






Information about the Municipality of Ferizaj

Mayor: Mr. Agim Aliu

Geography and Demography: Area: **345 m²**, **Population:** **108,690** (based on the 2011 census), Density: 315.4/km², Elevation: **500m**, Postal Code: **70000**.

The Municipality of Ferizaj has a favorable geographical position and easy access to markets:

-  Highways: Arbër Xhaferi and Ibrahim Rugova
-  Close proximity to the airports of Prishtina, Tirana and Skopje
-  Close proximity to the port of Durrës and Thessaloniki
-  The skiing center in Brezovica, and
-  Sharri Mountains, etc.

Economy

Currency: Euro

Financial Sector: The banking system in the Municipality of Ferizaj consists of 9 private banks, 7 insurance companies, two pension schemes, and 5 microfinancial institutions.

Budget: The budget of the Municipality of Ferizaj for 2022 was **33,933,868 €**, while for 2023 it is set at **38,103,752 €**.

Infrastructure: The city is continuing with the construction of schools, kindergartens and day care centers. Public services in the municipality have improved significantly over time. Taxes are used for investments in projects that improve the well-being of citizens in the areas and localities where they live.

Ferizaj is an economic, educational, cultural and sports center. The municipality has invested a lot in improving the quality of life of citizens. As a result there are many opportunities for recreational activities and entertainment in the city and in the surrounding areas. The number of these activities is increasing from one year to another.

Education: Currently, the Municipality of Ferizaj has 39 primary schools and 8 high schools, with a total of 21,602 students. In addition, there is a university located in Ferizaj as well. The University of Applied Sciences offers various study programs within several faculties such as: Faculty of Engineering and Informatics, Faculty of Tourism and Environment, Faculty of Architecture, Design and Wood Technology, Faculty of Management, and Faculty of Applied Arts.

Ease of doing business: Since 2019, all categories of businesses operating in the territory of the Municipality of Ferizaj are exempted from municipal taxes. All services and consultations for the businesses of the Municipality of Ferizaj are offered in the municipal administration, specifically in the business center. The municipality aims to be the main actor in the promotion and development of businesses, by planning and implementing favorable policies, such as the reduction of bureaucratic procedures, the continuous improvement of the infrastructure, equal treatment and increasing transparency.

Investment Opportunities:

As part of the measures in the package for the improvement of business climate, in 2019 the Municipality of Ferizaj made a decision to remove the municipal tax for operating a business. Furthermore, the Municipality of Ferizaj on annual basis publishes a special list of municipal properties that are planned for lease for a period of up to 99 years.

The Municipal Government remains committed at creating the best conditions for existing businesses, as well as potential future investors.

GUIDE FOR BUSINESSES



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FERIZAJ

Business Environment in Kosovo

Kosovo is the youngest European country, with over 70% of the population under the age of 35. The demographic composition is a very important resource for economic development. The youth educated in Kosovo and abroad are increasingly proving their skills and creativity in entrepreneurship. As such, they are also managing to adapt to new business environments which are resulting mainly due to the dynamic changes taking place in the digital economy.

Kosovo is positioned in the center of the Balkans. It offers easy access via air, road and rail transport to three regional ports:

- ▶ Thessaloniki, Greece: 329 km: 329 km
- ▶ Durres, Albania: 262 km
- ▶ Tivar (Bar), Montenegro: 299 km

The development of the private sector is becoming a key factor in the economic growth. Furthermore, the Government of Kosovo is implementing a stable and business-friendly fiscal policy. Among multiple sectors in Kosovo that offer good business opportunities are:

- 📱 Information and Communication Technology
- ⚡ Mining and energy
- 📍 Tourism
- 🍴 Food processing
- 🌲 Wood processing
- 🏭 Metal processing industry
- 🌿 Products of plant origin
- 🏠 Construction industry
- 🧵 Textile industry etc.

Economy

Currency: Euro

Budget: Kosovo's budget for 2022 was 2.7 billion euros, while the budget for 2023 is 3.2 billion euros.

Financial sector: The banking system consists of 11 private banks, 14 insurance companies, two pension schemes, and 11 microfinancial institutions.

Ease of Importing: There are advantages on customs duties for all manufacturers who import themselves or through contractors in areas such as: raw material which is used in production, semi-finished products used in production, production machinery, and information technology equipment.

Free trade: Kosovo has been part of CEFTA since 2007, and in October 2015 it signed the Stabilization and Association Agreement (SAA) with the European Union (EU). Through this agreement, Kosovo offers free access to the EU market and low labor costs compared to Central and Eastern European countries as well as neighboring countries.

Business Environment: The advantages such as the favorable fiscal policies, natural potential, quick and easy registration of businesses, and transparent laws on foreign investments make the business environment in Kosovo attractive and favorable for foreign investors. Many companies looking for potential suppliers or bringing production closer to the EU member states have turned to the Western Balkans.

Education: Over the last years the higher education system in Kosovo has gone through continuous reforms, which were focused on improving the quality of education. Currently, Kosovo has six public universities and several private universities and colleges.

Business Environment in the Municipality of Ferizaj

In terms of size, population, economic and cultural activities, Ferizaj is one of the main centers in the southern part of Kosovo. Ferizaj hosts a large number of services and various business activities which are connected not only to the city, but also to other parts of the region. These include:

- Public and administrative services (University, Regional Hospital, Courts, etc.);
- Economic activities (industrial and wholesale activities, banks, other activities of small and medium businesses);
- Cultural institutions (museum, gallery);
- Regional activities and exhibitions (carnival, various traditional festivals, etc.).

Development of the municipality of Ferizaj as a regional center is based on three main pillars:

- ▶ A center of regional economic development,
- ▶ A center of tourism development, and
- ▶ An educational and administrative center