The main issues preventing Kosovo's economic development

Dr. Demir Lima Fama College - Kosovo

Abstract

This study provides an analysis of several problematic factors preventing Kosovo's economic development. Several sectors that could have been the main pillars of economic development, such as manufacturing, energy, mines and minerals, and other economic sectors have been neglected from the development by domestic institutions or were used clandestinely by certain interest groups, whose focus was not in the development of the country but rather their personal gain. Trade remained the preferred activity throughout these years, which cannot be considered a beneficial sector for economic development, as much as manufacturing, which remains to date as Kosovo's most underdeveloped sector. As long as Kosovo's exports cover only 12% of total imports, no economic growth can be expected. Kosovo's failure to attract strategic investors in years, which could open new jobs, has also contributed its lack of sufficient economic development. Thus, the most concerning issue during this period is the decline in foreign direct investments, which were expected to increase after the declaration of independence.

In the lack of a long-term development strategy for certain sectors or priority activities, such as mines, energy, industry etc., there is no progress in the country's economic development. The main issue is that we should only favor those activities or identify segments where we have competitive advantages compared to other countries.

Keywords: Economic issues, Kosovo's economy, FDI, Doing business, Strategic investors.

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