



Republika e Kosovës  
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo

*Qeveria - Vlada-Government*

*Zyra e Kryeministrit - Ured Premijera - Office of the Prime Minister*

# 100 DAYS

## OF GOOD GOVERNANCE

PRISHTINA, MAY 2020



# **100 DAYS**

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## Introduction

This report presents the work carried out during the period 4 February – 6 May 2020 by the Government of Kosova, which has been constituted by the Assembly of the Republic of Kosova on 3 February 2020.

The report begins with the foreword of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosova, Mr. Albin Kurti, on the 31st meeting of the Government. It continues with the main achievements by sectors provided for in the Government's Programme.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This is a summative report; therefore, it does not include all achievements during this time period.

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## Foreword of the Prime Minister



Dear citizens.

On October 6th, with your vote, you decided to make yesterday's opposition today's government. You decided to change the governance of the country, whereby ranking the Movement for SELF-DETERMINATION! as first, and me, as the candidate for Prime Minister, the most voted candidate in the country for the second time. On February 3rd, Members of Parliament made this Government effective and today marks the 100th day of our joint work.

I was elected Prime Minister at a time when you, at every survey in the last 10 years, have stated that corruption, organized crime and unemployment remain our main problems; therefore, you set the priorities for our Government – anticorruption and economic development, i.e. justice and employment.

During these 100 days of work we issued nearly 200 decisions, thereby reducing the staff in the Government Cabinet, halved the salaries of Government staff, reduced costs and privileges and prevented the misuse of public funds.

- EUR 1.4 million will be saved per year as a result of a lower number of ministers, deputy ministers, advisors and assistants.
- EUR 1.1 million will be saved per year as a result of halved salaries of Government staff.
- More than EUR 300 thousand will be saved per year as a result of removal of numerous privileges and spending on telephones, vehicles, official travels, dinners and lunches.

You voted in favor of a small cabinet, because our country is small, and for lower salaries, because our country is poor!

We elected a cabinet with new uncorrupted ministers and changed boards of publicly-owned enterprises that used to operate with losses, employ family members without criteria and without merits, and we are now installing professionalism, accountability and we will put the misuse of public funds to an end.

We prevented the misuse of hundred of Euros with harmful lobbying contracts, that were used to clean the reputation of corrupt leaders with public funds, and we have also annulled tenders for paving asphalt and expropriation of agricultural lands, aimed at extortion of public funds.

- EUR 50 million for the extension of the “Arben Xhaferi” highway have been annulled.
- EUR 110 million for the highway to Gjilan have been annulled.
- EUR 7 million for the politically motivated project for the economic zone in Malisheva have been annulled.
- EUR 1 million for lobbying and lease contracts have been annulled.
- Unlawful short-term contracts for special services and fictitious positions have been annulled.
- More than EUR 550 thousand will be saved per year, used by Post and Telecom for salaries and privileges.
- Unlawfully appointed consuls and ambassadors have been dismissed, opening the way for meritocracy and experience.
- More than EUR 70 million have been allocated to the Ministry of Health to regulate the infrastructure that was not available in our public hospitals. At the time of crisis with COVID-19, we are making necessary investments.
- Nearly EUR 200 million were allocated for the Emergency Fiscal Package to deal with the economic crisis and help vulnerable groups affected the most by the crisis.
- We have supported police officers, inspectors, health employees and vulnerable groups with additional salaries during the pandemic.

During this 100-day period, we had 100 obstacles and managed 3 crises: one inevitable health crisis never before experienced by any of us, one inevitable economic crisis as a result of a health crisis and one unnecessary political crisis. We successfully managed the COVID-19 pandemic. Early government measures, heroic work by health employees and police officers and proper cooperation of citizens made Kosovo a success story, but the virus is still with us and we are still at risk from the virus. We will continue to be maximally careful. Work has been done in education, culture, youth and sport, but these were only 100 days.

Dear citizens,

You voted for change and good governance. These were 100 days of good governance, without crime or corruption.

Together we make everything possible; together we will ensure good-governance every day. Onwards...

**Albin KURTI**



Acting Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo



01

# Governance

The Program 2020–2023, approved by the Government has set the key orientations for implementing commitments made to citizens, and focused on improving the situation in fields where no significant progress was made, such as: i) justice; ii) economy and employment; iii) education; iv) healthcare; v) security vi) Euro-Atlantic integration and vii) environment.

These 100 days have been dedicated to Good Governance, therefore in the 30 meetings organised, wherein 125 decisions were rendered, the main focus was to address structural problems in governance, different boards and enterprises, as well as to manage the situation created by the pandemic COVID-19.

We started with a significantly smaller government cabinet compared to previous governments, aiming to ensure better governance, savings and reductions of expenditures, so that we could direct such means toward economic development.

The key results in terms of policy planning, development and coordination include: :

Adoption of the Concept Document on Administrative Burden Reduction – which foresees a 30% reduction of administrative burden for companies, citizens and the administration, within existing primary legislation framework, during a time period of 8 years

- In the light of this process, 20 laws were analysed during this period, in order to come up with a methodology that would identify existing administrative burdens on businesses, citizens, and the administration.
- In the framework of the Economic and Financial Dialogue between Kosovo and the EU, the Joint Conclusions have been approved.
- The working document for improving the National Strategic Management Framework, which includes options for the National Development Strategy, has been prepared. As part of the analytical phase of the National Development Strategy, the Multidimensional Review has commenced.
- The Decision on the Smart Specialisation National Team has been reviewed, and the procedures for analysing the economic, scientific and innovative potential have commenced;

100  
Days  
30  
Meetings  
125  
Decisions

- In the framework of the legislative process, during this period the Government has approved five (5) draft-laws on ratification of international agreements, and three sub-legal acts;
- The Regulation on the Areas of Administrative Responsibilities of the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministries, which has provided for the restructuring of the government cabinet, is one that must be mentioned.

In light of satisfying the standards of transparency and good governance, the Public Consultation Report 2019 has been finalized and published.

The Concept Document for Drafting the Law on Population and Housing Census 2021 has been finalized; The Draft Administrative Instruction on the confidentiality of statistical data has been prepared; The administrative instruction on statistical data has been drafted; Population Census; Preparations for the Population Census have gone as planned.

The Multi Indicator Cluster Survey, also known as MICS6, (collaboration of KSA and UNICEF) has been finalized, while the collection of field data was completed in March 2020, and this survey will provide around 40% of social indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals- SDG.



Image 1

Government Cabinet of Prime Minister Mr. Albin Kurti: Mr. Avdullah Hoti\*, Mr. Haki Abazi, Mr. Agim Veliu\*\*, Ms. Albulena Haxhiu, Mr. Anton Quni, Mr. Arben Vitia, Mr. Besian Mustafa, Mr. Besnik Bislimi, Mr. Blerim Reka, Mr. Dalibor Jevtić, Ms. Emilija Redžepi, Mr. Glauk Konjufca, Ms. Hykmete Bajrami, Mr. Ivan Millojević, Mr. Lumir Abdixhiku, Ms. Rozeta Hajdari, Ms. Vlora Dumoshi

## Managing public finances

The Government of Kosovo prepared and approved the budget with budgetary appropriations for 2020, thereby rectifying the misclassifications between capital expenditures and goods and services; reducing the fictitious number of employees for 684 positions; correcting the textual part of the law; addressing outstanding debts to budgetary organisation.

Based on the decision of the Government of Kosovo, the Kosovo Customs have started implementing the Government decision to remove the 100% tariff and replace it with the reciprocity measure. Imports of goods from Serbia since the implementation of these measures were EUR 12.4 millions whereas exports stood at EUR 0.7 million.

removal of the  
**100 % tax**  
replacement with  
**reciprocity**

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\*Dismissed on 25.03.2020

\*\*Dismissed on 18.03.2020

Ministries, subject to restructuring, have been instructed on how to operate until entry into force of the Law on Budget, and subsequently until their new organization with internal regulations.

**Important decisions that have been taken during this period:**

- The initiative of the Ministry of Finance and Transfers to negotiate the Agreement on the Elimination of Double Taxation and Prevention of Fiscal Evasion related to Taxes on Income and Capital, between the Government of the Republic of Kosova and the Republic of Finland, as well as the one with the Kingdom of the Netherlands, was approved in principle.
- The Draft Law on Ratification of the Financing Agreement between the Republic of Kosova and International Development Association for the Project of Strengthening the Financial Sector, was approved.
- The request of the Ministry of Finance to allocate funds in the amount of EUR 200 thousand, as financial support to the Republic of Albania, for the purpose of assisting in repairing damages incurred from the earthquake of 26 November 2019, was approved.
- The financial support for rehabilitation of damages from the natural disaster in the Municipality of Peja and Istog in the amount of EUR 433,050 was approved.
- The allocation of funds in the amount of EUR 29,809 for the GIZ project, which supported refugees during their stay in the innovative Business Park in Prizren after the earthquake in Albania, was approved.
- Decision no. 20/64 of the Government dated 11.09.2018 approving the Concept Document on changing fiscal and agricultural policies for production of tobacco and cigarettes in Kosova, was repealed.
- In order to rationalize public money expenditure for telephones, the current decision has been repealed and the drafting of the administrative instruction for this purpose has commenced.

**In the light of managing the situation created by COVID-19, the following results have been achieved:**

- Funds in the amount of EUR 400 thousand were allocated to the Ministry of Health for the prevention of possible emergency situations of epidemics, and then an additional EUR 10 million after the emergence of the pandemic in Kosova.
- The amount of EUR 500 thousand were allocated for the Municipalities of Presheva, Medvegja and Bujanoc with the purpose of helping them with the situation created by the pandemic. This transfer of funds from the Government of the Republic of Kosova to the accounts of the three Municipalities of the Valley at the Central Bank of Serbia was done for the first time and represents a new milestone for Kosova.
- The decision to temporarily exempt from VAT all wheat and flour imports for production of bread and bread products was approved.
- In order to mitigate households and businesses obstacles during the pandemic period, decisions to extend the reporting, declaration and payment of taxes, as well as to suspend the application of interest and fines for non-payment of property tax until 31 December 2020 were approved.
- A dedicated Treasury account was opened for funds to manage the pandemic situation, whereby until 8th of May 2020, over EUR 700 thousand were gathered from donations alone.
- Funding of EUR 102 million, namely EUR 52 million from the loan with the IMF and EUR 50 million in securities (10-year bond) have been ensured.

**Savings from expenditures within the Ministry of Finance and Transfers** – The savings of this government for the period 03.02.2020 to 23.04.2020 amount to EUR 146,961<sup>1</sup> compared to the same period of 2019. More precisely, until 23.04.2020, ministers' cabinet across the government have spent EUR 85,710, while previous government spending for the same period amounted to EUR 232,641.

**Annulment of decisions for the use of official vehicles of the Ministry of Justice** – Although according to the Administrative Instruction of 2009, only high-level officials are entitled to 24 hour use of official vehicles, but in reality vehicles were being used by the Directors of Departments and other persons as well. Following the Decision of the Ministry, such abuses with the use of official vehicles have been brought to an end, thereby saving in fuel consumption, and at the same time establishing legality.

**Savings within the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation** – Expenditures for goods and services have been significantly reduced, and multi-million costing projects, included in the budget in violation of applicable law and procedures, have been removed from the budget.

**Savings within the Ministry of European Integration** – In the Ministry of European Integration were found and inherited financial obligations related to two lobbying contracts, namely a contract for information services, and a lease contract for the Ministry's offices, such as:

- Lobbying contracts, concluded for clearing the image of public figures, without any benefit to citizens, inherited from the previous government amounting to EUR 1,200,000.
- Contract for information services, amounting to a total of EUR 881,389 for 3 years.
- Lease contract for the deployment of all MEI's offices in a private building, in the amount of EUR 23,014 per month.

Following the termination of the Lease Contract for the Ministry of European Integration, and the transfer of staff to the Government building, as of 20th of March 2020, the amount of EUR 23,014 per month or around EUR 320,000 per year will be saved, along with monthly expenses, which are around EUR 40,000 per year. The total value of savings from cancellation of the contract amounts to a half million, as the contract was foreseen to last 2 years.

Moreover, it is worth noting that the funds designated for the payment of rent in the amount of EUR 280,000 for this year, have been re-designated/re-organized so that these funds cover the remaining/upcoming liabilities from the lobbying contracts (depending on the judicial epilogue), while the rest are foreseen to be designated toward genuine consulting services that contribute to the European integration process of Kosovo.

Since March 2020, expenses from MEI's budget for transport services have been reduced by terminating the "rent a car" contracts for 4 official vehicles, thus saving EUR 1,041 per month, or EUR 12,492 per year, following the reduction of three vehicles for use by public officials.

In the spirit of savings, we have managed to save a total of around 15% of expenditures foreseen under the MEI's budget for the first quarter of 2020.

Furthermore, it was ordered to terminate and discontinue all contracts/agreement on special services, stop all appointments, employments and contracts concluded after 19th of July 2019, as the same will be considered unlawful, and all those who have disregarded official duty will be held judicially liable.

**Savings within MEETIESI** – The MEETIESI proposed the Government Decision that annuls all unlawful decisions for the economic zone and related expropriations in the Municipality of Malisheva. With this annulment, the Government has ended efforts for creating an economic zone in violation of the law and national plan, without a genuine feasibility study and without public hearings. Also, the millions of Euros that would be paid for the unnecessary expropriation of private property, which were previously privatized with significantly lower prices, have been saved. The total amount of the project was EUR 7 million.

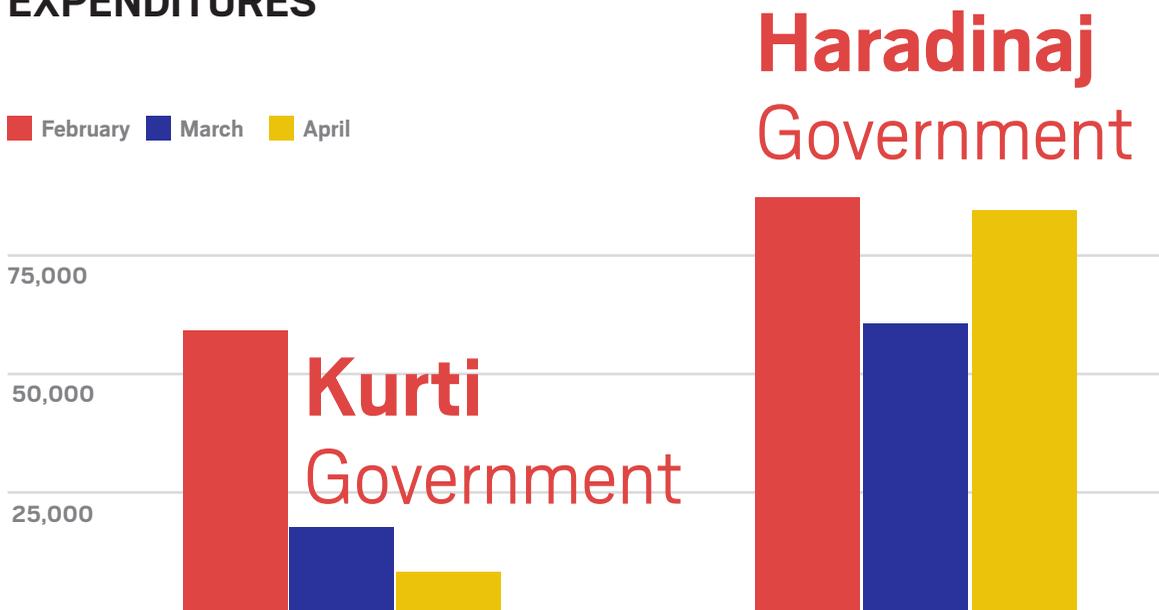
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<sup>1</sup> Considering that some of the invoices of the previous cabinet (expenses incurred before 03.02.2020) have been reported as current expenses for coming months (reported as expenses incurred in the period 03.02.2020–24.04.2020), the value of real savings by this government is even higher than the number presented above

In the Telecom of Kosova, there were reductions of unnecessary expenditures, one of which was reduction of 65% to the salary of the acting CEO. The total annual savings are: EUR 550,000.

**Fig 1. Comparison of expenditures of the cabinets of ministers in this government for the period 03.02.2020 to 23.04.2020, with the same period of 2019**

## EXPENDITURES



**Fig 2. Emergency Fiscal Package - The Emergency Fiscal Package, in a total amount of EUR 189,650 million, as support to overcome the health emergency situation, has been designed and started to be implemented.**

Category	As % of total package	Total amount in EUR
Public Sector	26%	50,000,000
Private Sector	60%	114,000,000
Social Welfare	14%	25,650,000
	<b>100%</b>	<b>189,650,000</b>

# € 189,650,000

## Emergency Package

Within the Emergency Package, until 8th of May 2020, were paid:

- a. Additional EUR 5,181,034 for two months, to all beneficiaries of social assistance schemes (100 thousand beneficiaries under this scheme);
- b. Additional EUR 4,880,610 for the pension and social assistance schemes, with a monthly pay up to EUR 100 (162,687 persons have benefited);
- c. The amount of EUR 13,703,360 for subsidizing salaries with EUR 170 for 80,608 workers in the private sector affected by the Government's decision to prevent the risk of infection;
- d. The amount EUR 6,752,119 as a top-up for the salary of public sector employee who have been subjected to increased risk of infection during the performance of their work as a result of the Government's decision.

Within the Emergency Fiscal Package were registered 11,633 new workers, whereas only 1,459 workers declared to have been dismissed from their jobs. All of them have been provided with a financial support of EUR 130 per month.

### Management of public enterprises

In light of its role as supervisor of central public enterprises, requests for financial and administrative support were reviewed and fulfilled, and consequently 7 agreements were signed with public enterprises for supervision of subsidies.

Agreements have been concluded for two affordable projects in the water sector:

- An agreement with the World Bank provides KRU Hidromorava in Gjilan with a loan of EUR 25.1 million for construction of a dam and infrastructure for the water supply system and sewerage.

- Another agreement with the Treasury of the French Republic provides KRU Prishtina with a loan of EUR 66 million for the waste water plant.

In the framework of improving the situation of public enterprises, key decisions were taken to address violations and to salvage enterprises from bad governance, misuse and losses.

The Government has issued 12 decisions regarding dismissal and appointment of board of directors for 8 enterprises. Furthermore, 7 decisions were issued to appoint audit commissions in public enterprises.

The boards of the following public enterprises and been dismissed and appointed:

1. Telecom of Kosova J.S.C
2. Enterprise "Trepça" J.S.C
3. KUHCS
4. Enterprise KRU "Prishtina" J.S.C
5. Post of Kosova J.S.C
6. "Kosova Railways- Infrakos" J.S.C
7. "Kosova Electricity Corporation "J.S.C
8. Enterprise "Iber Lepenc" J.S.C.
9. Enterprise KRU "Prizren" J.S.C.

### Local governance

Key activities in terms of local governance administration:

- Completion of the legal framework with new sub-legal acts and amendment and supplementation of existing acts has continued.

- Activities have been carried out to amend and supplement the administrative instruction on transparency, due to the amendment of the Law on Access to Public Documents.

The Decisions to repeal the Internal Instruction (MLGA) no. 01/2015 on the inventory of non-financial assets, and the Internal Instruction (MLGA) no. 02/2015 on the assessment and alienation of non-financial assets.

- A working group for ex-post assessment of the Law on Local Elections in Kosovo has been established, which has drafted a report on ex-post assessment of the Law.

All preparations were made for:

- Drafting the Draft Regulation on determining the procedures for the allocation for use and exchange of immovable property of the municipality;
- Draft Administrative Instruction (MLGA) on the procedure of Appointment of the Deputy Mayors in the Municipalities;
- Draft Administrative Instruction on the Municipal Assemblies Secretariat Offices;
- Draft Administrative Instruction (MLGA) on the Procedure of Establishment, Composition and Competencies of Municipal Standing and other Committees.

Taking into account the wide range of municipal competencies, a control mechanism through electronic monitoring and direct monitoring in the local administration bodies has been implemented. During the 100-day period, the assemblies have held 93 meetings, out of which 88 meetings were monitored through tele-presence and 5 other meetings were monitored through physical presence of monitoring officials in municipalities of Mitrovica North, Leposavic, Novo Brdo, Zubin Potok and Zvecan. Municipal assemblies have adopted 330 acts, of which MLGA has assessed the legality of 208 acts and 122 acts have been processed to assess the legality in line ministries. 17 municipal assembly acts have been found to be in contradiction to the Law, for which 17 requests for review were submitted. As a result, municipal assemblies have harmonised 4 acts, while 9 are being reviewed within the time limit for reviewing. The MLGA has undertaken procedural actions to challenge 4 acts before the Basic Court, through the Ministry of Justice.

**Sustainable Municipal Development** - In the framework of the municipal program for the development of socio-economic infrastructure and inter-municipal cooperation for funding projects in municipalities, the funding criteria have been developed and the call for applications has been initiated. From this call, 11 projects have been funded in 8 municipalities amounting to EUR 630,000.00.

Also, the funding criteria for Serb-majority municipalities have been developed and the call for applications for these Serb-majority municipalities has been initiated. Now, they are in the phase of assessment of municipalities applications.

An agreement has been signed between the Government of the Republic of Kosovo and the World Bank for the Project "Youth Involvement in Local Economic Development".

Also, during the 100-day period, all actions have been taken to negotiate the second project of the World Bank, regarding the youth involvement and entrepreneurship. The project will be implemented in 38 municipalities.

**Performance, Transparency and Capacity Building in Municipalities** - The Ministry of Local Government Administration, in cooperation with its partners SDC-DEMOS, SIDA and the Norwegian Embassy in Kosovo, have completed the process of selecting the municipalities benefiting from the foreseen municipal performance-based grant for the year 2020.

**COVID-19** - The actions taken in relation to this pandemic have been mainly oriented in coordinating activities between the central level and the municipalities. Respectively, a number of requests have been addressed to municipalities and notifications to Mayors, Chairpersons of Municipal Assemblies, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), MIAPA Operations Centre (MIAPAOC) and the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP) with these priorities.

02

# Rule of Law



Picture 2 - Prime Minister Kurti, together with the acting Minister of MIAPA and the General Director of Kosova Police, at the check-point of the entry-exit section in the capital city.

### **Human rights, gender equality and communities**

Aiming to advance human rights in general and the rights of vulnerable groups in particular, the Government of the Republic of Kosova has undertaken several activities.

In cooperation with the Kosova Association of the Deaf (KAD), it has provided sign language services for deaf citizens, 16 sign language interpreters have been engaged and 121 citizens the Republic of Kosova have benefited from sign language services.

The Government of Kosova has put special emphasis on the access and information of persons with disabilities, and 13 laws and bylaws have been printed in the Braille alphabet, so that blind citizens have access to and knowledge of the

legislation. 14 municipal associations of the blind, 2 libraries and 1 resource Centre in the Municipality of Peja have benefited from this support. A total of 91,940 pages have been printed in Braille Alphabet.

## **16 Sign Language Interpreters**

## **13 laws in Braille Alphabet**

With the aim of protecting against discrimination and promoting equal treatment regardless of sexual orientation, a meeting with the LGBTI (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, Intersex) Community Rights Advisory and Coordination Group was held on 10 March 2020. In collaboration with the project Roma Integration 2020 of the Regional Cooperation Council, a national analysis of key policies was carried out, aimed at integrating the Roma community in Kosova.

On 05-06 March 2020, sector meetings were organized for the implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan for the inclusion of Roma and Ashkali communities in Kosova Society 2017-2021. In the field of education, 593 scholarships have been awarded for the 2019-2020 school year for the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities at the level of higher secondary education and higher education.

The activity plan for the implementation of the Law on Child Protection has been drafted, and the first report on the monitoring of the implementation of the activities foreseen in the Action Plan of this Strategy has been finalized.

To address women's rights, the final draft of the Kosova Gender Equality Program and the 2020-2024 Action Plan were presented on March 8 - International Women's Day. The program includes sustainable development goals related to gender, whereas 40 gender indicators of the Millennium Challenges, also known as Sustainable Development Goals – SDG, have been incorporated in the objectives and activities of the proposed program.

The Government of Kosova has continued cooperation with the Faculty of Economics for the review of the faculty curriculum and the establishment of the new course "Gender Economics" (Gender and Economics), where the new course and the new syllabus, for the inclusion of gender perspectives in the processes of teaching and learning in the field of economics, has been finalized. For the needs of students of the Faculty of Economics, who will attend the new course, AGE has provided a book fund of 5 academic titles in English, 34 copies, which were delivered to FE/UP on March 11.

In order to address the unfavourable economic position of Kosova women, and the lack of access to property, which in

turn hinders the advancement of their economic position and the exercise of human right to access, own and enjoy private property, the Government has extended the affirmative measure for another year 2020-2021, adopted on 17 April 2020.

## The document “Official International Development Assistance for Gender Equality in Kosova 2015-2018” has been finalized.

**Addressing of issues related to domestic violence.** In order to strengthen institutions working in this field, the Government has allocated the budget for all shelters providing housing services for protection against domestic violence (11 shelters nationwide). The integrated database for identifying cases of domestic violence has been fully functionalized and the Commission for Compensation of Victims of Crime has been established. Also, the procedures for the transfer of the High Security shelter under the management of the Ministry have been completed.

During the pandemic, actions were taken to meet the specific needs of victims of domestic violence. Thus, a part of the Student Centre was identified and put in the service of victims of domestic violence (quarantine), along with the supply of basic necessities. Moreover, in cooperation with the agencies of the United Nations, UNFPA and UNWOMEN, all shelters have been supplied with food and hygiene packages. Also, for the children who are in the shelter, technological equipment has been provided for attending online lessons. So far, this shelter in the quarantine, managed by the Ministry of Health, has sheltered 11 victims of domestic violence (5 children and 6 women). After testing, 6 persons were removed from the quarantine shelter and services are being provided to their families.

All institutional mechanisms have been coordinated to address the needs of communities, particularly during these times, in order to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. In

this regard, in cooperation with the Kosova Customs and the Kosova Police, it is now possible for patients in critical condition, who have health insurance in Serbia, to leave and return from Serbia. This action represents a concrete step in building trust between the Serbian community and the institutions of the Republic of Kosova.

Also, with the mediation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy, the meeting of the Ministers of Health of the Republic of Kosova and that of Serbia was initiated.

**Sustainable return and reintegration** - In the framework of the project "Return and Re-integration in Kosova, Phase 5" (EU - RRK 5), funded by the Ministry of Communities and Returns together with the European Union Office in Kosova, and implemented by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 11 municipalities, an online session of the Project Steering Committee was held, the construction of 62 houses for returnees and displaced persons was approved. The implementing partner IOM, despite the restrictive measures caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, is implementing the procedures to start building the aforementioned houses. In the coming period, the approval of additional requirements for the construction of houses is expected.

**Activity for the distribution of aid packages during pandemic** - A program has been developed to protect and assist the most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic in Kosova. A part of this program was related to the action under the motto "Life must win", during which 606 families were assisted, in two phases, with food and hygiene packages.

## "Life Must Win" 606 families

Similarly, based on the project "Return and Re-integration in Kosova (RRK5), Phase 5", the Ministry of Communities and Returns in cooperation with the European Union Office in Kosova co-funded the supply and distribution of food and

hygiene packages for 253 returned families, mainly from the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities. The food packages were successfully distributed to 856 families in 31 municipalities, out of which 3,374 residents benefited directly (**46.6% Serbs and 53.4% others - Roma, Ashkali, Egyptians, Albanians, Bosniaks, Gorani and Turks**).

**Skopje Process** - In 2014, the Ministry of Communities and Returns launched a regional initiative with the support of the OSCE and UNHCR, aiming to find lasting solutions for displaced persons from Kosova. Since then, relevant institutions from Prishtina, Belgrade, Skopje and Podgorica have met regularly in a regional process, better known as the "Skopje Process". The Minister for Communities and Returns, the OSCE Ambassador to Kosova and the Head of the UNHCR Mission in Kosova held a meeting via video conference and agreed **to continue the Skopje Process through technical working groups and high-level forums, with relevant stakeholders from Prishtina, Belgrade, Skopje and Podgorica.**

### Punishment of war crimes

The work of the Government of the Republic of Kosova in this regard was focused on the establishment of relevant institutions for documenting and archiving war crimes. For this purpose, a working team has been established for preparing the analysis for the establishment of the War Crimes Research Institute in Kosova.

Another important aspect in this regard was the work on the internal reorganization of the Institute of Forensic Medicine. On this occasion, the working group for drafting the regulation for internal organization of the Institute of Forensic Medicine was established, which has completed the regulation and which was supported by the EU Office in Kosova and is expected to be approved.

### Functional review of justice

The functional review of the rule of law sector aims to establish a consolidated sector of the rule of law, building citizens' trust in the justice system, economic development and Kosova's integration into the European Union. This initiative is divided into three phases.

After the second phase of FRRLS ended with the drafting

of more than 16 policy documents, the Steering Committee approved the recommendations issued by the policy documents, which enabled the beginning of Phase III of the FRRLS, drafting the sector strategy of the Rule of Law.

Despite the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, work is underway to develop a strategy where two chapters of the Strategy have already been completed.

Based on the Government program, the vetting process was a priority during this period (and continues to be so), as it aims to restore citizens' trust in justice institutions. The Government of the Republic of Kosova, by the proposal of the Ministry of Justice, has established a group of experts for the vetting in the justice system. The group aims to design the vetting process and the governing principles, scenarios and elements of vetting reform in the justice system. The group of experts is continuing its work, as its mandate expires by the end of May.

After the working group, the aim is to form a ministerial group and finalize the concept of the document and then the draft law. So, by December, the legal basis is planned to be approved. In the first part of 2021, the establishment of the verification commission is planned, while in the second part, the verification of the highest hierarchical levels of the system.

### Consolidation of civil justice and regulation of property issues

**Initiation of procedures for membership in the Hague Conference** - Due to non-membership in the Hague Conference, it is difficult to implement the law in matters related to the international kidnapping of children, in civil terms, as well as in family and inheritance disputes for citizens of the Republic of Kosova. Therefore, the Government of the Republic of Kosova, through the Ministry of Justice, has initiated the procedure for membership in order to implement the rights of citizens of Kosova and integration of the Republic of Kosova in regional and international organizations.

### Consolidation of criminal justice

Activities related to International Legal Cooperation have continued intensively during this period, where about 982

requests and responses have been processed for Mutual International Legal Aid in criminal and civil matters. Among other things, three people have been extradited from Kosova to EU countries, while three people have been extradited from other countries to Kosova.

Through the Office of the EU Special Representative in Kosova, it has been confirmed that the Mechanism for International Criminal Tribunals (MICT) will now comply with the requirements of the Special Prosecution of the Republic of Kosova. Therefore, Kosova is now expecting to greatly benefit from MICT support, especially through access to evidence gathered by the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

Also, there have been some positive developments in this area with countries that have not yet recognized Kosova's independence. In this regard, the first extradition from Kosova to Greece was made, which was highly praised by the Hellenic authorities. Also, Moldova has executed the first request of Kosova prosecutors regarding a case of trafficking in human beings, while Spain has executed a civil matter request of the Court in Peja, and Ecuador has, for the first time, confirmed that it is executing a request by the Republic of Kosova regarding a case for money laundering. The Ministry of Justice has also sent the draft code of criminal procedure to the Venice Commission, whereby the opinion of Venice Commission is expected soon.

### The fight against corruption and organized crime

The fight against corruption and organized crime has been, and still is, this Government's main priority. In this regard, the Government of the Republic of Kosova, since its first meetings, has taken concrete actions, which aimed to stop the loss and misuse of public money.

Such decisions were as follows: downsizing the government cabinet; reducing government salaries by 50% at the second meeting of the Government held on February 2, without affecting the salaries of judges and prosecutors. The government has taken a number of decisions aimed at reducing costs and privileges, through a number of other decisions, such as the one on the use of telephones (fixed and mobile) by the Government of the Republic of Kosova. The decision aims to rationalize spending of public money

on the use of telephones by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo. The decision also determines the right and the allowable amount of expenses in the landline phone in the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, which is many times smaller than the amount allowed so far.

In the government program it is emphasized that the Law on the Control and Confiscation of Unjustified Assets will be adopted with high priority, and a special fund shall be established for the protection of confiscated illegally obtained assets, which will be used to increase the capacity of the rule of law institutions.

In order to achieve this, the Government has immediately started the work, initially by drafting a

## Concept document on the confiscation of unjustifiable assets

given that the current legal framework has not allowed for effective combat against organized crime and corruption. The aforementioned law provides that the burden of proof is to be put on the suspect, who is considered to have created assets inconsistent with his income. These persons will be required to justify assets, or otherwise the same will be

confiscated and go to the state's account. The concept document for the confiscation of unjustifiable assets, which as a rule precedes the draft law, is being finalized and the same will be published for public consultation by the end of May. After receiving the comments and reviewing them, the concept document will be processed to the Government for approval.

At the 21st meeting of the Government, the Administrative Instruction on Determining Procedures for Demolition of Unlawful Structures has been approved, which is also the first document that has received approval from the government cabinet. The purpose of this Administrative Instruction is to determine the procedures for application of the remedy of demolition of unlawful structures by the Kosovo Property Comparison and Verification Agency in relation to the implementation of the final decisions of the Property Claims Commission and judgments of the Supreme Court Appeals Panel.

Image 3  
Minister Haxhiu in a meeting with the President of the Basic Court of Prishtina



03

# Economic development

In the framework of economic development, the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, based on the Government's programme and the situation with COVID-19 pandemic, has undertaken the following actions:

- Establishment of a working group on trade barriers with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, composed of officials and representatives from the Chambers;
- Drafting of a detailed report by the Working Group on Trade Barriers with Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina which identifies barriers and recommends measures for eliminating them;
- The government has approved decisions regarding trade barriers: First, the import of raw materials from Serbia and Bosnia was exempted from the tariffs, and second, tariffs on goods from Serbia and Bosnia were lifted, and the gradual implementation of reciprocity, as a principle in trade relations with Serbia in terms of sanitary, phytosanitary and veterinary certificates, which are subject to border control, was initiated.
- In order to revitalize the economy, the government, in close cooperation with businesses and representatives of Chambers of Commerce, through the National Council for Economic Development, has held the first meeting to develop policies for the well-being and recovery of the economy during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

In support of industry and businesses, at the request of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo, the EU Office in Kosovo has committed the assistance of EUR 160 million for the recovery of the economy after the COVID-19 pandemic; the EU office also approved the IPA's project of EUR 5.5 million to support and digitalize new, small and medium-sized enterprises during pandemics;

**More than 2850 new businesses have been registered by KBRA during the 100-day period**

## Trade policies

In Trade Policies, the government has approved an action plan to establish a single point of contact for trade in services. The single point of contact is the portal that informs businesses and simplifies their establishment and expansion.

- The Government of the Republic of Kosovo represented by MEETIESI, participated in the first meeting of the Joint Committee on the Free Trade Agreement with Turkey,
- Also, to ensure the free movement of essential goods during the pandemic, the Government of Kosovo has approved the joint statement of the Regional Cooperation Council, CEFTA, and the South East European Transport Committee for the opening of green corridors.

The government, through KIESA, has entered into a cooperation agreement with the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) to create mitigation measures for the private sector, especially in the digitalization of businesses, where 31 businesses will benefit from the World Bank project for product certification, company standardization and business consulting.

86 new standards have been approved, mainly for oil and oil derivatives, while 173 other standards are being reviewed by the Standardization Agency, whereas the new metrology equipment is in the procurement procedures by the Metrology Agency. An emergency response plan and a reserve plan for foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals, and fuels have been prepared.

**The cancellation of the politically motivated project of the Economic Zone in Malisheva, where the extreme cost of EUR 7 million was planned only for expropriation.**

- During this period, 10 sub-legal acts have been approved, including regulations on safety of machinery, on protective personal equipment, on pre-packaged products, on bottles as measuring containers, and on the expert commission on agricultural products and foodstuffs. Furthermore, they include administrative instructions for the registration of consumer collective claims, for the registration of the official name and trade name of businesses, for the KBRA archive and metrology services.
- Eight orders have been issued for price management, progress of economic activities, provision of electronic and postal communications services, the provision of oil supply, and the protection of water resources.
- 393 field inspections have been carried out, 72 customer complaints have been handled and 39 fines have been imposed by the market inspectorate.

Image 4

Prime Minister Kurti visiting the company “Kosmonte Foods” together with Minister Hajdari



## Labour market and employment

In support of the Kosova Credit Guarantee Fund with the aim of increasing its guarantee capital, the Government has signed an agreement with KfW for a grant of EUR 6.5 million; the government has also signed a grant agreement in the amount of EUR 7 million that aims to establish the “Kosova Challenge Fund – Vocational Education and Training”.

**The Employment Agency** is committed to implementing measure 15 of the emergency fiscal package, approved by Government decision. During this period, it registered over 46,922 jobseekers (21,809 of them women) and 2,088 vacancies. With the support of donors, the Agency has enabled the registration of jobseekers via internet. It has also made 912 intermediaries between employers and jobseekers. An agreement has been reached with the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) for a project of EUR 4 million for inspection digitization.

# 4 thousand inspections by the labour inspectorate

## Agriculture and rural development

Taking into account the current situation of the agriculture sector, an analysis has been drafted on this sector, whereby among the remarks, it was found that poor budget management from year to year resulted with inherited debts that created difficulties for the work of farmers and affected the implementation of agricultural policies for the development of the sector (debt to farmers in the amount of EUR 25,455,512 from 2018 and 2019).

- During these 100 days, the government has paid special attention to budget planning and management for the Rural Development Programme and the Direct Payments Programme; has increased the lack of cooperation for years with agricultural sector associations and has intensified programmes and projects that overcome the challenges of farmers and economic operators.

## Payments have been made for 3,095 farmers, in the amount of € 9,036,080.

- The return of the normal functioning of the administrative units of the Ministry has commenced, suspending two (2) senior officials, the Secretary-General of the MAFRD and the Chief Executive of the Agency for Agricultural Development, who are indicted, while five (5) other officials have been suspended by their heads, following the confirmation of the indictment by the State Prosecutor. Also, over 60 short-term contracts – agreements on special services – were not extended, which, were illegally extended from one, three or six months for 10 consecutive years.

- For the first time, the Government of the Republic of Kosova has started drafting the programme for online application for the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2020, facilitating procedures for application of farmers, increase transparency, avoid possible misuses during the application process and increase security of application control according to standards followed by the procedures provided by the accreditation package of ADA.

- The government has expanded the agricultural insurance scheme for our farmers, in addition to raspberry product we have included 5 other products: apples, plums, grapes, strawberries, and peppers, products for which our farmers will benefit from the premium agricultural insurance

- The reorganization of the Agricultural Development Agency has begun, whereby the issue of this agency's accreditation was prioritized in order to increase transparency in allocation of subsidies and grants, so as to enable direct management of EU funds, and consequently the government has resumed discussions on increasing competitive capacity of all units in the agricultural sector for the implementation of projects under the IPARD III programme after the stagnation of cooperation in recent years between government institutions and the EU Office in Kosova.



Image 5  
Minister Mustafa visiting the beekeepers of the municipality of Podujeva

● Following the situation created by the COVID-19 pandemic, measures have been taken to alleviate and manage the situation, with special emphasis on the protection of farmers and spring harvests: Decision on temporary postponement of deadlines for the implementation of beneficiary grant projects; after restricting the free movement, relief measures have been taken for farmers in order to create the possibility of cultivating land with extended hours 06:00–20:00h; the food supply corridor for livestock and poultry has been provided, thus avoiding a crisis in these two sectors; It was decided to temporarily postpone procedural deadlines for obtaining and continuing permits and licenses for implementation of primary and secondary legislation related to the field of Horticulture, Products for Plant Protection, Fertilizers, Plant Protection, Seeds, Livestock, Forestry, Wine and Agricultural Advisory Services.

In terms of Food Safety, 7 sub-legal acts have been drafted and sent for further procedure and 8 other acts are in the process of harmonization and amendment, whereas in terms of public health, the compilation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) continues, according to the Quality Management System, monitoring of official controls and food waste plan, monitoring of food product certification, institutional support and monitoring of the construction of the plant for the treatment of animal by-products.

## Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

In terms of Telecommunications and ICT, the Government has signed the project contract for Centre of Digital Excellence in the Innovation and Training Park in Prizren, and the centre will be supplied with IT equipment. The government is also working to expand Internet to the country's last 50 villages. It should be noted that the Government of Kosova, through its institutions, has applied for Kosova's membership in the GÉANT pan-European data network for education and research.

## Balanced regional development

The Government of Kosova has launched the Balanced Regional Development Program (category of capital investments for municipalities), as well as the Balanced Regional Development Program (category of business support BRDP 2020) by preparing and approving the Guideline on the implementation of the Regional Development Program 2020 as well as the Guideline on the category of capital investments.

Image 6

Minister Hajdari / Digitalization goes beyond boundaries, it enables the flow of ideas and projects.



04

# Education and science

The Government of Kosovo, as an initial step, has carried out the analysis in the education system where many irregularities have been found. Thus, in MESTI, managerial shortcomings, procedural violations, lack of performance and lack of functioning of the ministry have been identified, as a result of misgovernment and inadequate organogram. To restore functionality and efficiency, through a functional organogram, MESTI is working on supplementing/amending the regulation for internal organization of the Ministry.

Further, several actions have been taken to stop illegal processes that have damaged the education system. In this regard, the Administrative Instruction (no. 03/2018) on Foreign Languages in the Study Program of the Second or Third Cycle, which had been unlawfully approved, has been repealed. Expenditures on goods and services have been significantly reduced and million euro projects have been removed from the budget, which have been included in violation of applicable laws and procedures.

The Director of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency has been elected and thus the Ministry was congratulated by the British Embassy in Kosovo, as evidence of the depoliticization of independent agencies and the beginning of the restoration of the agency's autonomy.

In order to ensure easier and more efficient teaching/learning, special groups which ensure the quality of curricula and textbooks have been established. Those groups include:

- Working Group for drafting the Law on School Textbooks
- Expert Council for School Programs and Textbooks
- State Matura Commission

The Government of Kosovo has paid particular attention to science and innovation, through the completion of the Report on Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2017-2021, a plan that had stalled. Also, the Specific Education Grant has been prepared.

The government has approved the draft decision on compensation for damages in school infrastructure, caused by strong winds and bad weather in the Municipality of Istog and that of Peja.

## Increasing the quality of teaching in pre-primary, primary and secondary education

During this period, in order to prepare and train students for life and the labour market, the Government has allocated more budget support for preschool facilities, modernization of infrastructure at all levels (more laboratories, concretization tools, physical and electronic literature, digitalization of teaching materials and infrastructure), construction of new schools, physical education halls, improvement of sanitary facilities, etc.

Also, the manuscripts for the new textbooks for the 3rd, 8th, and 12th grades and for the manuscripts which were not positively evaluated by the reviewers from last year's process (2019) were accepted. Meanwhile, the selection of reviewers for the evaluation of manuscripts is in progress.

The normalization of the teaching/learning process has been achieved in the municipality of Kamenica, after reactions by students and parents as a result of the reform of the Mayor of Kamenica for the reorganization of the teaching/learning process.

**Management of COVID-19 Prevention Activities** - Being aware of the possibility of the rapid spread of this pandemic in school institutions, the increase of hygiene in schools has been timely required, continuous communication has been maintained with the Municipal Education Directorates (MEDs) and in cooperation with the National Institute of Public Health (NIPHK), instructions have been sent to all educational institutions to implement measures in order to prevent the spread of the virus. In accordance with the National COVID-19 Reaction Plan, approved by the Government of Kosovo on 10.03.2020, a detailed action plan has been prepared and distributed to all Municipalities/MEDs, schools and educational institutions in the country.

Immediately after the interruption of the teaching/learning process (on 12.03.2020) due to the COVID-19 pandemic, intensive preparations have started for the implementation of distance learning in cooperation with NGOs and IT companies who have provided support on a voluntary basis. In this regard, the close cooperation with the Municipality of Prishtina (MED) and the school "Qamil Batalli" in Prishtina and the school



Image 7  
 Prime Minister Kurti's visit to the Model School  
 "Qamil Batalli" in Prishtina.

"Emin Duraku" in Prizren has been consolidated, which have helped in the implementation of this project. The distance learning program has been implemented in accordance with the curricula of the Republic of Kosova.

E-learning - On 23 March 2020, the broadcasting of distance learning on RTK has started, and the official MESTI channel on YouTube has been launched. It initially started with 1st -5th grades, for the subjects of mother tongue and mathematics, and then expanded to 6th- 9th grades, within a week.

On 6th of April, MESTI started broadcasting the teaching/ learning content in distance, with a busy schedule, including more than 70% of the subjects. Student participation is more than 90%.

On 16th of April, in cooperation with and through the support of "UNICEF" and "Save the Children", MESTI has launched the

"Distance Education - Care, Development and Early Childhood Education for 0-6 year olds" platform. On 18th of April, the video shooting was completed in "Qamil Batalli" school in Prishtina, where 1800 video teaching units were produced. At the beginning of April, MESTI started producing video lectures in both Turkish and Bosnian languages and these shootings are still going on in the "Emin Duraku" school in Prizren.

During this time, efforts have been made to supply children (families) who lack electronic equipment for distance learning, in which case, significant support has been provided by various donors such as: Elkos Group, Ecolog Company, municipalities and individual donors, World Bank, German GIZ, etc.

In cooperation with and through the support of 'Save the Children', a platform for comprehensive learning for children with special needs has been launched.

## Vocational Education and Training

Regarding this field, the agreement with the German Development Bank (KfW) for the project "Kosova Challenge Fund - Vocational Education and Training" in the amount of EUR 7 million in support of Vocational Education and Training in Kosova is on the verge of being signed.

## Higher education

In the category of subsidies and transfers, more budget has been allocated for addressing requirements for new research projects, innovations and investments in science and knowledge. Also, the budget has been increased in the category of scholarships in order to improve the bad situation from last year, where the former cabinet had cancelled the award of scholarships for elite students.

Currently, the process of reaching an agreement with the United States on the establishment of the Kosova-US Commission for Fullbright Scholarships is at an advanced stage. This is a significant achievement for strengthening cooperation between Kosova and the United States in the field of higher education. The Ministry is in the final stage of reaching a memorandum of cooperation in the field of education with the Czech Republic. Agreements for cooperation with other partners such as the German GIZ, the Government of Luxembourg, the Austrian Development Agency, the Swiss Caritas, etc., are in the process of being extended.

Also, the memorandum of cooperation with Hungary is in the final stage of harmonization, through which the Government of Hungary will expand the scholarship scheme for Kosovar students, from 50 scholarships so far, to 75, for three study cycles (bachelor, master and doctorate).

Image 8

Minister Bajrami / Launch of the Erasmus + structural project on "Enhancing research culture in higher education in Kosova (ResearchCult)".



05

# Healthcare

The Government's focus in the field of health has been on ensuring and improving citizens' health, improving quality, safety, effectiveness, interest and effectiveness of providing health services, reorganizing the health sector and its sustainable financing.

In the combat against greatest pandemic in recent centuries, i.e. COVID-19, over 90% of the activities and interventions of this Ministry in this 100-day period had to do directly or indirectly with the management of this pandemic. Due to the lack of basic items (protective measures, medicines, consumables, equipment) and without an adequate legal basis, the Ministry of Health had a hard time facing this pandemic.

Government, inter-ministerial and ministerial measures - on 27th of February 2020, the Committee for Coordination and Assessment of the Emergency Situation with COVID-19 was established by means of a decision of the Minister of Health. On March 5, the Working Group for the drafting of the Action Plan was established as the derivative of the plan for readiness and response to COVID 19, which was approved by the Government on 10th of March.

Immediately following the announcement of the pandemic by the WHO on 11 March 2020, at the request of the Ministry of Health, the Government of the Republic of Kosova, among many other measures, has decided to:

**1.**  
Interrupt the educational process in public and private educational institutions at all levels

**2.**  
Temporarily suspend travel by air and land.

The Ministry of Health has made a public call to the KCA (Kosova Competition Authority) and the Kosova Police for economic crimes to investigate increased prices of essential products for preventing the pandemics, after confirmation by the commission for research of product prices and equipment.

At the level of the Government, a decision is made to limit the entry and exit in the municipalities where the first infected cases were registered.

● **On 16 March 2020, the Emergency Operations Centre was established at the Ministry of Health for 24 hours operation.** This centre was followed by the ministerial and municipal operational centres.

● On 18 March 2020, the Student Centre was designated as quarantine space. 1180 people were accommodated there.

● Following the announcement of the state of health emergency on 15 March, the Government obliges the institutions to act in accordance with the National Reaction Plan. Based on this plan, the inter-institutional group decides that persons entering through the border point, after a medical examination, be sent to quarantine.

● It is also decided to designate the centre for foreigners in Vranidoll as quarantine space (26 March), for the immediate cessation of urban transport in all municipalities (31 March).

During April, upon recommendation by NIPHK, the Ministry of Health in order to prevent the spread of infection and maintain public health, as well as in response to the decisions of the Constitutional Court regarding the previous decisions of the Government, started issuing decisions to restrict entry and exit, declaring places as hotbeds of infection spread and quarantining specific municipalities.

On 30th of April 2020, the Ministry of Health, after 14 days of complete cessation of economic activities, has introduced the gradual steps to mitigate the restrictive measures imposed to prevent and combat COVID-19 pandemics.

The opening is scheduled in three (3) phases, with the first phase starting to be implemented with some relief from May 4th. The second phase is scheduled to begin on May 18, while the last phase begins on June 1. Among the predetermined phases, the epidemiological situation will be re-evaluated as a more reliable indicator of the possibility/ need for mitigation or return of the measures of the next phase.

## Reorganization of the health sector

With the purpose of better inter-institutional coordination for the fight against Covid-19 pandemic, on 16 March 2020, the Emergency Operations Centre was established within the Ministry of Health, and the Centre for Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in NIPHK, as well as the inter-institutional coordination through the Operational Centre of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration was carried out, which have enabled the activation and full and effective coordination of the relevant Ministries and various bodies responsible for emergency management such as MESTI, MFAD, MIE, MEETIESI, MFT, MCYS, Emergency Management Agency.

The management of the situation and the detection of suspicious cases, as well as the monitoring of the dynamics of the disease, were made possible through:

- Call centre where 200 to 300 calls are received within a day;
- Functionalism of the information system for COVID-19, Kosova health;
- Expanding laboratory and supply capacities;
- A total of 9314 suspicious samples with SARS-CoV-2 virus were tested, where 861 cases were positive, 28 fatal cases and 561 cases were cured;
- Introduction of data in the electronic system designed for COVID-19 "Kosova Health", data processing and analysis, preparation of regular daily reports on the progress of the epidemiological situation with COVID-19;
- NIPHK teams and Family Medicine Centres have closely monitored the epidemiological situation with Coronavirus at the land access points and the international airport "Adem Jashari", making the screening of all passengers and identification with checklists.

**9314 samples**  
**861 positive cases**  
**561 cured**

### Active Cases of COVID-19 in Kosova

Active cases = (infected) – (recovered) – (fatalities)

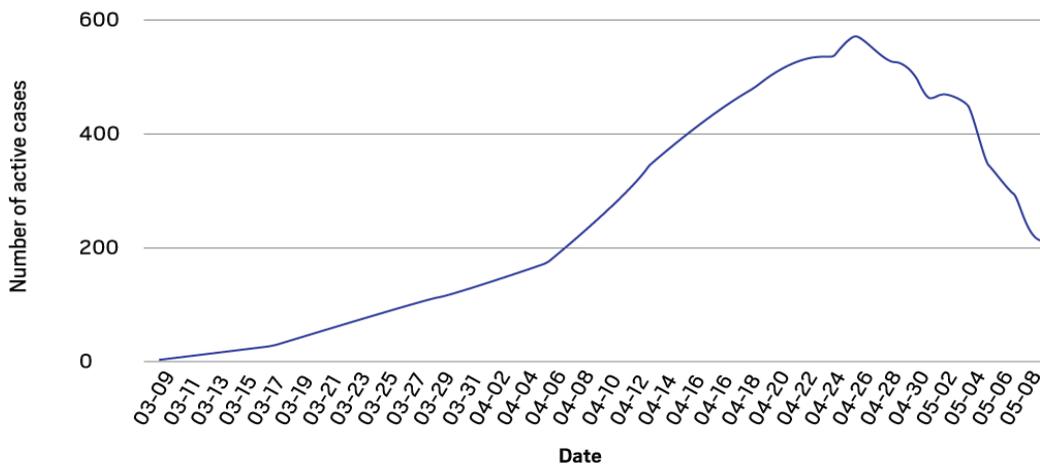
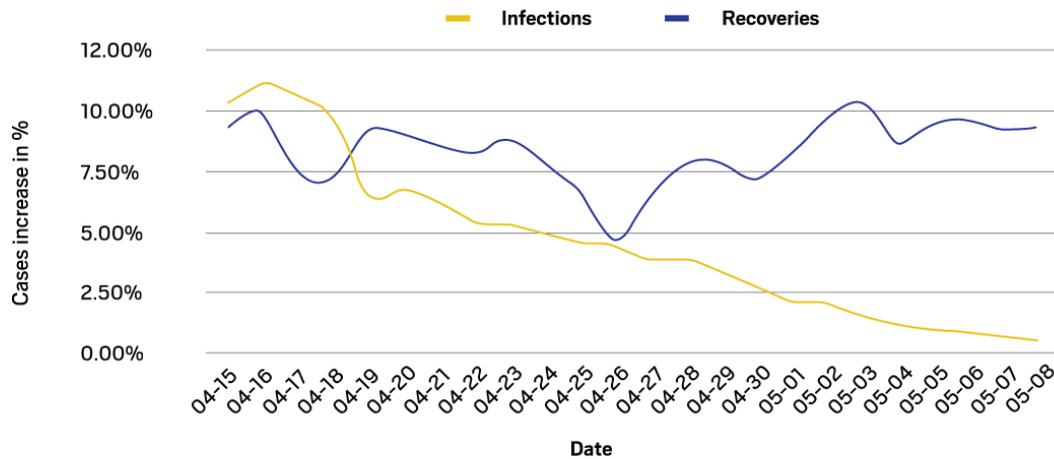




Image 9  
The Prime Minister  
and Minister Vitiya visit  
the Infectious  
Diseases Clinic

7-day rolling average of (%) increase of infection and recovery cases of COVID-19



## Improvement of healthcare services

**Healthcare services** - At the request of the Ministry, the HUCSK board has been functionalized by the Government. Capacities for infected and suspected COVID-19 patients have been increased. Three hundred beds from the Infectious Diseases, Pulmonology and Dermatology and Venereology Clinics have been reserved for people suspected and infected with COVID-19. The building of Sports Medicine, which was under construction, has been transformed into an intensive care unit of UCCK, for the treatment of cases that require resuscitation and assisted ventilation. Also, a plan has been prepared to expand the capacity of these spaces.

— In the HUCSK in the period of work (January - May 2020), 1.9 million services were provided, out of which 181,012 services were healing days at the level of Kosova with a total of 37,044 outpatients;

— 10,308 operations were performed at the level of HUCSK, 369,648 outpatient services;

— 856,390 laboratory services (parameters) were performed for 109,809 patients;

— 4,429 births were performed in all HUCSK units;

— 31,956 dialysis sessions were performed, with an average patient recovery time of 4.89 days. The average capacity utilization in HUCSK is 52.62%;

— Capacities for infected and suspected COVID-19 patients have been increased

Image 10:

Prime Minister Kurti with Minister Redžepi visiting municipalities to discuss COVID-19 pandemic management.



- *Preparation of a plan for further capacity expansion, up to 100 beds in these spaces, for use if needed;*
- *Capacity building for dialysis in UÇK and Prizren Hospital for patients on haemodialysis, who are suspected and confirmed with Covid 19, installing three haemodialysis machines with accompanying equipment in the Intensive Care of Sports Medicine at UÇK;*
- *Modification of the Haemodialysis Ward at the Prizren Hospital by functionalizing the Haemodialysis Centre in Rahovec;*
- *The laboratory of clinical microbiology at the Infectious Diseases Clinic in support of the Italian government has been made operational;*
- *The access to the BARNATARY system from home was made possible and therefore the KMA staff has performed the services online.*

**Inspections** - Thematic inspections for monitoring the implementation of decisions and information circulars issued for the prevention and control of COVID-19 infections in healthcare institutions and the use of protective measures by healthcare workers;

During the inspections for the period 04 February - 8 May 2020, 10 decisions of the first instance and 21 decisions of the second instance were taken.

The Government of the Republic of Kosovo, through **the Food and Veterinary Agency**, has issued 147 different decisions according to its competencies. Due to the pandemic caused by the COVID-19 virus, the Agency's staff has participated in national-state groups for the management of pandemics and inspections have been increased, in response to this situation according to the Agency's scope.

In terms of public health, the compilation of Standard Operating Procedures (PSO) continues, according to the

Quality Management System, monitoring of official controls and food waste plan, monitoring of certification of food products, institutional support and monitoring of the construction of the plant for the treatment of animal by-products. A total of 8 were approved and 112 food business operators were registered. 226 import permits were issued (live animals and animal feed).

The FVA Inspectorate has continued to conduct official inspections (inspections, monitoring and sampling) where a total of 14,231 inspections have been carried out and 1,897 samples have been taken; about 154,000 kg of food products have been destroyed; 628 Export Certificates and 338 Internal Certificates have been issued.

The Food and Veterinary Laboratory has received and tested a total of 4,995 samples with reference from the Official Control Plan, Food Waste Monitoring, Animal Disease Monitoring, Transparency and Neutrality of Raw Milk Sampling Project.

**7 sub-legal acts have been drafted and sent for further procedure and 8 other acts are in the process of harmonization and supplement-amendment.** 57 draft decisions, 36 requests for misdemeanour proceedings, 3 requests for State Advocacy have been prepared.

**338**  
Internal  
certificates

**628**  
Export  
certificates

# 06 Social policies

The Government of the Republic of Kosova, with the Emergency Fiscal Package, inter alia, has supported the beneficiaries of all social and pension schemes. In this regard, with the decisions of the Government, an increase of EUR 30 has been provided for all beneficiaries of social and pension schemes who receive a monthly payment of up to one hundred (100) Euros. Additional payment in the amount of thirty (30) Euros per month for all beneficiaries of social and pension schemes who receive a monthly payment in the amount of less than one hundred (100) Euros, for April, May and June, provided that they are beneficiaries of only one scheme; as well as return to the Lists of Beneficiaries of those who due to non-appearance or non-assessment in the period January-March 2020, have not renewed their rights to receive the benefits. This measure is worth up to thirteen million Euros (13,000,000)

Payment of monthly assistance in the amount of one hundred and thirty (130) Euros for citizens with severe social conditions, declared unemployed in the competent institution, who are not beneficiaries of any monthly income from the budget of Kosova, for April, May and June, worth up to three million (3,000,000) Euros;

Double payment of the value of the social scheme for all beneficiaries of social schemes for April and May, a measure of seven million six hundred and fifty thousand (7,650,000) Euros, including the payment made for March;

This is in order to provide assistance to these categories in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

Image 11  
Prime Minister's visit to the Home for the Elderly in Prishtina.



07

**Environment  
and  
infrastructure**

In the framework of the commitments set out in the Government Program 2020–2023, the Government is committed to preserving the environment and developing infrastructure. To achieve this, in the first 100 days, the Government has initiated and taken a series of actions and measures.

To protect the environment, maintain water quality, improve water services and develop wastewater treatment, the Government has taken the following actions and measures:

In order to improve the hydropower system in Kosovo, the analysis of the current situation has commenced and the drafting of a plan for its improvement has been initiated.

- Referring to the Law on Waters of Kosovo and based on the Government Decision on protected areas in Lake Badovc, the Municipality of Prishtina was obliged to annul the decision on construction conditions for the case of the neighbourhood near Lake Badovc.

## **Cancellation of the Decision on the construction conditions for the case of the neighbourhood near Lake Badovc.**

- In order to improve land irrigation, the master plan for irrigation and investment framework has been approved, funded by the World Bank, which serves as the cornerstone for investments on irrigation and proposes a list of priority investments amounting to EUR 400 million, covering 57,000 ha.

- The feasibility project for the Lepenc canal and the construction of dams in Firaje and Shtime has been accepted, which lasts 3 years (2023–2025) and amounts to EUR 49.3 million.

- The project “Promoting and Facilitating Water Safety Opportunities” of the World Bank, has been successfully finalized and negotiated – a loan of EUR 25.1 million.

- In cooperation with the Swiss Government, the preparation of the 5-year project “Improving Climate Resilience in

Water Services Sector” in the amount of EUR 6 million has commenced.

- The Swiss project for Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo has been finalized and it has been agreed to launch the first 4-year phase in the amount of 8.7 million CHF (out of a total of three phases amounting to 20 million CHF) aimed at drafting river basin plans of Iber, Lepenc and Morava e Binçës. Within this project, it is foreseen the establishment and development of the Authority of the Regional River Basin Authority, as well as the development of the capacities of the Inspectorate and the Hydrometeorological Institute of Kosovo.

- Mediation has been made between WBIF (EU) and GIZ (Germany) to avoid duplication of projects for the preliminary flood risk assessment in the basin of White Drin (PFRAB), and it has been agreed with WBIF to redirect excess funds to the completion of the PFRAB for the entire Iber basin by the Sitnica sub-basin, the completion of the Plava basin, as well as the provision of funds for the Morava e Binçës basin.

- In order to develop wastewater treatment, an agreement has been signed (by MEETIESI, MIA and RWC Prishtina) with the French Government, for the project of the wastewater treatment plant in Prishtina, which will also include the municipalities of Fushe Kosova and Obilic

- The Draft Law on Ratification of the Loan Agreement between the Republic of Kosovo and the EBRD for Gjilan Wastewater Development Project has been approved.

In the context of infrastructure development, the government has taken the following actions and measures:

- After finding irregularities, the decision of the previous Government no. 10/105, dated 28.05.2019, for the extension of the term of the contract for the construction of the R6 Motorway “Arben Xhaferi” from 01.06.2019 until 01.12.2020, which provided additional work of over EUR 50 million.

- After finding irregularities, the tender of 110 million Euros for the Motorway Prishtina – Gjilan, announced by the previous Government without budget approval, during the government transition, was cancelled.



Image 12  
Completion of works on the road in Veternik, Prishtina.

- Due to the low work dynamics, the work on the Veternik bridge project in Prishtina has been re-organized, in which case it was completed almost two months before the foreseen deadline.
- The dynamics have been increased and the work has been organized so that the construction of the road N2 (Prishtina - Mitrovica) will be completed in July 2021. The Work Plan has been drafted and the works are continuing. Since the expropriation of immovable property was one of the main obstacles to the project, the decision was taken to expropriate the immovable property which is affected by the construction of the national road N2, Prishtina - Mitrovica, which was voted by the Government.
- The work dynamics has also been increased in projects such as the construction of the road Kiev - Zahaq, which is

financed with loans from the EBRD and EIB, the construction of the road Prishtina - Podujeva and the motorway Prishtina - Gjilan.

- Although the start of new projects has not been allowed due to pandemics, the dynamics of works and the concentration of resources in road maintenance and current road construction projects have increased. Road maintenance has been operational throughout pandemic and in many cases, national roads have been disinfected.
- As part of donor coordination, MIA has participated in the design and negotiation of the FLOWS project (worth € 28.45 million), funded by the World Bank. This project is in the signature phase and its implementation will begin soon.

- The volume of projects with the European Commission, specifically the SIGMA project, Green Deal, as well as the IPA 20 and IPA 21 funds, has increased.

- Coordination of work on projects with GIZ and Swiss SDC has continued, but also with JICA in improving air quality.

It should be noted that, following the announcement of the COVID-19 pandemic, the decision was made to temporarily suspend air and land travel lines with other countries. After this suspension, there was an urgent need to organize special flights to repatriate the citizens of the Republic of Kosovo, who had an urgent need to return to the country. For this, over 10 flights with special permission have been organized

by MIE, where over 1000 citizens of the Republic of Kosovo have been repatriated. This process is continuing successfully these days. On the other hand, constant contact has been maintained with all ministries of transport of neighbouring countries, but also with European authorities, so that the transport of goods works smoothly.

- This year's budget includes major projects such as the construction of the road Prishtina - Podujeva, Prishtina-Mitrovica, Kiev-Zahaq and the motorway Prishtina - Gjilan

- The number of supervisory staff in the road department has been doubled. So far, one supervisor has managed dozens of projects.

Image 13

Return of citizens identified by our embassies abroad.



08

# Energy and mining

Regarding the **energy** sector, the Government has taken these actions and measures:

- The voting on the connection agreement between the transmission operator KOSTT and the European network ENTSO-E was observed. The agreement will ensure the energy independence of the Republic of Kosovo and its alignment with the energy market of the Republic of Albania.

- The grant agreement with the European Union, through the World Bank, in the amount of EUR 9.4 million has been signed, with the aim to financially support the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Project.

- The strategy for renovation of residential buildings, within the Energy Efficiency Agency, has been drafted, and the feasibility study for the mandatory scheme has been carried out, whereas it is being worked on the set up of residential associations, which will implement energy efficiency measures.

Image 14

Prime Minister Kurti at the Trepça mine on the 31st anniversary of the miners' strike.



09

# Culture and Sports



Image 15  
Minister Dumoshi / On the International Day of Museums,  
the Museum of Natural History is re-established in Kosova

## Art and culture

Numerous actions have been taken for implementation of sustainable policies in the field of art and culture, which have influenced the preservation and development of these fields. Moreover, during the situation created as a result of the pandemic, cultural institutions have continued their activities on digital and virtual platforms. In this way, the National Theatre of Kosova has broadcasted about 30 performances through the social networks of the Theatre, with the motto "Home Theatre"; The National Gallery of Kosova has brought its exhibitions before the Kosova public in virtual format, i.e. several exhibitions in 360 degree format, and has promoted old and new artists through the series "Artists in quarantine"; The Kosova Cinematography Centre has broadcasted a significant number of films that are produced by the KCC on local national televisions but also on other digital platforms such as Gjirafa video; The

National Song and Dance Ensemble "Shota" and the Kosova Ballet have broadcasted their performances and concerts on national television and on their social networks; Kosova Philharmonic has brought three concerts, one of which was broadcasted on the Constitution Day of Kosova..

## Books and publishing activity

Within policies for supporting the publishing activity, the public call to support the publication of books, purchase of books and publication of literary magazines has been closed and the selection of the beneficiaries of this public call is already in the final stage.

The annual awards for literature and the national life achievement award in the field of literature have also been given.

## Improvement of cultural infrastructure

As the expansion of the public cinema network is a government priority, during this period, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the Kosova Cinema Centre and Tatino Films, the National Cinematography Centre of Albania, the Film Centre of Montenegro and the North Macedonia Film Agency.

Also, a joint cultural calendar with the Republic of Albania has been prepared.

As it is notoriously known, Prishtina will host the 14th edition of the Manifesto (European Nomadic Biennial) in 2022. Regarding this event, the MoU has been drafted and submitted for signing, and it has been discussed the involvement of the artistic community in the process.

## In particular, the prospectus of assistance in the establishment of the Museum of Contemporary and Modern Arts with the help of sister institutions in France, Netherlands, USA, Germany was discussed.

Regarding the establishment of physical infrastructure of cultural facilities, during this period, works for the implementation of several capital investment projects for various cultural facilities have continued, such as: Construction of Cultural Centre in Rugova of Hasi, Municipality of Gjakova, Construction of the Library and Archive in Shtime, Construction of the Cultural and Youth Centre in the Municipality of Hani i Elezit, Construction of the Cultural Centre "Ukë Bytyci" in the Municipality of Suhareka, Renovation of the House of Culture "Hasan Prishtina" in the Municipality of Vushtrri, Renovation of the National Library of Kosova "Pjetër Bogdani", Renovation of the Cultural Centre "Isa Kastrati" in the Municipality of Kamenica, etc.

## Financial support to culture

In accordance with the annual objectives and programs, the budget for the subordinate cultural institutions has already been allocated: Kosova National Theatre, Kosova Philharmonic, Kosova National Ballet, Kosova National Gallery, Kosova

Cinematography Centre, Kosovafilm, Song and Dance Ensemble "Shota".

As for the support to independent culture, the evaluation of applications for financial support of independent cultural organizations and creators and performers is in its final stage. Through this process, most of the cultural activities are financed throughout the territory of Kosova, in all sectors of culture.

Furthermore, the competitions for the selection of award winners for the field of theatre and music have been closed, as well as the competition for the Awards in the field of cinematography and the competition for the Awards in the field of Visual Arts have been published.

Kosova's culture will also be promoted with the participation in the 17th International Architecture Exhibition, at the Venice Biennale 2020. All the necessary preparations to participate in this important international cultural event have been made, such as naming the curator, selecting the team, the project has been prepared as well as other necessary preparations.

In these months, Kosova continued its coordination with the European Union regarding Kosova's participation in the Commission's program "Creative Europe".

## Protection and promotion of cultural heritage

To ensure necessary protection and promotion of cultural heritage, the Draft Law on Amending and Supplementing the Law on Cultural Heritage has been added to the 2020 legislative plan. This draft law is expected to be drafted during this year. Also, in order to increase efficiency, the priorities in the field of conservation-restoration and implementation of concrete projects have been reviewed and defined, including with special emphasis the buildings with protection status in the historic centre of Prishtina and Prizren. The cooperation with the EU Office for the projects which will be implemented within the IPA fund has continued :

**a) Revitalization of the street  
“Marin Barleti”,  
b) Kino Lumbardhi in Prizren,  
c) Old city of Janjeva, and d)  
Archaeological Park –“ Ulpiana”**

Preparations for the International Museum Day have commenced on 18 May 2020.

**Sports**

At this stage, the obligations which have been part of the preliminary approvals according to the contracts in the sports infrastructure have been fulfilled, along with the subsidies to the sports organizations of 2019. Currently the Department of Sports is in the process of making payments that are mandatory.

Upon the approval of Law no. 07/L-001 on the Budget Appropriations of the Republic of Kosova for 2020, the work plan has been prepared with the approval of program policies, proceeding with projects that have been part of procurement activities. Finally, 10 scholarships were awarded for Olympic and Pre-Olympics in accordance with Regulation No. 03/2013.

**Modernization of sports infrastructure**

After numerous meetings with athletes and sport representatives in Kosova, several memorandums of cooperation have been signed. Among them is the memorandum of cooperation with the Kosova Judo Federation for co-financing the implementation of the project "**Construction of the National Judo Centre in Peja**", which will be finalized during this and the upcoming year, with a total amount of 460 thousand Euros, of which MCYS allocates over 300 thousand Euros.

**Youth**

The call for application of NGOs for training of young people for entrepreneurship, and provision of vocational trainings, which are necessary for the labour market, has been launched. At the beginning of this year, three projects were supported, which are partnerships of youth centres and youth action councils in cooperation with the GIZ.

In the context of COVID-19, the Department of Youth coordinated MCYS and UNKT regarding the organization of two online concerts with local singers on the topic of combating hate speech of young people within joint activities during the isolation because of the pandemic.

10

# **Safety and Security**

**The Ministry of Defence** engaged in cooperation with line ministries and all local institutions involved in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic by carrying out 592 transport activities, where 16 tents and accompanying equipment were placed in medical centres in the municipalities, 4 containers were transported and placed at the border points, as well as the Emergency Municipal Headquarters were supported.

### Armed forces

The Government of the Republic of Kosova is committed to addressing the defence and security sector as a priority during this period as well.

Based on the state's objectives set out in the Government Program, the Ministry of Defence in cooperation with other institutions continued developing key strategies and policies in order to complete strategic and **planning** documents.

In this regard, the drafts of ***the Defence Strategy and the Human Resources Strategy*** have been compiled, the working groups of which are led by this Ministry, while the working group has been established for the drafting of the ***State Strategy for Cyber Security***.

Also, the drafting of policies has continued according to the annual plan as follows: Intelligence Development Policy, Planning, Programming, Budgeting and Execution Policy, KSF Standardization Policy, KSF Modernization, Risk Assessment and Management Policy for IT Systems, etc.

In order to implement the Policy for Standardization and that for Modernization of the KSF, the supplementation of laws and other acts has continued. Thus, ***the drafting of the Law on supplementing and amending the Law on Humanitarian Demining has started***. Further, the concept document for sending the KSF abroad has passed the preliminary consultations. Working teams have been established and the drafting of the Concept Document for the Reserve Component as well as the Concept Document for the Military Police has continued. Regarding the Concept Document for compulsory military service, discussions were held with partners and were made necessary analysis to initiate its drafting.

In terms of regulations, the Regulation on reserves for operational sustainability of KSF and the Regulation on career development of KSF members have been approved. Whereas, the draft Regulations regarding recruitment, health service and maintenance are in preliminary consultations.

**Legislation and regulatory documents for the Kosova Security Force** - the Documentation Hierarchy in the KSF and the Drill Concept 2021-2023 has been published. Also, the Administrative Procedures of the General Staff of the KSF and the Kosova Security Force have been determined. Moreover, the Planning Directive 2021-2023 has been finalized and the sub-programs and elements of the defence programs related to the analytical process of military purchases are being included.

Regarding the Doctrinal Documents, the Doctrine of Intelligence and the General of Operations in the KSF have been finalized, while the Doctrine of Personnel, Logistics, and manuals in various fields are in process.

**Transparency International Questionnaire** - for the first time the Republic of Kosova, namely the Ministry of Defence has led the review of the Transparency International Questionnaire for the corruption index in defence and security structures. On this occasion, the Ministry has provided additional comments and forwarded the first responses in 2019.

**Continuation of the implementation of the Comprehensive Transition Plan and support plans in order to achieve operational capabilities** - the Comprehensive Transition Plan reflects and includes key changes that need to occur year after year in maintaining existing capacity (MUAC), the establishment of new units for the mission of protecting territorial integrity and sovereignty and in general the process of transformation of the KSF. This Plan is temporalized with the development of human resource management, by examining the purity of the figure, verification procedures, declaration of assets, internal control in the institution.

**Projects** - 5 infrastructure projects have continued from last year, 7 projects are designed together with the drafting of technical investment documentation. Capital projects for 2020 have been prioritized. In order to modernize the weapons systems and military equipment, the processes for purchasing the elements of programs and weapons systems through the FMS (Foreign Military Sales) program have started. Also, KSF is in the process of implementing a project to supply HMMWV and other military equipment. It is worth mentioning donations, particularly from the USA, but also from the Netherlands, Germany and Great Britain..

Image 16 – 17  
22nd anniversary of the KLA Epopee

## Police

Almost all of the first 100 days of the functioning of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration were focused in **the fight against COVID-19 pandemic**.

In March, the decision to activate the National Reaction Plan was signed, in which case the Inter-Institutional Group for Incident Management (IGIM) was established, which has coordinated and organized actions related to prevention the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.

Upon activation of this group (IGIM), and the National Reaction Plan, the Ministry has also set up the Ministry's Operational Centre, which consists of officials from the Ministry, the Kosova Police, the Kosova Security Forces, the Kosova Intelligence Agency and the Emergency Management Agency, including other relevant institutions.



The Operations Centre coordinated the following:

- Repatriation of more than 1,281 people from border crossing points and organized flights to the Student Centre, which was used as a quarantine area, with a capacity of 520 people and during the reporting period more than 1,180 people stayed in quarantine.
- Several other places were arranged to be used as quarantine and additional accommodation centres for persons, such as: foreigners' centre in Vranidoll with a accommodation capacity of 97 people, Kosova Academy for Public Safety with a accommodation capacity of 140 people, but with the possibility of accommodating an addition 600 people, as well as the Belvedere Camp in Mitrovica with a capacity of 150 people, with the possibility to accommodate a additional 400 people.

On 20<sup>th</sup> of March, walks in parks across the territory of the Republic of Kosova were banned and the increase of police presence in these parts has been ordered so as to implement the decision in its entirety. However, in order not to restrict the freedom of movement for medical staff, all ambulance vehicles were allowed to cross the borders of the Republic of Kosova in order to allow for prompt actions and respond to the needs of citizens.

The free circulation with permits for the purpose of carrying out official duties was granted to bank officials, the essential staff of diplomatic missions, the essential staff of the state administration, including municipal level, NGOs, political entities, etc. In this regard, movement permits have been issued to about 12,000 people.

In all municipalities, Municipal Emergency Headquarters have been set up, Operational Centres have been operationalized and coordination has continued, as well as information about the treatment of citizens' requests.

Also, in order for citizens to be informed regarding steps taken by pandemic management institutions, an awareness campaign was initiated, through video recordings prepared with the help of the United Nations Development Plan and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In the framework of measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the acting Minister has carried out more than 15 visits to border crossing points and operational headquarters in municipalities.



11

**Foreign  
policy,  
integration  
and diaspora**

## Foreign policy and diplomacy

As an initial step toward strengthening of Kosovo's diplomacy, it was requested that all political ambassadors who have completed their four-year term, provided by applicable laws, to return to Kosovo. Replacing them will reduce the political quota, which is currently 75% of political ambassadors and only 25% of career ambassadors.

Also, for the first time since the establishment of the MFA, an internal vacancy has been announced, where diplomats can apply for appointment in diplomatic missions of the Republic of Kosovo. The internal competition and transparent procedures will guarantee the best possible selection of diplomats which will expand and deepen relations with other countries and protect the interests of the Republic of Kosovo in the international arena.

In order for the new professional staff to contribute to Kosovo institutions, was ordered the execution of administrative procedures and engagement of a beneficiary of the Young Cell Scheme scholarship, which was waiting appointment. Also, on 27.02.2020 a letter was sent to all line ministries, requesting them to prioritize the recruitment of scholarship beneficiaries from the Young Cell Scheme in public administration.

Given that deepening of bilateral relations is a government priority, as of March 5, the Minister of Foreign Affairs has held short meetings with a large number of resident and non-resident ambassadors to the Republic of Kosovo, where bilateral relations and opportunities for deepening relations have been addressed.

Together with the Prime Minister, from 14 to 16 February 2020, the Minister of Foreign Affairs participated in the Security Conference in Munich. Numerous meetings were held during the conference, such as that with the Secretary of State of the German MFA, Andreas Michaelis; the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovakia, Miroslav Lajčák; the Prime Minister Marjan Šarec, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Miroslav Cerar; the Prime Minister of Bulgaria, Boyko Borisov; Assistant Secretary of State Philip T. Reeker; the Minister of Defence of Northern Macedonia, Mrs Shekerinska; with SPD Secretary General Lars Klingbeil;

with the Political Director of BOM, Mr Richard Moore; with the Secretary General of Interpol, Mr J Stockrgen Stock; with the Prime Minister of Croatia, Mr Andrej Plenkovic, together with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Gordan Grli Radman; with the leader of the CDU Parliamentary Group, Mr Ralph Brinkhaus; with CDU/CSU faction spokesman Jürgen Hardt; with CDU MPs Peter Beyer and Christian Schmidt, etc.

## Euro-Atlantic integration

**Thessaloniki Meeting** - on 24 February, 2020, the Minister attended the High Level Conference on the European Perspective of the Western Balkans "From Thessaloniki to Zagreb", held in Thessaloniki, attended by foreign ministers of the Western Balkan countries and in the presence the Croatian Presidency, the European Union, the EU Foreign Service, as well as the representatives of the European Commission.

**Prague Meeting** - on 26 and 27 February, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr Glauk Konjufca, participated in the Annual Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Visegrad Group (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary and Poland) and the countries of the Western Balkans, held under the next of the Czech Republic.

The Input for the 2019 Country Report for the European Commission has been compiled and sent, which has summarized the contribution from all government institutions.

Relations have improved and confidence of European stakeholders in the process has been restored, who welcomed the reforms initiated by the government and expressed unreserved support for the government, including the financial aid package for COVID-19 and the financial assistance package that aims to be over EUR 150 million.

During 100 days, the Ministry of European Integration has managed to improve relations and restore European stakeholders confidence in the Euro-integration process, who welcomed the reform initiated by the government, and expressed unreserved support for the government, including the financial aid package for COVID-19 and the financial assistance package that aims to be over EUR 150 million.

Despite the cancellation of official confirmed visits to Brussels, Lisbon and Vienna due to COVID-19 pandemic, during these three months, the Minister of European Integration has held about 30 direct or "distance" meetings with senior EU officials, such as with: The Vice President of the European Parliament, Rainer Wielden, the Senior Commissioner of the European Commission, David Culen, with the Federal Minister for the EU and the Constitution of Austria, Caroline Edtstadler, with the Chairman of the Committee for the Western Balkans in the European Parliament, Tonino Picula, with the Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania, Gent Cakaj, then regular meetings with the President of the EU, the Ambassador of Croatia, Danijela Barishiq, and EU Ambassador Natali Apostolova, as well as with 12 ambassadors of EU member states accredited to Prishtina.

The Ministry of European Integration, during this period has compiled and sent the Input for the 2019 Country Report for the European Commission, which has summarized the contribution from all government institutions.

Also, the following initiatives were approved: "Financial Agreement for IPA 2019, part two"; "Financial Agreement for IPA 2020 with the European Union"; "The trilateral financial agreement between the EU, Kosova and Northern Macedonia for 2019, for the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Program"; "The trilateral financial agreement between the EU, Kosova and Montenegro for 2019, for the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Program"; "The trilateral financial agreement between the EU, Kosova and Albania for 2019, for the IPA II Cross-Border Cooperation Program"; as well as the Administrative Instruction on Kosova Property Comparison and Verification Agency on Determination of Procedures for Demolition of Unlawful Structures, as a precondition for meeting the political criteria in the European integration process.

On March 19, 2020, through a video conference between the institutions of Kosova and the European Commission, the meeting of the Sub-committee on Energy, Environment, Climate, Regional Development and Transport was held.

The "Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania and the

Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Kosova on Mutual Support within the Framework for the Preparation and Development of Admission Negotiations" was signed on April 24, 2020.

### Good-neighborliness and regional cooperation

The meeting of Sub-committee on Energy, Environment, Climate, Regional Development and Transport was held on March 19, 2020 through a video conference between Kosova institutions and the European Commission.

## The "Cooperation Agreement between the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania and the Ministry of European Integration of the Republic of Kosova on Mutual Support within the Framework for the Preparation and Development of Admission Negotiations" was signed on April 24, 2020.

During the reporting period, the head of the Regional Cooperation Council Office was appointed, who is also a political advisor for the issue of SHERPA coordination and implementation of Multi-annual Action Plan for the Regional Economic Area, as agreed in the Trieste Summit, July 2017.

**Pursuant to the Law on Missing Persons**, during this time, the remains of two identified missing persons have been returned to their families for reburial. Within the regional cooperation, a full-composition meeting of the Working Group on Missing Persons was held (between the Kosova Delegation and the Serbian Delegation, mediated by the International Committee of the Red Cross), as well as a

preliminary meeting between the heads of delegations and the secretariats of the delegations. During the meeting of the Working Group, the 'Sjenica case' was initiated and requests for several other cases have been re-introduced, and 'Updated Rules of Procedure of the Working Group on Forensic Medicine' have been approved. In addition to the meeting, a visit was made to the location marked in Kizhevak, Raska (Serbia) in which, according to information presented by the Delegation of Serbia is expected to be worked this year.

Also, in the framework of regional cooperation, a meeting was held between the Government Commission on Missing Persons of the Republic of Kosovo, the Commission on Montenegro on Missing Persons and the Commission on Serbia on Missing Persons, with the mediation of the International Commission on Missing Persons, in an effort to find a solution to the 'publication of the Regional Database', in order to implement the Regional Framework Plan for Missing Persons.

During this period of time, work was also done on the issue of bilateral cooperation agreements in the process of illuminating the fate of missing persons with the Republic of Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, addressing the discussions from the joint regional and bilateral meetings held at the end of January, respectively at the beginning of February, in Prishtina.

In early March, with the support of UNDP in the implementation of the project funded by the British Embassy, a 'Workshop with Municipal Officials on the Issue of Missing Persons' was organized

Also with the support of UNDP and the funding of the British Embassy, during these days we have developed the 'location tracking application through the website', which will soon be published as an opportunity to increase transparency and provide new information.

In cooperation with the associations of families of missing persons, based on the practices from previous years, we are committed to carrying out activities, within the circumstances created as a result of pandemics, to mark the anniversaries of "massacres and days of violent disappearances", including **April 27 - Kosovo's National**

**Day of the Disappeared Persons**, where, in addition to commemorating and honouring all missing persons and the pain of family members, these activities were organized also for correct information and awareness of local and international public opinion on the current state of the process of enlightening the fate of missing persons.

Within the Ministry of Local Government Administration, three cross-border programs have continued as follows:

— CBC Program - Northern Macedonia, IPA II, 2014-2020. The implementation of 4 projects benefiting from the first and second call for project proposals has continued, in the Program area on both sides of the border.

— CBC Program Albania-Kosova, IPA II, 2014-2020. The implementation of 5 projects benefiting from the first call for project proposals has continued, in the Program area on both sides of the border. The total value of the beneficiary projects is EUR 2,212,661. In this regard, 2 strategic projects have been contracted.

— CBC Program Kosova-Montenegro, IPA II, 2014-2020. The implementation of 7 projects benefiting from the first call for project proposals has continued in the Program area on both sides of the border. The total value of the beneficiary projects is EUR 1,976,011 + 15% co-financing. Whereas, 6 projects are in the process of contracting.

After the change of MoD and KSF mission, it was necessary to review the Bilateral Agreements (MOU) with the partner countries in the framework of the new status. Bilateral plans have been signed or entered into force with: USA, Turkey, Germany, Netherlands, Albania and France. Activities were coordinated with the ODC, the IOWA National Guard, EUCOM and USAREUR, and draft plans were developed with Croatia and Northern Macedonia. 7 activities have been coordinated within the IOWA program. The KSF is preparing its participation in peace support operations together with the IOWA-US National Guard in 2021, in the "KFOR 27" exercise, or other exercises in Hungary and Turkey.



Image 18 – Minister Konjufca signing the Decision to repeal the unlawful decisions

## Diaspora

### Repatriation of citizens of the Republic of Kosova

- Following the cancellation of air and land travel by the Government due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the commitment to repatriate the citizens stranded in different countries and who were unable to return on their own has started. A public call has been made for the identification of these citizens, where initially less than 2,000 citizens presented. As a result of the closure of borders by other states, panic was created and as a result the number of requests increased. Currently, 2,841 requests have been submitted. Of these requests, 1,482 citizens have been repatriated through air and road lines. 14 consuls have also been repatriated. A total of 9 flights were operated by Kosova Institutions, 1 flight by EULEX, AirAlbania services, 4 buses and several private car convoys were used three times..

Kërkesat aktuale të trajtuara dhe në proces për tu trajtuar			
Total No.	Emergencies	Non-emergencies	Returned
3043	1457	1550	1708

As the capacities in the Quarantine Centre did not allow for the return of all citizens at the same time, as compliance with the recommendations of the World Health Organization regarding hygiene and prevention of infection with the COVID-19 virus was required, the MFAD, in cooperation with the embassies of Kosova created lists of citizens divided into 2 groups: Emergency cases and non-emergency cases.

In order to speed up the return process, following the recommendations published by NIPHK, MFAD in cooperation with the embassies in Germany and Switzerland created lists of cases that in principle fulfilled the conditions for self-isolation, but also including persons who do not fulfil the conditions. This methodology will continue further in order to advance the return process.

After receiving the lists divided into emergency and non-emergency categories, Kosova's embassies submitted requests via the established centres for crisis management for the repatriation of persons of the first category. Approval for entry into RKS was done by EOCMIAPA and EOC, in consultation with the MFAD, after verifying that the Quarantine Centre has the capacity to receive citizens, whereas the special permit for the flight was approved by MIA.

For the category of persons who were unable to be included in the initial lists for specific flights, MFAD instructed the embassies, in the countries where they operated, to come to the citizens aid by identifying families from our Diaspora who are willing to provide accommodation, by identifying Albanian Diaspora businesses who are willing to help financially or by providing food, and by contacting humanitarian organisation of different natures.

**During 100 days, the Government of Kosova reacted in a timely manner in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic, increased the trust of the citizens of Kosova by dismissing incompetent and abusive officials, minimized public money expenditures and increased the public institutions' transparency.**





**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo**  
*Qeveria - Vlada-Government*

*Zyra e Kryeministrit - Ured Premijera - Office of the Prime Minister*