

PROJECT FACTSHEET

Bosnia and Herzegovina November 2018

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AT A RECORD HIGH, MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES NEEDED YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROJECT – PROJEKAT ZAPOŠLJAVANJA MLADIH



Young people are most affected by unemployment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which remains the key development challenge faced by BiH. Youth unemployment in BiH is extremely high, with almost 38% of young people between the ages of 16 and 24 unemployed. The Youth Employment Project aims to tackle the issue of youth unemployment by improving the work of public employment services and promoting the self-employment and entrepreneurial opportunities for young people.

Throughout the years the youth unemployment situation is changing for the worse. There is a significant lack in job positions, accompanied by the government's limited capacities to deliver appropriate measures for the problem of unemployment. While 13 institutional bodies are involved in managing the employment issues at the national, entity and cantonal level, the Public Employment Services (PES) are limited in developing efficient services to meet the needs of young unemployed people. As the time passes, those young people are feeling hopeless, passive, without any trust in the system and the institutions which should support young people.

NEW MODELS TO TRANSFORM THE IMPACT OF PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

The focus of the Youth Employment Project is on improving the work of the Public Employment Services (PES) by introducing new methods of work, which will enable them to provide better services to young people, to match them with prospective employers and to encourage self-employment. Additionally, the project will contribute to raising general public awareness of youth employment issues

So far, the PES staff members were primarily focused on administering social benefits to the unemployed, such as health insurance coverage. To establish more effective services with a proactive involvement of PES staff, the project established several model offices and introduced counselling services for the unemployed. Within these, counsellors devote more time to motivate unemployed assisting them to actively look for jobs. The other staff members cater to the passive users, ensuring their right on insurance. This model can be easily replicated to all other offices in the Federation of BiH and Republic of Srpska.

Also a network of 25 Job Clubs was established within the PES, where young unemployed people can improve their job search skills and are encouraged by club leaders to explore different opportunities on the market, as well as self-employment prospects. This type of service has helped to increase access of disadvantaged youth to employment services.

The second intervention line supports the development of innovative active labour market measures and initiatives promoting social entrepreneurship. The aim is to support 30 employment-based initiatives and 27 social enterprises. Different financial schemes are to be developed, e.g. co-financing mechanisms involving YEP and PES, revolving funds with banks.

GROUND BREAKING SUCCESS OF THE CURRENT PHASE

"Reform Package"¹ has been gradually designed and implemented in 2 PES pilot Model Offices. Group counselling services introduced as PES active labour market measure for young unemployed are taking place in established network of 25 Job Clubs. Additional three cantons joined, RS PES amended the Rulebook to integrate it throughout the entity. 4 cantons expressed the interest to join the process as well as District Brcko.

- Cumulatively, 9'038 young people were employed through PES, be it through the group or individual counselling services.
 - 100 employment-based initiatives supported.
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THE PROJECT IN BRIEF

NAME:

The Youth Employment Project

DOMAIN:

Economy and Employment

THEME:

Youth Employment

LAND/REGION:

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Implementer:

GOPA Consultants, Germany

PARTNER:

Public Employment Services
Relevant Ministries and other state institutions
Local (youth) NGOs,
Employers

STARTING POINT / BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Unemployment is a key development challenge faced by BiH. The country's dire employment situation has not improved since the launching of YEP in 2008; it even changed for the worse – partly because of the economic crisis, partly because the government's activism and capacities in fighting unemployment with appropriate measures have been limited. Youth is the population group most affected by unemployment, and they were hit the hardest by a further decrease in the demand for labour in the aftermath of the economic crisis.

PROJECT TARGET:

The focus of the projects is on improving the work of the Public Employment Services, increasing access to employment services for disadvantaged young people, and increase the presence of youth employment issues in the public debate.

TARGET GROUP:

Public Employment Services and young unemployed people

COSTS:

10'048.000 CHF

DURATION:

15.08.2007 – 31.03.2020

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

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