



SRPC
**EU for
Youth**



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the European Union



Government of the Republic of North Macedonia

Technical Assistance to the Sector Reform Performance Contract 'EU for Youth'

EuropeAid/140701/DH/SER/MK

SWG EESP – 25 May 2021 Skopje



AGENDA

1. Opening statements
 - a) Ms. Mila Carovska, Minister of Education and Science
 - b) Ms. Jagoda Shahpaska, Minister of Labour and Social Policy
 - c) Mr. Nicola Bertolini, Head of Cooperation, Delegation of European Union (EUD)
2. Presentation of First Self-Assessment Report for IPA 2019 Sector Reform Contract for Employment and Education “EU for Youth”
 - a) SRPC ‘EU for Youth’
 - b) TA contract overview
 - c) Sector policy reforms in education
 - d) Sector policy reforms in VET
 - e) Employment policy performance
 - f) Sector policy reforms in employment
 - g) Review of the progress achieved in the indicators
 - h) Summary of the self-assessment report
3. Any other business
4. Concluding remarks

Opening statement of
Ms Mila Carovska
Minister of Education and Science



Opening statement of **Ms Jagoda Shahpaska** **Minister of Labour and Social Policy**



Opening statement of
Mr Nicola Bertolini
Head of Cooperation
Delegation of the European Union (EUD)



Overall objective

- improving the employment of young women and men and result in increased employment rate for young women and men

Purpose

- invest in the vocational qualification, skills and preparedness of young people to enter labour market
- Regional VET centres able to ensure modern work-based learning practices and quality education
- smooth transition from school to work, through implementing a Youth Guarantee scheme for young people (NEETs)

Scope

three regions (Polog, Northeast and Southwest, including Resen)

TA contract

(1) Capacity building on sector reforms, (2) tracer system, (3) monitoring of SRPC, (4) awareness raising

Overall objective

effective implementation of the Youth Guarantee scheme to increase youth employment in the country and advance VET reform, the establishment of Regional VET centres and reducing the gap between skills and labour market needs

Purpose

TA to national authorities to strengthen their capacity for implementing sector reforms related to the SRPC action 'EU for Youth'

Monitoring and assessment of implementation and achievement of the performance indicators foreseen in and by the SRPC

TA CONTRACT OVERVIEW

Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Building the capacity of the national authorities for design, implementation, monitoring and reporting on sector reforms based on strong evidence and gender analysis

ACTIVITY 2: Support for systematic application of tracer system methodologies for VET providers and Youth Guarantee and employment generation programmes

Expected Results

Result 1: Increased and improved institutional capacities of the key institutions, the key line Ministries and Agencies responsible for implementation of the SRPC framework to effectively coordinate, implement and monitor the Education, Employment and Social Policy (EESP) reform agenda and institutional capacity for gender analysis in the sector related to the SRPC is reinforced

Result 2: Tracer systems for initial and continuous vocational education and training by VET providers and Youth Guarantee and employment generation programmes are established and utilised by the key institutions



Activities

ACTIVITY 3: Monitoring and Assessment of the achievements of the general and specific conditions under the Sector Reform Performance Contract

ACTIVITY 4: Raising the awareness of the stakeholders, media, and general public on the achievements of improving the employment rate for young women and men

Expected Results

Result 3: Monitoring of the sector reforms: systematic and regular monitoring and assessment undertaken to assist the EUD to determine the extent to which the general and specific conditions and performance indicators under the SRPC have been achieved and to determine the extent of progress achieved in line with SRPC conditionalities

Result 4: Enhanced communication, information and public awareness of the reforms in the sector, supported by EU through the SRPC

Duration: 36 months

Geographical area: Republic of North Macedonia

Beneficiaries: MoES, MoLSP, ESA, MoF



- Overview
- Inclusive education
- Education Strategy 2018-2025 – report
- Legislation - (primary, secondary general, secondary VET, HE, Teachers and Professional Associates)
- Concepts – (Inclusive education, distance education, primary education, civic education, extracurricular activities, State testing, WBL, dual education, Secondary education, Reforming the initial teacher training)
- Programmes – Vocational orientation, Training of teachers and professional associates
- Guidelines - ferial practice
- Curricula - Modular curricula
- e-system for career development
- National platform for support of distance learning

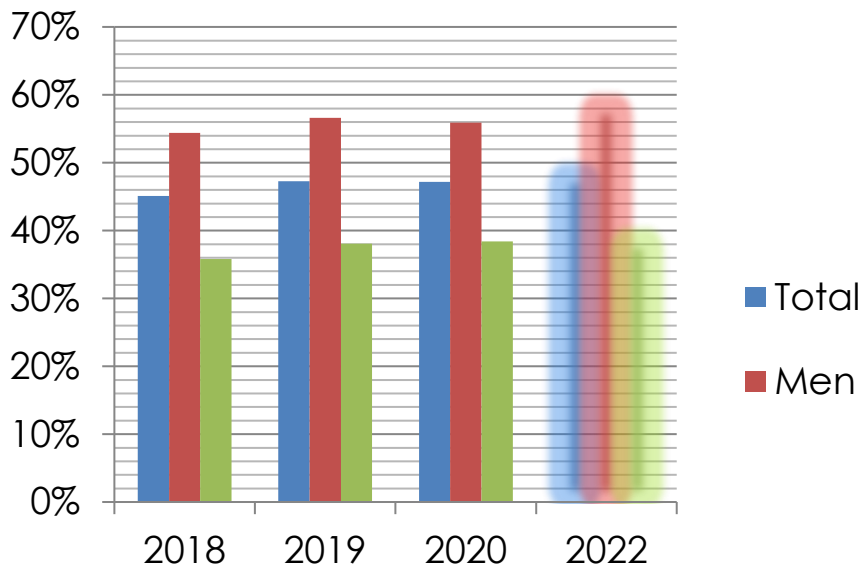


SECTOR POLICY REFORMS IN VET

- VET Centre's online training for adapting the curriculum to COVID-19 context
- Platform for professional development of teaching staff
- Training of teacher-coordinators
- 57 curricula
- Training for demanded occupations: 42 training programmes and 410 participants
- VNFIL system
- New Draft Law on Adult Education
- 59 programmes for adult education verified
- Regional VET Centres from 1 January 2021
- 65.22% of students placed in vocational education (4% increase from the previous year)
- Dual education and scholarships for practical studies
- New Law on Vocational Education and Training



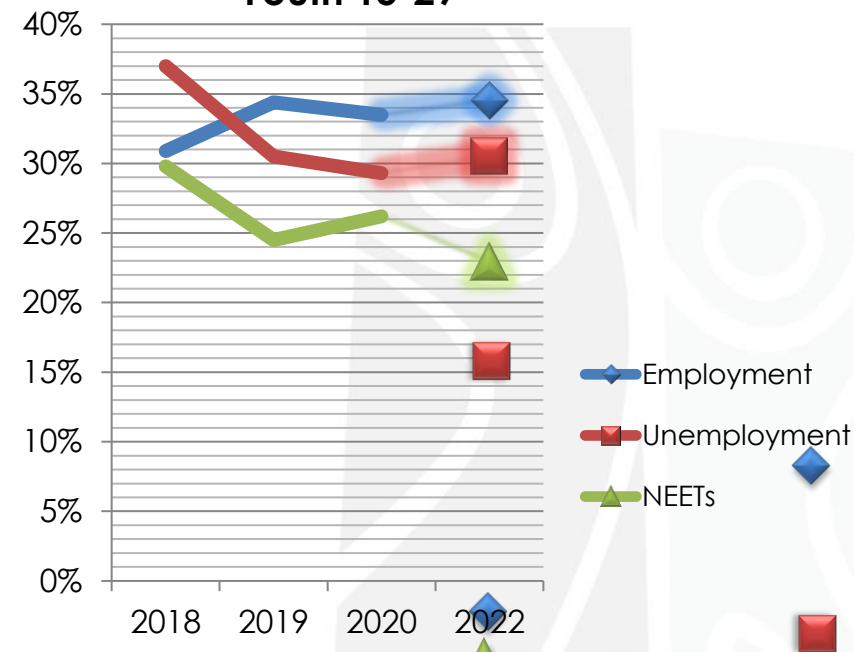
Employment rate 15+



Employment of women and youth unemployment improved.

Total employment, employment of men and NEET rate slightly worsened.

Youth 15-29



↓ 13.6% Informal employment

↓ 16.4% Unemployment rate

↓ 12.4% Long-term unemployment

↑ 38.46% Coverage of collective agreements, branch level

COVID-19 response

Strategic response

Subsidies on wages and social security contributions for jobs retention in affected sectors

Eligibility to Unemployment Benefit was temporary extended to cases of agreed job termination

Eligibility for Guaranteed Minimum Assistance was relaxed, leading to greater coverage

One-off cash support for minimum wage earners, unemployed, welfare recipients

Employees with children under the age of 10 were released from job during the state of emergency; extended parental leave

Over 10,000 unemployed benefited from ALMM (44.7% women)

25,502 youth enrolled in Youth Guarantee (YG); 35% of youth registered received an offer within 4 months (YG return)

Employment Service Agency embarked upon digitalisation of services; limited human capacity strengthening

Reinforced labour inspections; Capacity of Labour Inspectorate strengthened

New Labour Law & OSH Law under preparation

Strengthen national social dialogue and collective bargaining on branch level; Local Employment Pact piloted

Some progress in gender gaps reduction; Enacted Law on Antidiscrimination and Law on gender based violence
New ECEC capacities & home-care and community-based services in 19 municipalities created

12 - Percentage of participants (sex disaggregated) who successfully completed the Youth Guarantee (as a % of those neither in education, employment nor training included in the Youth Guarantee)

2020 annual target:

At least 20 % of those registered for 2020 under the Youth Guarantee in the target regions...

2020 result:



Successfully achieved: 29 %
3065 persons

Source: 2020 Report on the implementation of the YG

**16 - Number of participants
(sex disaggregated)
registered in the Youth
Guarantee (entry level)**

2020 annual target:

3000 young people are enrolled in the Youth Guarantee in the targeted regions

2020 result:



Overachieved: 10,353 (in target regions)

Main reasons:

- (1) the economic downturn and COVID-19, both resulting in high number of young jobseekers;
- (2) change of relevant law which enabled a high number of young jobseekers to enrol in the YG.

Source: 2020 Report on the implementation of the YG

**17 - Number of Youth
Guarantee staff trained,
sex disaggregated,
(6 full day training days per
person)**

2020 annual target:

30 employees of the ESA involved in the implementation of the YG in the target regions receive at least 6 full-time training days

2020 result:



Achieved: 32 trained employees of the ESA

- The total number of YG staff in target regions reached number 32
- Further training programmes will follow TNA and will focus on delivering new as well as upgrade of previous competencies
- Challenge: Number of staff within the ESA Centres

Source: Reports on YG implementation 2020, report on ALMPM, and Training report of ESA

**18 - Number of
ESA centres
modernised/
upgraded
(in the target
regions)**

2020 annual target:

3 ESA local centres in the targeted regions modernised

2020 result:



Not achieved: 0 centre modernised

- Start of process in Kumanovo
- Concentration of sources to mitigate impact of pandemic/avoidance of excessive debt growth repeated budget cuts
- New ESA procurement plan + communication with MoF

Source: 2020 Report on the implementation of the YG

11 - Early leavers from education and training rate by sex (18-24) (sex-disaggregated)

2020 annual target: N/A

Intermediate target for next year: decrease in the early leavers rate by 0.5 percentage point compared to the national average of 8.5% in 2017.

Final target 2022: decrease in the early leavers rate by 1 percentage point compared to the national average of 8.5% in 2017).

This indicator has no impact on the preparations of the disbursement request for 2021.

2019 data

7.1%

Source: SSO

2020 data

5.7%

Source: SSO

13 - Regional VET Centres established in the target regions

2020 annual target:

The necessary legal provision to allow establishment of Regional VET centres to be adopted and published in the Official Gazette of North Macedonia

2020 result:



Achieved: Official Gazette of the Republic of North Macedonia No. 275/2019 from 27.12.2019

Current status of the Regional VET Centres

Source: Report of the MoES on the implementation of the Education Strategy 2020 and Official Gazette

**I4 - Number of VET
qualifications open for
validation of non-formal
and informal learning**

2020 annual target: N/A

This indicator has no impact on the preparations of the disbursement request for 2021.

Status as of the end of 2020:

- Regional VET Centres are established to deliver the vocational education, specifically for 8 qualifications for formal education and 9 qualifications for non-formal education within 5 professions and based on 8 standards
- Implementation of a system for VNFIL is provided by the New Adult Education law, which is currently under a process of adoption.
- Challenge: Timely adoption of the new Law on Adult Education

Source: Report of the MoES on the implementation of the Education Strategy 2020

15 - Percentage of Regional VET Centres staff trained in line with the Human Resource development plan / Percentage of Regional VET Centres Staff trained to work with students with special educational needs

2020 annual target:

The analysis of the training needs in the perspective of upgrading the selected VET schools into Regional VET Centres must be completed

2020 result:



Achieved

Three functional and training needs analysis of the regional VET centres in Tetovo, Kumanovo and Ohrid have been carried-out during the year 2020.

Source: Report of the MoES on the implementation of the Education Strategy 2020

SUMMARY OF SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT

Indicator	Annual Target for 2020	Outcome	Action	Value
11 - Early leavers from education and training rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12 - Percentage of YG participants who successfully completed YG (exit level)	At least 20 % of those registered for 2020 under the Youth Guarantee in the target regions	Achieved 29% (3,065 persons)	No action needed	EUR 630,000
13 - Regional VET centres established in the target regions	The necessary legal provision to allow establishment of Regional VET centres to be adopted and published in the Official Gazette of North Macedonia	Achieved (with the Official Gazette and official status change)	No action needed, BUT, The renovation and procurement for equipping the Regional VET Centres in line with their areas of specialisation should be finalised in 2021. The adoption of the New Law on Adult Education is a precondition for VNFIL.	N/A
14 - Number of VET qualifications open for VNFIL	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
15 - Percentage of Regional VET Centres staff trained in line with the HR development Plan (of whom percentage trained to work with students with special educational needs)	The analysis of the training needs in the perspective of upgrading the selected VET schools into Regional VET Centres must be completed	Achieved (with the TNA report)	No action needed	EUR 200,000
16 - Number of participants registered in the YG	3000 young people are enrolled in the Youth Guarantee in the targeted regions	Achieved (Overachieved with 10,353 young people)	No action needed, BUT, depending on the situation with COVID-19 and other influencing factors, this indicator will be carefully observed and, if necessary, modifications will be proposed at a later stage.	EUR 900,000
17 - Number of YG staff trained (in the target regions)	30 employees of the ESA involved in the implementation of the YG in the target regions receive at least 6 full-time training days	Achieved (with 32 employees)	No action needed, BUT, the cumulative value of indicator will be achieved only if the same employees at the ESA centres are trained more than once, i.e. continuously in different upgrading courses.	EUR 100,000
18 - Number of ESA centres modernised/upgraded (in the target regions)	3 ESA local centres in the targeted regions modernised	Not achieved	Meetings are ongoing for the determination of next steps with the EUD.	EUR 300,000

Discussion

Next steps

Submission



CONCLUDING REMARKS





THANK YOU