



Regional Cooperation Council

SEE2020
SOUTH EAST EUROPE 2020



EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM-ESAP



This project has been
financed by the European Union

The background features a complex network of thin grey lines connecting various grey dots of different sizes. Some dots are enclosed in thin white circles. The overall aesthetic is clean, modern, and technical, suggesting a digital or interconnected environment.

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM

The Regional Cooperation Council's
ESAP Project

aims to **strengthen** institutional **capacities** to effectively **develop** inclusive and dynamic **labour** markets and implement **social policy reforms** aligned with the EU enlargement requirements in the region

WHERE DO WE WANT TO BE?

Our goals are:

- **Effective** and inclusive **labour market** policies
- Governance aimed at **increased employment** and **creation of new jobs**
- **Modernised** Public Employment Services (PES)



WHAT DID WE DO SO FAR TO GET THERE?

We have:

- **Launched** demand driven ESAP **technical assistance** instrument available to the Ministries of Labour and Social Affairs and Public Employment Services in the Western Balkans
- **Supported** ministries of labour and social affairs from Western Balkans (WB) and Turkey in exchanging experiences in the **preparation of employment measures** in their national strategic action plans and Economic Reform Programmes (ERPs)
- **Conducted** an in-depth national and comparative **analysis of employment policies** and **targeted** analysis of active **labour market policies (ALMP)** based on the EUROSTAT methodology
- **Provided** the Western Balkans with a **catalogue of Active Labour Market Policies (ALMPs)** and a clear set of recommendations for improvement of policies and ALMPs
- In consultations with the national stakeholders, **developed**, and agreed on a **bench-learning methodology** with set of comparable indicators and enablers for **improvement** of existing performance in **PES offices** in the WB



WHERE DOES THE REGION STAND NOW?

The region has a high inactivity rate, low employment and high unemployment rates, especially for youth and those long-term unemployed. Vulnerable and informal employment remains widespread.

In the region:

- Less than half of the working age population is employed
- Unemployment remains stubbornly high, with recent positive trends in Serbia, Montenegro and The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia
- Youth unemployment is on average twice as high as overall unemployment
- For every 10 unemployed, between 6 and 8 have been unemployed for more than a year with serious implications for social exclusion and skills obsolescence

INDICATOR (YEAR 2015)	AL	BA	KOSOVO ¹	MK ²	ME	RS
Employment rate (15+)	46.2	31.9	25.2	42.1	44.3	42.5
Unemployment rate (15+)	17.1	27.7	32.9 ³	26.1	17.6	17.7
Youth unemployment rate (15-24)	45.57 ⁴	62.2	57.7	47.3	37.7	43.2
Long-term unemployment (>12m)	66	81.7	72.2	81.6	76.7	64

Source: National LFS

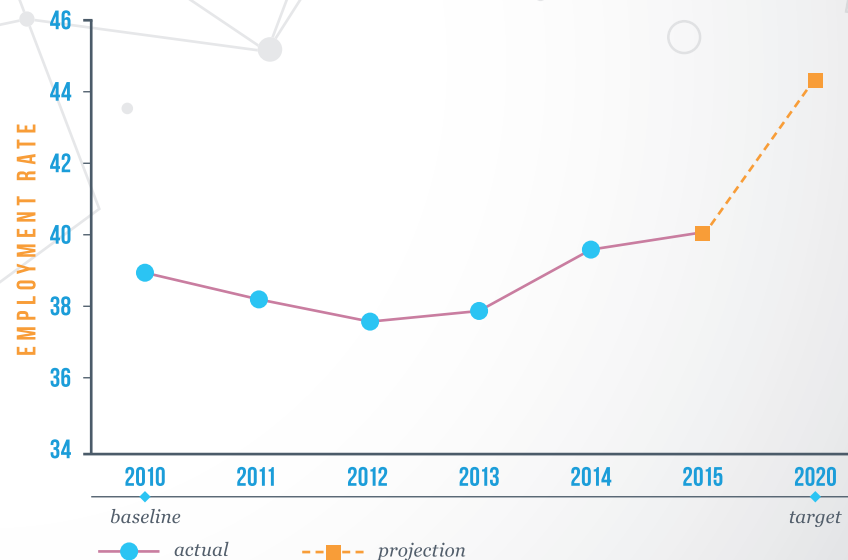
¹ This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence

² The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

³ 15-64 age group

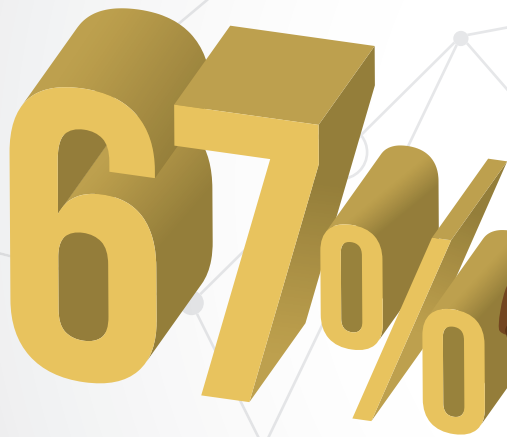
⁴ 15-29 age group

SEE AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT RATE (15+)



Data source: SEE 2020 Annual Report on Implementation 2016

WHAT DO PEOPLE/BUSINESS THINK?



67% of people believe unemployment is one of the two most important problems facing the economies of South East Europe



88% of people in the region believe the gap between rich and poor is increasing in their economy

Data source: RCC's Balkan Barometer 2016, a survey on public/business opinion on situation in the region

WHAT WILL WE DO TO CHANGE THIS AND HOW?

In the forthcoming period we will:

- Enhance the design, implementation and evaluation of employment policies and active labour market measures through a regional peer review process
- Support the modernisation and quality of services to citizens provided by the Public Employment Services (PES) in SEE through the identification and promotion of good practices
- Facilitate integration of regional PES to the EU PES Network
- Create a comprehensive, comparative, public SEE database on education, employment, and mobility of professionals



THE ESAP PROJECT TEAM:



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The Employment and Social Affairs Platform - ESAP, is a regional, 3 million Euro worth project financed by the European Union and jointly implemented by the Regional Cooperation Council and the International Labour Organisation in the six Western Balkan economies. The project began its implementation in March 2016 and will last for 3 years.

EFFECTIVE LABOUR MARKET

NEW JOBS

SKILLED WORKFORCE

MODERN PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

Good. Better. Regional.



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