

REGIONAL REPORT – KOSOVO – DECEMBER 2009



Project Management Update from Kosovo

By Kushtrim Mehmetaj

*International Correspondent for PMForum & PM World Today
Prishtina, Kosovo*

Introduction

Republic of Kosovo declared its independence on February 2008. Since then, many remarkable achievements have been recorded such as establishing democratic institutions, promoting human rights and rule of law and other democratic values.

Creating a supportive environment to private sector growth was one of the key objectives of Government of Kosovo (GoK) and international community acting in Kosovo. Several private sectors flourished during the last decade including construction, as one of the fastest growing sectors since after the War (1999). Kosovo was almost completely destroyed during the last War; it had to be rebuilt and is well heading toward it. Most common types of projects have been rebuilding or building new houses, roads, schools, etc. supported by both local investors (including GoK) and international donors in terms of finances and technical assistance.

PM Profession News

Managing professionally investment projects and programs of all sizes became a crucial issue in Kosovo. It was not only a need but also it became a serious tool to succeed in a

fairly competitive environment. Several local private companies have been successfully competing against international ones. Project Management is taught and lectured not only in the public university (University of Prishtina) but also in several private universities and colleges bringing advanced concepts and tools to better manage projects and programs.

Republic of Kosovo after a long fight became a member of International Project Management Association, based in Switzerland. Kosova is now member and familiar with project management events and practices happening in the world.

TenStep, Inc¹, in close cooperation with Genius Consulting², both US based consulting companies, decided to open a TenStep chapter in Kosova, TenStep Kosovo³ (TSK). TSK is the pioneer consulting, training and offering unique project management methodology in Project Management also representing a new level of international expertise in Project Management. TSK is entirely focused in Project Management practices, tools, methods, processes, approaches, schemes, etc. Business Analysis is the second part of the coin in order to have a continuous improved rate of projects successful implementation. Genius Consulting is dealing with International Institute of Business Analysis⁴, to include it in the project management package.

Genius Consulting is in close contact with Project Management Institute (PMI)⁵ on the possibility to open a PMI Chapter in Kosovo. No Computer Based Testing centers exist today in Kosovo (instead only paper based ones). Therefore opening a CBT will be another important achievement not only for Kosovo but also for region, too. Getting PMI Chapter is a long process asking for many conditions to be fulfilled. TSK is committed to move forward by playing the leading role in terms of Project Management and shift Kosovo from where it is now to a higher competency level not only at the regional level but also at a wider context.



Prishtina

¹ www.tenstep.com

² www.gc-us.com

³ www.tenstepkosovo.com

⁴ www.theiiba.org

⁵ www.pmi.org

Project Updates – News from some Important Projects

Today several world scale projects are going on in Kosovo. These projects are at different implementation stages. Among many of them, I have chosen the following:

- a) 'Kosova e Re', a brand new power plant to be build in Kosovo
- b) Highway to be developed, from Morine (Kosovo – Albania border) toward Merdare (Kosovo – Serbian border)
- c) GoK decided to put in concession tender Prishtina International Airport
- d) Privatization of Post and Telecom of Kosova (PTK)

'Kosova e Re' will be by far the largest investment project in the energy sector in Kosovo, Balkan and wider. First it was projected to be 2100 MW/h, costing about € 3,5 billion. In November 2009, Ministry of Energy and Mines decided to re-advertise the same tender again. The design, size and structure of the second tender will be slightly different from the first one. Nowadays, GoK and international actors are discussing imperatives of the new tender.

The new power plant will have a capacity of over 1,000 megawatts. It might be built in two phases with 500 megawatts each, or in three phases with 300 megawatts per phase; however, this issue is expected to be decided by the investor said Mrs. Justina Pula – Shiroka, the Minister of Energy of Mines week ago, at the Project Steering Committee. Power plant blocks will be developed one after the other depending on the consumption needs in Kosovo and in the region. Kosova has preconditions to become



Merdare - Vërmicë Highway Project

main energy provider in the region in short future. More information is available at www.ks-gov.net

Highway Morine – Merdare is considered as second largest project after the War and one of the key projects to help the economy growth in Kosovo. The tender to build the highway is advertized and the winner is expected to be selected in December 2009. It is calculated that the highway will cost about € 650 millions; it will be funded through a cost sharing structure between GoK and World Bank which promised to partially finance it. Expropriation of private land has begun for some time, not finished yet.

This highway is about 117 km long, containing about 20 bridges of various sizes and will be build based on high road construction standards. More information interested parties can get at www.mtpt.org/



Pristina International Airport (PIA) for many years has only marked progress and success in its business. Over one million passengers travelled through PIA in about 9 months (Jan 2009 – Sep 2009). In June 2006, Pristina International Airport was awarded the Best Airport 2006 Award, an honor presented by [Airports Council International](#) (ACI). PIA is successfully fulfilling required international standards. GoK has decided to concession through a public – private partnership tender to find someone who is interested to invest further in PIA and increase the scope of operations and further modernize services. An international consulting company has been selected to support the entire process. The tender is advertized and several international well experienced companies has shown strong interest. More information available at www.airportpristina.com/

Another success story is PTK having about a million clients and was categorized as one of the most successful publicly owned enterprise. GoK decided to privatize PTK as it will further increase the social welfare of clients by offering better services and prices to end users. PTK is now in process of preparing the scope and model of privatization process and approach. Another independent consulting and evaluation international company was contracted some time ago to evaluate the overall PTK value. Its assets value increases continuously by offering a large number of services and expanding the network. PTK entered in Albanian mobile market providing an added value to Kosovar clients. Privatization tender is not yet published. More information available at www.ptkonline.com

Other News Affecting Projects & PM in Kosovo

Republic of Kosova have successfully passed the first democracy test. On Nov 15th, 2009 Kosovars for the first time after independence, organized free municipal elections. These elections have been entirely organized and thus held responsible by Kosovar institutions. One of the biggest results from these elections was the increased percentage of Kosovar Serbs participating in elections to elect Kosovar institutions. This was a significant progress in terms of future development and joint cooperation. All international monitoring bodies (like Council of Europe, OSCE, European Parliament, EU Commission, etc) have unanimously congratulated Kosovo and Kosovars on this remarkable democracy achievement.

About the Author:***Kushtrim Mehmetaj******Author***

*International Correspondent
Based in Prishtina, Kosovo*



Kushtrim S. Mehmetaj, BS, MS (Strategic Management) is an International Correspondent for PMForum and PM World Today for Albania and Kosovo. Mr. Mehmetaj is also the General Manager for TenStep Kosovo, founded through a partnership of TenStep and Genius Consulting, LLC, a US based consulting firm. He is also CEO of Engineering Group LLC, a construction and project management consultancy, and a Board member of the European Movement for Integration of Kosova (EIMK), a local nongovernmental organization (NGO) dealing with European Union (EU) affairs. Mr. Mehmetaj has more than 12 years of professional experience in international environments including a number of management, support and advisory positions for various EU, USAID and other internationally financed enterprise and economic development organizations and projects, including the Hope Fellowship Program, the Kosova Private Enterprise Program, and the Kosova Trust Agency. Kushtrim has extensive knowledge & experience in enterprise change management, modern corporate governance, strategic management, project management, financial & investment analysis, and human resource development. He has experience in investment promotion and economic development, and good knowledge of European Affairs, Competition Law and EU Integration processes. He holds many certificates related to business research, international business, entrepreneurship, economics and finance, leadership, change management, conflict management, corporate governance, strategic management and other subjects directly related to programme and project management. He has masters and bachelors degrees from the University of Prishtina in Kosove. Kushtrim Mehmetaj is fluent in several languages, including English and German, lives in Prishtina, and can be contacted at KOO752@gmail.com. For more information, visit <http://www.pmforum.org/pm%20forum%20team/index.htm#Mehmetaj>.