

Circular economy country profile – Kosovo*



Cover design: EEA
Cover image © Peder Jensen
Layout: ETC CE

Publication Date

EEA activity Circular economy and resource use

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Preparation of this report has been co-funded by the European Environment Agency as part of a grant with the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use (ETC CE) and expresses the views of the authors. The contents of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission or other institutions of the European Union. Neither the European Environment Agency nor the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use is liable for any consequence stemming from the reuse of the information contained in this publication.

ETC CE coordinator: Vlaamse Instelling voor Technologisch Onderzoek (VITO)

ETC CE partners: Banson Editorial and Communications Ltd, česká informační agentura životního prostředí (CENIA), Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP), Istituto Di Ricerca Sulla Crescita Economica Sostenibile, Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale, IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute, PlanMiljø, Università Degli Studi Di Ferrara (SEEDS), German Environment Agency (UBA), Teknologian Tutkimuskeskus VTT oy, Wuppertal Institut für Klima, Umwelt, Energie gGmbH, World Resources Forum Association.

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Introduction

The European Commission requested the EEA to produce EU country profiles that offer an updated view of the following elements:

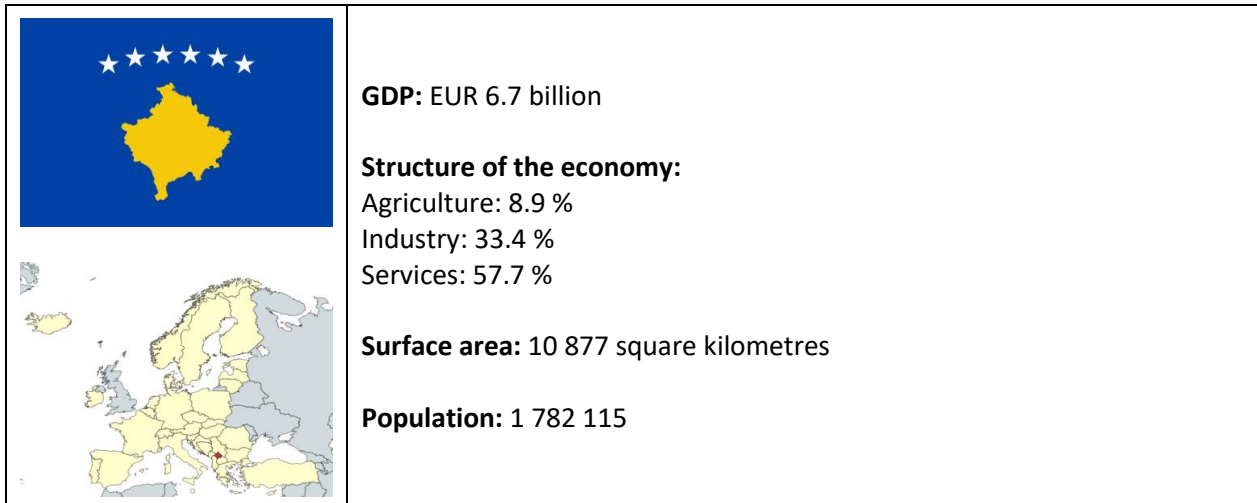
- what circular economy policies are being implemented at a national level with a particular focus on elements that go beyond EU mandatory elements; and
- what are best practices with a focus on policy innovation.

Kosovo joined the process of developing country profiles as an EEA cooperating country.

This circular economy country profile is based on information reported by the Eionet network and, in particular, the Eionet Group on Circular Economy and Resource Use in the second quarter of 2022. The information was reviewed and edited by the European Topic Centre on Circular economy and resource use. A selection of Eurostat data was made to further complement this country profile.

The information is current as of 10 October 2022 (final review), when members of Eionet verified the content of this profile.

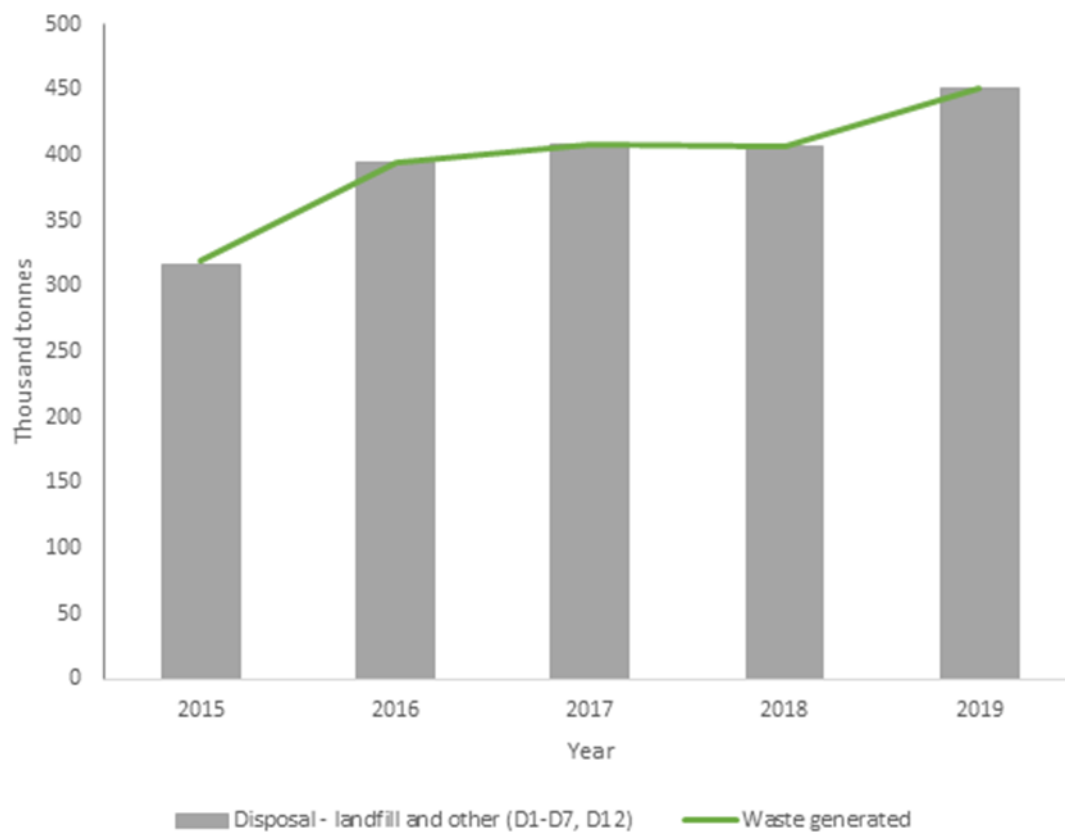
Kosovo – facts and figures



Note: all definitions and metadata used in this profile are taken, as shown, from Eurostat

Source: Eurostat datasets, EU27 2020 (accessed 20 June 2022)

Figure 1 Municipal waste generation and treatment in thousand tonnes in Kosovo, 2015-2019



Source: Eurostat (2021) for 2015-2018; Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency (2021) for 2019 (graph taken from the Kosovo country profile on Municipal waste management, as published November 2021 by EEA)

Existing policy framework

Dedicated strategy, roadmap or action plan for circular economy

Kosovo has approved “Kosovo **Integrated Waste Management Strategy (2021- 2030) and Action Plan (2021-2023)**, on 28.05.2021” . The strategy⁽¹⁾ includes 4 strategic objectives:

- Strategic objective 1: Develop a new generation of **integrated waste management services and infrastructure**.
- Strategic objective 2: **Professionalise** the waste management and recycling sector.
- Strategic objective 3: Strengthen regulation and control in the waste management sector by filling gaps and **clarifying implementation mechanisms**.
- Strategic objective 4; **Promote** the values and practices of a Circular Economy.

The strategic objective 4, will be realized with the help of the following three specific objectives:

1. Specific objective: **Raise awareness** of the importance and benefits of waste management and recycling.
2. Specific objective: Stimulate **innovations** in waste prevention.
3. Specific objective: Establish reuse and recycling systems based on the **extended producer responsibility concept**.

The action plan (2021-2023) has been approved for the implementation of the strategy.

In 2021, actions included are:

- **Communicating** the Strategy to interested parties and public.
- Design an **overall behaviour change programme** with key intervention areas and target groups,
- Implement campaign 2020-2022 including publishing of outcomes.
- Translate necessary labelling requirements into national regulations.
- **Home composting for households**.
- Promoting the values and practices of a circular economy.

In 2022, according to the plan, the following activities will be realized:

- Develop and implement necessary regulations and schemes for **packaging waste based on EPR**.
- Develop and implement necessary **regulations and schemes for WEEE**. batteries, ELV, waste oils, tyres based on EPR.
- Implementing campaign 2022 including publishing of outcomes.

Circular economy policy elements included in other policies

Circular economy policy element	Included in policy
Awareness raising campaigns implemented and impact assessed	Public awareness & education, sustainable development, making the transition from Waste Management to CE
Waste prevention (projects)	Innovation
EPR mechanisms applied to products/waste streams to enhance reuse and recycling	Sustainable consumption & production

¹ <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=42930>

Monitoring and targets

Assessment of circular economy performance

Kosovo faces **triple challenges** regarding Waste Management (WM): **Improving** our waste management system, making the **transition** from WM to CE, and having the indication to **measure progress** in this direction.

The WM sector is characterized by low levels of efficiency and limited private investment. Some of the biggest challenges are **financial sustainability** and the transition to a circular economy. Separation of waste fractions towards resource recovery requires extensive and costly changes to the waste management system, which can be facilitated through inter-municipal cooperation.

The notion of circular economy in Kosovo is still heavily and mistakenly focused on recycling and waste management and does not go to the core of the subjects, which aims to **transform the chain of production and consumption**, with an ultimate goal of eliminating the concept of disposal and fundamentally transform our way of life. The last year is approved Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy (2021-2030), and can be considered progress, with the fact that the circular economy is included as an objective. From the Waste Strategy 2013-2022, it is evaluated for these achievements; coverage of waste management, the number of municipalities for waste reporting has increased, local plans for waste management have been drawn up.

The main responsibility for the implementation of the strategy is the Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure (MESPI) and the Government of Kosovo. The MESPI has priority collaboration and **partnerships between Government, business, and civil society to move the circular economy from idea to action at scale.**

The Kosovo **Environmental Protection Agency**⁽²⁾ is responsible for **monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on the progress** achieved for the circular economy. The environmental agency has not yet evaluated the circular economy due to the lack of indicators.

Circular economy monitoring frameworks and their indicators beyond the ones from Eurostat

The Ministry of Environment, Spatial Planning and Infrastructure has formed an **inter-ministerial commission to monitor, implement, review and finalize** the Kosovo Integrated Waste Management Strategy (2021-2030). So, is in the process to establish a Coordination Committee for the Waste Management and Circular Economy Sector.

Kosovo has continued to **increase waste collection coverage and fee collection**, hence, the introduction of waste separation and recycling and circular economy measures to reduce waste and address effectively the issue of illegal dumpsites are of high priority.

Circular economy targets

The inter-ministerial commission has the responsibility to achieve these goals:

- to monitor the progress of the strategy
- to ensure that projects are realized according to the strategy
- to identify challenges
- to take measures for implementation, reviews
- to approve progress reports.

The inter-ministerial commission has to monitor the realization of the CE strategic objective: Promote the values and practices of a CE.

The specific objectives to be monitored are:

² <https://www.ammk-rks.net/en/publikime/25/>

- awareness raising of the importance and benefits of waste management and recycling (**measured impact of awareness-raising campaigns assessed and published by 2023,2026, and 2030**),
- Innovations in waste prevention (locally developed waste prevention solutions are being implemented with support from an innovation Grant System)
- Reuse and recycling systems established based on the extended producer responsibility concept (four waste fractions for which EPR schemes are applied).

Innovative approaches and good practices

Examples of public policy initiatives (national, regional or local)

In Kosovo, the beginnings of this economic model are scattered, cursory discussions from civil society organizations, and there are no good CE public practices yet as the CE policy has been launched recently. Initiatives for economic development seem to be intensely focused on creating a more competitive economy, while building strong and quick linear economy, rather than creating an environment that would enable the development of a sustainable economic system through circular models.

Examples of private policy initiatives (sectoral)

Green business expo: prepare for the future⁽³⁾

Provides information about green business partners

“SEREC” – successfully implementing the practices of circular economy in Kosovo⁽⁴⁾

Engaging in various activities based on the concepts of circular economy, the Project aims to support the development of social entrepreneurship in Peja/Peć, and to support the growth of employment of marginalized groups, mainly women and youth. One of the main activities of the project is the collection and reprocessing of materials and textile apparel.

³ <https://greenkosovo.com/about/>

⁴ <http://support4partnership.org/en/news/serec-successfully-implementing-the-practices-of-circular-economy-in-kosovo>

The way forward

Addressing barriers and challenges

The main barriers and challenges to the implementation of a CE are:

- Financial sustainability
- Infrastructures
- Transition to CE


These points affect the slowdown of the development of the circular economy.

Addressing them through:

- Funding for promotion of the concept of the CE and beneficiaries
- Create infrastructure to implement CE requirements
- Raising interest among businesses to develop new products according to CE concepts
- Creating incentive models for citizens to participate in the creation of the circular economy
- Governmental incentives that would stimulate and support a circular economy

So, in general: collaboration and **partnerships between government, business, and civil society** to move the circular economy from idea to action on a scale.

Ranking types of barriers

High barrier	Institutional challenge to develop policy for a complex cross-sectoral issue
	Market barriers for recycled resources
	Companies' ability to grasp opportunities
	Consumer behaviour and awareness
Low barrier	Good indicators and targets

Future policy plans

No information available.

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