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MINISTRIA E PUNËS DHE MIRËQENIES SOCIALE
MINISTARSTVO RADA I SOCIJALNE ZAŠTITE
MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE



AGJENCIA E PUNËSIMIT
AGENCIJA ZA ZAPOŠLJAVANJE
EMPLOYMENT AGENCY

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SUPPORT TO MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE FOR EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET MEASURES”
PËRKRAHJE PËR MINISTRINË E PUNËS DHE MIRËQENIES SOCIALE PËR IMPLEMENTIMIN EFIKAS DHE EFEKTIV TË MASAVE AKTIVE PËR TREGUN E PUNËS
PODRŠKA MINISTARSTVU RADA I SOCIJALNE ZAŠTITE ZA EFIKASNO I EFEKTIVNO SPROVOĐENJE AKTIVNIH MERA TRŽIŠTA RADA

Newsletter

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Support to Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for Efficient and Effective Implementation of Active Labour Market Measures

The labour market in Kosovo is facing a number of challenges. The “Support to Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare for Efficient and Effective Implementation of Active Labour Market Measures”, is a 24-month project, financed within the Instrument of Pre-Accession II (IPA), and delivered by WYG savjetovanje d.o.o, that aims to assist the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) and Employment Agency to address these challenges. The

project is part of a wider endeavor by the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) and Employment Agency to modernise the services they provide. The project is designed to strengthen the capacities of the MLSW, Employment Agency and other stakeholders (e.g. grant beneficiaries) in determining services and solutions to the problems faced by disadvantaged groups, particularly youth and women in the Kosovo labour market.

The Overall objective

The Overall objective of the project is “to increase employability and sustainable employment prospects for disadvantaged groups, particularly youth and women in Kosovo”. The Purpose of the project is the “development of the capacity of Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and Employment Agency to design, implement and monitor the active labour market measures focusing on disadvantaged groups, particularly on youth and women”.

Project results

The project has entered into its second year of implementation, and has achieved considerable success towards achieving its overall objective and expected results.

The project has 2 main project results:

Result 1: MLSW, Employment Agency, local authorities and social partners equipped with skills for drafting concrete actions under active labour market measures (ALMMs) in the sector of employment, education and social development.

Result 2: MLSW and Employment Agency are equipped with knowledge and experience in implementing and monitoring of ALMMs proposed for disadvantaged groups, particularly for youth and women.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

During the first 12 months of implementation, the project has assisted MLSW, and Employment Agency, with strategic and technical support.

The project team, jointly with the Employment Agency Vocational Training Centre Department, have developed a new Operational Manual on

Procedures for Contracting out Vocational Training Programmes to Non-public Providers. The project team also presented a proposal to the Department for strengthening and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of combined training delivered by the Employment Agency.



Photo: First meeting of the Project Pipeline Advisory Group

On 29th March 2019 the first meeting of the Project Pipeline Advisory Group was held. This group is overseeing both:

- The strategic review of the Employment and Social Welfare Strategy – Sector Strategy (2018-2022), and Action Plan for Increasing Youth Employment (2018-2020). Drafting of the 2018 Progress Reports is currently underway; and
- Development of a priority list of projects (project pipeline) in the area of employment, education, and social inclusion, which will be further developed into project proposals and submitted to relevant donors for future funding consideration.

To date the following project pipeline tools have been developed: Project Pipeline Identification Form; Joint project pipeline and strategy implementation monitoring database; and prioritisation criteria for the selection of priority projects.

In April and May 2019, the project team delivered four, 3 day Module 1 training events in Pristina, Peja, Prizren and Mitrovica. The training was aimed at building capacity in the area of strategic management for policy development, project design, and implementation. Participants included staff from the Employment Agency (Central Office, local Employment Offices and Vocational Training Centers), MLSW, Centers for Social Work, Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport (Ministry, Youth Centers and Youth Councils), NGOs, and local municipalities A total of 78 participants have been included in the training to date, who all demonstrated a high level of interest, commitment, and professional work ethics during the training.



Photo: Mladen Vojkovic, Project Senior Non-Key Expert

WHAT WE HAVE DONE



Photo: Geof Cox during workshop - Design EU Grant Scheme "Social Enterprises"

One of the main focuses of the project is the development of the Social Enterprise legal framework. The project team provided support to two Working Groups, established by the MLSW, who have drafted four Administrative Instructions supporting the new Law on Social Enterprise 06/L-022, adopted by parliament in November 2018. These Administrative Instructions will shortly undergo public consultation.

Currently 1 in 4 new enterprises set-up every year in the European Union is a social enterprise (1 in 3 in France, Belgium and Finland). – The Social Business Initiative of the European Commission

To support the implementation of the new Law on Social Enterprise, and the Administrative Instructions, the project team is developing a Social Enterprise Manual that will provide further guidance on how to legally establish and effectively run a Social Enterprise in Kosovo.

In addition the project team is supporting the MLSW to establish a new Social Enterprise Unit, within the MLSW, and to identify the training/capacity building needs of both the new Social Enterprise Unit staff; as well as the bodies and commissions that have legal responsibilities under the Administrative Instructions.

The project team provided 2 days of theoretical training, in March 2019, to 34 Monitoring Officers from the Employment Agency and MLSW in how to effectively monitor grant scheme projects. Following the training the Monitoring Officers were divided into monitoring teams, and in April and May 2019 under-

took practical monitoring visits to the 6 grant scheme beneficiaries of the EUOK grant scheme "Support to Vocational Training, On-the-job Training, Self-employment and Entrepreneurship"..

An important activity of the project is the development of a new Social Enterprise grant scheme. The project team is supporting the EUOK, and the Working Group established by the MLSW, to design the new grant scheme which will provide support to existing, and newly established, Social Enterprises in Kosovo. A three-day workshop was organized, during May and June 2019, for the Working Group members, which resulted in the development of the Guidelines for Applicants, which were subsequently forwarded to the EUOK for review and approval.

In May 2019, work commenced on a Functional Assessment of the Employment Agency, and Department for Labour and Employment, MLSW. The assessment is reviewing a range of functions and organisational development issues including: the legal framework; strategic management and policy framework; organizational structure and performance; budgets; effectiveness of the main business processes; organisational and technical capacities; and general management systems, practices and cultures etc.

Work has also commenced on the development of a new module within the Employment Agency MIS related to monitoring and evaluation of grant scheme projects.



Photo: Robert Babic, Project Senior Non-Key Expert

WHAT WE WILL DO

In the next months, the project team will implement or deliver the following activities or documents:

- Finalise the 2018 implementation Progress Reports for the Employment and Social Welfare Strategy – Sector Strategy (2018-2022) and Action Plan for Increasing Youth Employment (2019-2020).
- Design and deliver the second Module training in strategic management for policy development, project design, and implementation.
- Further identify priority projects for inclusion in the project pipeline.
- Support the EUOK office to launch the Call for Proposal for the new Social Enterprise Grant Scheme.

- Finalize the Functional Assessment of the Employment Agency and Department of Labour and Employment, MLSW

- Implement an awareness raising campaign on the implications of the new Law on Social Enterprise among key stake-holders within Kosovo.

Launch and organize informative-sessions for potential applicants to the new grant scheme supporting Social Enterprises.

- Finalize the upgrade to the Employment Agency MIS system – new module on monitoring and evaluation of grant schemes



Photo: Geof Cox, Project Senior Non-Key Expert