

Kosovo

Name of the Partner Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers (hereafter: MFLT)

Policy Framework	<p>The vision of the Government of the Republic of Kosovo (GoK) is a developed Kosovo, with a stable economy, well-being, security and equality, integrated in international markets and organizations, with effective institutions and administration, high standards of living, quality and real access to justice, health and education. The achievement of the vision through the fulfillment of development objectives will enable the attainment of well-being for all citizens of the Republic of Kosovo.</p> <p>In addition to, the vision of MFLT is to increase well-being for all citizens, without distinction. This is what is aimed to be achieved through the support of vulnerable groups and the restructuring of schemes social and pension, in order to reduce poverty and increase activity in the market of work.</p>
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General situation across all policy areas

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| Main challenges across all policy areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fostering sustainable employment through improvement of quality education and linkage with labour market needs; • Reorganization of the health sector in order to provide adequate and accessible health services for all citizens; • Creating conditions for sustainable energy supply. |
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Main approaches to address challenges across all policy areas

- National Development Strategy 2030;
- National Plan for Development 2030;
- Medium Term Expenditure Framework 2023 -2025;
- Kosovo Economic Reform Programme 2022 – 2024;
- Growth Plan;
- National Programme for implementation of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement 2021 - 2025

Social policy specific situation

Significant social trends	<p>Kosovo has a young population, with a significant proportion under the age of 30. This demographic trend presents both opportunities and challenges for the country.</p> <p>As per the latest data, labor force participation rate (15-64 years old) is 40.2% (Kosovo Agency of Statistics, TM2,2023).</p> <p>The unemployment rate is 10.7%. (Kosovo Agency of Statistics, TM2,2023).</p> <p>Kosovo is characterized by a large number of emigrants, for a relatively young population.</p> <p>Visa liberalization has shown its impact, still awaiting the numbers and</p>
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	<p>trends to be analysed.</p> <p>Various measures have been implemented with the primary aim of reducing unemployment and providing better, more qualitative access to and opportunities within the labor market.</p> <p>The Reform on the “Social Assistance Scheme” has started with the World Bank as the main partner which aims to re-structure the social assistance scheme and eliminate discrimination among the latter.</p>
Key challenges specific to social policy	<p>The primary challenges in Kosovo's labor market include low labor force participation rates. The short and medium-term impact of COVID-19 has exacerbated job vulnerability and risks deepening socioeconomic divisions. Another major obstacle is the mismatch between available skills and labor market demands. In this regard, focus will be given to labour mobility. Additionally, undeclared work remains a significant issue accompanied by the social assistance schemes which are further awaited to be re-structures.</p>
Main approaches to address social policy challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan;• Reform of the Social Assistance Scheme (World Bank as a partner);• The start of the registration of Social Enterprises;• Strategy on Migration 2021- 2025.

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	Youth Guarantee Scheme
Policy areas	<p><i>Please tick the relevant policy areas addressed by the good practice (one or more options are possible).</i></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Employment and labour market policy</p>
Description of the practice	<p>The Youth Guarantee is a policy initiative developed to address youth unemployment and underemployment. Its primary aim is to ensure that young people (NEETs) aged 15 - 29 receive a good-quality offer of employment, continued education, an apprenticeship, or a traineeship within four months of becoming unemployed or leaving formal education.</p> <p>In this regard, the Government of Kosovo has approved and started the piloting of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan.</p>
Governance & funding	<p>The implementation of the Youth Guarantee Implementation Plan (YGIP) is supported through a combination of domestic resources and international donor funding. The domestic resources make sure that the funds ensure that the plan aligns with national priorities and leverages existing infrastructure and services.</p> <p>In addition to domestic funding, international donors play a crucial role in financing the YGIP. These donors may include bilateral aid agencies, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and development programs. Their contributions provide significant financial support and technical assistance, facilitating the execution of comprehensive and innovative strategies to address youth unemployment.</p>
Innovation	<p>Combining employment, education, and social services to provide a comprehensive support system tailored to the individual needs of young people. This integrated approach ensures that young people receive coordinated assistance, whether they need help finding a job, pursuing further education, or obtaining training.</p> <p>In addition to, the main focus is ensuring that the offers made to young people—whether for jobs, education, apprenticeships, or traineeships—are of high quality and conducive to long-term career development. This emphasis on quality helps to ensure that young people are not just temporarily employed but are on a path to sustainable and meaningful careers. Furthermore, the process of the implementation is under monitoring and evaluation to further allow for continuous improvement based on feedback and outcomes.</p>

Challenges of implementation	Reaching and targeting NEETs and vulnerable groups
Outcome(s) and impact	The main outcomes and impacts of the Youth Guarantee encompass significant improvements in youth employment rates, skill enhancement, and social inclusion, ultimately contributing to long-term economic growth, reduced inequality, and a more resilient and cohesive society
Main partner(s)/ stakeholders	Ministry of Finance, Labour and Transfers; Employment Agency of the Republic of Kosovo, Ministry of Education, Science and Technology; Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sports; Other public agencies, the social partners and civil society organizations as indicated in the YG Implementation Plan.
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