

Natural resources as a factor of economic growth in Kosovo

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Abstract

In the history of the economic growth, there are numerous examples of countries that have developed based on their available natural resources. Especially, these assets have been the propulsion of the development in the initial period. But we also find some cases where countries with limited natural resources have experienced dynamic economic development. Kosovo is the last federal unit dismembered from former Yugoslavia after a decade under Milosevic's Serbian regime and a two years' war. International intervention and the inclusion of the country under an international protectorate created the conditions for the development of devastated economy by war and the robbery to be recovered together with the creation of institutional and economic infrastructure (Lidhja e Ekonomistëve të Kosovës, 1996). Under these conditions, everything had to start from scratch. The only development factor that Kosovo possessed was the human factor - age structure and the abundant natural resources, especially in key sectors such as the energy and in mining and minerals, agriculture and tourism.

Thus it is sustainable the conclusion that "The rapid and sustainable economic and social development of Kosovo depends substantially from the implementation of the appropriate policies and suitable economic reforms that enable more rational use of its natural and human resources". The list of the available resources of Kosovo is long. Kosovo possesses significant amount of all mineral raw materials in both quality and quantity terms. Among the most important raw materials have been ranked the power-lignite mining that is stretched into three basins and it is estimated to be around 9 billion exploitable tons (Kelmendi, 2012). Kosovo also owns mineral resources which are found in the Trepca's Metals basin. The geological researches show favorable conditions of exploitation and high quality of the ore. Mainly one can found the lead, zinc, silver and other accompanying products like bauxite, iron-nickel, manganese, copper, chromium and rare metals (The Republic of Kosovo Government, 2009). The mining industry around the world is increasing. Production and consumption of the energy as well. Prices on the world market with the exception of small tremors are favorable. Therefore the country needs development policies based on the use of these resources since they can become the sector for economic development of the country in the future.

Keywords: Resources, Kosovo, Development, Minerals, Energy.

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