

Overview of national waste prevention programmes in Europe



Kosovo*



2021

* Under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244/99.



General information

Name of the country/region	Kosovo ⁽¹⁾
Coverage of the waste prevention programme (national/regional)	National
Type of programme (stand alone or integrated into waste management plan)	Integrated into the waste management plan
Title of programme and link to programme	Kosovo integrated waste management strategy (2020-2029) and action plan (2020-2022)
Duration of programme	2020-2029 (current strategy plan) 2020-2022 (current action plan)
Language	English
Development process of the programme/revision	The existing strategy was adopted in 2013 and is updated every 5 years. This current programme was published in March 2020
Budget envisaged for implementation of the project	The plan envisages a budget of EUR 105 million for the total timeframe of 2020-2029 (p. 73) The budget for activities related to waste prevention for 2020-2029 is EUR 793 000 (p. 66, 67, 71)

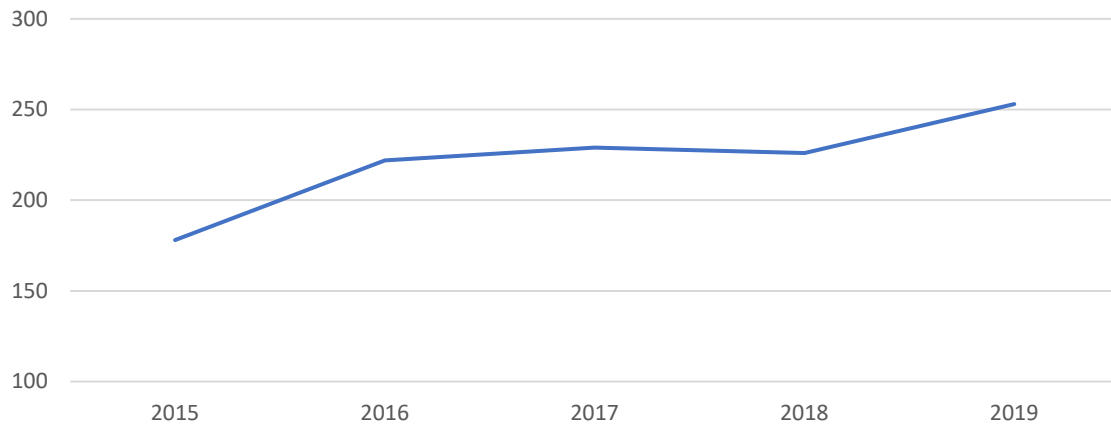
⁽¹⁾ Under UN Security Council Resolution 1244/99.

Waste generation

The following figure illustrates the progress towards waste prevention in Kosovo:

- The generation of municipal solid waste (MSW) per capita increased steadily between 2015 and 2019 (Figure 1). In 2015, 178 kg of MSW was generated per capita, which increased to 222 kg within a year. MSW generation remained at the same level for the following 2 years, when an increasing trend occurred again. In 2019, 253 kg of MSW was generated per capita.

Figure 1: Municipal waste generation in Kosovo (kg per capita), 2015-2019



Source: Statistical Office Kosovo.

Waste prevention programme

Objectives and priorities

1. Waste prevention objectives of the programme: quantitative objectives (waste reduction) and qualitative objectives (reduction of hazardous substances/environmental impacts)	Specific objective 4.2: Stimulate innovations in waste prevention (pp. 26, 38, 39) by: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• popularising the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle) through public awareness and education, with a focus on schools• starting to stimulate ‘circular economy’ thinking, including waste prevention, reuse and recycling• imposing bans and mandatory reduction targets for several types of plastic products, including cotton buds, cutlery, plates, straws, drink stirrers and sticks for balloons. Targets to reduce the quantity of other single-use plastic products such as plastic food containers and drinks cups will also come into effect
2. Sectors covered	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schools• Private sector• Municipalities• Industry
3. Priority waste types	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Construction and demolition waste• Hazardous and health care waste• Household/municipal waste• Packaging• Waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE)/batteries• Agricultural and animal waste• Industrial and mining waste• Other (e.g. textiles, plastics other than packaging, bulky waste)
4. Target groups	Stakeholders include official ministries in Kosovo, Kosovar authorities and industry

Targets, indicators and monitoring

1. Indicators proposed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Locally developed waste prevention solutions are being implemented with support from an innovation grant system (p. 39)• Extended producer responsibility mechanisms are being applied to products/waste streams (p. 40)• The waste management and recycling industry is to be included in national statistics by 2022 (p. 35)• The impact of awareness raising campaigns is to be assessed and published in 2023, 2026 and 2029 (p. 38)
2. Quantitative targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first round of grant applications for innovative solutions concludes in 2023, supporting at least 10 projects (p. 66)• By 2023, extended producer responsibility mechanisms are to be applied to four products/waste streams (packaging, WEEE, batteries, end-of-life vehicles (ELVs)) (p. 40)• By 2029, a waste management and recycling industry representative body is to be established (p. 42)• By 2023, 10 waste prevention projects is to be initiated (p. 43)• By 2023, extended producer responsibility mechanisms are to be applied to four products/waste streams (p. 67)
3. Monitoring of programme	<p>Preparation of the strategy has been overseen by an inter-ministerial working group, chaired by the Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) and including representatives of the target groups listed above. Technical assistance for preparation of the strategy document and facilitation of the consultation process has been provided through German development cooperation implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) (p. 12)</p>
4. Evaluation of the programme	<p>The action plan is valid for 3 years (2020-2022) and will be progressively updated and extended after a mid-term evaluation and replanning cycle (p. 46)</p> <p>The mid-term evaluation of the action plan will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conduct a mixed evaluation after 18 months of implementation, supporting the replanning and extension of the action plan• be steered by MESP with support from SPO• establish an evaluation task force• submit a report for endorsement to the minister of MESP and the Strategic Planning Committee to be published on the MESP website <p>The strategy will be updated every 5 years (p. 46)</p> <p>Evaluation of the strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• conduct a mixed evaluation immediately after completion of the strategy or as a part of the updating cycle after 5 years, as above

Prevention measures

Prevention measures implemented in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive	Not applicable
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Planned prevention measures

Table 1 is based on the analysis of the integrated waste management strategy and action plan and further research. The measures listed there have been structured by the EEA and the European Topic Centre of Waste and Materials in a Green Economy in accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive, which obliges Member States to take actions on a variety of aspects concerning waste prevention. The page numbers given refer to the original programme, unless indicated otherwise.

Table 1: Specific waste prevention measures structured accordance with Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Promote and support sustainable consumption models	The MESP has organised the ‘Clean Environment Race’, a competition in collaboration with GIZ. In total, 17 municipalities participated (Musa, 2018, p. 20).
Encourage the design, manufacture and use of products that are resource-efficient , durable (including in terms of life span and absence of planned obsolescence), repairable , reusable and upgradeable	
Target products containing critical raw materials to prevent those materials becoming waste	
Encourage the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities , including in particular for electrical and electronic equipment, textiles and furniture, as well as packaging and construction materials and products	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Kosovo, polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles are reused and filled them with water or milk to be sold • Peja brewery reuses 0.5-litre beer bottles, providing consumers returning them with compensation. • Some strong plastic bags are reused by customers for the disposal of waste and for shopping • There are increased initiatives to open stores for used (second-hand) products including clothing, electrical and electronic equipment, used tyres and other items (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, 2014, p. 50). • Specific objective 4.3: Establish reuse and recycling systems based on the extended producer responsibility concept (p. 39) • For specific waste streams, such as packaging, tyres, ELVs, batteries and WEEE, a further principle applies, i.e. the companies that place goods on to the market, ‘producers’, must also be involved in

	organising and financing the systems required for reuse, recycling and management of the materials after consumption
Encourage, as appropriate and without prejudice to intellectual property rights, the availability of spare parts, instruction manuals, technical information, or other instruments, equipment or software enabling the repair and reuse of products without compromising their quality and safety	
Reduce waste generation in processes related to industrial production, extraction of minerals, manufacturing, construction and demolition, taking into account best available techniques	The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning should propose amending the law on local governance to decentralise waste collection and permit smaller municipalities to create and manage public enterprises that deal with waste management (Balkan Green Foundation, 2018, p. 19)
Reduce the generation of food waste in primary production, in processing and manufacturing, in retail and other distribution of food, in restaurants and food services as well as in households as a contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goal to reduce by 50 % per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and to reduce food losses along production and supply chains by 2030	
Encourage food donation and other redistribution for human consumption, prioritising human use over animal feed and reprocessing into non-food products	
Promote the reduction of the content of hazardous substances in materials and products, without prejudice to harmonised legal requirements concerning those materials and products laid down at EU level, and ensure that any supplier of an article as defined in point 33 of Article 3 of Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council provides the information pursuant to Article 33(1) of that regulation to the European Chemicals Agency as from 5 January 2021	<p>The project ‘Inventory of hazardous waste in Kosovo’ enables the MESP (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning, 2013, p. 30) to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make an assessment of the actual situation with regards to hazardous waste in Kosovo • obtain information of the producers, operators and other participants in the field of management of hazardous waste • register hazardous waste • create a national inventory of hazardous waste in Kosovo • develop proposals to initiate legislative policies and administrative measures <p>Phenol treatment is one example of hazardous waste treatment in Kosovo. The treatment is done through</p>

	tendering, won by the Greek company Environmental Protection Engineering-SA. This company has exported hazardous waste phenols to European countries that can treat waste phenols, such as Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany Poland and Sweden (Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning and Kosovo Environmental Protection Agency, 2014, p. 55)
Reduce the generation of waste, in particular waste that is not suitable for preparing for reuse or recycling	
Identify products that are the main sources of littering, notably in natural and marine environments, and take appropriate measures to prevent and reduce litter from such products; where Member States decide to implement this obligation through market restrictions, they should ensure that such restrictions are proportionate and non-discriminatory	
Aim to halt the generation of marine litter as a contribution towards the UN Sustainable Development Goal to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds	
Develop and support information campaigns to raise awareness about waste prevention and littering	The MESP frequently organises campaigns for raising awareness, such as holding workshops in public schools on how to reduce the level of waste generation, where the targeted group are the younger generation (Musa, 2018, p. 20)

Additional implemented prevention measures, not covered by Article 9 of the Waste Framework Directive

Not applicable

Food waste prevention

Food waste generation

The Kosovo integrated waste action plan suggests that approximately 14 500 tonnes of animal and animal by-product wastes are produced and disposed of in Kosovo each year (p. 19).

Measures to prevent food waste

Not applicable.

Reuse of products

Data on reuse

Not applicable

Measures to support reuse

Specific objective 4.2: Stimulate innovations in waste prevention (pp. 26, 38, 39) by popularising the 3Rs through public awareness and education, with a focus on schools and starting to stimulate circular economy thinking, including waste prevention, reuse and recycling.

Specific objective 4.3: Establish reuse and recycling systems based on the extended producer responsibility concept (p. 39). For specific waste streams, such as packaging, tyres, ELVs, batteries and WEEE, a further principle applies: the companies that place goods on to the market, 'producers', must also be involved in organising and financing the systems required for reuse, recycling and management of the materials after consumption.

A network of recycling centres will be established across Kosovo. These facilities can be multifunctional and include green waste composting, areas for separation and storage of bulky waste, and facilities for the separation and preparation of packaging waste for reuse and recycling (p. 39).

Best practice examples

Within the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) Innovations Lab in Kosovo (UPSHIFT Lab), the venture 'Terra Crawlers' has been initiated. Terra Crawlers uses an innovative decomposition process, transforming organic food waste into organic fertiliser. Apart from its benefit of facilitating waste management and diversion, this process also creates a product that enables natural plant growth without using artificial fertilisers. The product was due to enter the market late 2018 (UNICEF, 2018).

Links to the circular economy

Topic	Addressed in the programme	Comments
Eco-design	No	
Repair, refurbishment and remanufacture	No	
Recycling	Yes	Objective 4.1: Raise awareness of the importance and benefits of waste management and recycling
Economic incentives and finance	Yes	For example, in services and infrastructure, set 100 % service coverage as a target, and support it with a mix of enhanced fee collection coverage, targeted financing and incentives
Circular business models	No	
Eco-innovation	Yes	Objective 4.2: Stimulate innovations in waste prevention
Governance, skills and knowledge	Yes	Objective 2.3: Promote research and development in universities