

Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)¹



Capital: Priština/Prishtina

Principal cities: Prizreni/Prizren, Ferizaji/Urosevac, Gjakova/Dakovo, Peja/Pec, Gjlani/Gnjilane, Mitrovice/Mitrovica

Official language(s): Albanian, Serbian

Other language(s): English

Population: 2.1 million (est. 2003)

GDP per capita PPP:

Currency: Euro adopted unilaterally

Labour force activity rate (pop. aged 15-64): Between 50-60% (EC, 2005)

Higher Education in Kosovo (under UNSCR 1244)¹

The Provisional Self-Government of Kosovo was established in March 2002 following the November 2001 parliamentary elections. This was followed by the formal hand-over of responsibilities by the Department for Education and Science of the United Nations Interim Administration (UNMIK) to the newly established Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) based on the Constitutional Framework for Self-Governance in Kosovo. The MEST has full responsibility for the implementation of the development and planning of the education system with some responsibilities remaining under UNMIK (so called reserved rights according to the Constitutional Framework). The Law for Higher Education was promulgated on 12 May 2003.

The Kosovo Strategy for Higher Education for the period to 2005-2015 gives priority to the implementation of the Bologna process. Kosovo is currently not eligible for direct membership in the Bologna Process as it is not a State which has ratified the European Cultural Convention. Kosovo is, at the time being, attending Bologna Ministerial meetings on an observer basis.

Education in Kosovo is characterised by a parallel system, with educational services provided separately for the main ethnic groups. The Kosovan higher education system operates through two state universities, the University of Prishtina and the University of Mitrovica.

Due to irregular elections of the University of Prishtina officials in 2004, it has operated with a Supervisory Board until June 2006 when the new authorities were legally elected.

Following the removal of the Rector of the University of Mitrovica by the Serbian Minister of Education in May 2004, the MEST blocked the licensing of the University of Mitrovica and the suspension of

accreditation until March 2007 when the University of Mitrovica was re-accredited by UNMIK.

The need to enrol an increasing number of students and possibly the lack of confidence in the public universities may have influenced the establishment of 18 new private institutions, 10 of which have been licensed by the MEST.

Years of compulsory education: 9

Gross enrolment ratio in tertiary education (ISCED levels 5 and 6)²:
Data not available

Number of accredited Higher Education Institutions: 2
Public: 2
Private: 10

Bologna signatory: observer status since 2003

For further information, contact the Tempus Office at
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www.ks-qov.net/tempus

¹ Under interim international civil administration in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 1999 and hereafter referred to as Kosovo.

² The country's total enrolment in tertiary education (regardless of age), as a percentage of the population in the official age group corresponding to this level of education

TEMPUS in Kosovo

Participation of Kosovo in Tempus

Two overall long-term processes, the Stabilisation and Association Agreement and the process of building the European Higher Education Area, have been shaping the Tempus cooperation since 2001. Driven by the dynamics of both processes, the priorities for co-operation are updated on a yearly basis. The Kosovo Strategy for Higher Education for the period to 2015 gives priority to the implementation of the Bologna process and also recognizes the importance of the Tempus programme as a major instrument for securing real progress.

Since 2001, study programmes in the fields of Agricultural Sciences, Computer Sciences, Economics, European Studies, Law, Mechatronics and Medical Sciences have been developed under Tempus projects. Lifelong learning courses have been developed in the field of Education and Teacher Training. Information management systems, institutional evaluation, university-industry links and quality assurance have also been supported through Tempus.

Impact of Tempus in Kosovo

The principles of the Bologna declaration were generally adopted in 2001/2002 and many university departments have reorganised the structure of their study programmes.

Tempus is giving important contributions to the Bologna process in Kosovo, curricula are being updated, new teaching methods are being introduced and capacity in the targeted faculties is being built up but the number of fields is still limited.

Tempus has largely influenced the introduction of quality assurance of teaching which however remains limited across the faculties.

Tempus has supported new cooperation and increased international cooperation skills of staff within the Faculties

The students involved in Tempus feel that they have strongly improved their qualifications compared to fellow students. They have access to laboratories, computers, their studies are EU-compatible and they have noted an improvement in the quality of teaching. Student numbers and success rates are increasing and the drop out rate is decreasing in those faculties where Tempus has been operating.

Participation in Tempus since: 2001

Number of JEPs: 19

Number of IMGs: 15

Number of SCMs: 9

Total budget allocated: 5,99 million €

Total budget allocated for staff and students mobility in JEP and SCM:

€ 1,190 million (2001-2006)

Total budget allocated for IMG:

€ 46.200 (2001-2006)

- Curriculum development
- Capacity building
- New cooperation
- Increased quality