

Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP)

Regional Learning Exchange on Sector Budget Support on Employment

Skopje, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, 29 October 2018

A study visit of Albanian delegation from Ministry of Economy and Finance to the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia took place on 29 October 2019. The topic was the exchange of experience on the development and implementation of sector budget support.

The Ministry of Labour and Social Policy and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia are considering implementing the IPA 2 allocations for 2019 through *Sector Budget Support (SBS)*. SBS is an implementation modality strictly linked to the national priorities in a given area. More specifically, priorities and objectives of the sector reform contract in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia will be linked to the objectives and measures of the Employment and Social Reform Programme (ESRP) which is considered as an overarching strategy covering employment, education and social protection in the country.

Currently, national authorities are elaborating a programming document (Action Document) and discussing with the European Commission a Sector Reform Contract (SRC) in the Sector “Education, Employment and Social Policy”. Thus far, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia has not implemented SBS. At the same time, neighbouring economies, such as Albania, have already been implementing Sector Reform Contracts in the sector Education and Employment.

Therefore, ESAP has supported a learning exchange between the representatives of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Ministry of Education, Secretariat for European Affairs and Ministry of Finance in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and the representatives of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Albania. This was an opportunity for the experts from the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Albania, Ms. Dajna Sorensen and Ms. Genta Prodani, to transfer relevant experience and knowledge on the particular issues of preparation and practical implementation of the sector budget support in the fields related to employment, labour market, education, skills, social protection and inclusion.

This exchange of information and practice from institutions with experience in sector budget support has allowed the host authorities and other participants to better understand the challenges in the design and implementation of such a programme.

Ms. Dajna Sorensen, presented the Sector Budget Support Instrument of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Albania for the period 2016-2018.

Issues highlighted during the presentation were as follows:

- National Employment and Skills Strategy (NESS) for the period 2014-2020, which is a mandatory requirement of the Sector Reform Contract. It promotes “Higher Skills and Better Jobs for All Women and Men” and has 4 strategic priorities:
 - Foster decent job opportunities through effective labour market policies
 - Offer quality vocational education and training to youth and adults
 - Promote social inclusion and territorial cohesion
 - Strengthen the governance of the labour market and qualification system
- SRC preparatory process 2015-2016, which was divided in 2 phases
- SRC objectives:
 - Increase labour market participation and provide job opportunities for all
 - Increase the quality and coverage of vocational education and training
 - Improve the quality and effectiveness of labour market institutions and services
- Budget funding
- Process of selecting SRC indicators which are divided on measurable, achievable and relevant to NESS
- Selection of 10 SRC indicators
- Monitoring implementation
- Annual reporting
- Establishing of the Integrated Policy Management Group (IPMG) in March 2015 to guide and monitor policy development, strategic implementation and evaluation and strengthen sector and donors coordination in the Employment, Skills and Social Policy Sector

Questions raised during the presentation were related to the following:

- Design of the programme, selection of indicators, definition of the tranches and conditions
- Role of the national authorities in the design and implementation of the SRC
- Specific institutional arrangements related to the SRC implementation
- Cooperation with the EU Delegation and international organisations
- Challenges in the implementation
- How to insure the achievement of the annual targets
- Budget allocation as per selected indicators
- Preparation of the Annual reports and monitoring of the programme
- Lessons learnt so far on the advantages of the SBS

- Best communication approaches for the SBS design and implementation

At the end of the event, there was also an official bilateral meeting between the Albanian Deputy Minister and the host Minister in Skopje.

Annex 1 – List of participants

Guests from the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Albania:

- Ms. Dajna Sorensen, Deputy Minister
- Ms. Genta Prodani, Head of Employment Policy Department

The hosts from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

- Mr. Gonul Bajraktar, Deputy Minister
- Ms. Aleksandra Slavkoska
- Ms. Ankica Ivankovski
- Ms. Gordana Trenkoska
- Ms. Vasilka Trajkova
- Mr. Kire Vasilev
- Mr. Goran Veleski

The representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

- Ms. Vaska Stoicova
- Ms. Julija Peleva Stojkovska
- Ms. Ivana Popovska
- Ms. Rosica Tosevska
- Ms. Nadica Kostoska

The representatives of the Employment Service Agency of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

- Mr. Goran Petkovski
- Ms. Biljana Stojkoska

The representative of the Ministry of Health of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:



- Mr. Davor Tasevski

The representatives of Vocational Education Training Centres:

- Ms. Ardijana Pakoska
- Ms. Azra Tutić
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The representative of the Secretariat for European Affairs:

- Ms. Ljubica Gerosimova

The representative of the National IPA Coordinators (NIPAC) Office:

- Ms. Evgenija Serafimovska Kirkovski

The representatives of the Delegation of the European Union to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia:

- Ms. Paulina Stanoeva
- Ms. Sophie Beaumont
- Ms. Danka Prodanova