

Natural resources of the Dukagjin Plain and social economic development

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Abstract

Natural resources play an important role in the economic development of a country. They give value to space and are a prerequisite for its population, sustainable use of which is linked to the socio-economic development of society. This paper treats the impact of natural resources on the economic and social development of the Dukagjin Plain. At first, are treated the population and settlements, with particular emphasis on population traces and population change. Then are treated the settlements, their number, with particular emphasis on the main regional centers. In the following is treated the economic development that was inherited by Kosovo and Dukagjini. Where is treated the beginning of exploiting of some resources and their impact on Kosovo's economic development. At the end of the chapter is treated the current economic development, the ruination of the economy by the war, the slow recovery and challenges of Kosovo's economic development and the Dukagjin plain.

Keywords: population, settlements, natural resources, social development, economic development.

Population and settlements

Natural resources, such as appropriate climate, water resources, good agricultural lands, quality forests and pastures, have played an important role in the placement and population of the Dukagjini Plane, the use of which has ensured constant population growth from the Neolithic to the present day. This is evidenced by various traces found as Illyrian hills, foundations of old towns, fortresses and various cultural heritage objects that have resisted time. In the Runik settlement are found pieces of one-color pottery and snippets of tools of bones that belong to the Neolithic period, 3 thousand years before our era (Çavolli, 1997). While in settlement of "Vranovc të Lugë e Beranit" are found stone tools, knives, axes and other archaeological materials that prove the antiquity of the residence of this settlement (Çavolli, 1997, pg. 257). The traces of the Bronze Age on the Dukagjini Plain were found in several locations in "Banja e Pejës", "Xërxë", "Nashec", "Shirok" and "Vllashnje". Characteristic is the establishment of settlements in hilly areas. The most famous Illyrian tribe living in this area was the Dardans (Çavolli, 1997, pg. 258). Traces of antiquity have been found in many localities; in Prizren near the Hamam, at the Prizren castle, "Vermica" and "Piran", then in "Zllakuqan" of Klina, "Doblibar" and "Berdosan" of Gjakova, "Brnjak and Ratkoc" of Rahovec. Roman traces were found in "Sopi", "Mushtisht" and "Popovlan" of Suhareke and "Dërsnik të Poshtëm" of Klina (Çavolli, 1997, pg. 258).

In the 7th century in our geographic space were placed the Slavs who raised their medieval state and influenced the alienation of the indigenous population and

culture. During the 13th-14th centuries the Slavs, with the help of the local Albanian population, built the religious sites of Peja Patriarchate (1253), Deçan Monastery (1327), and St. Arangel Monastery (Prizren, 1352) in which until the time of the Ottoman invasion, most of the believers were Albanian but were distorted and manipulated by Serbian names (Malcolm, N., 2001). Following the cultural changes that followed the invasions of the Ottoman Empire, the Albanian Orthodox religious heritage sites were gradually alienated as the pure Serbian Orthodox heritage and later used in the function of the hegemonic and anti-Albanian politics of the Serbian state.

The documentation of the period after the Ottoman invasion of Kosovo in 1455, and especially the land and population registration registers made by the Ottoman young invaders during the 15th and 16th centuries, bring numerous data proving that Kosovo and the Dukagjin Plain inhabited in those centuries by the Albanian population, while the Serbs who came as colonists and rulers were a minor but politically dominant minority. The Albanian population was mainly engaged in agriculture and belonged to the Catholic and Orthodox faith and was clothed with Albanian, Slavic and Byzantine names (Prifti, 2014). During Ottoman rule, the Albanian population of Kosovo and Dukagjini massively accepted the Islamic religion. Since there were built many objects of worship of mosque, medrese, teqe, then infrastructural objects Qarshi, bridges and hamams.

Table 1. Population of the Dukagjini Plain during the years 1831-1900

Years	1831	1862	1873	1883	1893	1900
Municipalities						
Prizreni	27472	34116	87856	79904 (v.1879)	78192	/
Gjakova	38413	21970	30620	20996	21862	62761
Peja	27322	31734	37590	26366	25672	67 750
Gora	15348	26882	/	/	/	/
Rahoveci	/	/	/	/	8912	/
Prizreni meRahovecin						91722
Total	108555	114 702	156066	127266	134638	222233

(Source: Prifti K. 2014)

In the Ottoman registries of 1831, 1862, 1873, 1883, 1900 there are data on the number of population, households the gender, ethnic and religious structure of the Dukagjini Plain population. In the table above are presented data on the number of population by municipality from the Ottoman registers for the above period. According to these records in 1831 in Dukagjini plain lived about 108555 inhabitants, in 1873 lived about 156066 and in 1900 about 222233 inhabitants. The slower growth of the population is justified by the social and political circumstances of the time. Ottoman data show that the doubling of the population of Dukagjini's plain occurred for the 70 year period, during which the Albanian population constantly dominated (Prifti, K., 2014).

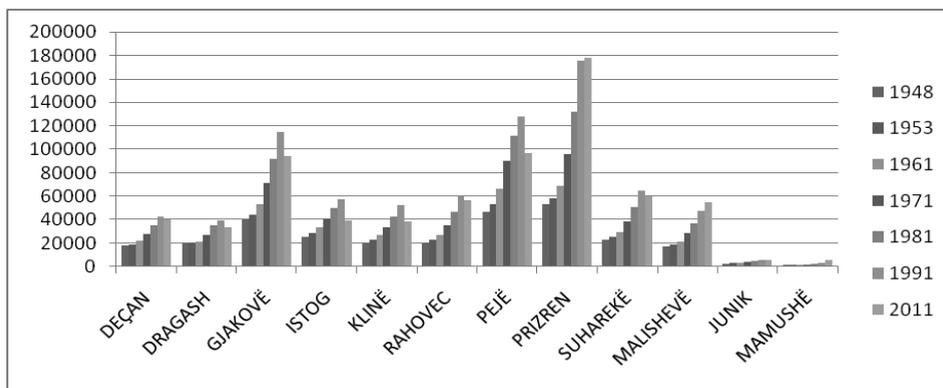
Population censuses during 1948-2011 speak for slow growth in the post-world war II period and for an accelerated population growth after the seventies. This is justified by the intensification of Serbian repression during the 1955-1956 weapons collection, the expropriation of the Albanian population during agrarian reform, the declaration

of the Albanian population as Turks and the displacement to Turkey, as well from discrimination in social, ethnic, educational, employment, etc (Islami, H., 2003) The increasing of the number of population in the other part of the time is the result of the improvement of social and economic conditions, which were followed by the rise of the electrical industry, the opening of the University of Prishtina and the Constitution of 1974.

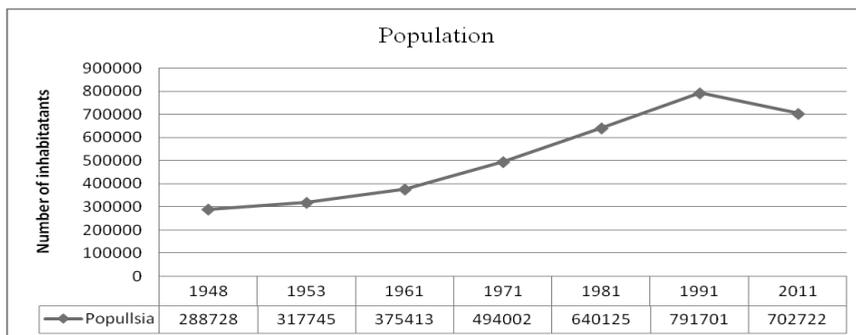
In the 1948 census, Dukagjin plain had 288728 inhabitants and 54443 households, whereas in 1981 the population increased to 64,0125 inhabitants and 8,331 households. So for 30 years Dukagjini's population doubled, compared to the time period a century ago, the period of doubling the population decreased for 40 years, from 70 to 30 years.

Table 3. Population and households of the municipalities of the Dukagjin plain according to the reports, 1948-2011 (Source: KASU)

Years	1948		1953		1961		1971		1981		1991*		2011	
Municipalities	Pop.*	E. fam*	Pop.	E. fam.										
DEÇAN	17840	2355	19223	2447	22230	2882	27478	3281	35577	4014	42898	5049	40019	5887
DRAGASH	20140	3184	20147	3345	21028	3342	26850	3811	35054	4580	39435	5493	33997	6215
GJAKOVË	39998	6454	44415	6846	53270	8210	71374	10020	92203	12184	114996	15816	94556	16303
ISTOG	25292	3713	28555	4098	33779	4877	41009	5636	50104	6653	57261	7833	39289	6741
KLINË	20665	2980	22592	3135	27153	3770	33312	4177	42816	4931	52266	6413	38496	5843
RAHOVEC	20350	2971	22867	3237	26839	3713	35215	4231	46459	5224	59877	7097	56208	8221
PEJË	46750	8357	53280	9120	66656	11405	90124	14231	111071	16967	127796	19859	96450	17682
PRIZREN	53261	9354	58251	9822	68453	11113	95676	14161	131774	18827	175426	25756	177781	29625
SUHAREKË	22893	3089	25572	3525	29417	3906	38388	4466	50444	5584	64530	7417	59722	9145
MALISHEVË	17355	2364	18528	2550	21646	2768	28681	3026	36808	3409	47817	4761	54613	6879
JUNIK	2832	439	2995	465	3352	504	3857	514	5063	595	6102	763	6084	770
MAMUSHË	1352	183	1500	198	1590	209	2038	220	2752	263	3297	334	5507	566
Total	288728	54443	317745	48788	375413	56699	494002	67774	640125	83231	791701	106591	702722	113877



Graph no. 1. Change in the number of population in Dukagjini municipalities 1948-2011



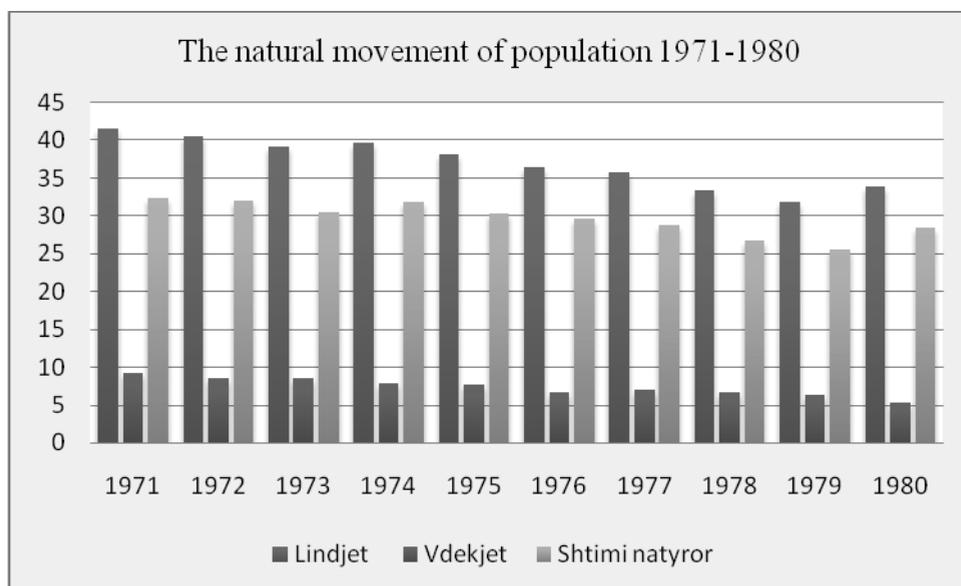
Graph no. 2. Movement of the population in the Dukagjini Plain 1948-2011

According to the latest population census in 2011, there are 702722 inhabitants in Dukagjini plain with 113877 households, where the average family size is 6.1 members, while the average density of the population is 162.4b / km². Compared with the 1991 assessment, all municipal centers recorded a decrease in the number of population, except Prizren and Malisheva. This is explained by the emigration of the population from the political and economic causes through which Kosovo has passed before and after the war. Prizren's population grew due to the attractive force that this city has as a regional center to other municipal centers.

Table no.3. Births, deaths and natural increase to the Dukagjin Plains 1971-1980

Years	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980
Birth	41.5	40.5	39.1	39.6	38.1	36.4	35.8	33.4	31.8	33.9
Deaths	9.2	8.5	8.6	7.8	7.7	6.7	7	6.7	6.3	5.4
Nat. Increase	32.3	32	30.5	31.8	30.3	29.7	28.8	26.7	25.5	28.5

Source: KAS

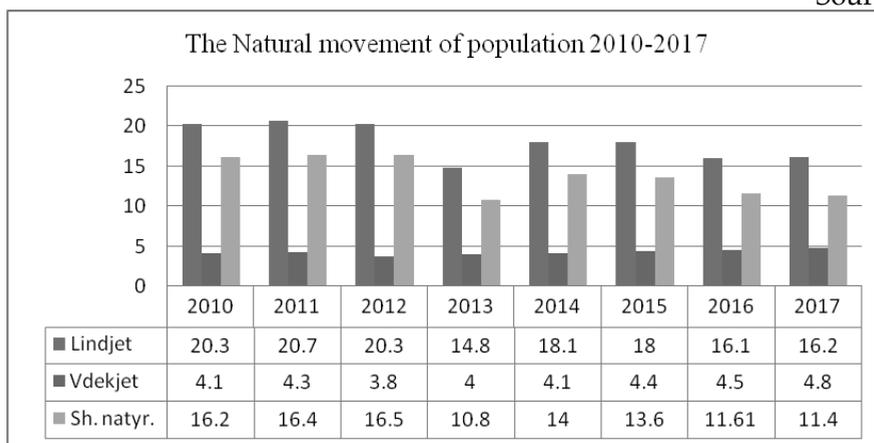


Graph no. 3. Births, deaths and natural increase to the Dukagjin Plains 1971-1980
 Natality until 1980 was quite high. In 1971 to 1974 it was about 40 ‰, in the 1980s about 33 ‰. While mortality in the decade 1971-1980 increased from 9 to 5.5 ‰. The natural increase was relatively high. From 1971 to 1976 the natural increase was over 40 ‰, while from 1976 to 1980 the natural increase fell below 30 ‰. These changes came as a result of improving living standards and socio-economic conditions.

Table no.4. Births, deaths and natural increase to the Dukagjin Plains 2010-2017

Years	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Birth	20.3	20.7	20.3	14.8	18.1	18.0	16.1	16.2
Deaths	4.1	4.3	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.4	4.5	4.8
Nat. Increase	16.2	16.4	16.5	10.8	14	13.6	11.61	11.4

Source: KAS



Graph no. 4. Births, deaths and natural increase to the Dukagjin Plains 2010-2017
 In the postwar period the changes are even greater. Natality has changed from 20 promiles to 16 promiles, while mortality continues to be quite low and ranges from 4-5 promiles, while the natural increase has moved from 16 promiles in 2010 to 11 promiles in 2017. These changes are a result of the effects of the recent war, high emigration and social and cultural changes.

Settlements with the position, the appearance and the size are the expression of the historical, economic and social natural features (Çavolli, 1997). The biggest urban centers are located on the main lines, which represent the greatest socio-economic importance of Dukagjini Plane. They are in contact between the broad field and the mountain complex (Çavolli, 1997, pg. 303). In this region 545 settlements have been developed, of which 3 are regional centers (Prizren, Gjakova and Peja), 12 municipal centers, while the rest are rural settlements.

The main urban, populous, economic, cultural and tourist center is Prizren. It lies in the South of the Dukagjini Plain near the Mountains of "Sharri", "Koritnik" and "Pashtrik". Through it passes river "Lumbardhi" of Prizren. The Nation's Road connects Tirana and Durrës (190 km) on one side and Pristina (80 km) to Skopje (161 km) on the other, but through the valley of river "Lumbardhi", "Prevala", "Lepenc" Valley, "Gllloboqica" is connected with Tetovo, namely "Fushgropa e Pollogut". The

Urban characteristic landscape where the medieval, oriental, and contemporaries intertwine through the traces of the material and spiritual cultural heritage make Prizren a quiet cultural tourism venue. Prizren was known early as Dukagjini's craft and trade center. Today it is known as the center of the food industry, pharmacy, and construction industry. With 177,781 inhabitants is the second largest city in Kosovo after Pristina and is a regional center for the municipalities of Suhareka, Mamusha and Dragash.

In the north or northwest of the plain of Dukagjini is the city of Peja. Peja lies at the foot of the "Bjeshkët e Nemuna" National Park, near the picturesque "Rugova" Canyon, across which "Lumbardhi" of Peja passes. These values make Peja an important tourist center. Peja is known as the center of the food industry, wood industry, shoemaking, and auto parts. With 96450 inhabitants is the second largest city. It is a regional and administrative center for Istog, Klinë, Deçan and Junik.

Table no. 5. Number of settlements by municipalities

Number of settlements in Dukagjini Plain by municipalities	
Municipality	Number of sttlemens
Prizren (Regional center)	76
Suharekë	41
Dragash	36
Mamushë	1
Pejë (Regional center)	79
Deçan	37
Istog	50
Klinë	54
Junik	3
Gjakovë (Regional center)	88
Rahovec	36
Malishevë	44
Total	545

(Source: KAS)

In the central part of the Dukagjini plain between Peja and Prizren lays the city of Gjakova. Gjakova has a good geographical position. Through "Qafa e Prushit" is linked to "Kruma", while through Morina with Bajram Curri. It was once the important craft and trading center of Dukagjini. Gjakova was an important industrial center of Kosovo. He was known for the development of the textile, food, electronics and mining industries. Gjakova with 94556 inhabitants is the third largest city in the Dukagjini Plain. It is a regional administrative center for Rahovec and Malisheva.

Inherited economic development

Kosovo inherited a traditional agricultural economic development until the fifties before World War II, with a primitive agriculture dependent on natural conditions,

where food security was a tough struggle for most of the population. In 1939 about 60% of Kosovo farmers used the plague, while in Kosovo there were a total of 4 tractors, 5 seeding and 6 harvesting machines (Islami, H.,2003).

The end of the Second World War brought about changes in the governing model which influenced the country's slow economic development. Kosovo's re-occupation, the installation of the communist system, agrarian reform, and the weapons collection action affected the alienation of private property, food smuggling and the relocation of 246,000 Albanians to Turkey (Malcolm, N., 2001). These were some of the consequences that Kosovo and Dukagjini Plain faced the first two decades after the Second World War. In 1948 about 80.5% of the population engaged in agriculture, 62% did not know reading literacy and 85% of them lived in the village. Agricultural lands, pastures and quality forests were vital sources and the only economic opportunity. According to the data of 1971, agriculture was still the main economic activity which involved 58% of the workforce, while in 1981 it represented half (50%) of the active population (Çavolli, 1997). While in Prizren, Peja and Gjakova the active population engaged in agriculture was under 30% in other municipal centers of the Dukagjin Plain was over 50%. In the 60s the first agricultural combines were set up. In Prizren was set up the Industrial Progress-Export Agricultural Combine, in Gjakova Ereniku and in Peja, the Industrial-Agricultural Combine of Peja. During the period 1966-1980 these companies have achieved an average annual growth of agricultural production of 2.8%. (Dushi, M., Mustafa, I., Brajshori, B., 2011, pg. 313). Agriculture provides the raw material for setting up some food industry companies. In Peja and Prizren, the leather shoe industry was set up. Fruit and grape plantations in the municipalities of Gjakova, Suhareka, Prizren and Rahovec provided the raw material for liquor, wine, alcohol and sugar factories that were established in these centers. Tobacco industry has been established in Gjakova and Prizren, and that of flour in Xërxë of Rahovec. For wood processing several companies were founded in Peja, Gjakova Model, Istog Radusha, Deçan, Parquet factory etc.

Other industrial activities, as the basis, had the first mineral raw materials. The clay reserves in Gjakova and Prizren affected the construction of the brick factory in Gjakova and Piran. The use of chrome ore in Deva in Gjakova started in the 20th century. But after the Second World War, the mining company Deva was set up, which until the 1970s produced over 300,000 tons of ore, incorporating all usable reserves. Textile company Emin Duraku and Napredak confectionery and knitwear in Gjakova were known for quality products. The textile fabric Printex and the Sintelon artificial yarn in Prizren, Dratex in Dragash, Teuta in Vrellë were some of the textile industry companies that operated until the 1990s. The electrical industry was developed in Gjakova and Peja, while the pharmaceutical industry in Prizren. In general, the economic development of Dukagjini and Kosovo during this period compared to the rest of Yugoslavia was extremely low, although the annual growth rate was relatively good.

Table no. 6. The increase rates of social production in Kosovo's economy

Time period	Average annual growth rates
1948-1960	4.5

1961-1970	7.0
1971-1980	5.5
1981-1988	0.9
1947-1988	4.9

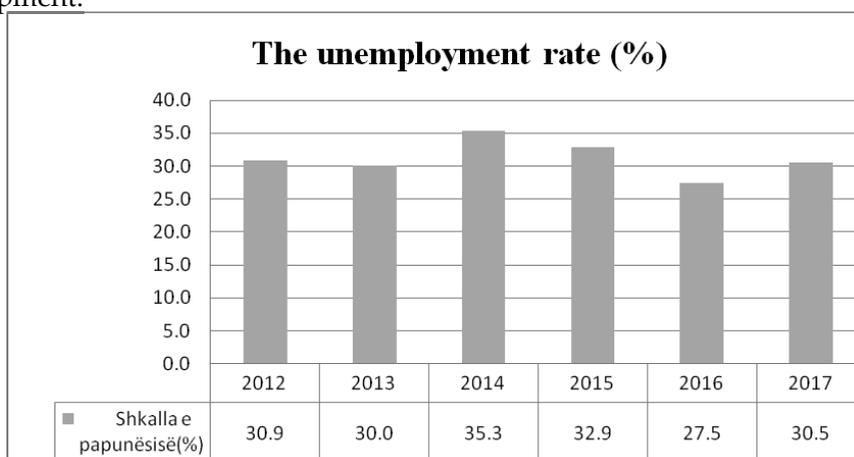
(Source: Dushi, M., Mustafa, I., ...,2011),

During the years 1948 - 1980, Kosovo's economy grew and then slowed down. The average growth rate was 4.9%. In the period 1961-1970, large energy projects were realized and the largest economic growth of 7.0% was recorded, to fall after the 1980s, with the appearance of the political crisis.

Current economic development

The economy set up until the nineties was demolished by violent measures following the suppression of Kosovo's autonomy in 1989. During this period, Albanian workers were dismissed. Kosovo from the liberation war came up with a total demolition of settlements and economy. Ethnic cleansing, during which about 1 million citizens were abandoned without their will in Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro, killing 15,000 citizens, burning homes, and plundering wealth were some of these consequences. UN administration and humanitarian aid positively impacted the reconstruction of settlements and the revitalization of Kosovo's economy during the period 1999-2002. After 2002, the reduction of international aid and the slowdown of the country's economic growth began. The economic transition from the centralist system with large social enterprises, to that of the free market economy with private ownership, was difficult to manage and by low economic effect.

Unemployment rate, general poverty, extreme poverty, employment by sectors of the economy, social assistance, GDP growth are an important indicator of economic development.



Graph no. 5. Unemployment rate in Kosovo 2012-2017 (Source: KAS)

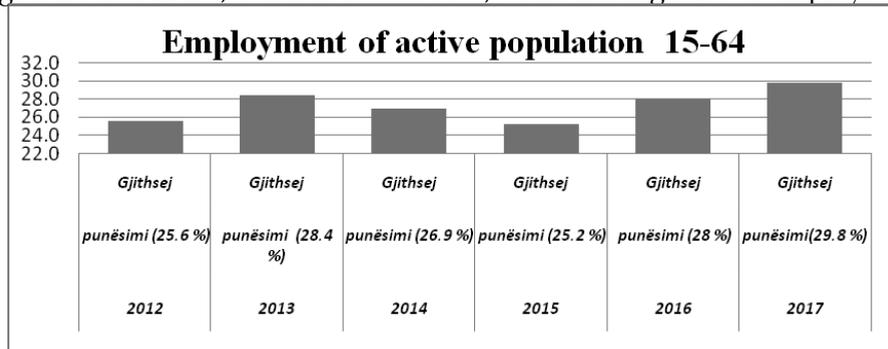
The unemployment rate during 2001-2012 was very high and ranged from 57% in 2001 to 30.9% in 2012 (KAS, 2014). In terms of gender differences are quite large.

In 2001, male unemployment was 51.8% for men, for women 69.9%, in 2012 the unemployment rate for males was 28.1%, and for women 40% (KAS, 2014). The data for the period 2012-2017 indicate the same scale of unemployment, around 30% (KAS,2014).

In the three Dukagjini regional centers in the social environments of employment during 2008-2013 there were a large number of job seekers registered. In 2008 in Prizren 57426 job seekers were presented, in Peja 39016 and in Gjakova 40006 research posts. In 2011 in Prizren, 60114 employees were employed in Peja 34708 and in Gjakova 39389. The number of job seekers is significantly lower in 2012 and 2013, with minor differences between them. In 2013 in Prizren the number of job seekers was about 48718, in Peja 19282 and in Gjakova 14664 job seekers KAS, 2014). The change in the number of job seekers is not a result of the decline in unemployment, but the result of the lack of people seeking employment through social employment and the high degree of migration abroad.

Poverty remains a problem that has led to the economic development of Kosovo and Dukagjini. Data is alarming. In 2003/2004 around 43% of the population lived in poverty, of which 13.6% were in extreme poverty. In 2008, about 42% of the population lived in poverty, of which 18% were in extreme poverty, whereas in 2011 the poverty rate remained at 29.7%, while that of extreme poverty 10.2% (KAS,2014). Data from social schemes in the three regional centers speak for the same situation. Thus, in 2015 social schemes in all Dukagjini municipalities include a relatively large number of 13555 households with 34464, while in 2017 there were about 7509 households with 31220 members (KAS, 2014).

Regarding employment by sectors, agriculture was a very important sector. In 2001, it included 6.2%, in 2004 about 25%, in 2008 it was 8% and in 2012 included 4.6% of employees (KAS, 2014). The low percentage of the agricultural population immediately after the war was the result of the consequences of war and food aid coming from abroad. Trade is another important sector that incorporates a relatively good number of workforce. In 2001, trade employed 18.9% of employees, in 2004 it was 13.9%, in 2008 it was 17.1% and in 2012 it was 13.9%. The construction sector in the period 2001-2012 included 8-9% of the employees. Education during this period averaged around 12.2%, administration 8.3%, while mining 1.2% of employees.

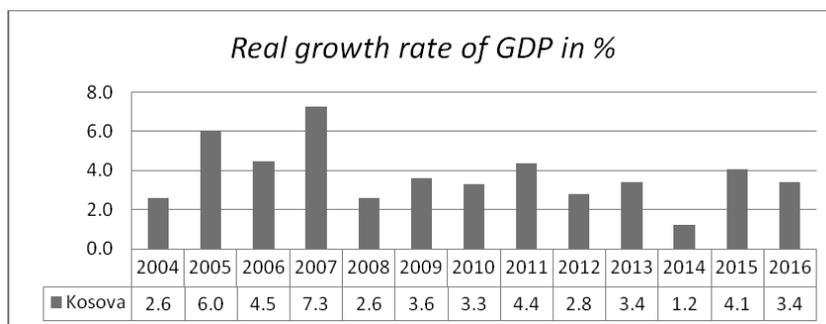


Graph no. 6. Employment of active population 2012-2017 (Source: KAS)

According to this indicator GDP growth was relatively good during 2005-2007, while in the period 2008-2016 the growth continued between the 3.5-4.5 values with significant fluctuations (1.2) in 2014. Based on the economic development that Kosovo has this growth of GDP is too small to improve the economic situation.

Table no. 7. Real GDP growth rate in Kosovo 2004-2016 (Source: KAS)

Years	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Kosovo	2.6	6.0	4.5	7.3	2.6	3.6	3.3	4.4	2.8	3.4	1.2	4.1	3.4



Graph No.7. GDP growth rate 2004-2016

Conclusions

Natural resources, such as the appropriate climate, water resources, good agricultural lands, quality forests and pastures have played an important role in the placement and population of the Dukagjini Plain. Traces of the population are early. This is evidenced by the archaeological findings and the old writings of Greek philosophers, which represent evidence of the way of life and the degree of social economic development. Kosovo inherited a traditional agricultural economic development until the fifties before World War II, with a primitive agriculture dependent on natural conditions, where food security was a tough struggle for most of the population. The family had a large number of members who often numbered over 50 members and even over 100 members.* The birth rate and mortality were at natural limits. After the Second World War, economic and social development was characterized by populist education, agriculture reforms, opening and irrigation of new lands, import of agricultural machines, distribution of electricity, and the establishment of some industrial capacities in Peja, Gjakova, Prizren, Rahovec, Xërxë and Suhareka.

The Kosovo war undermined the economic development set up during the 50 years of Serbian occupation. The economic transition from the centralist system with large social enterprises, to that of the free market economy with private ownership, was difficult to manage and with little economic effect. The postwar economic crisis has exerted tremendous pressure on unfair exploitation of natural resources, degrading agricultural lands, forests and water resources. Relevant institutions operating within the Government of the Republic of Kosovo by the support of international partners have developed reports and development strategies that preserve the conservation

and careful use of natural resources, which is today one of the main challenges of sustainable development for the place.

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