



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo
Qeveria - Vlada - Government
Ministria e Zhvillimit Rajonal
Ministarstvo za Regionalni Razvoj
Ministry of Regional Development



Annual report on the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy 2020-2030

(Period: January 2022-December 2022)

Pristina, March 2023

Introduction:

The Regional Development Strategy (2020-2030) is a fundamental document that sets the strategic framework of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo for achieving balanced and sustainable development of the developed regions, with the aim of overcoming intra-regional and inter-regional disparities in the context of implementing the European cohesion policy and sustainable economic and inclusive growth.

The Regional Development Strategy (2020-2030) sets the long-term goals and priorities for the 10-year regional development policy, enabling the coordination of sectoral policies in the respective territory of the developed region and supporting synchronization among them. The strategy plays an important role in achieving consistency and synergy between the goals and priorities of the regional development policy and sectoral policies and strategies, which contribute to the balanced development of the developed regions.

The Regional Development Strategy defines the Government's priority policies at a medium-term level and provides long-term strategic development orientations.

In order to monitor the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy, the Ministry of Regional Development periodically prepares monitoring reports on the implementation of sectoral activities, municipal activities, activities of civil society organizations, and MZHR activities, to reflect the level of achievement and fulfillment of sectoral obligations arising from this strategy.

The report serves the Government to assess the level of implementation of the strategy and to re-orient, if necessary, the development policies. It also serves the institutions that have specific responsibilities in implementing the activities of this strategy, non-governmental organizations, international organizations, and all other interested parties to assess the progress achieved in the field of regional development, as well as programmatic orientations for the future period regarding regional development.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR MONITORING

With the aim of establishing a monitoring mechanism, the Ministry of Regional Development, as the responsible institution for monitoring the implementation of the regional development strategy, has defined specific activities and tasks with corresponding deadlines and indicators through an action plan, in order to implement the strategy for regional development. As the regional development strategy is a multi-

sectoral strategy, responsible institutions have been identified to support the Ministry of Regional Development in achieving the objectives set by the government. Additionally, in order to reflect on the activities for achieving objectives and implementing the Regional Development Strategy, the Ministry of Regional Development produces periodic reports to highlight progress and challenges in the implementation process.

MZHR, in accordance with its mandate, has supported the UN-HABITAT project for sustainable municipal services by coordinating the process of establishing a monitoring mechanism for the implementation of the strategy. During this process, the sectoral responsibilities of each responsible or supporting institution at the central level, municipalities, and civil society were identified.

Therefore, in order to keep track of the progress made towards implementing the activities outlined in the strategy, a one-year implementation report has been prepared for 2022. The purpose of this report is to identify the activities and results achieved through this strategy, as well as to highlight the challenges and concrete steps taken to address them, with the aim of achieving the goals set by the government for advancing regional development.

In order to establish an inter-sectoral mechanism for monitoring and implementing the Regional Development Strategy, the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR) has established the inter-sectoral group, who serve as coordinators of the implementation process of the regional development strategy, under the leadership of MZHR, through Decision No. 1197.

Based on the defined objectives and goals for the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy 2020-2030, the inter-sectoral group for the implementation of the strategy consists of the following institutions:

- Ministry of Regional Development;
- Ministry of Local Government Administration;
- Office of the Prime Minister - Office for Strategic Planning, Department for Development Assistance;
- Ministry of Finance and Transfers;
- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology;
- Ministry of Economy;
- Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade;
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development;
- Ministry of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure;
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora;
- Kosovo Agency of Statistics;
- Association of Kosovo Municipalities;
- Regional Development Agency "North";
- Regional Development Agency "South";
- Regional Development Agency "Center";
- Regional Development Agency "East";
- Regional Development Agency "West";
- Representatives from Civil Society;
- Representatives from international donors and partners.

The Working Group meets regularly and reports periodically, according to the requests of the Ministry of Regional Development.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MZHR	Ministry of Regional Development
ZKM	Office of the Prime Minister
MAPL	Lokal Ministry of Local Government Administration
MFT	Ministry of Finance and Transfers
MINT	Ministry of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade
MBPZHR	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Rural Development
MMPHI	Ministry of Spatial Planning and Infrastructure
ASK	Kosovo Agency of Statistics
ME	Ministry of Economy
AKK	Association of Kosovo Municipalities
AZHR	Regional Development Agency

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

Regional Development Strategy has a total of three objectives:

Strategic Objective 1: Coordination of policies for regional development;

Strategic Objective 2: Balanced regional development and regions capable of interregional competition;

Strategic Objective 3: Sustainable regional development based on natural, economic, cultural, and human resources.

As part of Objective 1, with the aim of achieving concrete activities, two specific objectives are foreseen, as follows:

Specific Objective 1.1: Drafting of primary and secondary legislation regulating the activities of mechanisms for balanced regional socio-economic development;

Specific Objective 1.2: Establishment of institutional mechanisms for regional development, for the drafting, monitoring and evaluation of regional programs/projects and performance.

Objective 2 also includes four specific objectives, as follows:

Specific Objective 2.1: Increase the level of socio-economic development of regions, through prioritization based on assessments;

Specific Objective 2.2: Reduction of inequalities through balanced financial assistance in the private and public sectors;

Specific Objective 2.3: Promotion of development policies that influence the growth of balanced regional socio-economic development;

Specific Objective 2.4: Expansion of interregional cooperation through transnational programs.

Objective 3 also includes three specific objectives

Specific Objective 3.1: Inventory of natural, economic, cultural, and human resources;

Specific Objective 3.2: Building capacities for the utilization of all resources;

Specific Objective 3.4: Development of economic zones for balanced regional socio-economic development.

Meanwhile, with the aim of highlighting the objectives of the strategy, the following targets have been established (reflected in Table 1), which will be monitored and evaluated from the implementation perspective through the action plan and monitoring reports:

Objectives set until 2022, to achieve the strategic objectives of the regional development strategy	Base value 2020	The goal 2022
A legal framework aligned with the legislation of the EU, in the field of regional development		
Drafting primary and secondary legislation that regulates the actions of mechanisms for balanced regional socio-economic development	0%	60%
Establishment of institutional mechanisms for regional development, for the design, monitoring and evaluation of regional programs/projects and performance.	20%	100%
Balanced regional development and regions capable of interregional competition		
Increasing the level of socio-economic development of regions, through the determination of priorities based on assessments.	0%	15%
Reduction of inequalities through balanced financial support in both the private and public sectors	0%	17%
Promotion of development policies that contribute to the balanced regional socio-economic development	0%	30%
Expansion of inter-regional cooperation through transnational programs.	0%	25%
Sustainable regional development based on natural, economic, cultural, and human resources;		
Sustainable and promoted natural, economic, cultural and human resources.	0%	45%
Building human and OSHC (Organizations for Social and Human Capital) capacities for the utilization of all resources that contribute to regional socio-economic development.	0%	15%

Development of economic zones aimed at balanced regional socio-economic development

0%

10%

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: 1. COORDINATION OF REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES;

Specific Objective 1.1. - Development of primary and secondary legislation regulating the operation of mechanisms for balanced regional socio-economic development;

Action -1.1.1 Drafting and approval of the legal framework for balanced regional development

The main institution is the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR) with supporting institutions being the line ministries. Donor support is provided by GIZ

The Draft Law on Balanced Regional Development was approved by the Government of the Republic of Kosovo on 26.10.2022 and was on the agenda of the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo for first reading at the end of 2022.

Action- 1.1.2 Drafting explanatory documentation of the legislation for balanced regional development;

The main institution is the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR) with supporting institutions being the line ministries, the Central Coordination Mechanism (ZKM), the Ministry of Finance (MF), and the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (ASK).

A working group has been established to draft the explanatory document, and the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR) has prepared an explanatory document for regional policies in the European Union that reflects the implementation of regional development policies incorporated as objectives, priorities, and concepts, offering equal opportunities for balanced regional development. The explanatory document has been approved at the ministry level and published on the MZHR website.

Specific Objective 1.2. - Establishment of institutional mechanisms for designing, monitoring, and evaluating regional programs/projects and performance;

Action - 1.2.1 Establishment of institutional mechanisms for designing, monitoring, and evaluating regional programs/projects and performance;

The main institution is the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR)

The Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR) has created Monitoring/Supervisory Groups for all programs developed by MZHR, and evaluation/monitoring committees have been formed for MZHR programs.

Action - 1.2.2 Analysis on assessing the necessary fields for investments with regional impact;
(“The main institution is the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR)”

Great to hear that the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR) has taken steps to create teams, groups, systems, and mechanisms for creating an electronic database and generating data by regions, profiles/sectors, and other specifications. It's also positive to hear that MZHR has carried out an analysis to reflect and advance regional development progress from 2017-2021, identifying and addressing all the steps and actions that MZHR has taken during the five-year period to advance regional development according to developed regions. It's good to know that MZHR has also conducted regular annual analyses contributing to identifying the most and least invested fields/sectors and the balanced distribution of investments in developed regions.

Action - 1.2.3. Development of a system for measuring regional performance;
(Main Institution: MZHR, Municipalities)

The main institution, MZHR, has conducted capacity building in the Department for Regional Socio-Economic Planning and Analysis (DPASER) by participating in professional training of the system (SPSS) at IKAP to apply the system for measuring regional performance as an analytical approach through SPSS. This system has been developed in collaboration with the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj, where 14 specific fields and 93 indicators for measuring regional performance have been structured and established in SPSS by region. This system is expected to be functional in 2023. In addition, DPASER, referring to MZHR's strategic policies, has also developed Terms of Reference, which have been consulted with GIZ and USHAF to be published, and based on them, a web system will be developed in 2024, which will aggregate statistical data in real-time from line ministries, municipalities, and other relevant actors.

MAPL has drafted the draft law for the Management of Municipal Performance and Performance Grant, which has been approved by the government and has been endorsed and published in the Official Gazette on August 12, 2022.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: 2. BALANCED REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONS READY FOR INTER-REGIONAL COMPETITION

Specific Objective 2.1 - Increase the level of socio-economic development of regions, through identifying priorities based on assessments.

Action - 2.1.1. Creation of a regional database with socio-economic data;

(Institutions responsible according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR, MFT, ASK)

Docu Share (DZHR) is the internal database of programs implemented by the Ministry of Regional Development (MRD) from 2018-2022, including the following programs:

- Program for Balanced Regional Development
- Program for Regional Development
- Program for NGOs.

Action - 2.1.2. Identification of public investments by the central level according to the developed regions, also broken down by municipalities;

(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR), Ministry of Infrastructure and Energy (MINT), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MAPL))

The Ministry of Local Government Administration (MAPL) has prepared the criteria for the application of funding for projects from the communal program for the development of socio-economic infrastructure, which have been approved by the government. Through this communal program for the development of socio-economic infrastructure and inter-municipal cooperation, 12 projects have been implemented in 14 municipalities with a value of €734,951.47.

Under the co-financing program with donors based on the grant scheme for municipal performance in cooperation with the DEMOS project and other donors, 14 beneficiary municipalities have implemented 60 projects worth €6,556,687.39, where 8 beneficiary municipalities have been funded from the MAPL budget with 25 projects worth €1,556,687.39, and 6 beneficiary municipalities have been funded from the DEMOS budget with 35 projects worth €5,000,000.00.

Through the program "Support for Infrastructure Projects for Communities in Municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo", 28 projects have been financed in 20 municipalities with a value of €927,758.23.

Action - 2.1.3. Reflection according to the developed regions of natural resources;

(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR))

In collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports (MCYS) and the Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR), a working group has been formed for the document "Reflection of Cultural Inventory by Developed Regions", which has been published on the official website of MZHR in English and Serbian languages. The document has been consulted with the managerial structures in MZHR, MCYS, and other relevant stakeholders, and has been approved.

Specific Objective: 2.2 - Reduction of inequalities through balanced financial assistance in the private and public sector;

Action - 2.2.1. Analysis of capital investments according to developed regions;

(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: Ministry of Regional Development (MZHR))

It seems that the Department of Regional Socio-Economic Planning and Analysis (DPASER) of MZHR has formed a working group to collect capital investment data for the preliminary year of 2021. The data has been organized according to the developed regions in the DPASER database. The data was collected using the formats specified by DPASER in Excel format. The document has undergone consultations with central and local levels, municipalities, and other relevant actors. The document has also established mechanisms to report capital investment data from each institution, including line ministries and ASK. The document has been finalized, approved, and published on the official MZHR website. It reflects sectors with investments according to the developed regions from both central and local levels. It also reflects the balanced distribution of investments in the five regions where MZHR operates, specifically identifying the municipalities that have not received capital investments from the central level. The document also contains data on investments per capita distributed according to the developed regions from both central and local levels.

Action - 2.2.2. Analysis of distribution of grants in the private sector from the central level to the regions; (*Institutions responsible according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR, MFT*)

A working group has been established to prepare a document/analysis on the distribution of grants in the private sector from the central level to the regions, reflecting the grant schemes of MZHR, MINT, Innovation and MBPZHR, and the distribution of support according to the developed regions where MZHR operates. It identifies a balanced distribution according to developed regions, the number of projects, beneficiaries by gender, ethnicity, activities and sectors, and the municipalities that have received support in those developed regions. The analysis has been finalized and published on the MZHR official website.

Action - 2.2.3. Development and implementation of a regional development program with grants for municipalities to improve public infrastructure;
(*Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR, ZKM*)

The criteria for grants in public infrastructure have been designed, a public call for applications has been opened, monitoring and reporting mechanisms/teams have been created for monitoring the implementation of grants in public infrastructure, and periodic reports have been prepared regarding the implementation of the regional development program for improving public infrastructure.

In 2022, MZHR has implemented a total of 17 projects in 16 municipalities of the Republic of Kosovo. The amount funded for 2022 was 1,714,000.00 euros

MZHR reported the following capital investments in five (5) development regions for the year 2022:

1. Central Development Region: Podujeva, Drenas, Shtime, with a value of 249,677.43 €;
2. Northern Development Region: South Mitrovica, Leposaviq, Zubin Potok, Vushtrri, with a value of 226,351.24 €;
3. Western Development Region: Istog, Junik, Deçan, with a value of 414,246.73 €;
4. Southern Development Region: Rahovec, Suhareka, Dragash, and Mamusha, with a value of 308,767.14 €;
5. Eastern Development Region: Viti, Kamenica, with a value of 223,618.53 €

Action -2.2.4. Development and implementation of a balanced regional development program with grants in the private sector;

(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: MESP, MCC)

The criteria for grants in the private sector have been designed, a public call for applications has been opened, monitoring mechanisms/teams have been created for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of grants for businesses in the private sector, and periodic reports on the implementation of the program for regional development in the private sector have been prepared.

In 2022, from the Balanced Regional Development Program (support for businesses BRDP 2022), out of 339 project proposals that have signed contracts with MZHR, 332 project proposals have been implemented and 850 jobs have been created. The funds allocated for this call amounted to 3,032,503.06 €.

Specific Objective: 2.3 - Promotion of development policies that impact the growth of balanced regional socio-economic development;

Action - 2.3.1. Formulation of policies for balanced regional development;

Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: Ministry of Regional Development

Working Groups have been established for the development of analyses. Analyses have been prepared on the distribution of grants to the private sector from the central level to the regions for the year 2022, and have been published on the website of the Ministry of Regional Development.

Action -2.3.2. Development of a program for promoting regional development policies in socio-economic regions;

The responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy are MZHR (Ministry of Regional Development) and MINT (Ministry of Economy and Finance).

MZHR is a member of the Forum for Industrial Policy Development (FZHPI) established by MINT. MZHR has always been a participant in meetings where we have been invited by MINT as part of the FZHPI since 2021. However, we have not received any invitations since then due to the negative effects of COVID-19.

Specific Objective: 2.4 - Expanding inter-regional cooperation through transnational programs;

Action - 2.4.1. Preparation of a program plan for accession and requests for accession to the EURO-MED, ADRION, and DANUB programs;

(Institutions responsible according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR, ZKM)

MZHR has organized meetings with ZKM and MPJD regarding cooperation and joint action. We are waiting for information from the ZKM-DMPJ working group regarding data on the Republic of Kosovo's membership in International Organizations and Regional Initiatives, as well as in evaluating programs with participation opportunities. The activities have been carried out according to the plan, and 2 meetings have been held with the EU office, while 4 meetings have been held with neighboring countries: Albania, North Macedonia, and Turkey. Additionally, the conference concept, invitation, and agenda have been prepared, while the Regional Development Conference for ZHR was held on March 24-25, 2022, a two-day conference with the theme "Challenges and Perspectives of Regional Development in the Western Balkans". During these two days, discussions were held on future cooperation in the field of regional development, advancement of balanced socio-economic policies, exchange of experiences related to practices and programs in the field of regional development, opportunities for participation, transnational programs, and cross-border cooperation projects between states. This was the "First International Regional Development Conference in Pristina," which was an opportunity to increase cooperation between our states.

Action - 2.4.2. Preparation of a cooperation plan with the secretariats of the transnational programs: EURO-MED, ADRIAN, and DANUB:

(According to the Regional Development Strategy, the responsible institutions are MZHR and ZKM)

MZHR has advanced the initial documents for participation in Transnational Programs (Euro-MED, Adrion, and Danubia). Contacts have been made with the Euro-MED program regarding the presentation of objectives, their financing method, etc. The document for access to the Euro-MED program has been advanced. On June 9, 2022, MZHR participated in the international conference organized by the transnational program for the Danube region with the theme "Youth in times of crisis," which aims to build a responsible education system, training, and labor market in the Danube region. On August 5, 2022, MZHR held an online meeting with representatives of the Adrion transnational program, Mr. Lodovico Gherardi - Coordinator of Managing Authorities in the Adrion Transnational Program, and Ms. Barbara Di Piazza from the Joint Secretariat of the Adrion Transnational Program. The purpose of the meeting was for Kosovo, through the Ministry of Regional Development, to cross with regional initiatives, like other Western Balkan countries through the Adrion transnational program. Likewise, a virtual meeting was held with Euro-MED regarding the organization of a study visit to the Euro-MED transnational program.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE: 3. SUSTAINABLE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BASED ON NATURAL, ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Specific Objective - 3.1 - Sustainable and promoted natural, economic, cultural, and human resources;

Action - 3.1.1. Establishment of a database for inventorying natural, economic, and cultural resources by developmental regions;

(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR, MMPHI, MINT)

MZHR and DPASER have created a regional database in EXCEL format based on the five developed regions with all data from the cultural heritage list and cultural object lists (primary data accepted from MKRS). Also, within the strategic plans of MZHR, it is expected that by 2024, MZHR will have a web system for real-time data collection and its integration with other operating web systems.

Action - 3.1.2. Creating a database for identifying human resources based on professional profiles by development regions;

(Institutions responsible according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR, ASK, Line Ministries, and Donors)

This database refers to the annual statistics of Kosovo for the year 2022, Chapter IX Labor Market Statistics. Since the Kosovo Agency of Statistics (ASK) approved the NUTS regions at the end of 2022, where Kosovo now has seven NUTS 3 regions classified, data has not been presented according to these regions in 2022. In 2023, it is expected that the balanced regional development law will also be approved in the second reading, which envisages 7 harmonized developed regions with NUTS 3 in order to harmonize data with ASK.

TAB 9.10: NORMA E PUNËSIMIT SIPAS AKTIVITETEVE EKONOMIKE DHE GJINISË 2001-2020

(vazhdim)

(%)

Aktivitetet ekonomike (NACE REV2)	2016			2017			2018			2019			2020		
	Meshkuj	Femra	Gjithsej	Meshkuj	Femra	Gjithsej	Meshkuj	Femra	Gjithsej	Meshkuj	Femra	Gjithsej	Meshkuj	Femra	Gjithsej
A Bujqësi, pylltari dhe peshkatori	4,8	2,3	4,2	4,7	3,3	4,4	4,2	1,0	3,5	5,9	2,8	5,2	5,4	3,1	4,8
B Xehetari dhe guoret	1,4	0,0	1,1	1,4	0,2	1,2	1,1	0,1	0,9	0,8	0,0	0,6	1,3	0,3	1,1
C Prodhim	15,4	5,8	13,2	14,8	7,0	13,2	11,4	6,1	10,3	13,9	5,3	11,9	13,2	7,6	11,8
D Furnizim me energji elektrike, gaz avull dhe furnizimi me ajr të kondicionuar	2,1	0,2	1,6	2,2	0,6	1,8	2,3	0,1	1,8	1,8	0,4	1,4	2,7	0,7	2,2
E Furnizim me ujë, kanalizim, menaxhim mbeturinash dhe aktivite revitalize të tokës	2,3	0,9	2,0	1,4	0,6	1,2	1,5	0,4	1,3	1,3	0,4	1,1	1,4	0,4	1,2
F Ndërtimtari	14,7	0,5	11,5	16,2	0,6	12,9	14,8	1,2	11,9	15,9	1,2	12,6	14,5	0,7	11,1
G Tregti me shumicë dhe pakicë, riparim i mjeteve motorike, motoçikletave	14,2	17,1	14,8	14,8	14,0	14,7	16,8	17,7	17,0	16,5	18,7	17,0	16,4	18,8	17,0
I Transport dhe ruajtje	3,8	1,1	3,2	3,2	0,8	2,7	3,8	1,4	3,3	4,4	1,1	3,7	4,3	1,1	3,5
H Akomodim dhe aktivite të shërbimeve me ushqim	7,1	3,8	6,4	7,3	3,8	6,6	7,7	3,6	6,9	7,0	4,6	6,4	6,7	4,6	6,2
J Informacion dhe komunikim	2,1	2,5	2,2	2,6	2,9	2,6	3,5	3,2	3,4	3,5	4,7	3,8	4,0	4,0	4,0
K Aktivite financiare dhe të sigurimit	1,7	2,9	1,9	1,5	2,7	1,7	1,7	3,2	2,0	1,6	2,2	1,7	1,7	2,0	1,8
L Aktivite të patundshëmisë	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,1	0,0	0,1	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,2	0,1	0,1
M Aktivite profesionale, shkencore dhe teknike	1,9	2,2	2,0	2,2	2,3	2,2	1,5	2,6	1,8	2,5	3,4	2,7	2,8	3,9	3,1
N Aktivite administrative dhe mbështetëse	3,5	2,4	3,3	4,2	2,6	3,8	2,9	2,8	2,9	4,0	3,7	3,9	4,0	5,1	4,3
O Administratë publike dhe mbrojtje; sigurim social i detyrueshëm	7,4	7,3	7,4	5,8	7,3	6,1	7,1	6,5	7,0	6,8	5,6	6,6	7,0	5,9	6,7
P Arsim	7,7	20,5	10,6	7,1	18,4	9,5	8,5	21,8	11,3	6,8	20,7	10,0	6,8	20,1	10,1
Q Shëndetësi njerëzore dhe aktivite të punës sociale	3,3	13,8	5,6	3,9	16,0	6,5	3,7	13,4	5,8	2,8	13,6	5,3	3,5	13,8	6,1
R Art, zbavitje dhe rekreacion	1,5	2,4	1,7	1,3	1,5	1,4	1,5	0,8	1,3	1,4	1,1	1,3	1,0	1,2	1,1
S Aktivite të shërbimeve tjera	3,4	4,3	3,6	4,0	5,9	4,4	4,8	5,1	4,8	1,9	5,7	2,7	2,1	4,6	2,7
T Aktivite të ekonomive familjare si punëdhënës; mallra dhe shërbime	0,8	8,8	2,6	0,7	7,0	2,1	0,4	6,8	1,7	0,4	3,9	1,2	0,4	1,5	0,7
U Aktivite të organizatave dhe organeve jashtë-territoriale	0,8	1,3	0,9	0,6	2,5	1,0	0,7	2,0	1,0	0,7	0,6	0,7	0,6	0,7	0,6

1

Specific Objective: 3.2- Building human capacities and OSHCs (Local Development Organizations) for the utilization of all resources that contribute to regional socio-economic development;

Action - 3.2.1. Establishment of local-level human capacity for the utilization of natural resources through financial support;

(Institutions responsible according to the Regional Development Strategy: MESP)

The Ministry of Regional Development, through the annual Public Call for financial support of projects/programs of CSOs for the advancement of balanced regional socio-economic development, has supported a number of NGOs led by women and young people with a good number of projects. In total, 38 projects were funded for 2022 with a value of 104,000 euros.

¹ Annual Statistics of the Republic of Kosovo, Chapter IX - Labor Market Statistics p.118.

Action - 3.2.2. Organization of trainings for enhancing the capacity of young people to identify self-employment opportunities and create "start-up" businesses;
(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: MLGA)

7 trainings have been conducted with beneficiaries from the RDP 2022 program for project implementation, as well as a significant number of capacity-building activities for youth and women employment opportunities have been carried out by 38 beneficiary CSOs. MLGA has conducted trainings with beneficiaries from the RDP 2022 program for project implementation, as well as a significant number of capacity-building activities for youth and women employment opportunities have been carried out by 38 beneficiary CSOs where around 200 participants have benefited.

Specific Objective: 3.3 - Development of economic zones aimed at achieving balanced regional socio-economic development.;

Action - 3.3.1. Grant allocation in collaboration with municipalities for improving public infrastructure (capital investments) of economic zones;
institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: MLGA (Ministry of Local Government Administration) and MFE (Ministry of Finance and Economy)

MLGA has designed the criteria for grant allocation in collaboration with municipalities for improving public infrastructure (capital investments) of economic zones as follows:

- Renovation of the business incubator facility in the municipality of Viti;
The amount paid by MZHR is €140,000.00, authorized for the year 2023 is €250,000.00;
- The Technology Park in the Municipality of Kamenica;
The amount paid by MZHR is €83,618.53;
- The construction of infrastructure in the business zone in Banje, in the Municipality of Istog;
The amount paid by MZHR is €75,000.00;
- Support for the sustainable development of agricultural products through the provision of electrical infrastructure in the mountainous area of the Municipality of Mamusha;
The amount paid by MZHR is €150,000.00

Action - 3.3.2. Allocation of grants for increasing the production capacities of businesses in economic zones with a special focus on balanced regional socio-economic development;
(Institutions responsible according to the Regional Development Strategy: MZHR (Ministry of Economic Development), CSOs (Civil Society Organizations))

MZHR (Ministry of Economic Development) has taken concrete actions through the organization of workshops and informative sessions to promote forms of cooperation for socio-economic development.

In 2022, NDA North implemented the project "Balanced Regional Development - North Region capable of inter-regional competition;

- 24 business contracts signed for the Business Park in South Mitrovica;
- Functional Board of the Business Park in Mitrovica;
- Draft contract models for the Industrial Zone in Lumadh, Vushtrri prepared;
- Study visits to Mitrovica (organized);
- Skenderaj Tourism Strategy Action Plan finalized and approved.

In 2022, NDA Central implemented the project "Communal officials more skilled in promoting Balanced Regional Socio-Economic Development through Project Cycle Management", funded by MZHR (Ministry of Economic Development)

- Training of 20 municipal officials for 5 days on 'Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework Approach';
- 2-day workshop with municipal officials in preparing municipal and regional project concepts;
- Co-organization of a 2-day international conference with MZHR;
- Organization of the regional roundtable 'Partnership in implementing regional development policies in the Republic of Kosovo' with municipal mayors and high representatives of MZHR.
- Co-organization (together with 4 other NDA's) of an informal meeting with representatives of the EU Office in Kosovo, MZHR, and mayors of Kosovo municipalities.

1. In 2022, AZHR-West implemented the project funded by MZHR "Strengthening Balanced Regional Development in the Western Region of Kosovo through Capacity Building", through which five (5) training modules were conducted with municipal officials from 6 municipalities in the western region. All of these modules, conducted over a three-month period, were related to project cycle management, based on the methodology of the EU. All six municipalities in the region were represented by at least 2 participants, and the modules were developed in the form of lectures and practical exercises in project development and management.

2. In October 2022, AZHR-West supported MZHR in organizing a roundtable with the 6 municipalities of the western region regarding the presentation and review of the draft document "Criteria for branding of development regions".

In 2022, AZHR-East implemented the project "Capacity Building of Municipalities and Promotion of Regional Development", funded by MZHR.

- Training of 20 municipal officials for 3 days on "Project Cycle Management and Logical Framework Approach";
- 2-day workshop with 20 municipal officials on preparation of municipal and regional project concepts;
- Co-organization of a 2-day international conference with MZHR;

- Organization of a regional roundtable "Partnership in the implementation of regional development policies in the Republic of Kosovo" with mayors and high-level representatives of MZHR;
- Co-organization (together with 4 other AZHRs) of an informal meeting with representatives from the EU Office in Kosovo, MZHR, and mayors of Kosovo municipalities.

In 2022, AZHR South implemented the project "Capacity Building for Creating a More Favorable Business Environment and Advancing Dialogue between MZHR and other regional stakeholders in the southern region", with a total value of 7000 Euros, including the following activities:

- Training of 12 municipal officials for 5 days in the field of creating schemes to support businesses according to the local model (MZHR);
- Training of 12 municipal officials for 5 days in the field of creating schemes to support businesses according to the EU model;
- Direct technical assistance for 30 days (5 days in 6 municipalities) with municipal officials in municipal offices for 5 days in 6 municipalities for scheme creation;
- Organizing and holding a 2-day regional conference between MZHR and local and regional stakeholders.

Action - 3.3.3. Promotion of regional policies and conditions offered to attract foreign investors to the developed regions;

(Responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy: MESP, MCDM)

A feasibility study for the development regions has been finalized where data on the development regions, including categories of natural and socio-economic resources, has been reflected.

Action - 3.3.4. Analysis of investments from the central level in economic zones;

(The responsible institutions according to the Regional Development Strategy are MZHR (Ministry of Regional Development) and ZKM (Central Coordination Unit))

During 2022, DPASER has further advanced in collaboration with MINT on the report for functionalizing economic zones. The report identifies all functional and non-functional economic zones, the number of businesses operating, activities, employment, and their identification on cadastral maps. Through its programs, PZHRB and PZHR, MZHR supports businesses operating in economic zones and assists municipalities applying for projects to support infrastructure in economic zones. The report has been consulted with MINT and responsible municipalities and is published on the official website of MZHR.

**GENERAL EVALUATION REGARDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS FOR
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR
2022**

- ✓ Preparation of a comparative analysis for regional development practices in the regional and EU countries;
- ✓ Implementation of three developmental
- ✓ Finalization of the draft Project-Law for Regional Development and its approval in the government;
- ✓ Establishment of a monitoring mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Regional Development Strategy;
- ✓ Completion of socio-economic analyses according to the developed regions;
- ✓ Implementation of three developmental programs by MZHR for the year 2022;
- ✓ Establishment of contacts with three transnational programs, EUROMED, ADRION, and DANUB.