education institutions and academic units. Government of the Republic of Kosovo will advocate for a substantial autonomy of higher education institutions and academic units. We see the growth of university autonomy as essential to improve the quality of our higher education. Therefore, we commit through concrete measures to support universities for greater autonomy, not only in the curriculum, but also in the management of budgets in order for the universities to utilize in the most optimal and flexible manner the limited material resources which they possess.

Universities should functionalise Ethics Committees and they should work in a transparent and professional manner. Strengthening of quality assurance units will be supported in all higher education institutions.

Transparency in action and communication, as well as comprehensive accountability in operation of institutions of educational administration in the process of spending the public funds for development of the education system. We will advocate for coherent policies as well as regulations and measures that ensure functionality, division of responsibilities and coherent communication among levels and segments of the education system.

4.1.5. International integration and cooperation

Regarding International Integration and Cooperation, Government of the Republic of Kosovo will be committed in:

- Integration of higher education in the European Higher Education Area.
- Active participation in international projects, such as TEMPUS, Erasmus-Mundus, Horizon 2020, etc.
- Promotion of cooperation (twinning) of Kosovo educational institutions with those of EU countries.
- Participation in international education quality exams and assessments, such as PISA etc.

4.1.6. Promotion of science and research

It will be invested in research capacity building through various programs, motivating researchers, developing appropriate physical infrastructure (laboratories, libraries and equipment) and adequate funding to support relevant scientific research. Some of the concrete measures include:

- Functioning and strengthening of the National Council of Science.
- Financial support for projects and publications of scientific institutes. Support for the important results in the field of science.
- Establishment of an integrated system for efficient use of scientific-research creativity in Kosovo.
- Kosovo's integration in European Research Area.
- Support and mobilization of the Kosovo scientific community for application through research projects in EU funds.

Modalities for implementation of the Science Fund that are managed by MEST will be reviewed. A good information campaign must be conducted for opportunities that are provided by the Fund for Support of Research Projects. Mechanisms will be established for effective utilization of the fund for National Science Program to ensure transparency and accountability. Decentralization of higher education institutions will be promoted in order to improve the quality and to stimulate the promotion of scientific research projects.

Establishment and functioning of the Agency for Scientific Research and Development. Establishment of the National Centre of Advanced Research - NCAR, as a public institution of research in the fields of human and social knowledge, which will be based on the work of existing scientific institutes and the establishment of new segments.

4.1.7. Financing the education and science

Government is committed to define a funding formula for managing own source revenues for public higher education institutions, which offers flexibility in the use of funds, the removal of restrictions on the use of own revenues as well as an increased accountability. Funding formula for higher education will be revised, which will be based on the number of students, number of academic staff, specific programs and specifics of the various programs. *The share of education expenditure in GDP and in total government spending in line with the European average.*

Creation of revenue schemes of education employees based on their results, including the recognition of the teachers' experience during the years of parallel educational system. Provision of alternative financial resources through the creation of mechanisms for assuring and realizing various assistance, including various projects and domestic and foreign donors.

Provision of incentive schemes for funding students in all levels with very high scores. Also, sufficient funds will be allocated for the effective implementation of the National Program of Science.

4.2. Culture

4.2.1. Support of cultural creativity

Continued increase of budget of the public institutions of culture: The government of the Republic of Kosovo will continue to increase the budget for public institutions of culture, National Theatre of Kosovo, Kosovo Cinematography Centre, Kosovo Philharmonic, Kosovo Ballet, National Songs and Dance Ensemble “Shota” etc., in order to enhance the artistic creativity and to provide to public the valuable programs full of cultural values. Alongside their valuable program, the budget shall also focus on promotion of their creativity around the world. We will ensure their professional, autonomous and apolitical functioning, as well as the decision-making extend.

Increase of financial support to independent cultural stage: In Kosovo, every year are supported hundreds of cultural activities in the field of cinematography, theatre, music, visual arts and other arts. The Government of Kosovo shall increase the budget for already traditional activities which are of international character, such as various film and music festivals. These activities are organized by private operators of culture. Also, through various subsidies we will support independent artists for various creations and support for their presentation at culture-based international events.

Increase of budget on Cinematography: Cinematography is an important field for promoting our culture, therefore the Government of Kosovo will pay special attention by increasing the budget for film production and cooperation relationship with other countries peer centres, whereby, Cinematographic Centre of Kosovo can conclude agreements on cooperation projects and film coproduction.

Increase of budget for books and publishing activities: The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will pay particular attention to book publication and circulation. The book publishing budget will increase, whereby the budget will support various publishing activities aiming the promotion and introduction of our book writers. Through Book Council, book writing it will be supported in several forms such as: through funding the publication of new titles, buying books from publishers and their distribution to city libraries, and in supporting of publication of literary magazines. The Government of Kosovo will support publishers and other associations from Culture Subsidizing Fund, presentation at international book fairs, organizing book fairs in Kosovo and various literary meetings. Also, the Government of Kosovo will apply a tax facilities for book activities in general.

Increase of financial support for city theatres and libraries: The Government of Kosovo will allocate special funds for city theatres, in order to develop theatrical life across Kosovo, whereby it will increase their budget. Also, city libraries will be allocated annual special funds in order to enhance their book fund. The Government will develop policies for the advancement of librarianship in Kosovo, digitalization of materials and data, and to improve working conditions and access to information.

Art and culture legislation reform: The Government of the Republic of Kosovo will complete the legal infrastructure in the field of culture and will work on its reform, in order to align it with international, regional and European Union best practices. Development and adoption of the Strategy on Culture, as well as the Law on Sponsorship and Donations will have priority, as the two very important papers for development of the cultural life in the country and its international presentation. The Government will adopt a new Law on Cinematography and will review existing laws on respective areas, in order to make them more applicable and conducive to cultural life in the country and in accordance with international practices. The government will include various associations and groups of artists in decision-making, as well as in the working groups for completion of the legislative package.

Presentation of Kosovo in prestigious international art and culture events: Our country for several years is presented in the most important culture events worldwide, such as; Venice Biennale, Cannes Film Festival, the Berlin Film Festival, the Frankfurt Book Fair and many other important events. The Government of Kosovo will increase the budget for presentation of Kosovo at these events, as well as in many other worldwide important culture events, viewing this commitment also on the perspective of aligning our culture to the European culture.

Implementation of the Common Cultural Calendar with the Republic of Albania: Maintaining of special cultural relations with Albania and other countries where Albanians live will deepen. Already, Kosovo and Albania established a common cultural calendar. The Government will continue its commitment in further implementation of this calendar, enriching it every year, as well as increasing the budget for common activities to be organized throughout the year. This calendar marks a new step of cooperation between Kosovo and Albania and is a strong connecting and cooperation bridge between our two countries. This calendar will be provided as cooperation model for other regional initiatives.

Access to EU Culture Funds: The Government will engage in finding foreign donations for culture, and will create access to annual EU funds to culture. We will extend to other culture cooperation networks, through which is aimed allocations of funds to our cultural scene.

Establishment of the Kosovo Culture Centres in different countries: Pursuant to legislation in force, as well as in the priorities of the Government in the next four years, particular importance will be given to the Diaspora, with emphasis in the field of culture. In addition to support to various cultural activities in the Diaspora, the Government will establish at least five Kosovo Culture Centres in different countries of the world, with special focus on countries where more Kosovars live.

Kosovo Government will adopt the Law on amending and supplementing the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, a law which will be harmonized with related European and international legislation. In this regard, the Regulatory on special compensations, with the purpose of compensating of rights holders upon the use of their works for private use. Also,

there will be approved regulations emerging from new provisions of the law on amending the law in force.

4.2.2. Improvement of physical infrastructure

Construction of the Theatre of Opera and Ballet "Dr. Ibrahim Rugova": Following the noting of problems in previous project of Theatre of Opera and Ballet "Ibrahim Rugova", the Government of the Republic of Kosovo will announce new international competition for the design and its construction afterwards. This is a capital project for the performing arts and which will represent real cultural values.

Construction of the Museum of Contemporary Art: Kosovo Government prepared a project for the construction of the Museum of Contemporary Art and will begin immediately with procedures for its construction in Prishtina. As alternative for implementation of the concerning project, we shall examine the adoption of any of the existing public buildings that may be suitable for the establishment of this museum. This will be a very important institution for artists and will create a more positive image for Kosovo.

Complete renovation of the Kosovo National Theatre: Kosovo National Theatre will be renovated in its entirety, to provide modern working conditions for artists. Renovations will also be done for the purpose of modernization of existing space and its best functionality.

Complete renovation of the National Library "Pjetër Bogdani": National Library "Pjetër Bogdani" now is a special institution, while the Government of Kosovo will draft policies for its development, therefore we will invest in its complete renovation in order to ease and advance work conditions and better access.

Complete renovation of the Museum of Kosovo: In 2015, will begin the complete renovation of the Museum of Kosovo, as the representative institution of Kosovo's cultural heritage. The project includes complete renovation, whereby it will provide adequate and modern conditions for the preservation of artefacts, as well as their presentation to the public. The project is ready and works shall take place immediately.

Financial support to the renovation of municipal art and culture facilities: Kosovo Government will allocate budget for the renovation of municipal cultural institution facilities, such as cultural centres, theatres, libraries. Also, the GoK with support municipalities through necessary budget for renovations or new infrastructure projects in the field of culture.

4.2.3. *Protection, preservation and promotion of cultural heritage*

Advancing legislation on cultural heritage and museums: Government of the Republic of Kosovo will adopt the New Law on Cultural Heritage and on Museums. Both laws will provide better opportunities for cultural heritage management. Also, the Strategy on Conservation and Promotion of Cultural Heritage, as well as other documents, regulations or guidelines that emerge as a need for a better and more professional management of cultural heritage, will be drafted and adopted.

Increase financial support for archaeological excavations: Government of the Republic of Kosovo will increase the budget for advancement of archaeological excavations, as a very important aspect of cultural heritage and promotion of early civilization in Kosovo. Archaeological excavations of any nature will continue to be a priority of the Government.

Increase financial support for conservation and restoration of monuments: Will increase the funds for the restoration of the monuments of cultural heritage, historical and religious. The Government will continue to implement the program for emergency interventions as a stage for further preservation of monuments to their total restoration. Central role will be given to the Institute for Protection of Monuments in Kosovo, as the carrier institution of processes for restoration and conservation.

Approval of the List of Cultural Heritage under Permanent Protection: Non-functioning of Kosovo Council for Cultural Heritage has made that Kosovo to not have the List of Cultural Heritage under Permanent Protection. However, three years from now is adopted the Provisional List. Once the Assembly appoint members of the Kosovo Council for Cultural Heritage, the work on drafting and approval of the List of Cultural Heritage under Permanent Protection will immediately resume, this is an important document for the protection of our cultural heritage assets. Kosovo Government, following the development of Cultural Heritage Database, will continue work on completing the National Register of Cultural Heritage and the complete digitization of information on cultural heritage assets.

Defining the status of public institutions of cultural heritage and building their capacity: Kosovo Government, through the legal infrastructure and other commitments, will define the status of each cultural heritage institution and will work on capacity building and sharing specific responsibilities within each institution. There will be a clear system of work and reporting for a more efficient work management.

Establishment of Cultural Heritage Inspectorate: The new Law on Cultural Heritage foresees the establishment of Cultural Heritage Inspectorate. The Inspectorate will be an oversight body for all the restoration, conservation and archaeological excavations. The role and responsibility of this mechanism is clearly defined which enables an efficient work. The Inspectorate will provide a good performance works and will eliminate uncertainties and suspicions of fraud or unprofessional work.

Establish outdoor archaeological parks in locations of Ulpiana and Dresnik: In Kosovo, the archaeological location "Ulpiana" in Prishtina, and the archaeological location in Dresnik of Klina, are two of the most important cultural heritage in general and of archaeological heritage, in particular. On these two points are made discoveries dating from Illyrian era. In collaboration with the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo, the Government will continue to work in drafting the plan for the conversion of these two locations in outdoor archaeological parks. Therefore, these two locations will be important tourist spots and good potential for the development of cultural tourism, also will promote the heritage and our culture in the world.

Additionally, the Government of Kosovo will help relevant institutions in identifying other archaeological locations with potential to be turned to archaeological parks.

Establishment of the Archaeological Museum and the Ethnological Museum: The adoption of the Law on Museums will pave the way for a more efficient management of museums, and will create the legal basis for the establishment of other museums. In accordance with the relevant legislation, it will be established the Archaeological Museum and the Ethnological Museum, but also will examine the possibility for the establishment of the Peace Museum, through which will be presented journey of the people of Kosovo for freedom and peace. In accordance with the relevant legal regulations, museums will operate as a network of museums in Kosovo, to enable the public free access to all museums of Kosovo, as well as facilitate the presentation of museum cultural heritage of Kosovo, in and out of the country.

4.3. Youth

4.3.1. Empowering youth and increase their participation in decision making

Financial support for young entrepreneurs: Kosovo Government, through the MCYS, will create a special fund for entrepreneurship, through which it will support opening new businesses from our youth. This fund will grow each year and will focus on different areas of the business. Also, through this fund, will be held regular training in professional fields.

Increase financial support to youth organizations: Kosovo Government will raise funds to subsidize youth organizations for various youth activities in the promotion of informal education, health, art, sports, dialogue, awareness campaigns against negative phenomena and other aspects of social development.

Support for CYAC, LYAC and Youth Centres: MCYS will support every year with budget the Central Youth Action Council, Local Youth Action Councils and youth centres as the highest representative bodies of youth in Kosovo. Support will go in addition to various activities in building their professional capacities for advocacy on issues of youth and society in general. CYAC, LYAC and Youth Centres will be supported in order to serve as innovative centre, in which young people will work together in the presentation of new ideas, whether in opening new businesses, development of science, sports, culture and education.

Construction of Youth Centres in municipalities: Government of Kosovo will continue to build youth centres as spaces where young people conduct leisure activities and various professional trainings. Following the one in Gjilan, the construction of a youth centre in Prishtina is about to start. In cooperation and coordination with local authorities will be launched projects to build youth centres in other municipalities of Kosovo.

Deepening of cooperation with international organizations active in the field of youth: Cooperation with various international organizations active in the field of youth will improve. Special focus will be the entrepreneurship, vocational education and promotion of truthful social values. Up to date there was productive cooperation with the World Bank, UNICEF,

OSCE and other organizations. This cooperation will further deepen. Also, the cooperation with other active mechanisms that advocate for youth, will enhance.

4.4. Sport

4.4.1. Development, simulation and internationalisation of sport

Government is committed to the simulation of sport through investment in sports infrastructure, support initiatives and new talents, promoting school and university sport and simulation of sport, in accordance with the European Charter of Sport and Code of Ethics in Sport. The autonomy of sports federations will be promoted and protected. Sports infrastructure, gyms, football stadiums, Olympic swimming pool, athletics tracks, national stadium under UEFA / FIFA standards, sports field in schools and neighbourhoods will be modernized.

Finalisation of Kosovo sport internationalization process: Kosovo is already a member of the International Olympic Committee and dozens international sports federations. In this regard, the lobbying conducted by the MCYS has been essential. Kosovo Olympic Committee after gaining a membership into the International Olympic Committee, now will work in several complex processes of sport internationalization such as: membership of the Football Federation of Kosovo in UEFA and FIFA, as well as membership of the Basketball Federation of Kosovo in FIBA Europe and FIBA. After full membership into these two federations, the long sport internationalization process will be concluded. The government, in cooperation with the relevant mechanisms, will help other sports federations of Kosovo to gain membership in relevant international federations.

Advancing legislation on sports: The drafting and adoption of the new Law on Sports, Law against hooliganism in Sports, Sponsorship and Donations Law, Law on Management of sports facilities, as well as drafting and adoption of the National Strategy for the Development of Sport, will be among the top priorities of the Government in the sport sector. Also, the Government will work in other normative acts, such as the Regulation for categorization of athletes and Sports categorization regulation, as well as other regulations relevant to the development and support of sport.

Increase financial support to OCK, POCK and sports federations: Budget for Olympic Committee, Pre-Olympic Committee and sports federations will increase. The categorization process will enable the annual budget allocation for sport federations. This support, in addition to organizing various sporting activities, will expand significantly in support of Kosovo's National teams in various sports.

Further Advancement of school and university sport: Government of Kosovo will address with priority the school and university sport. For three years now are organized national level competitions in schools and universities. Support for these competitions will grow with the aim of simulation of sport and promotion of talents.

Establishing Anti-Doping Agency of Kosovo: One of the international criteria is to establish Anti-Doping Agency. Kosovo Government and all other stakeholders of sport and science will establish this agency and ensure its full functionality, in order to develop professional competitions, according to international standards.

Functionality of sports medicine: Government of Kosovo will functionalize Sports Medicine as a very important condition for the development of competition. The government will allocate budget for modern conditions in sports medicine and will enable treatment to all athletes. Through normative acts will be clearly defined its role, and the bodies responsible for its management and supervision.

The promotion of recreational sport and sport for all: Kosovo Government will promote sport for all and recreational sport through supporting infrastructure and playgrounds investments, promotion of school and university sport, and through increasing of funds for various awareness campaigns, as important elements for community health.

Supporting the ultimate sportsmen through state awards: MCYS has approved regulations for state awards for ultimate sportsmen and so far has allocated prizes for athletes who have won medals at European and World championships. Kosovo's government will meet this regulation, including rewards for medals won in Mediterranean games.

Scholarships for Olympic talents and merits based athletes pensions: Two years ago the Kosovo Government adopted Regulation on scholarships for Olympic talents. During 2014, 10 scholarships were awarded to Olympic talents in value of over 18 thousand Euros. The number of scholarships will increase from year to year; the same will also apply to other forms of support to Olympic talents, especially in education. Also, the Kosovo Government will extend support for pensions including pensions for athletes who have won medals at the Mediterranean Games.

4.4.2. The modernization of sports infrastructure

Construction of the National Football Stadium: In 2014, the Kosovo Government has decided to build national football stadium with a capacity of up to 30 thousand seats. This modern stadium will be built in Pristina. Government, through MCYS has planned budget for 2015 to start construction of the stadium. In cooperation with the Municipality of Prishtina will start procedures for definition of the location, and then will continue with other procedures announcing the contest for designing and then construction.

Construction of Olympic Palace: Olympic Palace is the premise which will have headquarters Kosovo Olympic Committee, the Pre-Olympic Committee and over 30 federations. With these sports organizations ultimately resolve the issue of administrative space. The project was selected through a public competition and the beginning of 2015 will begin its construction procedures. For the Olympic Palace, Prishtina Municipality allocated the location.

Construction of new sports halls in municipalities and renovation of existing ones: Government of Kosovo will continue to build sport halls in municipalities in order to create modern conditions for sport competitions in various fields. Currently under construction are the halls in Kamenica, Istog, Skenderaj, Rahovec, Decani, Kline and Kacanik. However, we will also build sports halls in municipality of Viti, Dragash and other municipalities . Also, the Kosovo government will allocate special funds for the renovation of the existing halls in order to improve the conditions for the development of competition.

Construction of auxiliary football stadiums in municipalities: In cooperation with the European Commission, in 2012, launched the construction of six auxiliary stadiums. They are being finalized. Stadiums are modern and according to international standards. In 2015 the Government of Kosovo with its own funds will begin construction of three other auxiliary stadiums in Prizren, Istog and Skenderaj. Similar stadiums will be built in the coming years during this mandate.

Construction of the sport complexes and tennis courts in municipalities: Promotion of sports across Kosovo is a priority for the Kosovo Government. To achieve this it is necessary to build sports complexes for football, basketball, handball and volleyball. Until now are built dozens of them in villages and towns across Kosovo, mainly in schools or near schools. The focus in tennis is a certain policy, seeing the interest and potential of young people. Tennis courts in several municipalities will be built, and also will be invested in the renovation of existing ones.

Construction of the Olympic Swimming pool in Prishtina: Following the Kosovo membership in the International Olympic Committee, we will provide more opportunities for our athletes. Swimming and water sport disciplines are of high interest. In this respect, the Kosovo Government will allocate funds for the construction of Olympic Swimming pool in cooperation with the Municipality of Prishtina.

Renovation of the City Stadium in Prishtina and other existing stadiums: Prishtina as the capital of Kosovo is in need to have a stadium with modern conditions for the hosting of international matches in football. Kosovo government invested in the renovation of the Olympic Stadium " Adem Jashari " in Mitrovica and for 2014 projected major renovations in the city stadium in Prishtina. The government will ask from Municipality and user to finalize the project in order to invest first 500 thousand Euros in order for stadium to provide modern conditions where international football matches can be played, until the completion of construction of the National Football Stadium, according to UEFA and FIFA standards. Also, we will continue with the renovation of the existing football stadiums in other municipalities.

5. MODERN HEALTHCARE

Continuous improvement of peoples health will be of high priority during this term, aiming at building an efficient health system, based on sustainable human resources and adequate funding, which ensures equal access to quality and cost-effective healthcare for all citizens. To achieve this, health system reform will be sustained and continued relying on legislation,

as well as policies to improve health and prevent disease based on the needs of the population and in full compliance with European community standards, to provide citizens health services comparable to the peoples of the region and beyond. Under this framework, reform of the health system will consist of better functioning health system with citizens in the spotlight, increasing the efficiency of health institutions at all levels, improving infrastructure facilities and means of operation, functioning insurance health, optimum utilization of professional resources available through the integration of health services at the three levels of care, and developing managerial capacities in terms of increasing responsibility, transparency and accountability of management structures.

Upon health insurance scheme operationalization next year, the key health reform will be based on. However, given the fact that the full functioning of this system requires time, the government in the first 2 years will significantly increase the funding of public health system aiming to increase public expenditure on health per capita at the average regional level.

5.1. Priorities

The government will treat with high priority the implementation of a comprehensive and substantial health reform pursuant to the Health Sector Strategy 2014 - 2020 and the motto of the European Community in the health sector "Health in all policies". The main aim of this reform is to ensure universal access to quality health services for all citizens, as well as the comprehensive health service utilization promotion.

Changing the health sector funding scheme from centralized model to mixed funding model from budget, health insurance public and private system, which will be achieved with the establishment and functioning of the Public Health Insurance Fund, whereby it will enable the following:

- Increasing the budget for the Hospital and University Clinical Service of Kosovo(HUCSK) including: UCCK, regional general hospitals, and other health institutions, secondary and tertiary health care level;
- Increasing Health Specific Grant for municipalities;
- Provide and supply 100% with drugs from Essential List of Drugs and consumables, which will be compiled in accordance with relevant international standards and realistic assessment of needs;
- Full functioning of the Health Information System (HIS) in collaboration with development partners;
- Improving the governance and management of health institutions and professional resources;
- Strengthening diagnostic capacities, with special emphasis in the field of radiology and laboratory (investment in new and modern medical equipment, their maintenance and service pursuant to the international standards);
- Improvement of working conditions and performance based financial incentives to health professionals;

Key priorities of the government during this term in the field of health are:

- The establishment and functioning of the Public Health Insurance Fund by Health Funding Agency as the forerunner of the Fund;
- Reorganization of the University Clinical Centre of Kosovo and the redefinition of relations with the Faculty of Medicine, the possibility of establishing Prishtina Hospital and conversion of UCCK in adequate institution providing tertiary health, educational, research and scientific services;
- Full functioning of the Department of Invasive Cardiology and Cardio-surgery , and regular supply with necessary medical means to these departments;
- Construction of Emergency Centre in UCCK;
- Construction of the Center for Children's Surgery and Treatment of Malignant Diseases at Children in UCCK;
- Strengthening diagnostic capacities of all health institutions levels;
- Prevention, early detection and treatment of malignant diseases through the establishment and functioning of the National Oncology Professional Service, which will implement liaison programs with primary health care institutions, with particular emphasis on breast cancer, cervical cancer, and colon-rectal cancer, including screening programs to certain age groups;
- Development of preventive and therapeutic programs, particularly to reduce infant/mother disease and mortality, through the establishment and functioning of the National Professional Service for Mothers and Children;
- Prevention of diseases and disorders by promoting healthy ways of living and their early detection, with a focus on youth and vulnerable categories from diseases that can be prevented.
- Continued support to the treatment of children suffering from leukaemia and other malignant diseases abroad.

5.2. Reforming the Ministry of Health

The new health system of the country will be based on the reorganized Ministry of Health to strengthen its policymaking, regulatory, monitoring and evaluation role, and fully functionalizing the new institutions, such as: Chamber of Health Professionals, Health Insurance Fund and HUCSK, as a form of integrated services in secondary and tertiary health care.

5.3. Financing of the health sector

Given the fact that financial resources available to public health services does not meet the needs and demands of the population for quality health services, the Government will implement the reform for financing of the health sector. The Government will establish the mixed model of funding from the Kosovo Budget and the Public Fund of Compulsory Health Insurance for all citizens and residents of the country in accordance with the Law on Health Insurance and with the support of special financial program of the World Bank and Swiss Government donor program.

5.4. The individual in the spotlight

The basis of the program will be the development of all levels of the health system as part of a whole, which help each other and complete the health service. In the programme courses of all health levels, the citizen will be in the centre. All citizens are equal in front of the law and it is unacceptable that deep rural areas are deprived of medical care and are characterized by severe lack of health infrastructure. Government is committed to channel more funds to these neglected areas and to enable subsidies for well qualified medical personnel to serve in remote rural areas and suburban areas. Special attention will be paid to vulnerable categories of society, such as children, elderly, sick from cancer and categories in severe social condition.

5.5. Management and Accountability

Government is committed to an integrated health management at all levels, with clear and efficient systems of reference. Also, the Government will be engaged in adequate distribution of infrastructure and medical staff across the country, achievement of international standards in terms of number of medical staff in relation to the population, decentralization and managerial autonomy of health institutions. Improved management with human resources will be realized through Chambers of Health Professionals as credible representative bodies of doctors, dentists, pharmacists, nurses, and physiotherapists.

The Ministry of Health will closely monitor the period of transfer of respective powers in accordance with the Law. In order to eliminate the phenomenon of corruption within the health sector will be strengthened direct and systematic communication of the Ministry of Health with the citizens and associations of patients through direct phone lines, and will be taken all appropriate actions in order to increase responsibility and accountability. The Government will develop the procurement and audit Strategy in the health sector and its Implementation Plan, in collaboration with the Office of the General Auditor of Kosovo; action that goes to the benefit of ensuring optimal utilization of public money.

5.6. Public health and prevention of contagious diseases

The Government is committed for competent public health institutions, which with professionalism and multidisciplinary approach will engage to maintain public health, prevention and rehabilitation of endemic hot spots of contagious diseases, regular control of water, air, food and other parameters of public health. In this field specific and systematic activities will be conducted to particular endemic epidemiological problem of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) in four municipalities that represent high level of busting by these diseases, in accordance with relevant national strategy; and the threat of disease caused by the Ebola virus for which will be supported with priority activities of Ministerial Council established for this purpose.

5.7. Specialist and sub-specialist Education

Government recognizes that medical science is one of the sciences that evolve in fast dynamics; therefore it is necessary to invest in training and updating of human resources with knowledge and new practices. In this context, special attention will be paid to the state

program of specialist and sub-specialist education abroad for professional staff, in well known medical institutions internationally ranked, with whom the Ministry of Health has Cooperation Agreement. For this purpose a special scholarship fund for medical studies in Western universities will be created, as well as support to scientific research projects. In order to increase the professional capacities the Government of the Republic of Kosovo is committed to create optimal conditions for many health professionals originating from Kosovo, already affirmed in the developed countries of Europe and America, that with their expertise and projects contribute to the reform and development of healthcare in Kosovo.

5.8. Public Health Education

Given that the primary responsibility for staying healthy is on the citizens themselves, the Government will pay more attention, by making available multiple sources, to prevention of different disease and public education. Such an approach will be undertaken in cooperation with non-governmental organizations that conduct activities in the field of health. To this aim, will be drafted policies that enable the public obtaining more information, to encourage and educate them for a healthier life as a preventive measure and encourage them to use lengthy and healing regenerative therapies, if they are chronically ill or persons at risk.

5.9. Pharmaceutical Sector

In the pharmaceutical sector are foreseen substantial reforms on building the policymaking, regulatory, evaluation, and inspection capacities of the Kosovo Medicines Agency, continuous review of the List of Essential Medicines and materials, formulating new policies for the procurement of medicines based on realistic assessment of needs and adequate and timely planning, decentralization of medicines supply from the Ministry of Health to health institutions with an accountable approach by health institutions. It has to be conducted the reorganization of pharmaceutical management in the Ministry of Health and the Health Insurance Fund as well. In order to preserve public health the Government will monitor continuously and systematically, the circulation of medicines and medical products in the Kosovo market, in accordance with the highest standards of the European Union.

5.10. Licensing and Accreditation of Health institutions

In accordance with the Law on Health and considering the need for monitoring and evaluating the quality of health services, the Government will work on creating a favourable environment for starting of Licensing and Accreditation for the first time in the Republic of Kosovo of health services by international standards.

5.11. Development of partnership and social dialogue

The Government will pay special attention to development of partnership and social dialogue with the Federation of Health Unions of Kosovo, as a signatory of the sectoral contract with the Ministry of Health, with particular emphasis on ensuring the full realization of the workers' rights set by applicable legislation, the Collective Contract of the Government of Kosovo, as well as sectoral contract with the Ministry of Health. Government takes this action with a view to achieving the highest ethical and professional standards of health workers in relation to patients and citizens. The government will also aim at strengthening the

cooperation with organizations in the nongovernmental sector in the country and abroad, especially with associations that represent the interests of patients, as a way of providing quality services and special services for vulnerable groups of citizens in the most cost-effective, with particular emphasis on promoting healthy ways of living as the most effective way to prevent diseases.

The government will continuously engage to fulfil the obligations arising from the National Strategy for persons with special needs; and will undertake specific activities for providing quality health services and easy access to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. Special dedication will be paid to activities for full integration into the country's health system of health services in the municipalities where the majority is the Serbian community.

5.12. The private sector

The public and private sector in health should not be seen as exclusionary / replacement of each other, but as two systems that complement each other. Private health institutions will receive an equal competitive and complementary treatment in the health system for the benefit of citizen. Government will take all necessary measures to ensure that private health institutions comply strictly with all national legislation regulating this sector in order to provide quality health services. The results achieved in the pharmaceutical sector and dental services, which is in private hands, has demonstrated that the promotion of private initiative in other areas of the health sector will not only serve to reduce the burden of the budget for this sector and the burden of state health sector, but also will enable more offers, more competition with more quality at low cost.

5.13. Program courses by levels of health services

Primary level:

- Implementation of the concept of Family Medicine - designing an action plan to ensure a sufficient number of Family Medicine specialists for each municipality; as needed stimulation of doctors by municipalities to carry FM specialization as well;
- Provision of unique primary services in all municipalities;
- Determination of the basic package of health services provided in PHC;
- Strengthening diagnostic capacities, with special emphasis in the field of radiology and laboratory (investment in new and modern medical equipment);
- Strengthening pre-hospital emergency services;
- Motivation and stimulation of municipalities to establish/strengthen home service/provision of palliative home health services to vulnerable groups (persons with special needs, patients with severe chronic diseases, those with malignant disease, as well as the elderly);

Secondary level:

- Establishment of Prishtina Hospital, as one of the main priorities;
- Decentralization and managerial autonomy of these health institutions within the integrated system of HUCSK;
- Development and building of professional capacities/resources;

- Strengthening of diagnostic capacities;
- Standardization and rationalization of medical equipment;
- Development and implementation of standard/unique protocols; provision of unique health services in all hospitals of Kosovo (secondary level institutions); where possible or capacities exist, strengthening of certain services - the development of expertise in certain areas to provide sub- specialized services.

Third level - UCCK:

- Reorganization of UCCK including the possibility of establishing Prishtina Hospital within UCCK;
- Converting UCCK into the truthful institution of tertiary level health care which except health services also offers educational, research and scientific services;
- Including all health personnel with clinical and scientific academic title in the educational process (in coordination with MEST);
- Increasing the quality of health care services and supplying with medical equipment; their maintenance and servicing in accordance with European standards;
- Immediate need - development of managerial capacities in terms of increasing responsibility, transparency and accountability of management structures.

5.14. International cooperation

In addition to ensuring full coordination with the donor community in the country's health sector, the Government will work for the membership of the Republic of Kosovo in the World Health Organization and Health Network of South-eastern Europe, as well as its active participation in bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of international health.