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**USAID Kosovo EMPOWER Private Sector
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EMPOWER THROUGH JOB CREATION!

FAST FACTS

Support for the Confectionary Producer

As market demand for Kosovo made Turkish delight (lokum), under the brand name 'Liri', keeps increasing, USAID EMPOWER Private Sector awarded the company a grant to co-finance the purchase of a sugar grinder, cutting machine, and packaging machine, to create some 32 new jobs.

New Jobs Thanks to USAID Co- Investment

USAID EMPOWER Private Sector and Jasin, a metal processor in Prizren, signed a grant agreement that will support funding for a new polyurethane injection equipment and accompanying molds. The USAID support through this co-financing is expected to increase production and create some 30 new jobs.

Kosovo Marks international Girls in ICT Day

On April 28, 2016, US Ambassador in Kosovo Greg Delawie addressed the conference organized at the American University of Kosovo marking the International Girls in ICT Day. In his speech, Ambassador Delawie said, "I'm extremely pleased to see women are becoming more engaged in sectors that were traditionally thought to be male professions — information technology being among them."

Other panelists in the event included Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway in Kosovo Jan Braathu, Deputy Minister for Economic Development Besa Zogaj-Gashi, Minister of Diaspora Valon Murati, and World Bank Acting Country Director Lundrim Aliu.

The International Girls in ICT Day is an awareness-raising initiative designed to promote tech career and studies to the generations of girls and young women with an interest in the field of ICT. The event was organized by A.U.K Training and Development Institute, and was joined by EMPOWER Private Sector and other partners.

Currently in Kosovo, the employee gender structure in ICT sector is 80% male and 20% female, which is the same proportion as in the non-ICT sector. ("ICT Skills Gap Analysis", November 2013, STIKK). We need more women in technology in this era of innovation!



Marking Girls in ICT Day in Kosovo, 2016

Active participation of women and economic empowerment of women results in sustainable economic growth and development. Empowered women invest their strength and skills in their families, thus creating a more secure future for their communities. Young girls and women should be encouraged to consider careers in technology, which provides an excellent opportunity for employment and personal growth.



Drenusha Xharra creations at Fashion Weekend Skopje

Kosovo Fashion Promoted in Macedonia

Drenusha Xhara and Yilka Brada, two young fashion designers from Kosovo, presented for the first time at the Fashion Weekend Skopje (FWS) their collections of ready to wear and evening dresses. "It is the goal of every fashion designer to cross borders, so it was a real pleasure for me to be part of the Fashion Weekend Skopje, as it was also my first fashion show after graduation," says Drenusha Xharra."



Arieta Vula Pozhegu and David King signing the agreement

Kosovo Wood Processing Companies in the German Market

The latest agreement signed between USAID EMPOWER Private Sector and the Association of Wood Processors of Kosovo (AWKP) will facilitate the establishment of a producers' sales agency in Germany for Kosovo producers of solid wood furniture and interior elements. The purpose of the agency is to increase the export sales of Kosovo producers. It is expected that at least 40 new jobs will be created.



Kosovo companies at the wire and cable fair in Germany

Kosovo Metal Processors Expand International Connections

Exposure to foreign markets, newest technology and establishment of networks was the focus of five Kosovo metal processors visit to the International Wire and Cable Trade Fair and the International Tube and Pipe Trade Fair, two of the largest bi-annual industry shows held in Düsseldorf, Germany, in the first week of April. The visiting companies Fiberglass Kosova, IMP-K, Nallbani, Rroni Fer, and Shkodra met with at least 100 other visitors, and identified some concrete cooperation opportunities.



BTP Holding is currently the only used motor oil recycler in Kosovo

Oil Recycling Supply Chain in Kosovo

The importance of recycling engine oil lies on the oil's broad usage and its recycling benefits. On the other hand, to avoid the contamination of the environment and other potential health threats, it is important to ensure that waste oils are treated and handled by authorized collectors and are ensured with adequate recovery measures. As the initiative of private businesses is crucial in leading the country towards recycling practices, USAID EMPOWER Private Sector commissioned a study and analysis of the potential supply chain for oil recycling in Kosovo. The study is based on the information collected from potential suppliers, while showing the most cost-effective methods to maintain a reliable supply.

Contact Us

USAID EMPOWER Private Sector

Str. Pashko Vasa No.6
Qyteza Pejton, Pristina
+381 38 222 855
info@empowerkosovo.org
www.empowerkosovo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/empowerkosovo>

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.