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Employment - Shades of Grey in the Western Balkans Regional Perspectives on Creating More and Better Jobs

Launching event of the Economic and Social Affairs Platform 2

28 January 2020

Bosniak Institute
Mula Mustafe Bešeskije 21, Sarajevo

DRAFT AGENDA

09.30 – 10.00 Welcome coffee and registration of participants

10.00 – 10.20 Opening Remarks

Ms. Majlinda Bregu, Secretary General, RCC

Mr. Markus Pilgrim, Director for Central and Eastern Europe, ILO

Ambassador Johann Sattler, Head of the Delegation of the EU to BiH

10.20 – 11.10 Panel 1: Creating more and better jobs in the Western Balkans – what did ESAP contribute?

According to Balkan Barometer, over two thirds of our citizens identify unemployment as the biggest concern for them for the 4th year in a row, while one in three young people are unemployed. Job creation requires the pursuit of coordinated and coherent policies that will enable sustainable change.

The panel will gather Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, key stakeholders, civil society and academics to address the key questions:

- What does the future hold given the current labour market trends?



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- What do we need to do to promote decent employment?
- What have been major achievements of ESAP and what will come next?

10.20 – 10.25 **Mr. Nermin Oruc**, Centre for Development Evaluation and Social Science Research, setting the scene

10.25 – 11.10 **Discussion**

H.E. Mr. Kemal Purišić, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Montenegro

H.E. Mr. Skender Reçica, Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Kosovo*

Ms. Elira Demiraj, General Director, National Employment Service, Albania

Mr. Siniša Veselinović, Head of Labour Market Department, Labour and Employment Agency, BiH

Representative of Civil Society

11.10 – 11.25 Coffee break

11.25 – 12.15 **Panel 2: Exiting the Shadows: From Undeclared to Declared Work**

Informality is a wide-spread phenomenon in the Western Balkan economies, where recent estimates vary between 20 and 57%. Undeclared economic activities have negative economic and social effects, also undermining the rights and security of workers in the workplace. Transforming informality into formality is an imperative for all economies.

The panel will gather Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, key stakeholders, civil society and academics to address the key questions:

* 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



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- Which policy approaches are the most effective in transforming undeclared work into declared work?
- How can regional cooperation enhance national efforts to tackle informality?

11.25 – 11.30 **Mr. Markus Pilgrim**, ILO, setting the scene

11.30 – 12.15 **Discussion**

H.E. Ms. Rašela Mizrahi, Minister of Labour and Social Affairs,
Republic of North Macedonia

TBC, State Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran
and Social Policy, Serbia

Ms. Angelina Medjedović, Chief Labour Inspector of Montenegro

Ms. Cedanka Andric, Secretary General of Trade Union UGS
Nezavisnost, Serbia

Ms. Suzana Radulovic, Secretary General, Montenegrin
Employers Federation

12.15 – 12.20 **Concluding remarks**

Mr. Rudi Delarue, Deputy Head of Unit, DG Employment, Social
Affairs, and Inclusion

12.30 **Lunch (hotel Europe)**