



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND INVOLVEMENT OF ACADEMIA

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to analyse the inclusion of the concept of sustainable development in the policy development documents of Kosovo, as well as the component of the inclusion of education and scientific research in the sustainable future of the country. The main research question is how much the concept of sustainable development and the science of sustainability is included in the country's strategic development documents.

The research was conducted through the method of theoretical analysis of strategic and regulatory documents of the country as well as interviews with stakeholders responsible for their implementation. From a theoretical point of view, a total of 15 strategic documents have been analysed, starting from the ones that expire this year until ones with expiration in 2036. The research has analysed these documents and how much they have included sustainable development in their substantial chapters such as mission, vision, purpose and objectives, measures, priorities, and principles. The aspect of how much education for sustainable development and scientific research is included in these development documents has been examined as well. In addition to the theoretical analysis, the involvement of academia and civil society in the drafting and implementation of these documents by the host institutions was also consulted. For this, four representatives of institutions responsible for the implementation of strategic documents, one representative of civil society, and 5 representatives of higher education institutions were interviewed.

The research shows that there is no strategy for sustainable development and that none of the strategic documents contains this concept in its title. Some of the strategies and action plans analysed contain the concept from their purpose and mission to certain measures to ensure sustainable development. However, there is a lack of consistency and continuity of the concept of sustainable development across the substantial chapters and its breakdown from purpose to concrete measures to ensure sustainable development. There is also a lack of reports on how much the strategies have been implemented, especially the long-term ones. The research shows that academic institutions have been very superficially engaged in the development of strategic documents related to sustainable development. Even though universities produce knowledge in Kosovo, they are still not seen as a powerful actor in developments related to the sustainable economic development of the country.

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ACRONYMS

APKCCS	Action Plan for Kosovo Climate Change Strategy 2019-2028
CES	Centre for Energy and Sustainability
EE	Energy Efficiency
ESRK	Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo 2017-2026
EU	European Union
FA	Faculty of Architecture
FAV	Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
FDS	Forestry Development Strategy 2010-2020
FE	Faculty of Education
FECE	Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering
FLES	Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences
FME	Faculty of Mechanical Engineering
FMNS	Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
INDEP	Institute for Development Policy
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KCF	Kosovo Curriculum Framework
KEEAP	Kosovo Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2010-18
KEEF	Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund
KESP	Kosovo Education Strategic Plan
KNWS	Kosovo National Water Strategy 2017-2036
KSP	Kosovo Spatial Plan 2010-20+
LEP	Law on Environmental Protection
MDG	Millennium Development Goals
MESP	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
MEST	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
MIAPA	Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration
MSRK	Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo 2012-2025
NDS	National Development Strategy 2016-2021

NECP	National Energy and Climate Plan
NREAP	National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2011-20
OPM	Office of the Prime Minister
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
SAPB	Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
SEP	Strategy for Environmental Protection 2013-2022
SLED	Strategy for Local Economic Development 2019-2023
SLSG	Strategy on Local Self-Government 2016-2026
SRKWM	Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo on Waste Management 2013-2022
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UP	University of Prishtina

1 Introduction

HERMAN DALY PROVIDES THREE CONDITIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY:

- (1) Renewable resource utilization rates should not exceed their regeneration values;
- (2) Non-renewable resource utilization rates should not exceed the rate at which they are replaced by renewable resources;
- (3) Pollution emission rates should not exceed the assimilation capacity of the environment.

Historically, the current creator of the classic concept of sustainability and the designer of the modern concept of sustainability is Hans Carl von Carlowitz. Back in 1713, Carlowitz, a forest engineer and manager, published his book "Sylvicultura oeconomica oder Anweisung zur wilden Baumzucht – Sylvicultura Oeconomica or the Instructions for Wild Tree Cultivation", criticizing the overexploitation and destruction of forests, and proposing the principle of "carefully using wood". Carlowitz suggests that "man should not act against nature", but pursue it and manage resources carefully by forming basic socio-ethical principles: everyone is entitled to food and livelihood (the concept of needs in the later definition), including "poor citizens" (the concept of equality) as well as "beloved descendants", in other words, future generations.¹

The most common definition of sustainable development in today's terminology (often known as the Brundtland definition) is found in the 1987 report "Our Common Future" and states: "Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."²

What exactly does the term "sustainable" mean? The Oxford English Dictionary 1961 Printing traces the meaning of this term back to the Middle Ages. From the many definitions found, one gives a meaning that seems most interesting to the definition, which is "to continue to be", in other words, to maintain the existence of something in the state it is in. Other definitions include "cause a certain state to continue", "to keep or maintain it at the proper level or standard", and "to maintain

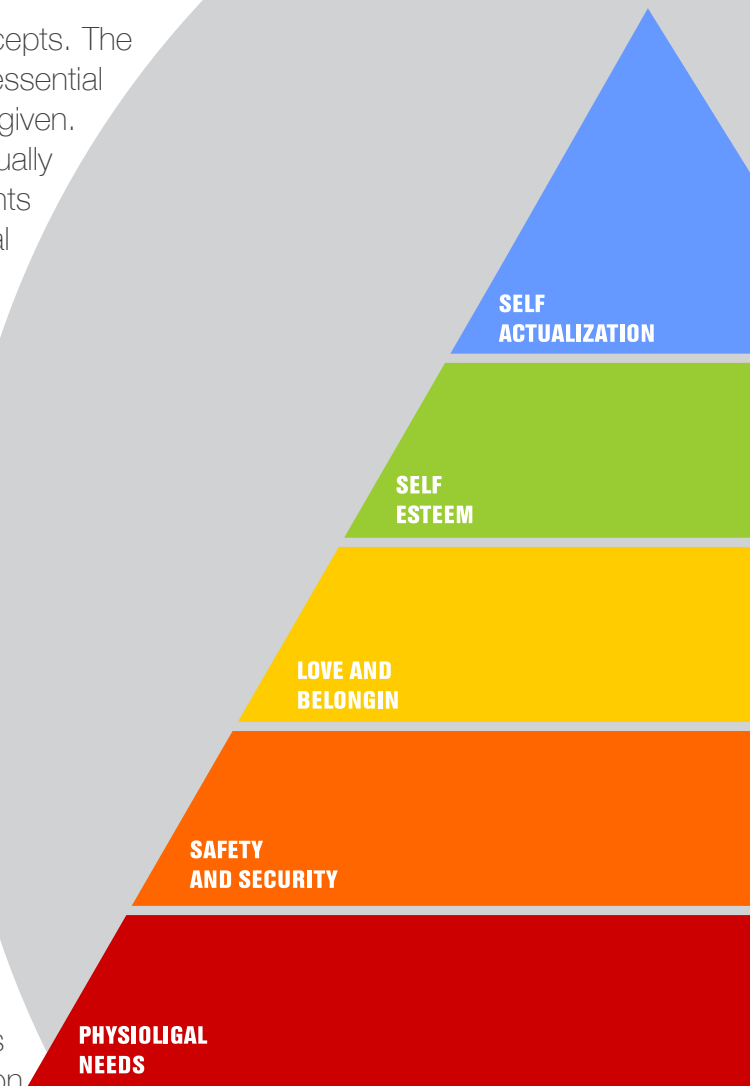
the state". Thus, sustainable development should be able to "maintain" or "carry a load."³ The word "sustainable" derives from the Latin word *sustinere*, which various Latin-English dictionaries translate as "support, keep or turn back." In general, the term "sustainable" in different languages means and has always meant structures that can hold, respectively can carry a load. This is the essential constant in the structure of this term.⁴

Brutland's definition contains in itself two main concepts. The first is the concept of "needs", in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, for which priority must be given. But which are those needs, and are they all equally important? Medical dictionaries define "the elements required for survival and normal mental and physical health, such as food, water, shelter, protection from environmental threats and love" as basic human needs.⁵



In 1943, Abraham Maslow⁶ proposed five different types of human needs in the form of a hierarchy (Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs), starting with the most basic: survival.

Physiological needs, such as food and shelter, are followed by security-related needs. The third need is the need for love and belonging. Fourth, people need respect as well as have the need to be respected. The ultimate need in the hierarchy is the need for self-actualization (fulfilment of potential). The hierarchy suggests that basic needs must be met before less basic needs; e.g. a hungry person will seek to meet food needs before self-actualization.⁷ Is the need of a rich person for a last-generation computer as important as the need of a poor person for clean water? The Brundtland report has a clear position on basic needs where needs, such as clothing, food, housing, energy and work take precedence. However, even if our basic needs are met, we may lack education, communication tools, etc., while the gap between rich and poor in these matters is often very wide.



1. Carlowitz, H. C. von ([1713] 2013). *Sylvicultura oeconomica*. München: Oekom Verlag.

2. World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future* (London: Oxford University Press, 1987).

3. The Oxford English Dictionary (1961 Printing) : Volume 10, T-U James A. H. Et Al. Murray

4. *Theories of Sustainable Development*, edited by Judith C. Enders, and Moritz Remig, Routledge, 2014.

5. <https://medical-dictionary.thefreedictionary.com/basic+human+needs>

6. Maslow, A.H. (1943). *A theory of human motivation*. *Psychological Review*, 50 , 370– 396.

7. <https://www.chegg.com/homework-help/definitions/maslows-hierarchy-of-needs-13>

The second part of Brundtland's definition touches on the concept of "generations". But what, in reality, represents a generation? The human generation represents "a group of people born at about the same time and raised in the same country and considered to have the same experiences or attitudes." The other definition is that "generation is the period of time, usually considered to be about 30 years, that children have to grow up and become adults to have their children."⁸ People of the same generation display similar characteristics, preferences and values during their lifetime, such as shopping, clothing, communication, use of technology, etc. Technology becomes central for two reasons. First, technological advancements, along with population growth have resulted in the development of human capacity to seriously jeopardize the well-being of future generations. Second, the boundaries imposed by nature have been affected by technology already to a pretty large extent. In a country where wood is the only building material, forest conservation becomes much more important than in another where buildings are built of stone and cement. Replacement of building materials, or materials in general, is a key issue of sustainable development.

SIX GENERAL LEVERAGE POINTS FOR RESTRUCTURING THE WORLD TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY ACCORDING TO DONNELLA MEADOWS:

- (1) Minimize the use of non-renewable resources;
- (2) Prevent erosion of renewable resources;
- (3) Use all resources with maximum efficiency;
- (4) Slow and eventually stop the exponential growth of population and physical capital;
- (5) Monitor the condition of resources, the natural environment, and the welfare of humans;
- (6) Improve response time for environmental stress.

8. <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/us/dictionary/english/generation>

2. Definitions for sustainable development in Kosovo

The Republic of Kosovo is the youngest country in Europe and the development of current legislation began in 2002 when the first provisional institutions of self-government were established after the elections. This legislation was preceded by the UNMIK regulatory framework known as the Regulations.

In LEP (03/L-025), sustainable development is defined as the "harmonization of economic development and environmental protection for the fulfilment of recent needs, without strengthening the possibilities for new generations to use these capacities and satisfy their needs." While further in SPK, sustainable development is defined as "Social, economic and environmental development, which considers resource utilization as an asset which needs to be preserved for the future generations." In Kosovo's development policies, 'economic development', 'sustainable economic development', 'economic sustainable development' are mentioned often. But where do these differ?

Economic development in SPK is defined as "the process by which material goods are created, through human, financial, capital mobilization, physical and natural resources, in order to generate attractive/ affordable services and material goods for the market." While further sustainable development is defined as "developments that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs." This means that the development actions of the present must not outgo resources which cannot be renewed or replaced (SPK).

On 25 January 2018, the Assembly of Kosovo approved the resolution on SDG. On 10 October 2018, the Council for Sustainable Development was established, led by the Chairman of the Committee on Health, Labour and Social Welfare (until the end of 2019, it was chaired by MP Besa Baftiu). This Council will function as a monitoring entity to ensure that the implementation of the SDGs is achieved. The members of the Council will be from the internal structures of the Assembly as well as external institutions.

Sustainable development is based on the use of resources. Development resources are managed within the concept of their constraints and that they are: exhaustive and not evenly distributed. According to Article 4 of the LEP, sustainable use means "the use of natural resources, providing the fulfilment of recent needs, without hurting the needs of next generations for these resources."

3. Legal basis for sustainable development in Kosovo

The legal basis for sustainable development is found in the Constitution of the Republic of Kosovo. More precisely, Chapter 9 (Economic Relations) states that “The Republic of Kosovo promotes the welfare of all of its citizens by fostering sustainable economic development” (Article 119, p.4).⁹ Further, some of the respective laws include it in the introductory provisions (purpose and scope of regulation) and in the guiding principles. Thus, the purpose of LEP is to harmonize economic development and social welfare with the basic principles of environmental protection according to the concept of sustainable development (Article 1) as well as the integrated system for environmental protection, reducing the risk of environmental pollution, life and human health according to the concept of SD (Article 2). According to Article 2 of the Law on Nature Protection (03/L-233), the purpose of the law is to regulate the protection of nature, its sustainable use. The purpose of the Law on Waters (04-L/147) is “to provide sustainable development and utilization of water resources that are necessary for public health, environmental protection and social-economic development (Article 1, p.2).”

In its preamble, the Law on Spatial Planning (2003/14) also sets the goal of “achieving a balance between the development and preservation of open, green spaces and environmental protection”. The Law on Forests in Kosovo aims to “create a legal basis for forests as a national resource, and for the administration, protection, conservation, enhancement and sustainable development of the Kosovo forest fund.”

The Law on Agricultural Land (02/L-26) defines as its field of regulation “the use, protection, regulation and lease of agricultural land for the purpose of permanent preservation and protection of agricultural potential, based on the principles for a sustainable development” (Article 1).

The Law on Energy (05/L-081) in Article 6 on the Energy Strategy, requires that this document “reasonably uses energy resources available in Kosovo, in line with the principles of sustainable development” and “promotes investments in the energy sector in the function of us pure technology for using the lignite, in the function of environmental protection.”¹⁰

Even the horizontal legislation, more specifically the Law on Strategic Environmental Assessment (03/L-230) as its purpose has to “determine the conditions, form and procedures for the assessment of the impacts on the environment of certain plans and programmes through integration of environmental protection principles in the preparation, approval and realization of plans and programmes, with the aim of promoting sustainable development” (Article 1, p. 2).¹¹ Most of the environmental laws contain sustainable development as one of the guiding principles of the legislation, but it is not further elaborated in their provisions.

9. Constitution of Kosovo, Source: http://kuvendikosoves.org/common/docs/Kushtetuta_e_Republikes_se_Kosoves_me_amendamentet_I-XXV_2017.pdf Accessed on 23. 04. 2020

10. Law on Energy No. 05/L-081/2026 Source: <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=12689>, accessed on 24 04. 2020

11. Veselaj, Z. (2019). Principles of Sustainable Development as Norms of the Current Legislative Framework in 12. Kosovo. *European Journal of Sustainable Development Research*, 3(4), em0099. <https://doi.org/10.29333/ejosdr/5878>



4. Research methodology

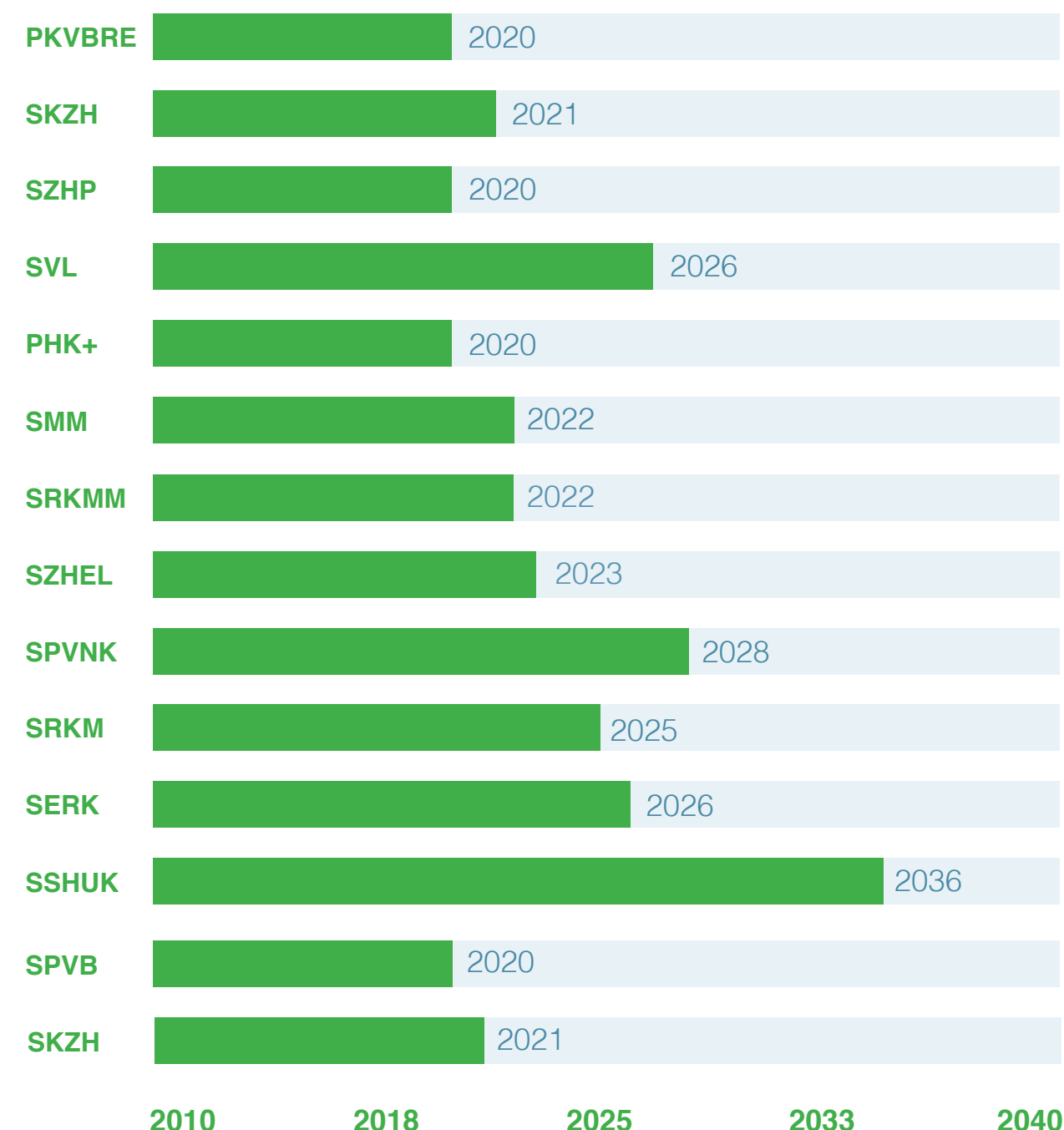
The research was conducted through a mixed-method: theoretical analysis of strategic documents affecting sustainable development and interviews with actors from government institutions (sponsors of these documents), representatives of academic institutions and civil society. Theoretical analysis is performed by analysing how much they include the concept of sustainable development in their content and provisions. The following components were examined to determine whether the concept was included: goals, mission, vision, measures, activities, principles, and priorities. Also, the same documents were analysed as to what extent they included the science of sustainability and education for sustainable development, incorporating the analysis of the main national education document which is the Kosovo Curriculum Framework (KCF).

The second part of the research included interviews with representatives of institutions sponsoring strategic documents, representatives of academic institutions and civil society on their involvement in drafting and implementation of strategic documents and prospects for the future. A limiting factor in conducting the interview component was that with their onset, isolation from the Covid-19 pandemic occurred, so they had to be conducted virtually or even by sending questions and receiving answers via email. This has resulted in a limited number of inputs from institutions, especially government institutions and civil society. Another limiting factor was the changes in government during 2020 and the rotation of some departments from one ministry to another, which is especially the case for the environment which within 6 months of research moved from a ministry of its own (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning) to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment and finally to the Ministry of Economic Development and Environment.

From the academic institutions, the interview questions were sent to three institutions and six persons (professors), while the answers were received mainly from the academic units and the CES of UP as well as from a faculty of the University of Prizren.

The response from civil society representatives has been lower. Of the four NGOs contacted about their work in sustainable development, only INDEP and Fondacioni Jeshil responded to the questions sent.

CHART 1. VALIDITY OF DOCUMENTS REVIEWED IN THE RESEARCH



5. Research results

Sustainable development in sectoral policy documents is addressed within the various substantive chapters. What they all have in common is that none of the documents contains the title sustainable development even though the field of their regulation more or less affects it. The National Development Strategy (NDS) has on its front page a sentence written “sustainable development plan” but it does not further explain what such slogan means: is it the motto of the document or something else because it is not that it is elaborated deeper inside the document. If it was a motto, it should reflect its content, which is not noticed in the document. As a generalized term and without concrete addressing, it is quite present in various strategic but also legislative documents. Sustainable development in sectoral policy documents is addressed within different chapters and we will address the inclusion of the concept in goals and objectives, mission and vision, objectives and goals as well as the measures and priorities.

5.1. Sustainable development in goals and targets

The goal in contemporary dictionaries is defined as “the target or end to which a particular endeavour is directed.”¹² Sustainable development as its goal is addressed by some strategic documents of Kosovo. Thus, the Strategy and Action Plan for Biodiversity (SAPB) defines “sustainable development based on sustainable use of natural resources” as the purpose of the document.¹³ The document further states that the strategy indicators will help in defining and monitoring national policies for the environment and sustainable development, as well as reporting on the implementation of international agreements and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Kosovo National Water Strategy of (KNWS) has as its goal “to offer an integrated and sustainable development of the water sector by meeting the needs of drinking water supply, water for food production, for irrigation of agricultural lands, for industry, sports, recreation and electricity generation.”¹⁴ The overall objective of KNWS is to “ensure the development and sustainable use of water resources, which are necessary for public health, environmental protection and socio-economic development of the Republic of Kosovo.” Both documents have the sustainable use of resources for meeting the needs of the population as its key concept.

12. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/goal>

13. Kosovo Biodiversity Strategy and Plan 2011-20 Source: [https://www.ammk-rks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_dhe_Plani_i_Veprimit_per_Biodiversitet\[1\].pdf](https://www.ammk-rks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_dhe_Plani_i_Veprimit_per_Biodiversitet[1].pdf) Accessed on 23. 04. 2020

14. Kosovo National Water Strategy 2017-2036, Source http://knmu.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_Shteterore_e_Ujrave_shqip.pdf Accessed on 24. 04. 2020

The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) defines the basic objectives of the Government for the development of the energy sector based on sustainable economic development, environmental protection, safe and quality supply to consumers, efficient use of energy, development of new conventional and renewable generation capacities, the creation of a competitive market, the development of the natural gas system and the creation of new jobs related to the energy sector. ESRK refers to EU strategic goals for the energy sector: 20:20:20.¹⁵

Recommendations:

Follow up by concrete measures of the component of sustainable use of natural resources and water based on the goals of spatial planning

Address target 20:20:20 on how it can be achieved when currently available energy resources are almost a single source.

Although not defined as a goal, the Kosovo Strategy and Climate Change Action Plan (APKCCS) present an opportunity to find and define measures to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to climate change, components of which will promote sustainable development. The strategy envisages “effective response to the impacts of climate change, taking into account international principles for sustainable development.” The Strategy on Local Economic Development (SLED) aims to “open new jobs and increase budget revenues by attracting foreign investment, and that overall economic development contributes to sustainable municipal development.”

The goal, by definition, is “a result that certain plans or actions aim to achieve.”¹⁶ SPK as its goal aims for “sustainable and balanced economic development, based on natural resources, human, modern technology, market competition and meeting the standards for environmental protection.”¹⁷ No defined goals were found in the other documents.

15. EU 20-20-20 targets: 20% increase in energy efficiency, 20% reduction in CO2 emissions and 20% renewable energy by 2020) Source: <https://esmig.eu/page/20-20-20-goals> Accessed on 19. 08.2020.

16. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/aim>

17. Spatial Plan of Kosovo 2010-20+ Source: http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Plani_Hapesinor_i_Kosoves_2010-2020_shq.pdf Accessed on 10.04.2020

5.2. Sustainable development as mission

Mission statements are commonly used by organizations and companies and less frequently in strategic documents. The mission statement explains briefly and concisely why the organization or company exists.¹⁸ A mission is defined as “a written statement of the main purpose and focus of an organization that normally remains unchanged over time.” Properly drafted mission statements serve as filters to separate what is important from what is not, as well as to communicate the sense of the intended orientation for the entire organization.¹⁹ However, the mission statement is often defined in strategic documents as well. From the analysed documents, two of them mention sustainable development in their mission statement: that of the field of energy and mining, which represent two of the main pillars of economic development of the Republic of Kosovo.

The mission of the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) is “to create conditions for reliable and secure energy supply, for the growing demand for energy, through the development of production, transmission and distribution capacities, taking into account the diversification of resources, efficient use of energy, maximum use of renewable energy sources, as well as environmental protection in all activities of the sector.”²⁰

The Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (MSRK) in its mission contains the wording for “creating all legal and institutional conditions for rapid growth of investments in the mining sector, strengthening human resource capacities, increasing community interest and guaranteeing environmental sustainability.”²¹

The research reveals that the concept of sustainable development as a mission has been overlooked in most documents and addressed in only two. However, if these two strategic documents are implemented as is written, the fact that energy and mining are important factors in the country's economic development is positive.

18. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/m/missionstatement.asp>

19. <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/mission-statement.html>

20. Kosovo Energy Strategy 2017-2026, Source: https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_e_energjise_2017-26_.pdf Accessed on 12. 04. 2020

21. Kosovo Mining Strategy 2012 -2025, Source http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_Minerare_e_Republikes_se_Kosoves_2012-2025.pdf Accessed on 12.04. 2020

5.3. Vision for sustainable development

According to the Oxford Dictionary, vision is “the ability to think about or plan the future with imagination”²², while according to Merriam Webster vision is “a thought, concept, or object formed by the imagination.”²³ Some of the analysed documents have a vision statement and include sustainable development in it.

In order to enable Kosovo to have a sustainable development and achieve the highest living standards, the Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (NDS) requires annual economic growth of over 3.3%.²⁴ The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) in its vision aims as follows: “creation of a developed energy sector that does not harm the environment and health, in support of sustainable economic development and social welfare in Kosovo within a free and competitive energy market”. The vision of the Environmental Protection Strategy (EMS) is as follows: “a clean environment with a sustainable and safe development.”²⁵

The vision of the Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (MSRK) is as follows: “development of mineral resources and expansion and modernization of the mining processing industry to guarantee sustainable economic development, job creation and increased welfare for citizens.”

Recommendations:

- Vision statements should stay as such since they often resemble to objectives
- Vision should not seem utopian and should be achievable over a reasonable period of time (the case of KCCSAP).

22. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/vision>

23. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/vision>

24. National Development Strategy 2016-2021, Source: http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjia_Kombetare_per_Zhvillim_2016-2021_Shqip.pdf Accessed on 27. 03. 2020

25. Environmental Protection Strategy 2013-2022 Source: https://mmph.rks-gov.net/assets/cms/uploads/files/Publikimet/Strategjia_e_Mbrojtjes_s%C3%AB_Mjedisit_-_2013_-2022_Shqip_748721.pdf Accessed 02. 04. 2020

The vision of the Kosovo Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (KCCSAP) is “Kosovo should have zero greenhouse gas emissions, with the ability to adapt to climate change, which effectively mitigates the consequences of climate change, anticipates and responds to the impacts of climate change, taking into account international principles for sustainable development.”²⁶ Of all documents, KCCSAP has the most ambitious (not to say unachievable) vision for the period of its validity and implementation.

The Spatial Plan of Kosovo (SPK) in its vision for the future, defines Kosovo, among others, as an “EU integrated country, with sustainable socio-economic development” and “that respects the environment, natural and cultural heritage of its territory and that of its neighbours”. Whilst Strategy for Local Economic Development (SLED) in its vision defines “the development of policies for local economic development to ensure sustainability of the local economy, in order to improve the lives of citizens in all areas.”²⁷



26. Climate Change Strategy and AP for CC 2019-2028, Source: [https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/Storage/Consultations/14-13-59-04102018/SNK_PVVK__5%20tetor_2018_Final\[1\].pdf](https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/Storage/Consultations/14-13-59-04102018/SNK_PVVK__5%20tetor_2018_Final[1].pdf) Accessed on 18. 04. 2020

27. Strategy for Local Economic Development 2019-2023 Source: <https://mapl.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Strategjia.pdf> Accessed on: 27. 03. 2020

5.4. Sustainable development in objectives

The objective is defined as “something you plan to do or achieve”²⁸, but also as “a specific result that a person or system aims to achieve within a time frame and with available resources”. In general, objectives are more specific and easier to measure compared to goals. Objectives are basic tools that coordinate and organize all strategic planning and activities. They serve as the basis for policymaking and performance assessment.²⁹

One of the objectives of the Strategy for Environmental Protection (EMS) is “sustainable use of natural resources, protection of biodiversity and natural landscapes.” Meanwhile, one of the four strategic objectives of the Kosovo National Water Strategy (KNWS) is the “conservation and protection of the aquatic ecosystems” (ecologically acceptable flow).

The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) in its strategic objectives defines the energy sector as “one of the key standing pillars of sustainable economic and social development of the country.” The accelerated and sustainable economic development of Kosovo will depend significantly on the implementation of adequate economic and structural policies and reforms that will ensure the rational use of natural and human resources of Kosovo.

The five objectives of the ESRK are:

- ensuring stable and quality electricity supply and with the necessary capacities for a stable electricity system;
- integration in the Regional Power Market;
- increasing the existing capacities of thermal systems and building new capacities;
- development of natural gas infrastructure; and
- meeting targets, and obligations in energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and environmental protection.

The last objective is inextricably linked to sustainable development.

28. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/objective>

29. <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/objective.html>

Recommendations:

Ensure the greatest possible communication and integration of objectives in development policies in terms of utilization of resources, conservation and protection of ecosystems.

Objectives for the impact and mitigation of the effects of climate change should be addressed by other development policies: water, transport, biodiversity.

Address as many objectives for economic, social and environmental sustainability at the local level.

The Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (MSRK) in its second objective stipulates as follows: “development policies will be oriented towards the creation of legislation on the sustainable development of the sector according to international standards, attracting private investments, a complete reform of the sector, environmental protection and addressing social issues affected by mining activities.”

While the objectives of the Spatial Plan of Kosovo (SPK) are as follows: “spatial planning for rational use of the territory; balanced spatial development; stimulation for rural area development policies; use of minerals for sustainable development; environmental protection; preservation and sustainable use of natural and cultural heritage; regulation of illegal constructions and informal settlements.” Almost all of them touch on the principles of sustainable development or the goals of achieving sustainable development. Thus, SPK aims to achieve sustainable environmental development, controlled spatial development, protection and respect of resources, natural and cultural heritage. Increasing energy efficiency (EE) and the use of renewable energy sources (RES) will contribute to the realization of three goals of the country’s energy policy: support for increasing overall economic development, increasing security of energy supply and protection of the environment.

The Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (KCCSAP) as the main objective foresees the following: to build the capacity of national and local partners, actors and stakeholders to integrate climate change issues and adaptation into the local and national development processes. Further, the document sets ambitious objectives, and groups them into two categories: low development objectives and those for adaptation to climate change. The first category of objectives includes: developing capacities to deal with climate change and preventing and reducing greenhouse gas emissions including sustainable mobility. The second category includes: development and improvement of risk mitigation mechanisms in important economic sectors as well as sectors vulnerable to climate change, capacity building for adaptation of ecosystems and building the capacity of partners and local and central government stakeholders for integration of climate

change and adaptation to future developments. In the framework of the capacity building for air quality control project in Kosovo, cooperation has been established between experts from the University of Prishtina (UP) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) with the aim to research efficiency growth of the filters in Power Plant Kosova A and B and drafting measures to reduce the emission of nitrous gases, NOx, from the power plants.³⁰

The Strategy for Local Economic Development (SLED) in its final objective (out of four in total) defines the following: “utilization of resources in the function of sustainable economic development.”

The Strategy for Local Self-Government (SLSG) defines one of its first objectives “increasing the economic and social sustainability of municipalities to ensure that local and financial development policies affect local economic development.”³¹ This is achieved through the development of effective policies for local economic development and sustainability, the construction of local road infrastructure and transport networks, training of young people to be part of the workforce, supporting businesses and agricultural development.³² Most of Kosovo municipalities, based on the LEP have drafted Local Environmental Action Plans through which they aim to ensure the environmental sustainability of development at the local level. The Municipality of Gjakova, with the support of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has developed a Municipal Strategy for Sustainable Development. The MIAPA on a semi-annual and annual basis compiles the Report on the implementation of the planned activities of the Strategy for Local Self-Government (SLSG) and so far, it is implemented only by MIAPA, although in principle the Strategy is a multi-sectoral document that includes more other stakeholders than only MIAPA.

30. From the interview with the MESP official

31. Strategy for Local Self-Government 2016-2026 Source: https://mapl.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Strategjia_liber_tri-gjuhe_finale-2016.pdf Accessed on: 18. 03. 2020

32. <https://www.yumpu.com/xx/document/read/7393517/strategjia-e-zhvillimit-te-qendrueshem-te-komunes-undp-kosovo> Accessed on 23.07. 2020

5.5. Sustainable development measures

The National Development Strategy (NDS) envisages special measures that will ensure investments that will enable “sustainable use of natural resources, by ensuring the balance between development needs and environmental protection.” These measures are addressed in the framework of strategic pillars such as infrastructure, industry, mining, new energy capacities and sustainable energy, rational use and capacity building for the use of water resources, sustainable use and management of forests and sustainable management of waste.

The efficient use of public expenditures and private investments will boost economic growth and enable sustainable economic development. Competitive industries enable economic growth to produce sustainable economic development. Increased investment in the mining sector and additional income in the industrial sector will enable a higher rate of economic growth and more sustainable economic and social development. The provision of sustainable energy will improve the conditions for doing business, enable the growth of private investment and improve Kosovo's trade balance by reducing imports. Sustainable supply will also improve the well-being of citizens. Increased investment will enable higher rates of economic growth and sustainable development. Improvement of water supply will serve as support in the growth of enterprises and in growth of the citizens' welfare.

Investments and reforms in the sector of forestry will play an important role not only in terms of protecting the environment but also in terms of supporting industrial development. Improving efficiency in the better management of forests will support the wood processing industry by ensuring fair prices and a sustainable supply of raw materials. Investing in recycling and waste treatment will enable the reuse of assets and in turn their use for the development of the waste treatment industry and other industries that use recycled materials as raw materials. This will enable economic growth to be more sustainable and have a less negative impact on the environment.

Concrete measures are proposed in the Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (MSRK) which requires “promotion and development of sustainable development principles (a development which fulfils current needs, without harming the interest of future generations)”. Under the objective of solving historical problems from the past deriving from the mining activity as a measure the following is proposed: “rehabilitation of areas contaminated by mining activities, in line with the best international practices”. For the protection of the environment from mining activity, the following measures are envisaged: full adoption of European environmental standards and promotion of public involvement in the decision-making process.

Pillar 4 of the Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (KCCSAP) (Infrastructure), provides specific measures to ensure an investment that will enable sustainable use of natural resources by ensuring a balance between development needs and care for the environment. Eight measures of the Strategy for adaptation to climate change identify activities/ interventions that maximize benefits while minimizing negative consequences. This includes cost-effective actions to reduce risks, which can be achieved without compromising sustainable development trajectories and adaptation options and which provide benefits regardless of future climate conditions. In this context, the KCCSAP envisages a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the areas of capacity building, renewable energy and energy efficiency, district heating and cogeneration, power plants and coal mining, transport, agriculture, forestry, and nature as well as waste management.

The Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) foresees a list of 60 implementation measures designed according to strategic objectives (Table 1). However, climate change in the ESRK is mentioned in only two places and addressed on the last page of the document, calling for a “study that will propose the preparation of an air protection plan with the identified mitigation measures to protect human health.” Given that the energy sector, with particular emphasis to the one in Kosovo, is the main contributor to greenhouse gases. It can be seen that the concept of sustainable development in ESRK is almost non-existent in terms of content.

TABLE 1. OBJECTIVES, NUMBER OF MEASURES AND CHALLENGES OF ESRK 2017-26

Objective	No. of measures	Challenge in implementation
1. Provide a stable and quality supply of electricity and with capacities necessary for a stable electricity system	14	Interruption of the project 'Kosova e Re' and failure to close TPP 'Kosova A'; new TPPs
2. Integration into the Regional Energy Market	12	Memberships to regional initiatives (ENTSO-E, ACER)
3. Increase of existing capacities of thermal systems and building new capacities	8	No challenges mentioned
4. Development of natural gas infrastructure	5	Agreements on gas and infrastructure
5.1. Meeting the targets and obligations of EE and environmental protection	12	Performance of buildings
5.2. Meeting the targets and obligations of RES and environmental protection	9	One Stop Shops



The European Union (EU) by the Regulation 2018/1999 (11 December 2018) obliges the states that from 2021 adopt an integrated national climate plan for a period of 10 years and immediately prepare another for the next 10 years. This regulation applies to the five dimensions of the Energy Union, which are closely linked and reinforce each other: energy security; internal energy market; energy efficiency; decarbonisation; research, innovation, and competitiveness. The Government of Kosovo has established working groups for the drafting of the Kosovo Energy and Climate Plan 2021-30 (KECP).

Some of the measures mentioned in Table 1 are expected to be incorporated in the Kosovo KECP. The same is expected to propose detailed measures within the five dimensions based on which it is designed. In the dimension for electricity supply as a priority measure is proposed replacement of the decommissioned capacity with clean energy (natural gas: 300MW, and renewable energy sources (RES): 1200MW) including the drafting of Master Plan for natural gas, replacement the heating from electricity power into central heating.

With repeated failure of the 'Kosova e Re' project, it is not known whether it will be commissioned according to the proposal of the ESRK and the European Commission. In the internal market dimension, the preparation of infrastructure for natural gas and the establishment of the Transmission System Operator (TSO) is envisaged. The decarbonization dimension envisages the promotion of smart cities, transport improvement and mobility. In the dimension of renewable energy, feasibility studies, legal infrastructure and 30 thousand roofs with solar panels by 2030 are proposed.

The overall mandatory country target in the National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) for the energy share from RES in gross final energy consumption in 2020 is 25%, as set in the Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Community of Energy for the implementation of Directive 2009/28/EC and the amendment of Article 20 of the Energy Community Treaty. However, Kosovo will aim for a higher target of 29.47% of gross final energy consumption in 2020.³³ The dimension of energy efficiency envisages certification measures and audits of efficiency standards, energy cogeneration and economic incentives and public awareness.

The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) has set the intermediate indicative target for energy savings to 39 ktoe or 3% of the total amount of energy during 2010-2012 in the sector of household, services, industry, transport and agriculture.³⁴ Preliminary results based on the report of Kosovo's first medium-term plan for energy efficiency (EE) show that the set target is reached to 3.1% (ESRK, p. 74). A similar indicative target has been set for the period 2012-15 and 2015-18; but is not reported whether is achieved or not.

Regarding energy efficiency, Kosovo has made a positive step by establishing the Kosovo Energy Efficiency Fund (KEEF).³⁵ KEEF, as an independent, autonomous and stable entity was established to enable the Government of Kosovo to "achieve its policy objectives on energy efficiency by promoting, supporting and or implementing energy efficiency measures, as well as attracting and managing financial resources in order to finance and implement investment projects in the area of energy efficiency in a sustainable manner."

Kosovo according to INDEP is late in liberalizing and opening the energy market. Market integration with the region is going at a slow pace and support scheme for self-consuming consumers is still deficient and insufficient. "We would like to see a competitive system and with principles of a market in the field of incentives for renewable energy sources, to see the start of the implementation of the Directive on Biofuels and greater diversification of energy sources in the field of transport. Then more aggressive investments in energy efficiency, reform in heating systems and clear national strategies for protection of forests, waters and for the waste treatment."³⁶

33. [https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Plani_Kombetar_i_Veprimit_per_Burimet_e_Ripertitshme_te_Energjise_\(PKVBRE\)_2011-2020.pdf](https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Plani_Kombetar_i_Veprimit_per_Burimet_e_Ripertitshme_te_Energjise_(PKVBRE)_2011-2020.pdf) (April 2020)

34. Kosovo Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2010-18 Source: [https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Plani_i_Veprimit_i_Kosoves_per_Eficience_te_Energjise_\(PVKEE\)_2010-2018.pdf](https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/Plani_i_Veprimit_i_Kosoves_per_Eficience_te_Energjise_(PVKEE)_2010-2018.pdf)

35. [https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/LIGJL_NR._06_L-079_PER_EFICIENCA_TE_ENERGJISE_\(1\).pdf](https://mzhe-ks.net/repository/docs/LIGJL_NR._06_L-079_PER_EFICIENCA_TE_ENERGJISE_(1).pdf)

36. Quote from Dardan Abazi, INDEP

5.6. Sustainable development as a priority

Priority according to modern dictionaries is defined as “something that is very important and must be addressed before other things”³⁷ or “the fact or condition to be considered or treated as more important than others.”³⁸ Sustainable development is addressed as a priority in four strategic documents.

The National Development Strategy (NDS) has envisaged four priority measures for the development of the energy sector: construction of new generation capacities and sustainable energy; establishing an open and competitive electricity market; reducing energy consumption through efficiency measures and rational use of renewable energy sources.

The Strategy of Environmental Protection (SEP) in the long-term priorities defines “improving the quality of life for all citizens; sustainable economic, social and cultural development.” In sectoral priorities, priority 7 (Sustainable use of natural resources) defines “the support of developing environmental policies in the protection of the environment and the sustainable use of all-natural resources such as water, minerals and forests.”

The Kosovo National Water Strategy (KNWS), in order to achieve sustainable economic development (priority 1 of the National Development Strategy) sets among the priorities the following: investments in major projects, through modernization and development of public infrastructure; continuous support of rural development and agriculture, in order to increase local production and investments related to environmental management and drinking water supply.

The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) addresses the sector’s strategic priorities for sustainable development. Thus, the strategic priorities for forestry envisage that “forest management should be done on the principles of sustainable development, using 60% of the annual increase and afforestation in bare forest lands with indigenous species.” For tourism, the development of a strategy for sustainable and nature-friendly tourism that meets the requirements for biodiversity conservation is envisaged.

The Mining Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (MSRK) as its No. 7 priority sets “sustainable use of natural resources...support of developing environmental policies in environmental protection and sustainable use of all-natural resources such as water, minerals and forests.” The implementation of MSRK objectives, measures and priorities is done through the MSRK Implementation Program as a program for a period of three years. Monitoring the implementation of the MSRK, based on Law No. 03/L-163 on Mines and Minerals is the responsibility of the Ministry of Economic Development and Environment through the annual Progress Reports of the Program for the MSRK implementation.

37. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/priority> (Prill 2020)

38. <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/priority>



5.7. Sustainable development in principles

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, the principle is defined as “a basic idea or rule that explains or controls how something happens or works.”³⁹ In the Spatial Plan of Kosovo (SPK), the principle of sustainable development in terms of spatial development means sustainable development that covers not only economic but also environmental development, which preserves current resources to be used by future generations but also contains balanced spatial development as well. Although the principle of sustainable development is incorporated within the Law on Spatial Planning, in different standards and agendas, it is time for these principles to be turned into concrete actions and reflected in managing. Sustainable development and managing are of key importance for a better future and require more attention in Kosovo.

In the Strategy of Environmental Protection (SEP), principle 3 (Changing attitude towards production and consumption) states that “the effective development of environmental policies based on the principles of sustainable development cannot be successful without changing the individual's attitude towards production and consumption.” While KNWS is mentioned the principle of equality in the allocation of water resources.

The chapter of basic principles of the Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo for Waste Management (SRKWM)⁴⁰, under the principle: “j” – Preparation for the open market”, encourages the management of other segments of society using economic instruments and other forms in support of waste management in accordance with the requirements for environmental protection and the framework of sustainable economic development.⁴¹

The Forest Development Strategy (FDS) requires that forests and forest lands in Kosovo be managed in accordance with the principles of global consensus on sustainable development, management and protection of all types of forests. These include the principles of prevention, the principles of intergenerational equality, conservation of biological diversity and sustainable ecological development.⁴²

From above can be seen that the concept of sustainable development is an integral part of strategic documents under specific chapters. The greatest involvement is in the chapters of objectives and measures of strategic documents, while the least researched strategic documents have included the concept in their mission, vision and goals. Seeing these developments, the package approval of around 20 laws on environmental protection, but also in continuous connection with the European Green Deal can be considered that exist a hopeful orientation for the implementation of the principles of sustainability in the steps of future development of the country.

39. <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/principle>

40. Kosovo Waste Management Strategy, Source: http://www.kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/Strategjise_se_Republikes_se_Kosoves_per_Menaxhimin_e_Mbeturine.pdf Accessed on 20. 03. 2020.

41. SRKWM is one of the few that has a planned cost of € 133.85 million for the next 10 years, but not specified even in thick columns where they will be spent.

42. Forestry Development Strategy 2010-2020 Source: http://kryeministri-ks.net/wp-content/uploads/docs/Strategjia_per_Zhvillimin_e_Pylltarise_2010-20.pdf Accessible on 25. 04. 2020



6. Involvement of academy in the development and implementation of strategic documents

The Government of Kosovo has drafted Administrative Instruction no. 07/2018⁴³ and the Manual for Planning, Drafting and Monitoring of Strategic Documents and their Action Plans⁴⁴, where point 2.9 of Article 8 provides that representatives of civil society, academics, advisors or external experts be part of the working group. It is up to the relevant institutions to draft the work plans, which are then sent to the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) (the Government Work Plan to be drafted) and be monitored on 3 monthly bases. The orientation of the OPM for the future is the consolidation of strategic documents by drafting sector documents, to identify and analyse overlaps, matches and interconnections between documents of different sectors. Within this, the concept for the Strategic Document System and the concept for the New National Development Strategy will be developed. Regarding monitoring and reporting, Article 16 of the Administrative Instruction (07/2018), as well as Chapter 8 of the Manual for Planning, Drafting and Monitoring of Strategic Documents regulates the procedures on how to report on the implementation of strategic documents.⁴⁵

Most of the interviewees in the research emphasize that the involvement of the academy has been only symbolic due to the negligence of the Government institutions. Working groups have been established, but in the absence of funds for the compensation of academics, the latter were no more involved. Professors from the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FICE) were involved in the drafting of the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK). Professors from the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV), the Faculty of Mathematical-Natural Sciences (FMNS) of UP but also from universities in the region and Sweden participated in the drafting of the Forest Development Strategy (FDS) and other accompanying documents.⁴⁶ In the drafting of some strategic documents deriving from the Strategy for Environmental Protection, in the schemes of representation of scientific and research institutions, the participation of experts from the academy is foreseen. At the same time, within 2020, the review of the Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) is foreseen.⁴⁷ However, the responsibility of strategic document sponsorship institutions needs to be increased to ensure professional human capacity and financial resources. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) confirms that in working groups and discussions of development policy documents, all relevant actors are continuously involved in the field of education, including research institutions and academia. Participation, commitment and contribution of each of them did not depend on MEST, but on their own willingness to contribute. From the perspective of the implementation of strategic documents, difficulties arise

in the non-involvement of other actors in the implementation of the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (KESP).⁴⁸ All institutions should be involved, up to municipalities, schools, institutes and universities. So, stagnation occurs where strategic objectives need to be implemented, in the aforementioned institutions.⁴⁹

Research and academic institutions have had the opportunity to be involved in all policies created by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Public Administration (MIAPA) and this has been done through public consultations and has continuously given their contribution. While in the framework of the action plan of SLSG 2016-2026, in its 4th objective, it is foreseen the involvement of all actors who can contribute to its implementation (including research and academic institutions). In terms of procedure, the documents after completion by the working group are sent to the Ministry of Finance for their opinion and then to the OPM for approval. Regarding future developments, MLGA has planned to draft and approve the Program for Functional Review of Local Government. Other aspects of the implementation of strategic documents are related to the appointment of officials, their monitoring and drafting of the report on a semi-annual and annual basis.⁵⁰

Civil society is also contributing to the promotion of sustainable development in the country's development policies. INDEP, as a leading think tank organization in the field of sustainable development, has it in its mission, but also as one of the three work programs of the organization. "We do the follow up of all institutions dealing with sustainable development in Kosovo and respond by providing alternatives, researching and building coalitions and networks with other organizations. We have led

43. <https://gzk.rks-gov.net/ActDetail.aspx?ActID=18813> Accessible on 20.08. 2020

44. <https://kryeministri-ks.net/documents/manual-per-planifikimin-hartimin-dhe-monitorimin-e-dokumenteve-strategjike-dhe-45>.

planeve-te-tyre-te-veprimit/ Accessible on 20.08. 2020

45. From the interview with the OPM official

46. From the interview with the MAFRD official

47. From the interview with the MESP official

48. http://kryeministri-ks.net/repository/docs/PLANI_STRATEGJIK_LARSIMIT_NE_KOSOVE.pdf Accessed on

19. 08. 2020

49. From the interview with the MEST official

50. From the interview with the MLGA official

efforts to put EE on the political agenda by assisting the parliamentary committee to monitor the legislation, initiate its amendment and support the working group in drafting the legislation. We made follow up of legislation in the field of RES, we were the first to speak and promote the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the first that we are linking consumer protection with sustainable development.”⁵¹

Increasing organizational knowledge and capacity to operate with the latest global and regional methods and approaches of sustainable development in activities is a requirement of non-governmental organizations, as well. “Sustainable development is internalized in the ideological framework of the organization, since its mission is to provide sustainable urban and rural solutions for harmonious development. Permaculture is known as an innovative framework for creating self-sustainable systems. As a framework, it is based on regenerative sustainability. Any program intervention that does not seek to create sustainability, fails to meet the basic criteria of Permaculture. As a result, “Fondacioni Jeshil” in the conception phase in order to cross the ideological threshold, must strive for sustainable development.”⁵²



51. Quote from the interview with Dardan Abazi, Research Leader and Program Manager, INDEP

52. Quote from the interview with Xhevdet Gegolla, from the “Fondacioni Jeshil”

7. Conclusions on strategic documents

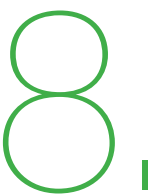
In this research, there are 15 development policy documents analysed that affect sustainable development in the country. By their nature, four analysed documents deal with overall economic development and governance: two at the state level (NDS and KSP) and two at the local level (SLED and SLSG). The four documents analysed to address the use of natural resources for development needs such as water (KNWS), mining (MSRK) and energy (ESRK), forests (FDS). While seven documents address the strategic orientations of sustainability according to its sectors: comprehensive environmental protection (SEP), waste (SRKWM), biodiversity (SAPB), climate change (SKPVNK), energy efficiency, renewable energy sources.

Four of the analysed strategic documents expire in 2020, while the longest-term document is KNWS which is valid until 2036. From the analysed documents it appears that ESRK mentions the concept of sustainable development in all its chapters except their purpose and priorities. The APKCCS mentions the concept of sustainable development in 4 of the chapters, as well as the MSRK. In 3 different chapters, sustainable development is included in KNWS, KSP, SEP and SLED. Whereas, in NDS is mentioned only in the measures, which in fact refers to the documents consulted during its drafting, same as NECP, NREAP and KEEAP.

There is a disconnection between the chapters that ensure the full implementation of policies. For instance, the FDS mentions sustainable development as a priority, but does not address sustainability as a concept anywhere in its chapters. Or vice versa: SAPB treats sustainability in its goal and prioritizes it without proposing in the document objectives or measures to achieve the goal.

TABLE 2. INCLUSION OF THE CONCEPT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE CHAPTERS OF STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS IN KOSOVO (CLARIFICATION: √- EXISTS; X- DOES NOT EXIST)

Strategic document	Duration	Purpose	Mission	Vision	Objective	Measure	Priorities	Principle
NDS	2016-21		X	X	X	X	√	X
SAPB	2011-20		√	X	X	X	X	√
KNWS	2017-36		√	X	X	X	X	√
ESRK	2017-26		X	√	√	√	√	X
MSRK	2012-25		X	X	X	X	X	X
APKCCS	2019-28		√	X	√	√	√	X
SLED	2019-23		√	X	√	√	X	X
SRKWM	2013-22		X	√	X	√	√	√
SEP	2013-22		X	X	√	√	X	√
KSP	2010-20+		X	X	√	√	X	X
SLSG	2016-26		X	X	X	√	X	X
FDS	2010-20		X	X	X	X	X	√
NDS	2016-21		X	X	X	X	√	√
NREAP	2011-20		X	X	X	X	√	X
NREAP	2010-18		X	X	X	X	√	X



Development policies and education for sustainable development

The science of sustainability focuses on the dynamic interactions between nature and society. Substantial understanding of these interactions has been achieved in recent decades through work in environmental sciences involving human activities on the environment and environmental impacts on humans, work in social and developmental studies seeking to account for environmental impacts and a small but growing organization of interdisciplinary research. In general, today, four key features of sustainability science are recognized, which its practitioners have identified as distinctive to sustainability science in a particular way.

- 1. Normativity - The science of sustainability explicitly accepts a normative context of sustainability (Clark & Dickinson 2003⁵³). Since “sustainability” and “sustainable development” have been challenged as concepts (can there be sustainability in the face of continuous development), many of their definitions and approaches have been argued.
- 2. Urgency - In the science of sustainability, urgency and moral concerns are essential. Those who need to meet needs may simply not be alive in the long run. There is yet another aspect of urgency: in the case of climate change, the risks associated with waiting for a better science are judged to be very high.
- 3. Interconnection of environment and society- The science of sustainability seeks to “understand the basic character of the interactions between nature and society” in order to find common ways in which natural and social scientists can improve the understanding of environmental and social relationships. Typical tools for such efforts are scenario techniques that depend on information and causal mechanisms in the natural and social sciences.
- 4. Involvement of non-scientists - The science of sustainability generally accepts the involvement of non-scientists in the research process. In this way, it is assumed that non-scientists can contribute to the field projects in ways that the scientists involved cannot do.

53. Clark, W., & Dickson, N. (2003). Sustainability science: the emerging research program. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 100 (14), 8059– 8061.

8.1. Education for sustainable development

Education for sustainable development enables everyone to make informed decisions about environmental integrity, economic sustainability, and just society for present and future generations, while respecting cultural diversity. According to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), education for sustainable development includes: integrating key sustainable development issues into teaching and learning... where can be included, e.g. teaching on climate changes, disaster risk reduction, biodiversity, poverty reduction, sustainable consumption, etc.... requires participatory teaching and learning methods that motivate and enable students to change their behaviours and take action for sustainable development... education for sustainable development consequently promotes competencies such as critical thinking, imagining future scenarios and making decisions collaboratively". In general terms, "the purpose of sustainability education is to help students develop a sustainable worldview, a way to see and interact with the world through the lens of sustainability."

Numerous researches have shown that education helps people to achieve the objectives of sustainable development. Education for sustainable development carries inside the inseparable idea of implementing development programs that are relevant at the local and cultural level. All sustainable development programs including sustainability education should take into account local environmental, economic and social conditions.

The National Development Strategy (NDS) calls for "greater alignment of the skills of the workforce with the needs of the labour market that will help increase investment, employment, income and growth of existing enterprises, and all this will enable higher economic growth and more sustainable development". To achieve this, it envisages concrete interventions in 3 areas:

1. Increasing inclusion of children in preschool institutions - which will enable greater success at higher levels of education, reduce inequality and increase women's participation in the labour market. This means that a child can learn while its mother works.
2. Improving the quality of teaching in primary and secondary education - as a precondition for a greater success of the education system and strengthening the skills of youth for the labour market.
3. Improving the connection between skills acquired in education and labour market demands - which will contribute to reducing unemployment and increasing Kosovo enterprises. This means that a vocational school student or university student will be able to find internships more easily during studies or full post-graduate engagement.

The Action Plan and the Climate Change Strategy (APKCCS) emphasizes the need for education on biodiversity conservation stemming from the Law on Nature Protection where one of the goals is "education to promote and preserve biological and landscape diversity". This is addressed

in Strategic Objective 4 as "promoting effective biodiversity education and communication". Further, two out of four strategic objectives in total, are related to education: completion and implementation of curricula at all levels; and increase of inter-institutional cooperation and NGOs for environmental education. Sectoral priorities also include involvement in educating farmers on biodiversity maintenance, focusing on the usage of chemical fertilizers and pesticides with a wide environmental impact.

Strategy of Environmental Protection (SEP) - One of the document objectives is "development of educational programs, awareness campaigns and support for scientific projects focused on the environment." Environmental policy objectives within the SEP address the "integration of environmental issues into curricula at all levels of education." SEP objectives in the field of education include "the integration of environmental issues into curricula at all levels of education (lectures selected with content related to environmental issues)" and "institutional and financial support in order to raise public awareness (dissemination of information and education on environmental issues)". The objectives of the scientific research field in SEP aim at "transfer of clean technologies and utilization of new environmentally friendly energy sources". While the objectives within the research address "the further development of centres of excellence for strengthening institutional and human capacities related to environmental research" as well as "the transfer of clean technologies and the use of new environmentally friendly energy sources." Strategic priorities in the SEP include "greater inclusion in the curriculum of environmental issues and sustainable development" and "support to NGOs in relation to education and raising public awareness of environmental issues." Research and development priorities include: creation of specialized scientific institutional capacities; financial support for scientific institutions and especially the development of their staff.

The Kosovo National Water Strategy (KNWS) addresses the issue of education in two of its measures which seek to "ensure that the school curriculum includes appropriate content related to waters" as well as "the academic development of some university programs, bachelor and master on environment i.e. waters." Appropriate water-related content is proposed in school curricula including: water circulation, usage, pollution and water saving, water pollution prevention and risk of floods. Thus, the development of multidisciplinary courses in the fields of natural resources, environment management and water at the master level (MA) is seen as priorities, where students will develop two key competencies. New master programs have been proposed (Environmental Management program and Hydrotechnics Program) as well as improvement of master programs in Natural Resources Management and Plant Production, all this within the UP. In terms of research and scientific research, KNWS requires establishment of research units (5-30 experts of common interest) with a focus on water pollution and pollution removal methodologies.

There is also the strategic approach for a "center of technical expertise in the water sector" that supports all institutions of sub-sectors for addressing challenges in water management. This approach has been conceptually developed for the Water Institute and attention has been paid to the need for academic development to support the argument of technical expertise in this sector for the coming years.

Kosovo National Water Strategy Document (KNWSD)-sets the "public education" on waste

54. The status and existence of this Institute is uncertain.

as orientation and objective. Priority and great importance will be paid to the issues of waste management in education curricula and programs, as waste management issues are not currently given due attention to foster social change. One of the measures for achieving Strategy objectives is “development of the system for the education, reporting and communication for waste management”, which includes “drafting of curricula in the education system to enable participation in the environment and waste management system via school programs, media or various workshops”. For special measures, KNWSD will prioritize and pay great importance to “waste management issues in education curricula and programs”. Measures and their costs have been planned to develop environmental education curricula and programs in relation to waste at all levels (kindergartens, schools, colleges, universities).

TAB. 3. INCLUSION OF EDUCATION AND SUSTAINABILITY SCIENCE IN ANALYSED STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS (NOTE: √- EXIST X-DOES NOT EXIST)

Document	Skills	Curricula	Education programs	Research	Scientific projects	BA MA programs	Other capacities
NDS	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SAPB	X	√	√	X	X	X	X
KNWSD	X	√	X	√	X	√	√
CCSAP	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
MSRK	X	X	X	X	X	X	√
EPS	X	X	√	√	√	X	X

Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan (CCSAP) –provides that implementation of the measures provided for actively contributes to reducing GHG emissions and prevents accidents that might occur from climate change through a combination of law enforcement, technical and educational reinforcement. Annex 5 (Water resources and climate change adaptation) states that to adequately respond to the challenges of climate change, Kosovo should develop new strategic policy papers and action plans to integrate mitigation and adaptation measures based on comprehensive scientific research to evaluate potential climate change impacts on water resources. However, the action plan proposes no activity or measure. According to CCSAP, a member representing UP is proposed in the Technical Secretariat of the National Climate Change Council.

Forestry Development Strategy (FDS) –highly prioritizes the “creation of opportunities for quality education and training for all categories of staff working in the forestry sector”. Against this background, a genuine professional education is required for a forestry profile and sustainable vocational training system; creating opportunities for the development of higher education in forestry and assessing the needs for creating premises for scientific research.



Spatial Plan of Kosovo (SPK) –Contemporary trends show that the interest in spatial planning is growing and the precondition for a sustainable economy and development is the proper education of individuals and society. In the context of education for sustainable development, the document refers to the Strategy for Development of Higher Education (2005-15), which states that “by building a qualitative and flexible system of higher education which responds to the demand of the society, preconditions will be created that higher education be in the function of sustainable development of society”. Further cooperation between disciplines in universities, public institutions and international organizations is needed. “Universities in Kosovo produce knowledge, but are not stakeholders to development processes for sustainable cities”⁵⁵

Mining Strategy of Republic of Kosovo (MSRK), under Objective 2 (Institutional and Human Capacity Development), beside functionalization of Kosovo Geological Institute foresees the development of research and technological capacities by supporting scientific research institutions and universities. In addition, the educational capacities of specialists of geology, mines, economy, environment and adequate engineering education from public universities are required to produce staff ready to face challenges and institution requirements.

Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo (ESRK) did not mention the scientific research, innovation and education in measures proposed for strategy implementation. The first objective of ESRK in measure 11 provides: “undertake measures for inclusion and matching university programs with the labour market needs during the process of building the Thermal Power Plant ‘Kosova e Re’”.

55. Quote from the interview with Eliza Hoxha, FNA- UP.

8.2 Sustainable development in the Kosovo Curriculum Framework (KCF)

Education for sustainable development in KCF is defined as “process for developing student knowledge, understanding, skills and attributes necessary to work and live in a way that protects environmental, social and economic welfare, for present and future generations”. The need for sustainable development is expressed within the introductory part of the document and it has been considered as one of the reasons for curriculum reform. Thus, it expresses the need in a globalized world, where the quality of life for existing and future generations is threatened, the students should acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes to responsible care for the nature and human made environment in order to avoid the misuse of sources and other non-responsible behaviour.

One of the KCF education goals is: “development of self-responsibility, responsibility towards others, society and environment” and “development of entrepreneurship and using sustainable development technology.” Students should develop responsibility towards the environment in the context of raising awareness for education for sustainable development.

KCF is a competency-based curriculum.⁵⁶ The competency for life, work and environment aims through involvement in environment protection and development, to create a productive contributor for society, in order that students be prepared to face environmental, economic and social preoccupations. As a result of completion of upper secondary education, students should be able to work under the civic competence, KCF aims to prepare responsible citizens who protect natural and artificial environments and contribute to sustainable development. With regards to the principles, KCF promotes interdisciplinary links to promote the education for sustainable development, as well as “integration of innovations that reflect developments in social, economic, cultural or scientific aspects in view of sustainable development education”.

KCF is organized into seven curriculum areas, three of which explicitly address sustainable development and the need for sustainable development education. The curriculum area “natural sciences” provide students with opportunities to develop the understanding of concepts and fundamental laws and theories of nature. They contribute to the overall development of society; they help in the advancement of technology and economic development, enhance the quality of human life, maintain health, environment and well-being. Natural sciences enable students to develop their curiosity to investigate the environment and changes caused by human activity.

The curriculum area “Society and environment” contributes in learning to live together and education

for sustainable development. The curriculum area “Life and work” provides challenging activities, including research, problem-solving, assessing concepts and learning, resulting from the creation of products with practical execution. Students will develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills, and will be encouraged to be innovative and creative designers of the future. These are essential attributes bearing in mind that our students will play a significant role by embracing the technological development of the twenty-first century and conforming to environmental, social, and economic principles. This curriculum area includes life-skills, handicrafts and household, counselling and career orientation, technology and ICT, education for work and entrepreneurial education, and education for sustainable development.

Most of the objectives foreseen in the Kosovo Education Strategic Plan (KESP) 2017-2021 have been fulfilled and the document foresees the involvement of academic and research institutions in the implementation of development strategies of the country. Assessment Report on Implementation of KESP for three last years will be published within 2020, providing details of percentage of KESP objectives implementation, but also shortcomings. Working groups for the drafting of the other five-year strategic document of KESP 2022-2027⁵⁸ are planned to be established within 2020.



56. Curriculum Framework for Pre-University Education in the Republic of Kosovo. Source: <https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2017/03/korniza-kurrikulare-finale.pdf>. Accessed on 21.03.2020

57. Within the meaning of this curriculum, competence is “a broad capacity to apply knowledge, skills, attitudes, routines, values and emotions in independent, practical and meaningful ways”.

58. Interview with the representative of MEST

8.3 Sustainability science

Sustainable development has not been central, and it has not been included in the first priorities in the program drafting process. Kosovo cannot have sustainable development without the inclusion of energy, in particular electricity power, in these pursuits. Therefore, sustainable development should be based on the electricity generated from conventional sources and a certain share from renewable sources, such as water, wind, and solar source.⁵⁹ However, sustainable development is now a valued component of the overall structure of studies. Currently, the FECE provides modified programs in the sense of including the Information and Communication Technology in all contemporary systems, in electronic systems, robotics, automation processes and electro-energetic systems. The latter represents the core pillar for sustainable development of the country and the same has been the subject of two large international projects, with a special emphasis on development of the content of programs and courses for renewable sources and sustainable development. Specific subjects concerning renewable energy have been included in the study programs of the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FECE). In the future, the criterion for sustainable development should be incorporated in the strict requirements of documents that support drafting of the new study programs (AI-15/2018 and other policies).⁶⁰

At the MA level, the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (FME) provides a study profile titled "Renewable Energy Systems." There is also a strategic approach for a "centre of technical expertise in the water sector" that supports all sub-sector institutions to address these challenges in water management. This approach has been conceptually developed for Institute of Waters⁶¹ and attention has been also paid to the need for academic development to support the argument of technical expertise in this sector for the coming years.⁶²

In the Department of Urbanism and Spatial Planning within the Faculty of Construction and Architecture (FCA) of UP, the component of sustainability and development concepts in compliance with nature and society is included in all subjects. During 2003-2005, FCA, along with the University of Aalborg and Royal School of Fine Arts and Architecture in Copenhagen-Denmark, supported by the UN-HABITAT- Program in Kosovo, drafted the program "Master for Urban Planning and Management" based on new global-local dynamics, Local Agenda 21, MDG and Good Governance Charter. This program did not manage to become operational for two reasons: firstly, the number of PhD's who would lead the program was insufficient; secondly, there was not much willingness to create cooperation bridges and recruit professors from external universities for the first generation based on certain modules.⁶³

59. Interview with Prof. dr. Vjollca Komoni, FECE

60. Interview with Dean of FECE Prof. dr. Enver Hamiti

61. Status and existence of this Institute is unclear.

62. Interview with Prof. dr. Naser Sahiti, FME

63. Interview with Prof. Eliza Hoxha, FCA-UP

In 2018, UP, in cooperation with Arizona State University from the US, established the Centre for Energy and Sustainability (CSE), which provides the certifying program "Renewable Energy and Sustainability." Currently, we are implementing a project with the US Embassy to Prishtina concerning the CSE professional and academic capacity building. Thus, UP is providing the opportunity to prepare staff needed for the labour market in the next decades, which will be characterized with numerous activities in this field, within the nationwide efforts towards low or carbon-free society by 2050.⁶⁴

The Faculty of Life and Environmental Sciences (FLES) in the University of Prizren has included sustainable development. Sustainable forest management may be mentioned in the program "Forest and Environment". Usage of forests with a sustainable silviculture, preservation of natural resources, whereas in the subject Meteorology, the focus was mostly directed to the climate change in Kosovo and risks they pose to the environment, economy, etc. Agribusiness program addresses the sustainable management of agricultural economy and rural development, and how the rural population should cultivate agricultural products by not damaging the land and maintaining sustainability in the future. Also, agro-tourism sustainable management provides for the use of rural areas for tourism purposes, preserving the heritage and tourism methods and transferring it to the next generations, etc.

The Faculty of Education, with the support of the Fulbright Program of the US Government, has developed and included into the curriculum the course "Education for Sustainable Development." This course aims at educating and training future teachers with regards to

64. Interview with Director of CSE, Prof. dr. Naser Sahiti

sustainable development principles and how they translate these principles into national curriculum requirements for education for sustainable development as cross-curricular issues.

Projects in the field of sustainability and sustainability science are scarce. The Project “Transformational Leadership Project - TLP” has been developed in partnership with UP and Arizona State University, whereby a series of activities have been carried out in compliance with its objectives. The project is focused on three components: further development and advancement of education curriculum in the field of energy, with a special focus on renewable sources energy, teaching methodology and advancement in the field of scientific research. Currently, CSE is implementing a project of the US Embassy for further building professional and academic capacities of CSE.⁶⁵

In 2019, FCA has implemented a small pilot project along with the Municipality of Prishtina and UN-HABITAT with regards to the gender component in the city under the concept “The Right to the City 4 All”. Project location was the city park in order to closely understand the importance of comprehensive planning, security and equal opportunities in the city. It remains concerning that UNDP and other organizations promoting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and policies from the global level in Kosovo should be more related to the academic and educational institutions and create cooperation and promotion channels.⁶⁶

Even though it has signed several cooperation memoranda with enterprises and businesses, FLES has not implemented any research project concerning sustainable development. “It would be in the interest of the Faculty to be involved in various projects of such nature, because it is a new and unique Faculty in Kosovo, with a qualified staff, with various researches and studies home and abroad.”⁶⁷

65. Naser Sahiti, CSE-UP

66. Eliza Hoxha, FNA-UP

67. Interview with the representative of FShJM, University of Prizren

9. Conclusions

Kosovo is known as the country with the largest number of strategies and action plans developed for 12 years since the declaration of independence. Sustainable development has constitutional basis, and the principle of sustainable development is to a greater or lesser extent incorporated in law provisions targeting sustainable development. From these laws derive strategic documents for governing development policies in the economic, social, and environmental realms, including the governance ones, as the fourth pillar of sustainable development.

So far, there is no unique document for sustainable development of Kosovo. None of the documents analysed in this research contains sustainable development in its title. The cover page of the National Development Strategy (NDS) contains the statement “Sustainable Development Plan”, but provides no explanation what it implies: is it the motto of the document or something else because it is not further elaborated in the document. The technical side of writing (linguistic errors, academic writing, and aesthetics of text, tables and figures) is accompanying part of the most analysed strategic documents, which should not be the case.

The content of most analysed documents dedicate most of their space to previous reports, descriptions of the inherited situation and are less concerned with the orientations, plans and solutions for the future. This is reflected in their content, namely volume, e.g. Forestry Development Strategy (FDS), which governs nearly half of the territory of the country, has 34 pages in total, whereas Kosovo National Water Strategy Document (KNWSD) has approx. ten times pages more (336 pages). Other strategies and action plans are in between these digits. Even when solutions are mentioned, they are generalized, abstract and often with ambiguous formulations. There are few mandatory measures such as “must...” and they are mainly in the form of “will...”. This somehow avoids the presence of strategy impact measurement and indicators and implementing institutions to not be held accountable to accomplish their obligations with a certain strategy. Most documents (except for CCSAP, but quite complex to determine and measure) contain no measurable indicators for implementation of principles of sustainable development. Moreover, there are no institutions responsible for implementation of activities or mechanisms for monitoring and assessing the level of measure and activity implementation level.

Involvement of sustainable policies so far seems to be more related to the EU integration policies of the country (fulfilment of international and integrating obligations) and pressure from the civil society rather a serious orientation of institutions to follow the path for sustainable development of the country.

Science and research have been very little included in researched strategic documents. Even though the principle of “sustainable development” is incorporated in numerous laws, policies, standards, and agendas, it’s time that these principles translate into specific actions and reflect in the management of the economic development of the country. Sustainable development and management are crucial for a better future and this requires greater attention to achieve specific results.

The academia has been involved in the strategic document development process, but involvement of the University has been symbolic due to the lack of adequate compensations. Almost all institutions have foreseen the involvement of research institutions and academia for their strategic documents. All institutions claim that some of the measures and activities planned in strategic documents have been implemented. MES and MEDE raised concerns in relation to the implementation and/or financial aspect, and they report problems between stakeholders responsible in the field of sustainable development. Institutions claim that they have strategic documents for the future of sustainable development.

Universities produce knowledge, but they are not stakeholders in sustainable development processes in Kosovo. Some of the universities have developed curriculum programs related to the sustainable development and sustainability science, but the number of specific projects for sustainable development is very small. A more positive development in the field of curriculum policies may be the introduction of sustainability education in the Kosovo Curriculum Framework as a cross-curriculum issue. This means that children of the pre-university education system will learn sustainability issues throughout curriculum levels and classes in the vertical plane and in all curriculum areas and school subjects in the horizontal plane.

10. Annexes

ANNEX 1. DOCUMENTS ELABORATED IN RESEARCH

Document	No. of pages	Sponsor
National Water Strategy	336	Assembly of RK, Government of RK, OPM-Inter-Ministerial Water Council; MESP; MED, MAFRD; MoF, Municipalities of Kosovo
Kosovo Spatial Plan	192	Government of RK, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, Spatial Planning Institute
Energy Strategy of the Republic of Kosovo	118	Ministry of Economic Development
Mining Strategy of Republic of Kosovo	46	Ministry of Economic Development
National Development Strategy	56	Government of Kosovo –Office of Prime Minister
Environmental Strategy	60	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan	92	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
Strategy for Local Economic Development	44	Ministry of Local Government Administration
Strategy on Local Self-Government	221	Ministry of Local Government Administration
Strategy of Kosovo on Waste Management	61	Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning
Forestry Development Strategy	34	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development
Kosovo Curriculum Framework for Pre-University Education of the Republic of Kosovo	78	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology

GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS:

- Fadil Q. Bajraktari – Ministry of Economic Development and Environment
- Ferit Idrizi– Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)
- Hazbije Kastrati – Office of the Prime Minister (OPM)
- Sabit Restelica – Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP)
- Rozafa Ukimeraj Quni – Ministry of Local Government Administration (MLGA)
- Tahir Ahmeti – Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development (MAFRD)

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Afete Musliu - Environmental Education (no feedback)
- Arben Nika, Tahir Krasniqi - Centre for Education and Development of Environment (CEDE) - (no feedback)
- Bardh Sanaja, Fatos Lajqi - Environmentally Responsible Action Group (ERA) - (no feedback)
- Dardan Abazi - Institute for Development Policy (INDEP)
- Xhevdet Gegolla - FondacioniJeshil.

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS:

- Eliza Hoxha - Faculty of Architecture - University of Prishtina
- Enver Hamiti - Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering - University of Prishtina;
- Ilir Morina - Faculty of Agribusiness - University of Peja (no feedback).
- Naser Sahiti - Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Energy and Sustainability Centre - University of Prishtina
- Vjollca Komoni - Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering - University of Prishtina
- Ylli Kortoci - Faculty of Life and Environment Sciences - University of Prizren

