



Hello,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, on the occasion of the opening of the International Money Week, an activity which is now traditionally celebrated in Kosovo.

- CBK, since 2013, is part of this organization, which is led by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which aims to raise awareness among children and young people about economic and financial issues.
- The International Money Week is organized in 176 countries around the world and about 53 million children and young people from different countries of the world are planned to participate in this event. The motto this year is "*Plan your money, plant your future*", whose message is to focus on sustainability and raise awareness of the implications of individual financial behavior, not only for the financial future, but also for the environment and society.
- The global economic crises affected either by the Covid 19 pandemic, followed by the war in Ukraine, but also by the effects of global warming, have influenced the economies of all countries of the world to face shocks and economic and financial crises. Consequently, more than ever, it is important for young people to be equipped with knowledge and information about personal finance management, to know and understand financial services and products as much as possible, and in this way to have the skills and abilities to cope with the implications of their finances in the future.
- The Central Bank is engaged in promoting and maintaining financial stability in the country, and is also tasked with regulating and supervising the financial system in Kosovo and ensuring that it operates in a stable and effective manner. Today, the financial sector is one of the main contributors to the economy of Kosovo and is one of the most stable and successful sectors in Kosovo, as well as one of the main pillars of support for businesses and individuals. CBK remains committed to continuing its activity in the service of the stability and development of the country's economy, creating the conditions for the development of a stable financial infrastructure, in line with contemporary developments in this field.
- Financial education is a function through which CBK contributes to informing and increasing the knowledge of citizens in order to improve their knowledge about economic and financial concepts, products, services offered by the financial sector and creating habits to make appropriate choices and take effective action to improve their financial well-being.

- Financial Education is important for CBK because it contributes to the stability of the financial system: Informed and financially educated citizens know more and understand the products and services of the financial sector, are more protected, and are better able to make smart decisions and manage their finances better, also to cope with difficult financial situations. This helps in reducing the risk of financial crises and maintaining the stability of the financial system.
- CBK carries out activities and initiatives to increase economic and financial knowledge throughout the year, but as mentioned earlier in March of each year, like most other central banks and numerous international financial institutions, we join the campaign of marking International Money Week.
- Today, through this activity, we are marking the opening of this week with the students of the Sami Frashëri school in Prishtina, then it will continue throughout the week with lectures and other activities, including students from different schools and different communities living in Kosovo.
- Today we also announce an Essay Contest with the theme of this week's motto "***Plan Your Money, Plant Your Future***", which will remain open until April 30, 2023, where the seven best Essays will win 7 prizes. The purpose of this competition is to encourage high school youth to be more informed about economic and financial topics. Therefore, on this occasion, I would like to invite you, as well as all high school students, to participate in this competition

CBK will continue to be focused continuously with the aim to advance the field of financial education, in order to contribute to the increase of knowledge, transparency and information of citizens and in particular consumers of financial products and services. Also, we will continue to cooperate with local and international financial institutions in order to, through this function, be as close as possible to the citizens.

For the end, I would like to thank you for coming to visit CBK and I hope that this visit will serve you in informing and getting to know more about the Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, as well as the functioning of the financial sector in Kosovo and why not complement these acquired knowledge with your financial studies at universities in the country or abroad, and in the future you will be the bearer of the development and management of the finances of our country, either in the Central Bank or in other financial institutions.

Good luck with your studies and all the best!