

Employment and Social Affairs Platform

Peer Reviews on Employment Policies



Employment and Social Affairs Platform (ESAP)

Overall objective: Strengthen regional cooperation and institutional capacities of national administrations, enabling them to develop and effectively implement labour market and social policy reforms in their EU enlargement process.

Specific objective: Enhance capacities of relevant administrations for improved policy outcomes and policy reviews related to the prioritized employment, human capital and social policies.

Proposed agenda for the breakout group

10'	Introduction to the breakout session	Vanja Ivosevic	Proposed peer review process
15'	Presentation of Employment and social measures	Mihail Arandarenko	Presentation of employment policy areas and programmes – facilitate the following discussion
90'	Discussion	All participants	Feedback on the proposed measures Highlights of important national priorities that could be the topic of peer reviews
5'	Summary of discussions and conclusions	Vanja Ivosevic	Agree on topics and next steps

Objective for peer reviews

- Exchange experiences and good practices with regard to concrete employment and social policy issues, with a view to better understanding common challenges and priorities and improve policy making.
- Enhance capacities through sharing information, knowledge and skills.
- Provide external expert contribution and strengthen cooperation with other stakeholders.

4 phases of the peer review

1. Preparation

- build consensus around the process
- identify the policy areas to be covered
- prepare background documents (thematic review paper, host country assessment, peer country perspective)
- agree on a timetable for the peer visit

4 phases of the peer review (cont.)

2. Peer review visit

- host institution organizes the visit
- collect and analyse info (including presentations of officials and experts, field visit)
- a final meeting session of the peer review team in order to agree on the main conclusions and responsibilities for drafting the peer report

4 phases of the peer review (cont.)

3. Peer visit report

- Draft peer report prepared
- Comments by the host institutions provided
- Report is finalized

4 phases of the peer review (cont.)

4. Follow-up

- Clarification of objectives, resources and implementation mechanism for peer review recommendations
- Development of action plan for implementation of improvement measures (possible funding from ESAP TA)
- Another review completes the cycle

Key actors

- **Host country team:** officials from the hosting institution
- **Peer review team:** composed of officials and experts from peer countries
- **ESAP project team** and external expert(s)
- **European Commission and EU member peer institutions,** for guidance and sharing of experience

Timeline: Peer review programme planning

Stage	Period	Actions
Preparation	March – June 2017	Identify policy areas Prepare background documents Agree on timeline for peer review visits
Peer review visits	Sep – Dec 2017	6 peer review visits take place
Peer review reports	Oct 2017 – Jan 2018	Draft the report Provide comments Finalize the report
Follow up actions	2018	Target setting Resources and implementation mechanisms Review of implementation

Questions and discussion

1. What is an important employment policy area or programme, in which you feel you can share your practice with others and in which others perspective can be of interest – national topic for peer review?
2. What are the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders for a successful peer review process?
3. Other features/activities that would enhance the impact of the peer review process/help you with your work?