

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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EUROPEAN UNION KOSOVO LAUNCHED GRANT SCHEME

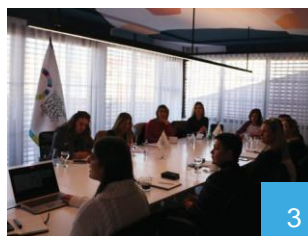
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INTRODUCTION

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.

The work of the project is centred on two main Components and their related outputs:

Component 1: Development of the strategic project pipeline. A prioritised project pipeline will be developed which will more effectively link strategic objectives, indicators and targets, of the relevant sectoral strategies, into a prioritised list of projects, leading to more efficient utilisation of national budget, IPA, and other donor funds.

Component 2: Supporting design, monitoring and evaluation of the grant schemes. Activity under this Component concerns support to the Employment Agency, and MLSW in monitoring and evaluating (M&E) two grant schemes

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

The project is successfully fulfilling its planned objectives and positively impacting the labor environment in Kosovo.

DEVELOPMENT OF A PRIORITY LIST OF PROJECTS IN THE SECTOR OF EMPLOYMENT, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

The project is providing support in developing a priority list of projects in the sector of employment, education and social inclusion on national as well as on local level following Kosovo's strategic documents. A Project Pipeline Advisory Group (PPAG) was established through the support of the project and so far PPAG had 3 meetings. The PPAG is not only overseeing the development of

the project pipeline but also successfully completed the assessment of the 2018 implementation of the Sector Strategy of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (2018-2022), and Youth Employment Action Plan (2018-2022).

To date **four project ideas have been identified** in the area of social welfare and employment.

CAPACITY BUILDING OF LOCAL AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES AND SOCIAL PARTNERS IN DESIGNING ALMMS

The project also focuses on capacity building of the staff of national and local authorities and social partners in how to design effective Active Labour Market Measures for vulnerable groups. So far the project has completed a three-day training on **“Strategic and Project**

Management” and consequently organized the first day of the three-day training on **“Project Development and Implementation”**. In total **35 participants** attended the trainings and gained knowledge on project cycle management.

MONITORING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GRANT SCHEME “SUPPORT TO VOCATIONAL TRAINING, ON-THE-JOB TRAINING, SELF-EMPLOYMENT, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Work continued on building the capacity of the MLSW and the Employment Agency Monitoring Officers. The second round of monitoring visits were undertaken to the 6 grant beneficiaries of the Grant Scheme “Support to Vocational Training, On-the-job Training, Self-employment and Entrepreneurship”, during November and December 2019. The picture shows the monitoring visit made to the ICK project 'Training & Education with marketable ICT Skills for Employment and Self-Employment in Kosovo'. The monitoring team consisted of Drita Ibishi, Drita Hajdini, Magbule Berisha, Besa Dodaj and Ardelina Sylja, supported by the project experts Robert Babić and Shqipe Kurti. During the monitoring visits the monitoring teams examined progress on implementation of the grant schemes, results achieved to date, and were able to meet with several of the young people participating in the projects. The further projects that were visited were: Municipality Gjilan, “Youth in Agribusiness- East Economic Region”; FIQ, “Accelerating self-employment and entrepreneurship in Kosovo”; CARITAS. “Empowering youth and women towards employment in Ferizaj and Mitrovica region”; University of Prishtina – “Venture UP”; CESD “EIPC”.



Photo: Peja, January 2020

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

REVIEW OF STRATEGIC ACTIONS PLANS

The project provided support to the MLSW, Department of the European Integration, to produce the 2018 monitoring reports on implementation of the Social Welfare Strategy Sector Strategy (2018-2022) and Action Plan for Increasing Youth Employment (2018-2020).

The reports assessed implementation of activities carried in 2018 by the: MLSW Department of Labour and Employment; Employment Agency; MLSW Department of Pensions; MLSW Department of Social Welfare; Labour

Inspectorate; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport; and Ministry of Education; Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Rural Development; and Ministry of Economic Development. The reports were subsequently submitted to the Prime Minister's Strategic Planning Office.

A paper was also prepared on the lessons learned from the preparation process in order to assist the more the effective production of the 2019 Monitoring Reports, later in the year.

EMPLOYMENT MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (EMIS)

The project has assisted the Employment Agency to upgrade of the EMIS to register, mediate for, and report on all grant scheme beneficiaries and registered clients participating in grant schemes.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK RELATED TO SOCIAL ENTERPRISES

The project provided support to the development of the secondary legislation related to the Law on Social Enterprise 06/L-022, adopted by the parliament in November 2018 and published in Kosovo Official Gazette on 26 November 2018 (Reference Number 2018/20). The following Administrative Instructions have completed the process of public consultation and are awaiting adoption by the Government.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 1:

Procedures for the Registration of Social Enterprises.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 2:

Reporting procedures for achieving social objectives and financial reports.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 3:

Procedures and necessary documentation to grant, reject, or withdrawal the status of a Social Enterprise and the composition of the respective ministry commission.

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 4:

Deadline for the payment of fines, procedures and appeals.

Moreover, in the remaining lifetime of the project, the following two additional two Administrative Instructions will be drafted:

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 5:

Amending and supplementing fields of activities for social enterprises category A and B

ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTION 6:

Amending and supplementing other categories of persons with disabilities and their integration into the labour market.

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

LAUNCH OF THE GRANT SCHEME “IMPROVING LABOUR MARKET ACCESS OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET MEASURES”

The project provided support to the MLSW in the designing the Guidelines for Applicants (GfA) for a new Grant Scheme to be launched by the EUOK. The GfA were developed through a series of workshops. This work was supported by a number of project experts: Geof Cox, who

presented EU Social Enterprise good practices, and emphasized the lessons learned, and what problems should be avoided in providing support to the development of Social Enterprises, and Dajana Berisha who presented good practice examples of Kosovo Social

Enterprises. Participants were involved in practical exercises to define: the objectives and priorities for the GfA; potential indicators for the actions; eligibility criteria for the lead applicant and co-applicants, specific lots; and eligible actions and costs.

SUPPORTING POTENTIAL APPLICANTS TO DEVELOP CONCEPT NOTES FOR THE NEW GRANT SCHEME “IMPROVING LABOUR MARKET ACCESS OF DISADVANTAGED GROUPS THROUGH SOCIAL ENTERPRISES AND ACTIVE LABOUR MARKET MEASURES”

Following the development of the Guideline for Applicants (GfA) for the new Grant Scheme “Improving labour market access of disadvantaged groups through social enterprises and active labour market measures” a series of 2 day, information sessions/workshops were developed, announced within the Call for Proposal, issued on

the 17 September 2019, and held during the period 30 September – 17 October 2019 across Kosovo.

Following the delivery of the six, 2 day information session/workshops, the project team offered, to potential applicants, additional support through a one hour face to face mentoring project clinic.



*Photo: EU4K launched grant scheme
Peja, October 2019*

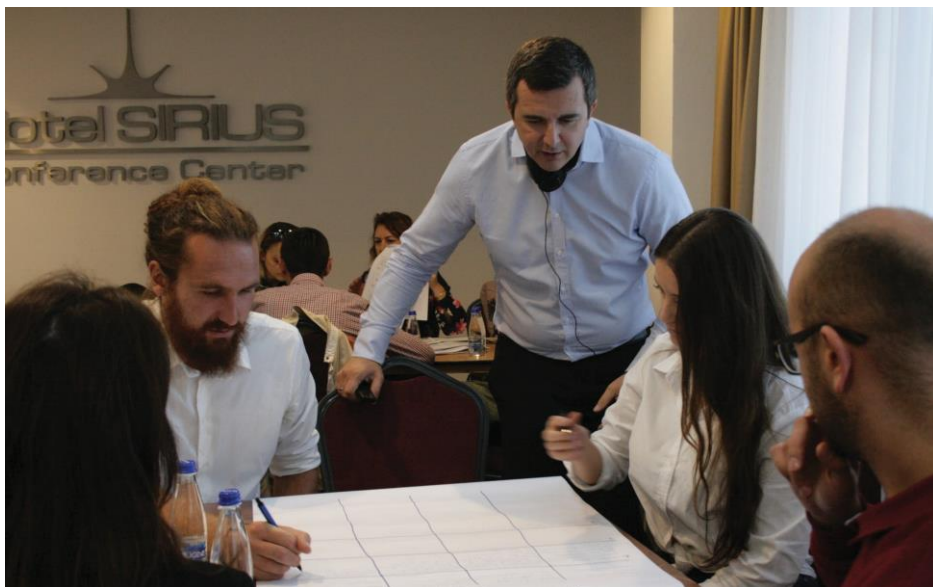


Photo: Workshop for Grant scheme - Prishtina, October 2019

A total of 261 participants attended the information sessions and 177 attended the workshop.

The workshop material was delivered not only to those who had attended the information sessions/workshops, but to the 629 organisations who had been informed directly about the Call for Proposal.