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**USAID KOSOVO EMPOWER Private Sector
Newsletter No. 3, June 2015**

EMPOWER THROUGH JOB CREATION!

FAST FACTS

Let's Talk About Energy Efficiency

Eco-Briket

A grant agreement was signed with Eco-Briket, the only producer of biomass fuel in Ferizaj/Uroševac. Thanks to the new processing equipment, the company will double production and hire 10 new workers.

Jeta-H

This Dečan/Dečan-based producer of pellets and briquettes will acquire new equipment that will expand its production capacities by running two parallel lines. The result of the grant: 12 new jobs and import substitution.

Getting Started: Awarded Grants Result in More Skills and Jobs for Women and Youth

USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector grants are about job creation. Our recently awarded grant activities range from shoe, shirt, and underwear production to skills development for software engineers and IT technicians and bioenergy fuel production.

The expected result? More than 180 new jobs in these sectors, import substitution and skilled workforce.

The grant awarded to SOLID Shoes will enable the company to acquire new technology and equipment needed to launch a new line for children's shoes – the first of the kind made in Kosovo.

Nori Tex, specialized in underwear production, now can purchase four specialized machines that will enable a 66% increase in production, and on-the-job training for new employees, mostly women.

Unikat, a recognized leader in uniforms – soon will expand into shirt production by acquiring a new specialized shirt collar pressing machine thanks to the grant agreement signed with EMPOWER Private Sector.

Training of young software engineers and IT technicians is already underway at AdaptivIT. Upon completion of the training, the group of youth will have acquired new skills in programming and data management services that will make them more employable.



Enver Selmani, 3rd year student of IT, at his internship with AdaptivIT

“This internship by USAID’s EMPOWER Private Sector is the opportunity I was seeking to combine theory and practice that will help my professional growth.” – Enver Selmani, 3rd year student of IT & intern at AdaptivIT Company

EMPOWER Private Sector works with Kosovo producers and service providers who have the potential to serve a larger market. Support activities include: expanding buyer connections, addressing skills needs, organizing internship programs and facilitating finance.



USAID Kosovo Mission Director James Hope (far left) visiting furniture producer BINNI

Celebrating the Success of Kosovo Companies

USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector and BINNI Company in Vushtrri/Vučitrn hosted USAID's Mission Director James Hope. During the visit of BINNI production facilities and showroom, Director Hope heard about the company's business challenges and plans for the future.

Women in Focus

We at EMPOWER Private Sector believe that by increasing the participation of women in all aspects of the economy we create not just more jobs for women, but more jobs for everyone. The movement for women in business is really growing.

Coordination for Women's Economic Growth

In an effort to concentrate the engagement and the good work on economic growth for women that different organizations in Kosovo are doing, USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector hosted a coordination meeting with other local and donor-funded entities. Participants identified common activities each is involved in and discussed the best ways to share information as the initial step to coordinate concrete current and planned activities. Discussion topics ranged from training opportunities, awareness raising actions, identification of the needs of women in business or seeking employment to financial and networking support for women entrepreneurs.



First Meeting of Women's Economic Growth Coordination Meeting at USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector Office

The initial coordination group comprises of: USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector, Property Rights Program and Advancing Kosovo Together, Women's Chamber of Commerce – G7, Women for Women International – Kosovo, Women in Business, Kosovo Women's Network, Advocacy Training and Resource Center, Promoting Private Sector Employment, and GIZ.



Women Entrepreneurs from Pejë/Peć talk about their experiences in the business world

Investing in Women Has Great Returns

Lean In Kosova, a group supported by USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector, was busy this month reaching out to people about the group objectives and the project's support to creation of more jobs and advancement opportunities for women. Group members were present at *TedxPrishtinaWomen* event and had a great discussion with more than 30 young women from the *Females in IT* at the American University in Kosovo about choices we make as women, how to grow personally to achieve professional success, and most importantly, how to support one another.



Lean In Kosova at TedxPrishtinaWomen

USAID's EMPOWER Private Sector, which started in July 2014, is a five-year project designed to stimulate large-scale job creation by elevating the competitiveness of Kosovo firms. The project is funded by USAID, and is implemented by Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.

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