



International Labour Organization Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Central and Eastern Europe, Budapest

The Global Jobs Pact:

SUPPORTING STRATEGIES TO RECOVER FROM THE CRISIS IN SOUTH EASTERN EUROPE

Proposal for a Regional Conference in Split, Croatia

12-13 October 2011

The International Labour Organization Decent Work Technical Support Team and Country Office for Central and Eastern Europe, (DWT/CO-Budapest) proposes a 1,5-day conference for countries of the South Eastern Europe region, featuring presentations and discussions on “The Global Jobs Pact: Supporting strategies to recover from the crisis in South-Eastern Europe” in Split, Croatia, 12-13 October 2011.

Background

The Global Jobs Pact was adopted unanimously by the International Labour Conference in June 2009, with the participation of delegates from governments, employers’ and workers’ organisations from the ILO’s member States. It established an internationally agreed approach to guide national and international policies aimed at stimulating economic recovery, generating jobs and providing protection to working people and their families.

The project **“Supporting strategies to recover from the crisis in South Eastern Europe (SEE)”** aims at fostering implementation of the Global Jobs Pact in the South Eastern Europe region through the design of policy options in countries with serious constraints of public finance and with labour markets particularly vulnerable to external shocks. The project provides inputs for the design of recovery packages and strategies that respond to country-specific needs. Furthermore, the project assists selected South Eastern European countries, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia: i) to better understand the country-specific challenges brought about by the crisis; ii) to assess existing anti-crisis measures; and iii) to develop



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country-specific crisis recovery policy options, taking into account their feasibility and efficiency; iv) to set forth a sustainable path for recovery with special attention to employment and decent job creation.

The project's objective is to create a regional knowledge base on feasible and effective anti-crisis packages and recovery policy options for SEE labour markets, which can be used by ILO constituents when adjusting socio-economic policies on the way to economic recovery.

The first phase of this project included the assessment of the needs of target countries. This phase involved consultations with a broad range of relevant government ministries and social partners to assess policy options for recovery response, to agree on a process, which can be country-tailored. Country Assessment Reports were prepared by independent national consultants in the three target countries and validated by all constituents. The second phase of the project constituted a peer review process to discuss and share new, evidence-based policy options and strategies for recovery, in light of measures undertaken in a selected EU member State, Slovenia. Based on findings of the Country Assessment Reports and the lessons learned through the peer review, a Cross-Country Study on Crisis Recovery in the Balkans has been prepared, providing analysis on regional patterns of the crisis, putting forth best practices in anti-crisis policy formation, and outlining regional recommendations for a sustainable, jobs-led recovery.

Conference Objectives

The objective of the proposed conference is to share knowledge on crisis recovery experiences of the Balkan countries, as well as to define the main characteristics and features of successful policy design options for a sustainable recovery. It is an equally important objective of the conference, to provide recommendations for a jobs-led recovery.

We hope that the results of the conference will influence the policy debate in the individual countries and among international organizations, as well as provide specific topics for regional initiatives.



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The specific objectives include:

- Review the impact of the crisis on the region and governments, employers' and workers' organisations' responses to date
- Highlight key issues regarding the labour market, and put forth regional good practices for recovery
- Outline regional recommendations for a sustainable, jobs-led recovery
- Present an international outlook on crisis recovery in the region
- Involve tripartite peers from EU member States, to attain a more comprehensive overview of recovery policy formation
- Provide practical examples of jobs creation, investment and decent work by employer and worker representatives from invited enterprises

Participants

The main target audience for the conference is the ILO's tripartite constituents.

Participants will be:

- Representatives of tripartite constituents from each target country (Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia)
- Tripartite peers from Slovenia and the Czech Republic
- Officials from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank
- Representatives from the International Organization of Employers and the International Trade Union Confederation
- Senior officials from the International Labour Organization
- National and international experts
- Guest Speakers (Representatives of employers and workers from multinational companies)

Venue: Hotel Radisson Blu, Split, Croatia