

**ATRC Kosovo**

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## **CIRCULAR ECONOMY COUNTRY SPECIFIC REPORT**

Written Contribution for the 2020 Annual Report

*Republic of Kosovo*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE EUROPEAN POLICY CONTEXT

The European Commission adopted the new Circular Economy Action Plan For a cleaner and more competitive Europe<sup>1</sup>, on 11 March 2020.

This Circular Economy Action Plan provides a future-oriented agenda for achieving a cleaner and more competitive Europe in co-creation with economic actors, consumers, citizens and civil society organizations. It aims at accelerating the transformational change required by the European Green Deal, while building on circular economy actions implemented since 2015.

The circular economy aims to maintain the value of products, materials and resources in the economy for as long as possible, thereby decoupling growth in manufacturing, production and consumption from natural resource use<sup>2</sup>.

The transition from a linear economy to a circular economy is a global trend of humanity, through which intended that the raw materials that enter the creation of a product in nature are not lost, but only transformed from one form to another.

The purpose of the circular economy is to offer an alternative to the linear economy, especially from: the system: Production-Consumption-Disposal in an economic system where the focus is on designing products with a Regenerative and Returning approach to the system of production and consumption, with a focus on Production- consumption and Reuse.

The purpose of the circuit economy is to use raw materials that are so clean that they can be recycled continuously. This economic system aims at the elimination of waste and the most efficient use of resources for production. The ideological concept of this economic system has existed in various formats since the mid-1960s, but in the face of global warming, climate change, and the overuse of finite resources, it is taking on a more integrative form and being re-emphasized. Rather, as a viable alternative to the linear economic system.

The New Strategy for Enlargement for the Western Balkans sets a clear focus on initiatives to enhance support for socio-economic development, increase employment (especially among the young), create business opportunities, offer stronger skills-based economies, and create green growth, thereby offering new opportunities for private businesses that increase competitiveness and create employment opportunities. This has to take into account the need for the Balkan countries to approximate their legislative frameworks with that of the EU acquis.

### 1.2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO

The Republic of Kosovo and the European Union signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement on October 27, 2015, in Strasbourg.

The agreement approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on October 30, 2015, through Decision no. 01/55<sup>3</sup> on the approval of the Draft Law on ratification of the Stabilization and Association<sup>4</sup> Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community.

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<sup>1</sup><https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/communities/en/community/city-science-initiative/document/circular-economy-action-plan-cleaner-and-more-competitive>

<sup>2</sup> Scoping study to identify potential circular economy actions, priority sectors, material flows and value

Chains; Funded under DG Environment's Framework contract for economic analysis ENV.F.1/FRA/2010/0044; August 2014

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Vendimet\\_e\\_Mbledhjes\\_se\\_55-te\\_te\\_Qeverise\\_se\\_Republikes\\_se\\_Kosoves\\_2015.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Vendimet_e_Mbledhjes_se_55-te_te_Qeverise_se_Republikes_se_Kosoves_2015.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> <https://qzk.rks-gov.net/ActDocumentDetail.aspx?ActID=11239>

The Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo on November 2, 2015, ratified the Stabilization and Association Agreement between Kosovo and the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community<sup>5</sup>.

The Agreement obliged Kosovo, as a country aiming for EU membership, that during the process of accession, to adopt the entire *acquis* and make it part of its domestic legislation.

Despite the obligations assumed by the signing of the agreement, Kosovo has not yet managed to harmonize its national legislation with the EU *acquis*. Environmental legislation is one of the priority areas to be addressed, due to the serious environmental situation in the country, in waste management, water management, air quality, degradation of nature, uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, etc.

This also applies to the accelerated implementation of the new Law on Waste (2012), the Strategy of Republic of Kosovo for Waste Management (SRKWM 2013-2022)<sup>6</sup> and the Plan of Republic of Kosovo for Waste Management (PRKWM 2013-2017)<sup>7</sup>. The progress achieved during the years, and the institutional capacities at all levels as well as infrastructure capacities are insufficient to meet EU standards.

Circular economy is not included in the legislation of Kosovo, neither as a notion and terminology nor as a method and practice. Current approved legislation does not address the concept of Circular Economy and, consequently, makes it difficult to implement this process in practice. For this reason, new legislation needs to be drafted to ensure the inclusion of the relevant concept and terminology of the circular economy, providing facilities to persons, entities (for-profit and non-profit) that are contributing or planning to contribute to stimulating the circular economy in the country.

In Kosovo, the circular economy initiatives are scattered in some private sector companies' initiatives, in superficial discussions by non-governmental organizations, and with a deficient vision from the government to develop this system in the country. Economic development initiatives appear to be focused more on building a more competitive economy by building much more rapidly on the linear economy, rather than on creating an environment that will enable sustainable economic development through circular models.

The National Development Strategy 2016-2021<sup>8</sup>, drafted by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo in January 2016, does not mention the term circular economy and does not foresee the essential holistic development of circular economy in Kosovo. The focus of the Strategy is more on managing the consequences of the linear economy, envisaging increasing efficiency in waste management, recycling, afforestation and increasing the use of renewable energy sources, rather than developing a Circular economy.

Moreover, the Kosovo Economic Reform Program (NREP) 2019-2021<sup>9</sup> also does not mention the term Circular Economy and for the worse the reforms are oriented on developing the linear economy.

- **Laws on Social Enterprises, Economic Zones and Foreign Investment** currently do not provide facilities for incentives for entities that promote the circular economy in Kosovo.
- Although the **Law on Waste** provides for the elimination, reduction and prevention of the negative impacts of waste on the environment, it does not focus on the complete elimination of the concept of waste and does not mention the circular economy.
- **The Law on Strategic Investments** needs to provide facilities for investors and investments that would help stimulate the circular economy in the country.

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<sup>5</sup> <http://www.mei-ks.net/sq/kosova/kuvendi-i-republikes-se-kosoves-ratifikon-marveshjen-e-stabilizim-asociimit>

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/STRATEGY\\_OF\\_THE\\_REPUBLIC\\_OF\\_KOSOVO\\_\\_on\\_WASTE\\_MANAGEMENT.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/STRATEGY_OF_THE_REPUBLIC_OF_KOSOVO__on_WASTE_MANAGEMENT.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> [file:///C:/Users/Kushtrim.ATRC0/Downloads/KosovoWMPPlan2013-2017\\_Eng.pdf](file:///C:/Users/Kushtrim.ATRC0/Downloads/KosovoWMPPlan2013-2017_Eng.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia\\_Kombetare\\_per\\_Zhvillim\\_2016-2021\\_Shqip.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_Kombetare_per_Zhvillim_2016-2021_Shqip.pdf)

<sup>9</sup> <https://mf.rks-gov.net/desk/inc/media/4FC9C8D0-8ADF-4DD1-97B8-BB2DD36150C3.pdf>

## 2. MONITORING PROGRESS

Monitoring the transition towards achieving more sustainable circularity of the resources in the economic cycle in the country is a challenging task, especially in relation to availability of and accessibility to relevant, verifiable and up-to-data data, and the indicators to measure the progress.

Due to the political instability in the Assembly of Kosovo, the environmental legislation and related, has not changed, compared to the previous year.

### 2.1. LEGISLATION: GENERAL OVERVIEW AND MAIN ASPECTS

No	Name	Relevance	EU levers (examples)	
<b>Production and consumption</b>				
1	Self-sufficiency for raw materials	The circular economy should help to address the supply risks for raw materials, in particular critical raw materials.	Raw Materials Initiative; Resource Efficiency Roadmap	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Law on Air protection</li> <li>2. Law on Environment Protection</li> <li>3. Law on water protection</li> <li>4. The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosova</li> </ol>
2	Green public procurement*	Public procurement accounts for a large share of consumption and can drive the circular economy.	Public Procurement Strategy; EU support schemes and voluntary criteria for green public procurement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Law for Public Procurement in the republic of Kosovo</li> </ol>
3a-c	Waste generation	In a circular economy, waste generation is minimised.	Waste Framework Directive; directives on specific waste streams; Strategy for Plastics	<p>According to the Law on Waste, the main planning documents for waste management are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strategy of Republic of Kosovo for Waste Management;</li> <li>2. Plan of Republic of Kosovo for waste management;</li> <li>3. Municipal plan for waste management;</li> <li>4. Plan for waste management by waste owners;</li> <li>and 5. Plans for waste management by licensed persons.</li> </ol>

4	Food waste*	Discarding food has negative environmental, climate and economic impacts.	General Food Law Regulation; Waste Framework Directive; various initiatives (e.g. Platform on Food Losses and Food Waste)	1. Law on food
<b>Waste management</b>				
5a-b	Overall recycling rates	Increasing recycling is part of the transition to a circular economy.	Waste Framework Directive	Furthermore, there are number of Administrative Instructions approved from the Ministries: 1. AI No 08/2017 on landfill management, abrogates the: AI No.15/2012, on landfill

a-f	Recycling rates for specific waste streams	This reflects the progress in recycling key waste streams.	Waste Framework Directive; Landfill Directive; directives on specific waste streams	<p>management;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. AI No.02/2017 for a list of hazardous waste according to the origin;</li> <li>3. AI No.07/2016 for environmental information system;</li> <li>4. AI No. 06/2016, on conditions for selecting the location of the waste landfill construction;</li> <li>5. AI No.23/2015, for export, import and transit of certain hazardous chemicals, PIC-procedure;</li> <li>6. AI No.22/2015, for management of waste containing asbestos;</li> <li>7. AI No.21/2015, on form and contents of record for supervision of inspection;</li> <li>8. AI No.15/2015, on waste management of fluorescent tubes containing mercury;</li> <li>9. AI No.14/2015, for penalties with mandatory fines;</li> <li>10. AI No.10/2015, for waste treatment of medical products;</li> <li>11. AI No.22/2015, on waste management of wastes from construction and from demolition of the building objects;</li> <li>12. AI No.05/2015, for management of biphenyls and triphenyl polychlorinated and wastes with PCB and PCT;</li> <li>13. AI No.01/2015, on the OECD list of waste;</li> <li>14. AI No.29/2014, on sludge management by treatment of polluted waters;</li> <li>15. AI No.27/2014, for waste management by packaging and wrapping;</li> <li>16. AI No.26/2014 on waste management from batteries and accumulators;</li> <li>17. AI No.25/2014, on waste management of electrical and electronic equipment and restrictions on use of hazardous substances in electrical and electronic equipment;</li> <li>18. AI No.21/2014, for waste management from the extractive industry and mining;</li> <li>19. AI No.20/2014, biodegradable waste management;</li> <li>20. AI No.09/2014, of waste management license;</li> <li>21. AI No.07/2014, for powers of waste holders, manufacturers and product importers;</li> <li>22. AI No.22/2013, on the management of medical human and veterinary waste;</li> <li>23. AI No.16/2013, on the limit values for concentrations of hazardous components in waste;</li> <li>24. AI No.13/2013, on state waste catalogue;</li> <li>25. AI No.05/2013, on management of disposed and waste tires;</li> <li>26. AI No.20/2012, for export, import and transit of waste;</li> <li>27. AI No.19/2012, on management of end life vehicle and their components</li> </ol>
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Secondary raw materials				
7a-b	Contribution of recycled materials to raw materials demand	In a circular economy, secondary raw materials are commonly used to make new products.	Waste Framework Directive; Eco-design Directive; EU Ecolabel; REACH; initiative on the interface between chemicals, products and waste policies; Strategy for Plastics; quality standards for secondary raw materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Law on external trade</li> <li>• Law on internal trade</li> <li>• Law on Supporting the Small and Medium Enterprises</li> </ul>
8	Trade in recyclable raw materials	Trade in recyclables reflects the importance of the internal market and global participation in the circular economy.	Internal Market policy; Waste Shipment Regulation; Trade policy	
Competitiveness and innovation				
9a-c	Private investments, jobs and gross value added	This reflects the contribution of the circular economy to the creation of jobs and growth.	Investment Plan for Europe; Structural and Investment Funds; InnovFin; Circular Economy Finance Support Platform; Sustainable Finance Strategy; Green Employment Initiative; New Skills Agenda for Europe; Internal Market policy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work Law</li> <li>2. Law for Public Finance and responsibilities</li> <li>3. Law for Energy</li> </ol>

10	Patents	Innovative technologies related to the circular economy boost the EU's global competitiveness.	Horizon 2020	
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**The STRATEGY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO ON WASTE MANAGEMENT: 2013-2022<sup>10</sup>**

The Strategy proposed from the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and approved from the Kosovo Government in 2013. The main objective of the Strategy is to create measures, based on which the Republic of Kosovo would have to reduce the amount of waste that currently creates as well create a sustainable system on management.

The Strategy on Waste Management sets guidelines and goals in the field of waste management for the period of ten years (2013-2022), in accordance with the legislation on waste management and economic opportunities, focusing on:

- Reduction of waste generation, reduction of the amount of waste at source and reduction of the amount of waste to be disposed;
- Development of infrastructure for the establishment of an integrated approach for waste management (Decrease - reuse - recycling-land filling) thus creating the conditions for effective functioning of the system;
- Reduction of risk from waste;
- Contribution to increasing employment in the country;
- Capacity building for waste management;
- Improvement of the waste service (improvement of the actual system, expansion of the collection zones, examination and harmonization of capacities for waste disposal);
- Education of public, training of officials.
- Completion of legislation and instructions on waste.

**2.2. QUALITY OF DATA**

In the last year: Circular Economy Country Specific Report, it reported that Kosovo does not have an integrated information system, which can be accessible to the public and with confirmed data.

Lack of data, not posting them on official websites, contradictory data for the same information in different institutions, treatment of public data as confidential or semi-confidential, have caused and are causing difficulties for the media and civil society organizations, in fast and accurate access to information.

The environmental sector in general, in particular the field of waste management, water, air, etc. are areas where the level of information is lacking.

Apart from the Kosovo Agency of Statistics, which conducts continuous measurements of sector development in Kosovo, none of the other Public Institutions, including the Ministry of Environment, has accurate and statistical data on circular economy, recycling and reprocessing of waste in Kosovo.

Up to day, there is lack of national information source on waste management data in Kosovo.

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<sup>10</sup> [http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/STRATEGY\\_OF\\_THE\\_REPUBLIC\\_OF\\_KOSOVO\\_\\_on\\_WASTE\\_MANAGEMENT.pdf](http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/STRATEGY_OF_THE_REPUBLIC_OF_KOSOVO__on_WASTE_MANAGEMENT.pdf)

There is a lack of data on waste management and information, published by national and local authorities. These data are limited in numbers, because the reporting is not done periodically, hence one has to vaguely estimate the missing data based on what is available and public. The Municipalities of Kosovo do not publish any data or statistic regarding the specific environment issue, reports, assessments or plan.

### **2.3. CIRCULAR ECONOMY INITIATIVES IN KOSOVO**

In Kosovo, the origins of the circular economy can be founded in the initiatives of companies in the private sector, in superficial discussions by non-governmental organizations, and rarely in national or local policies and legislation.

Economic development initiatives intensively focus on building a more competitive economy by building much faster and faster on the linear economy, rather than on creating an environment that will enable sustainable economic development through circular models.

While there is a growing public awareness of the environment, however, there is a lack of holistic understanding of how different business operations and personal choices interact with holistic human well-being and the enabling environment.

In addition to the lack of knowledge of the terminology and concept by ordinary citizens, there is also a lack of deep understanding of the content of Circular economy.

While there is a growing public awareness of the environment, however, there is a lack of holistic understanding of how different business operations and personal choices interact with holistic human well-being and the enabling environment.

In relation to this, one of the main obstacles that slow down the development of the circular economy in Kosovo is the lack of public awareness of the benefits they may derive from the circular economy as well as the lack of state financial support that stimulates the circular economy in the country.

Citizens of Kosovo currently consider the circular economy as a good idea but without economic interest, while waste as an expense and not a profit opportunity.

Kosovo produces tremendous amounts of organic and inorganic waste, which are disposed in the Public Landfills. Among organic waste, discharged to landfill, that are paper, food, glass, plastic etc. Some poor families, informally collect a small amount of recycled waste.

Financial support from the States can have greater impact and a positive effect on increasing the participation of citizens in recycling in Kosovo, thereby increasing household income and at the same time eliminating long-term environmental pollution.

Up to day, there are no public investments in this sector and no incentives for supporting private sector to be strong and developed in the Country.

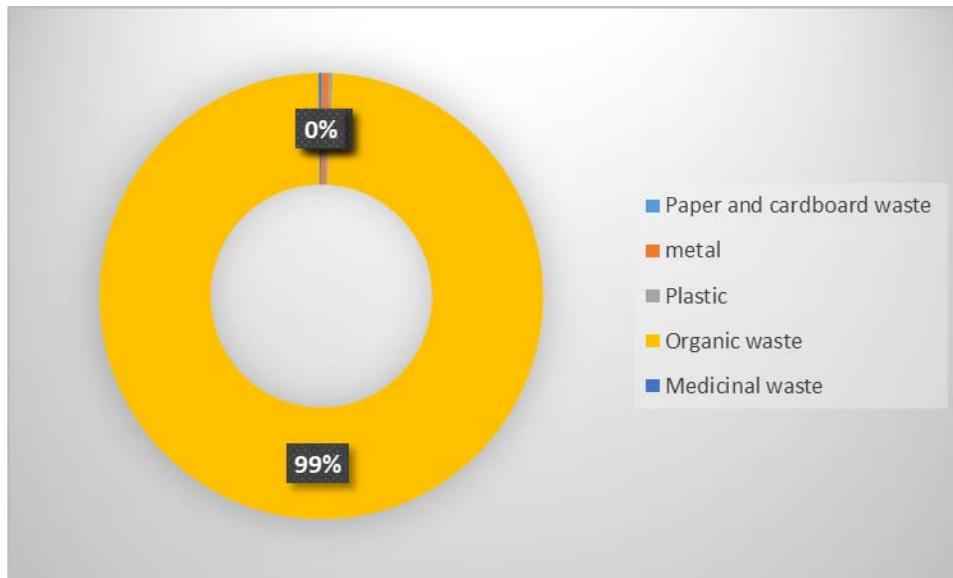
Based on data from the Statistical Agency of Kosovo<sup>11</sup>, the total amount of waste treated in Kosovo is 429,534 tonnes or increasing of 20,641 tonnes from the previous year.

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<sup>11</sup> <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/5633/anketa-e-mbeturinave-te-trajtuara-2019.pdf>

Type of waste	2019	2020
Paper and cardboard waste	136 ton	248 tons
metal	1,966 ton	2,479
Plastic	1,071 ton	1,027
Organic waste	425,667 ton	445,547
Medicinal waste		874
<b>Total</b>	<b>429.534</b>	<b>450.175</b>

Waste treatment based on types of treatment:<sup>12</sup>



The selection of waste from the source still remains a challenge for institutions in Kosovo and ordinary citizens. Organic waste continues to be treated according to the linear method of treatment, collection and disposal.

- **Car-sharing**

Due to the geography of most Kosovo cities, especially Pristina, alternative and eco friendly means of transportation, such as bicycles or electric cars, are not frequent in the capital. Citizens. is a symbolic number of citizens who use the bicycle as a means of transport. Lack of special sidewalks for bicycles, lack of parking places, lack of orientation signs etc. are just some of the reasons for not using bicycles in Kosovo.

- **Reduction of food waste**

There is no serious initiative in Kosovo that can contribute on reduction of food waste and stimulate sustainable use of food in the food chain. There are number of Charity Associations, which play important role for supporting people in need, but their intervention is symbolic, because of the lack of formalised and institutionalised support between State institutions and Charity Organisations.

- **Second hand clothing and footwear**

<sup>12</sup> <https://ask.rks-gov.net/media/5633/anketa-e-mbeturine-te-trajtuara-2019.pdf>

There are high number of second hand shops in Kosovo, which are based on import from EU countries, but there are no initiatives for clothing collection inside of Kosovo.

- **Waste as resource for energy production**

Kosovo's two coal-powered plants produce about 97 percent of the electricity it needs while the remaining three percent come from renewable source plants such as small hydropower plants.

Kosovo also imports electricity from neighbouring Albania when that country's hydropower plants produce surplus power.

The Kosovo A power plant has a capacity of 345 MW but it is in bad shape after 40 years in operation and considered the single worst pollutant in Europe. The Kosovo Government have drawn up plans to shut it down but can't do that until they manage to secure sufficient power to replace its output and that is impossible at present.

The Kosovo B power plant has a capacity of 540 MW but it needs maintenance and restoration to bring it in line with the European Union environmental standards. It has been producing electricity for 27 years.

- **Waste recycling companies**

In terms of managing the recycled waste there are approximately 23 companies that deal with their treatment. Among the materials that get recycled in Kosovo are paper, metals, batteries, cans, organic matters, rubber, plastic, etc.

### 3. Findings

Kosovo's public institutions have done little to promote the circular economy as an opportunity for economic development.

Kosovo institutions have failed to draft relevant legislation that includes the circular economy and makes it operational in practice.

Kosovo institutions failed to provide financial support to waste recycling and recycling initiatives

Kosovo's institutions have not created opportunities and found a suitable market for these few new recycling initiatives in Kosovo.

For these reasons, Kosovo recycles only 5% of recyclable waste, by 2020, it is impossible for it to reach the 50%; a target set by EU on reducing the waste generation and encouraging recycling.

Kosovo has 38 municipalities. None of these municipalities has officially started the process of selecting organic and inorganic waste.

#### 3.1. PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

On June 2020, The Kosovo Agency of Statistics published a report on export and import and import of goods in Kosovo; Gross Domestic Product - Q1 2020

According to this report:

Gross Domestic Product in the first quarter of 2020 marks a real increase of 1.29%, compared to the same quarter of the previous year 2019. The real growth of Gross Domestic Product by economic activities is as follows: financial and insurance activities (5.72%) ; professional and administrative activities (4.20%); extractive, processing industry, electricity, water supply (4.12%); information and communication (1.47%); real estate activities (1.17%); trade, transport, accommodation and food service (0.30%).

Meanwhile, there was a real decline in this quarter in economic activity of arts, entertainment and leisure and other service activities (-26.84%); construction (-12.40%); agriculture, forestry and fisheries (-0.15%); public administration, education and health (-0.10%).

Whereas, Gross product decides according to the approach to expenditures, in this quarter, there has been an increase in exports of goods and services (29.54%); import of goods and services (4.12%); and household final consumption expenditures (0.22%).

### **3.2. WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The process of Waste Management is responsibility of the Division for waste management under the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning.

This division is composed of several sectors that play different roles in the process of waste management, starting from the management and monitoring of depositions, licensing, treatment of waste, and the management of dangerous materials.

The sector that deals with the treatment of waste carries out activities that are interrelated with their separation, classification and recycling.

In terms of managing the recycled waste there are approximately 23 companies that deal with their treatment. Among the materials that get recycled in Kosovo are paper, metals, batteries, cans, organic matters, rubber, plastic, etc.

As we mentioned before, the informal waste collection mostly pushed from the level of poverty and socio economic situation in Kosovo. For these reasons the pure families, without having choices, go out in the streets, seek and collect recyclable materials, so at the end of the day they can gain some income by selling them to small private companies with whom they normally are not in a contractual relationship.

Furthermore, the profits gained by such exporting recycling companies are incomparable with what the economically effected groups get at the end of the day. This community consists mainly of minorities, such as Roma, Ashkali, and Egyptian, who work under terrible conditions with no appropriate clothing and in dangerous circumstance.

The human's activities are the main source of waste generation. Its high rate is a global concern which includes also (and especially) Kosovo, where this huge amount of waste almost totally ends up in landfills which are in horrible conditions. As it mentioned before, in Kosovo, all types of waste are dumped in landfills, being those solid, hazardous or non-hazardous, in which sites no waste classification takes place. Even more, institutions, which dispose hazardous waste, such as hospitals, use municipal trash bins and do not treat them prior of disposing them. As regarding oil, only some Companies receive back the used oil, which then used, for their needs during winter, such as heating, or they sell it to road building companies, which need it as construction material.

### **3.3. SECONDARY RAW MATERIALS**

In terms of managing the recycled waste there are approximately 23 companies that deal with their treatment. Among the materials that get recycled in Kosovo are paper, metals, batteries, cans, organic matters, rubber, plastic, etc.

Kosovo companies are increasingly finding profitable solutions to the visible waste problem in the country. Some companies have found ways to recycle Kosovo's waste into useful products, which exported.

**PLASTIKA** Company is the first company in Kosovo, Albania and Macedonia that recycle foil and plastic waste as a raw material for the production of foil for Agriculture and Construction, as well as the production of Thermo

foil and Stretch foil. In December 2017, the company started with the new super modern line, 5-layer extruder. This state-of-the-art machinery can produce high quality Stretch Hood, Stretch Film, Hood, Agricultural Film<sup>13</sup>.

**Tiki Mosaic** collects glass waste from all over Kosovo and recycles it into beautiful and colorful mosaic tiles. The company successfully presented their mosaics at the first Green Festival that took place in Pristina.<sup>14</sup>

**Izolimi Plast** has found success in recycling plastic waste and using it as insulation material. The company increased drastically its recycling capacity from year to year.<sup>15</sup>

**Kompania "Orient Kosova Mosaic"** merret me shndërriminn e mbeturinave te pastra të qelqit në pllaka dekorative të cilësisë më të lartë. Përdorimi i qelqit të ricikluar dukej si zgjedhja më e qartë për këtë kompani, e cila u hap në prill të vitit 2016. Kjo jo vetëm që i ul shpenzimet e prodhimit, por në të vërtetë e eliminon këtë lloj të mbeturinës, e cila përndryshe i ka kontribuar problemit të madh në vend me mbeturinat.<sup>16</sup>

### 3.4. COMPETITIVENESS AND INNOVATION

European Innovation Scoreboard does not include Kosovo.

Concerning innovation, the latest indicators of the European Innovative Ranking List (2018) still categorize the Republic of Kosovo "modest innovator" compared to other European countries.

Based on the Innovation Scoreboard report for 2019, showed that almost no data were available. Kosovo does not have an innovation survey, and data availability is relatively poor.

## 4. CONCLUDING NOTES

In order to see positive trends and improvements regarding environmental challenges in Kosovo, especially waste management, Kosovo needs to undertake some affordable and realistic solutions in terms of waste management, which can be:

1. Create a functional inspectorate which unit would add value to the effort of establishing environmental sustainability in Kosovo, specifically waste management, by identifying and eliminating illegal disposal sites, while also applying penalties to citizens and companies violating the laws.
2. Construction of new disposal sites which would contribute on environmental sustainability.
3. Encourage the establishment of credible information system, which indicated periodic data reporting and monitoring of waste management stakeholder; a component of this sector that remains poor in quality and quantity.
4. Increase the capacities in central and local level, being that human or financial resources.
5. Subsidizing recycling companies and those of special waste, like oil, vehicles, tires, etc., would encourage circular economy within the community. • The concept of circular economy is new and because of this it is not often and enough used as a terminology and practice.

## 5. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Complete the legal framework by including the methods of application of the circular economy in Kosovo, providing facilities for persons, entities (for-profit and non-profit) that are contributing or plan

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<sup>13</sup> <https://plastika-ks.com/>

<sup>14</sup> <http://tikimosaic.com/>

<sup>15</sup> <https://izolimi.com/En/izolimi-plast>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.usaid.gov/node/217661>

to contribute to the stimulation of the circular economy in the country. The laws that need to be reviewed and supplemented are:

2. Laws on social enterprises,
  3. Law on Economic Zones and
  4. Law on Foreign Investments
  5. Law on Waste
  6. Law on Strategic Investments
7. Financial incentives in the form of subsidies or direct payments to the population can bring a change in mentality and behavior and lead to concrete results that can push the development of the circular economy forward.
8. Fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, which could provide guarantees for certain investments, which could stimulate the circular economy and help encourage businesses to take investment actions that increase the efficiency of the production, consumption chain and eliminate could contribute to a faster transition to this economic model.
9. Other facilities to do business with circular approach can return the focus of short-term economic development
10. Provide business with easier access to innovative technologies by supporting the facilitation of doing business with more developed countries.
11. Greater cooperation between neighboring countries for exchange of experiences, practices in promoting the regional economy in the country and the region.
12. The circular economy should be included in school curricula, in all cycles of education.

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