

Kosovo

Name of the Partner Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare of the Republic of Kosovo

Policy Framework	The vision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo (GoK) and Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW) for 2020 is to guarantee social protection and inclusion for every citizen to lead a dignified social and economic life.
General situation across all policy areas	
Main challenges across all policy areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investment into human capital • Higher economic and comprehensive growth • Ensure legal certainty and effectiveness of institutions • Addressing market distortions and delivering conducive and facilitating services • Ensure availability and quality of available infrastructure
Main approaches to address challenges across all policy areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Development Strategy 2016-2021 • Programme of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo 2015-2018 • Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2017-2019 • Kosovo Economic Reform Programme 2017 • National Programme for implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement
Social policy specific situation	
Significant social trends	<p>The median age of Kosovo's population in 2015 was estimated at just over 28 years.</p> <p>The unemployment rate has significantly dropped to 26.2% in the second quarter of 2016 (Kosovo Agency of Statistics, 2016).</p> <p>Positive trends in the fight against poverty in Kosovo are confirmed by data.</p>
Key challenges specific to social policy	MLSW faces challenges such as high unemployment rate, low labour market participation rate and informal employment. Even though it is decreasing, poverty remains a challenge. Another challenge is protection of citizens in need regarding other social needs.
Main approaches to address social policy challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Sector Strategy 2014 – 2020 • Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Action Plan 2014-2016 • Establishment of the Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo in 2017 • bilateral and multilateral cooperation

Target groups	people faced by (potential) social risks
Good practice	<i>The following section aims to provide a good practice example of your region. Please fill in an example of a recent or ongoing practice addressing one or more challenges identified above.</i>
Name of the good practice	Internship scheme in the textile sector
Policy areas	<i>Please tick the relevant policy areas addressed by the good practice (one or more options are possible).</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment and labour market policy
Description of the practice	The internship scheme in the textile sector in Kosovo aims at promoting more and better employment opportunities for youth, aged 18 – 30 years. Through the programme a financial compensation of 150 Euro monthly for a total of 6 months, for up to 360 interns will be provided.
Governance & funding	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), enterprises. These parties will each co-finance one third of the financial compensation. In the framework of this project Public Employment Offices, Local Youth Action Councils and Youth Centers, as well as the Kosovo Apparel Marketing Association will be involved in the implementation of the internship scheme.
Innovation	Cooperation between structures of employment and education services, youth and the business community will be supported on multiple levels for implementation of support measures and policy making. The project activities will be based on a bottom-up approach with a focus on active labour market measures, quality of education in the VET sector, youth engagement as well as entrepreneurship and innovation.
Challenges of implementation	Employer's and interns throughout the whole programme
Outcome(s) and impact	Placement of up to 360 interns aiming at their continuous employment and promotion in the textile sector in Kosovo; increased readiness of businesses to employ interns
Main partner(s)/ stakeholders	Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), enterprises in the textile sector
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