

Newsletter Content

| | |
|---|---|
| Project Summary | 1 |
| EEPOW Research | 2 |
| Revision of the Posting of Workers Directive..... | 2 |
| Kick-off meeting..... | 3 |
| National Country Workshop in Montenegro | 5 |
| National Country Workshop in Albania..... | 7 |



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EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

Agreement No. VS/2017/0349



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Project Summary

The **EEPOW Project** aims to proactively address the issue of posting of workers at its pre-accession stage by assisting Eastern European countries, especially the four candidate countries Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, and Serbia, in implementing the Directive already before it gets into force, and by assisting in the prevention of social dumping.

2

EEPOW Research

The fieldwork and expert interviews in Albania, FYROM, Montenegro and Serbia have been conducted by the Research Teams of:

- [European Movement in Albania](#) (EMA),
- [Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia](#) (MOLEVSA),
- [Association for Research, Communications and Development “Public”](#) (PUBLIC),
- [Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts](#) (ZRC SAZU)

The Research activities focuses on the capacity of the executing institutions to implement a new regulation such as the Posting of Workers Directive in the candidate countries included in the project when it comes into force. The country reports will be finalized in the second half of 2018.

Revision of the Posting of Workers Directive

On the 8 of March 2016, the European Commission proposed a revision of the rules on posting of workers within the EU. The Commission proposal was adopted on 28 June 2018. The main revisions relate to remuneration, employment agencies and chain posting, monitoring and sanctions, and period of posting. For more please refer to the following [link](#).



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Kick-off meeting

The **EEPOW Project** had its Kick-Off event in Vienna, Austria on the 27th and 28th February 2018. The project brought together eight partners: European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Research Centre of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts, CIOFS - Formazione Professionale, Center for Social Research Halle, Ministry of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Affairs of the Republic of Serbia, the Employment Agency of Montenegro, the European Movement in Albania and the Association for Research, Communications and Development “Public”.

Four partners are from EU member states (Austria, Germany, Italy, Slovenia) and four are from Western Balkans’ candidate countries (Albania, FYROM, Montenegro, Serbia).

Furthermore, three associated partners join the project: The Austrian Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Consumer Protection (Austria), The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Integration Saxony-



EEPOW

POSTING OF WORKERS IN EASTERN EUROPE

Anhalt (Germany) and The Macedonian Ministry of Labour and Social Policy (FYROM).



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Country Workshop in Montenegro

The **EEPOW Project** foresees the organization of four country workshops with mixed stakeholder participation in the four candidate countries covered by the project. Several issues are previewed to be discussed during the workshops such as legal and policy implications of the posting of workers, institutional and/or organisation information sharing and exchange, skills and labour market(s), social and labour rights, occupational health and safety. Participatory workshop methods (e.g. world cafés, brain walking, design thinking, citizen participation, etc.) are applied to enhance learning outcomes.

On May 8th in Podgorica was held the first Country Workshop of the project. Presenters included: **Ms. Irena Perić** (Head of the Department for EU Projects, Employment Agency of Montenegro), **Mr. Suljo Mustafić** (Director of the Employment Agency of Montenegro), **Mrs. Ljiljana Simović** (Director General of the Directorate for European Integration, Programming and Implementation of EU Funds, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare), **Mr. David Perčobić** (Assistant Director for EU Projects and Financial Management and Control, Employment Agency of Montenegro), **Ms. Sonila Danaj** (Project Coordinator, European Centre for



The workshop gathered almost 40 stakeholders, from both public and private institutions that deal with labor mobility and/or migration. After the introductory words and the introduction of the main elements of the Directive, the participants discussed its legal, social and policy aspects in four groups.

The participants discussed the importance of information sharing and the exchange of best practices among relevant actors; access to realistic and adequate information to individuals about the possibilities as well as the realities of working/living abroad; and national laws in the area of labour mobility/migration.



Country Workshop in Albania

The Albanian Country Workshop was held in Tirana on June 26th. At the meeting took part **Mr. Gledis Gjipali** (Executive Director, European Movement in Albania), **Ms. Mimoza Agolli** (Researcher of Albania Report), **Ms. Silvana Banushi** (General Director of Employment and Vocational Education and Training),

Ms. Genta Prodani (Head of Employment Policy Sector of the Albanian Ministry of Finance and Economy) and **Ms. Sonila Danaj** (EEPOW Project Coordinator, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research).

In general the workshop was assessed as really good and relevant. Main comments were based in the fact that this was one of the first meetings focused on this topic and other events should be organized as well. Participants expressed interest to participate and engage in other activities and initiatives, to have their saying on the topic of Posted Workers. The participants suggested that the specific role of different stakeholders, especially relevant institutions in implementation of the Directive and the workers associations in Albania should be analyzed in more details and be on spotlight, and cases from other EU countries on how to deal with these issues should be shared as well.

