

NEWSLETTER N°1

Newsletter published by "COOPERATION BETWEEN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY OF MONTENEGRO AND SOCIAL WORK CENTRES" PROJECT
Operational Programme "Human Resource Development 2012-2013"

ABOUT THE PROJECT

Persons with disabilities and the RE population are considered to be one of the most vulnerable groups in Montenegro in terms of their access to education, employment, social services, etc.

Within the framework of the Component IV of the Instrument of Pre-Accession Assistance programme project "Cooperation between Employment Agency of Montenegro and Social Work Centres" was designed with the purpose to increase employability and improve access to the labour market for persons with disabilities and RE population.

The project started in December 2015 and will run for 18 months.

Project Beneficiary:

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare (MLSW), the Directorate for Social Welfare and Child protection

Target groups:

- MLSW
- Employees from Employment Agency of Montenegro (EAM) and its local branch offices
- Employees from Social Work Centres (SWC)
- Persons with disabilities
- RE population

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- Component 1: Analysis of present situation in the sector of social inclusion mainly in local branch offices of EAM and Social Work Centres including analysis of business solutions and capacities for the activation and support of most disadvantaged groups into the labour market
- Component 2: Conduct series of workshops and joint trainings for EAM and EAM local branch offices, SWCs and representatives of social partners as regards social inclusion policies in Montenegro
- Component 3: Develop and prepare a detailed agreement between EAM and SWCs and its dissemination, as well as to undertake campaign for the most disadvantaged groups (persons with disabilities and RE population) on the new improved working methods
- Component 4: Provide support to potential grant applicants and grant beneficiaries:
 - 4.1. Training for potential grant applicants to ESF (European Structural Funds) type of projects;
 - 4.2. Training for grant beneficiaries on the grant scheme "Implementation of trainings and employment projects for persons with disabilities and RE population".



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THE REPORT ON PRESENT SITUATION IN SOCIAL INCLUSION SECTOR

is the first major report of the „Cooperation between Employment Agency of Montenegro and Social Work Centres" project.

This report is aimed at providing an insight into the present situation in the Montenegrin social inclusion sector. Within the Component 1 project team analysed:

- The existing legal, strategic and administrative framework on the support and integration of persons with disabilities and RE population in the labour market;
- The current situation of existing and missing support services in the local communities, intended to support the inclusion into the labour market and professional rehabilitation for persons with disabilities and RE population; and
- The institutional setting up of the Employment Agency of Montenegro and its local branches, their links with professional rehabilitation providers, Social Work Centres and other social partners that could assist persons with disabilities registered in the EAM to facilitate their better access into the labour market.

The analysis **started in March 2016 and the process of gathering information ended in June 2016.**

In order to undertake work on activities within the Component 1 project team has undertaken an extensive review of both international and national documents, over **150** documents have been collected and reviewed.

3 working groups with **31 participants** were formed and 2 meetings with them were organized. In June 2016 **National focus group** meeting was organized in Podgorica with participants from **8 national stakeholder organisations.** Project team also met with over **35 individuals from different institutions and bodies in Montenegro**

By using quantitative and qualitative information, the Report provides an overview of the actual situation in the social inclusion sector, highlighting both the main strengths and drawbacks emerging from current policy, programmes, measures and data. The Report also sets out the challenges that future implementation of social and employment policy will need to address.

WG MEETINGS

The purpose of the Working groups' meetings was the exchange of the views and experiences working with PwD and RE population and discussion about the existing legislative framework and existing services to support labour market integration of PwD and RE population in Montenegro and possibilities of their improvements.

Specific objectives of the meetings were:

- To discuss the legal and strategic framework in the employment and social inclusion sector;
- To elaborate the existing (and missing) services for PwD and RE population
- To elaborate cooperation among different stakeholders at local level
- To identify examples of good practices at local level.



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WG 1 (Northern part of Montenegro)

- Bijelo Polje, Hotel Franca, 10 May 2016 and
- Bijelo Polje, Hotel Franca, 31 May 2016;



WG 2 (Central part of Montenegro):

- Podgorica, Ministry of Sustainable Development and Tourism, 11 May 2016 and
- Nikšić, Social Work Centre, 1 June 2016;



WG 3 (Southern part of Montenegro):

- Bar, Municipality Bar 12 May 2016 and
- Herceg Novi, Municipality Herceg Novi 2 June 2016



NATIONAL FOCUS GROUP MEETING

The purpose of the National Focus group meeting was to discuss the preliminary findings of the Report on Present Situation in Social Inclusion sector in Montenegro and to present to the national stakeholders the themes and issues discussed at six meetings of three Working groups organized on North, South and Central regions of Montenegro during May and June 2016.



At the end of June, Report will be submitted to MLSW.

Final conclusion and recommendations of the analysis will be presented in the Second issue of the Project Newsletter in September 2016.



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The Project Team would like to thank the Project Beneficiary for the support in organising Working and Focus Group meetings and for providing all relevant data and information during work on Component 1. We are also grateful to UNDP office in Podgorica and Employment Agency of Montenegro who have openly shared their existing research and data with us.

In particular, we would like to thank the wide range of national and local stakeholders who shared with us their view on this important issue during the production of the Report.



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