



**USAID**  
NGA POPULLI AMERIKAN  
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

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

### FAST FACTS

#### Grants Awarded in August

**Eurotex**, a producer of workwear for the local market in Kosovo, will now expand with a new production line for underwear. This activity, which takes advantage for existing market opportunities for underwear for children, men and women, is expected to create at least 30 new jobs, mostly for women.

**Evro Katić**, a heating wood and lumber supplier in Leposavić/q has recently constructed a new facility to launch its new wood pellet production line. The grant will co-finance the equipment needed for pellet production, creating some 40 new jobs.

### Kosovo Wood Processing Companies Growing Stronger

One of the goals for many Kosovo wood processing companies is to boost exports. Company owners and managers are well aware that to achieve the desired breakthrough into the European and world markets, the companies need to constantly be aware of the need to upgrade the technology, follow the world's trends of quality and design, in order to have competitive advantage.

USAID EMPOWER Private Sector, also funded by Sida, is working closely with this industry to provide the required support for expanding operations, increasing output and quality. The overarching goal of this focused support is to work with companies to expand sales and create more jobs in the wood industry.

In August 2016, EMPOWER Private Sector signed two grant agreements with the wood processing companies: Dijamanti and Lumi.

Dijamanti has been trading imported semi-finished wood products since 1986. The owner, Njazi Kastrati, has recently opened a new factory at the Drenas Business Zone to produce these products, i.e. glued and laminated timber (GLT) elements used for furniture and construction, thereby substituting imports. There is also a solid export opportunity in Albania. EMPOWER Private Sector grant complements the owner's investment to install the new factory's full GLT line, and acquire the specialized equipment that is needed.

The other grant beneficiary – Lumi – is primarily a door manufacturer. In addition to its headquarters in Pejë/Peć, Lumi has constructed new facilities in Drenas Business Zone. The new premises were needed as a result of increased orders for serial and custom-made doors, along with some types of kitchen cabinets. The company supplies a growing domestic markets, and aims the EU market as well. EMPOWER Private Sector grant complements the owner's investment for the construction of new production facilities, and to acquire a new wood drier and edge banding machine.



Njazi Kastrati, Owner of Dijamanti Company

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*“I already have the buyers; and from now on, instead of imported timber, I will supply them with parts made in Kosovo.” – Njazi Kastrati, Owner of Dijamanti.*

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The two grant agreements signed with Dijamanti and Lumi combined are expected to create some 79 new jobs. To date, we have signed 18 grant agreements with wood processing companies, expected to create at least 760 new jobs.



Call for grant applications is still open

## Continuing to Support Kosovo Companies

USAID’s EMPOWER Private Sector in partnership with SIDA has issued the call for applications to finance innovative activities that create jobs and advance economic development. In our webpage [www.empowerkosovo.org](http://www.empowerkosovo.org) you can find relevant information about this opportunity, the template for the Concept Note and all detailed instructions how to fill the Concept Note yourselves.



Women business owners discussing about their place in the business world

## Empowering Women in Business

In August, a group of women business owners and managers got together to discuss about breaking barriers in the business world, advance their positions and become change agents. The workshop focused on the need to network and support one another, and various leadership and management strategies. The workshop was delivered as part of the “Women in Business” training and mentorship program that targets women from the private sector.

“Women in Business” is implemented by RTC Consulting, supported by the World Bank and PPSE-SDC, as well as USAID’s EMPOWER Private Sector.



Kosovo fashion designers give back to the community

## Kosovo Designers Support Fundraising Initiative

EMPOWER Private Sector facilitated a meeting between Kosovo Apparel Marketing Association (KAMA) and two fashion designers with the manager of Teshavesha, a second-hand store in Pristina managed by the Foundation Action for Mothers and Children, all the proceeds of which are used to fund Foundation programs that benefit mothers and children. Designers Drenusha Xharra, Besë Neziri-Rugova and Metush Zymberi, the latter also a KAMA Board member, agreed to donate pieces from their own collections, and brainstormed about other ideas how to support this initiative.



Interior design work by Tedes Contract

## More Positive International Press for Kosovo

In August, we were happy to read more positive articles about Kosovo’s outstanding outdoor tourism potential, and new developments from the wood processing sector. Are you looking for travel tips in Kosovo? You will enjoy reading “A guide to Outdoor Adventures in Kosovo” published by the prestigious [www.lonelyplanet.com](http://www.lonelyplanet.com) You can access the full article (in English) at <http://bit.ly/2cUETvi> Tedes Contract from Ferizaj/Uroševac, a partner of EMPOWER Private Sector, implemented this cool the interior design project you can read about at <http://bit.ly/2cmKl6Q>

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**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 Sida, and is implemented by Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd.**