

Project Brief

Labor Market Policy Implementation and Employment

About the Project

The Labor Market Policy Implementation and Employment project aims to refine and modernize the service delivery mechanisms of public employment agencies, which are pivotal intermediaries in the labor market across the Western Balkans. Labor markets in the region face shared challenges including inefficiency of job matching systems due to misalignment between educational outputs and labor market needs, resulting in mismatched employment and underemployment—especially among young people; lack of dependable labor market data, which hinders the design and implementation of effective policies; and insufficient career guidance and limited access to labor market information, leaving many young job seekers making uninformed decisions about careers and employment.

The project addresses these constraints through targeted support to public employment services (PES) to improve labor market outcomes for youth, women, and disadvantaged groups across Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Kosovo.

Geographical Focus



- ▶ Albania
- ▶ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ▶ Kosovo



Key Challenges Addressed

1. Inefficient Job Matching and Service Delivery

Public employment agencies struggle to effectively match job seekers with employers due to limited tools, lack of sector-specific coordination, and outdated service delivery models. This reduces opportunities for job seekers to find suitable work and for companies to find skilled talent.

Approach

- ▶ Develop digital tools and job matching platforms.
- ▶ Improve cooperation between PES and private sector/employers.
- ▶ Streamline internal processes to support job matching and career guidance.

2. Limited Labor Market Data and Information

The project addresses the absence of reliable labor market data by enhancing data collection and analysis systems. Improved data enables policymakers, employment agencies, and education providers to make better decisions that align labor supply with demand.

Approach

- ▶ Support the process of labor market analysis.
- ▶ Train PES staff on data analysis and presentation.
- ▶ Use labor market insights to support active labor market policies and programs.

3. Weak Career Guidance and Youth Employment Support

Young job seekers often lack access to accurate information on careers, training opportunities, and emerging labor market trends. This project aims to strengthen career guidance systems to better support youth in choosing sustainable employment paths.

Approach

- ▶ Develop sector-specific career guidance tools and resources.
- ▶ Train PES staff on new approaches in providing support to youth and other vulnerable groups in the labor market.
- ▶ Enhance communication between PES, schools, employers, and communities.



Expected Outcomes

- ▶ Improve public employment services, making them more responsive, efficient, and aligned with labor market needs.
- ▶ Strengthen job matching for youth, women, and disadvantaged groups.
- ▶ Promote evidence-based policymaking through better labor market data and analysis.
- ▶ Enhance career guidance systems, connecting young job seekers to meaningful opportunities.