

EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS PLATFORM

The overall objective of ESAP, implemented from April 2016 – October 2019, is to assist the Western Balkans with the employment and social policy reforms in their EU accession process. ESAP has helped improve the regional cooperation in employment and social policy-making, labour market governance, working conditions and social dialogue.

Under ESAP, the ILO has supported labour inspectorates, agencies for peaceful settlement of labour disputes, and ESCs with the aim to strengthen social dialogue, modernise labour inspection functions taking into consideration international labour standards and enhance alternative resolution of labour disputes.

ESAP – Key achievements

Improved relevance of bipartite and tripartite social dialogue processes:

- Peer review of the structure, functioning and effectiveness of the seven ESCs with a total of 45 recommendations of which the ESCs have committed to implement 14 strategic recommendations.
- Improved awareness of the ESCs in policy making processes through implementation of three parliamentary ESC information days for more than 80 parliamentarians.
- ESC secretaries equipped with managerial skills and tools for management of the ESC secretariats.
- More than 175 social partners and government officials trained in policy dialogue on employment policy design and implementation.
- Regional online database on industrial relations, collective bargaining and working conditions updated and available for policy makers in the Western Balkans.
- Regional network of labour law experts counting 25 members.

Increased recourse to alternative dispute resolution:

- Establishment of regional Network of Agencies for Peaceful Settlement of Labour Disputes with 28 members, including directors of the agencies.

- Regional agreement on joint guidelines for the application of mediation as method for peaceful settlement of labour disputes.
- More than 120 directors and conciliators participated in regional peer learning.
- Multilanguage regional case database with 50 selected peer-learning cases used by Agencies.
- Recourse to alternative dispute resolution increased with up to up to 50%.

Improved detection of occupational safety and health (OSH) violation:

- Network of Labour Inspectorates in the Western Balkans based in the EU Senior Labour Inspection Committee (SLIC) model for peer exchange and peer learning established.
- More than 200 labour inspectors trained in design and implementation of labour inspection campaigns.
- Online inspection and monitoring guidelines developed and tested.
- Four labour inspection campaigns implemented in the construction sector covering more than 1.500 enterprise visits – detecting violation of OSH in some countries with up to 80% of the visits carried out.

Improved regional online peer-learning and knowledge exchange:

- Establishment of ESAP online platform promoting the exchange of experience, good practices, data and information among the six Western Balkans. Online inspection and monitoring guidelines developed and tested.
- Two online Community of Practices (CoPs) established covering more than 60 members.

For further information:

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